



Parent/Carer Update

24 May 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Prize Giving

We recently surveyed the school community about the timing and structure of our school award ceremonies. The result of that survey supported a new Senior Phase award ceremony in September/October based on SQA exam results and would also include special award categories.

Further, I also indicated in a recent message that the Senior Prize Giving would be held on Tuesday 13 June at 7:00 pm.

We have now gone back and reviewed our plans and how best to transition to a new structure and a different time. From this review it has been decided that **we will now hold the Senior Prize Giving in October 2023** at a date and time to be confirmed. Current S6 will be invited back to receive prizes in October. There will not be a Prize Giving on 13 June 2023.

The Junior Awards – (BGE S1-3) for this session, based on our PRAISE Post cards will be given out at special year level Assemblies in June.

Further information will follow.

Computing

I have written to Parent / Carers several times about Computing in school. I can confirm that this subject will not be timetabled in Session 2023-24 as we have a long term staff absence and have not been able to recruit. We have mitigated this circumstance for a small number of pupils who want to carry on Computing next session and there remains viable options longer term for access to computing if the situation is longer term than next session.

Start of New Timetable in June

A reminder that our new Timetable for Session 2023-24 will start on **Monday 5 June at 8:40 pm**

Parent / Carers should particularly note the new starting time of 8:40 pm Monday – Friday, as after consultation we are now dropping the Registration period. All other times stay the same and there is no change to Interval/ Lunch and the finishing time of 3:30 pm – Monday –Thursday and 12:15 Pm on Friday

Uniform

Our uniform consultation process started this month with a uniform blitz for S1, S2 and S3 where senior management have chosen one period over the last three weeks to check each year group's uniform. This process has been extremely positive with 99% of the students across these year groups in appropriate school uniform. Mr Dewar has personally been in to the classes at these times to thank the students for their efforts. He has explained that this not only has a positive impact on how the students look but staff and student feedback has also indicated this has had a positive impact on the classroom environment and hence learning and teaching.

It has been an outstanding effort from our students and it clearly demonstrates that they value school uniform at Penicuik High School. This process will now continue into S4, S5 and S6 when these students return from exam leave on Monday 5th June. There will also be student focus groups and further parent / carer consultation to discuss uniform moving forward and finalise our uniform and expectations around this as we move in to session 2023/24.

I would like to take this time to thank our parents / carers and the wider school community in supporting our uniform policy. This has been particularly difficult for some families post Covid and given the cost of living crisis and we really appreciate your support. If there are any families who require financial support regarding school uniform then please contact your student's guidance teacher in the first instance who will be able to provide information.

Students who require a uniform exemption until August should bring a signed note from you to the school office to be given an exemption slip.

Detail of the School blazer order process will be made available in a few weeks' time for all students including new S1.

Next Update

I will be writing a final update in early June where I will include details of important dates and a staffing update. Information will also be posted on our website and on google classrooms as required

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Biddick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Biddick

Head Teacher