



# Penwortham Girls' High School

Cop Lane Penwortham Preston PR1 0SR  
Telephone: 01772 743399 Fax: 01772 752475  
Email: [enquiries@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs Karen Pomeroy B.A.(Hons), P.G.C.E. NPQH

February 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you for taking the time to complete our remote learning survey. This is an important part of our quality assurance process, giving us an insight into how our actions have impacted on our students, their engagement, academic progress, and mental health.

Before you complete this survey, I would like to take the opportunity to explain to you the rationale behind our remote learning strategy. Our approach to home learning partly reflects government policy (e.g. your daughter's legal entitlement to 5 hours a day of learning) and partly reflects our ambition to provide purposeful lessons based on the latest educational research, including key findings from the Education Endowment Foundation and Ofsted.

Throughout the last period of lockdown, one of our key goals has been to maintain the delivery of our full curriculum, with lessons (both academic and practical) being set in accordance with our in-school timetable. In some cases, content has had to be re-sequenced, and in most lessons, resources have been modified to focus on the most important knowledge. Our curriculum aim has been to ensure that the essential building blocks of knowledge have been firmly laid, ensuring a running start when students return to face-to-face lessons.

In terms of delivery, our mantra has been that we want our students to have a mixed diet of learning experiences. We have encouraged our staff to review their lesson aims and to select the most appropriate means of delivery to achieve that outcome. This has resulted in an increasing number of live lessons. As a school we value the interaction that these Zoom/Teams classes create, enabling teachers and pupils to collaborate and communicate. However, we also appreciate that live is not always best!

Research has shown that complex explanations are often best delivered through narrated presentations, which cut out the 'waffle' and focus precisely on the key information needed. We also know that a key part of learning is practice. Sometimes, a PowerPoint or worksheet which enables a student to refine and master a key skill is needed before a student can move forward onto new content. As a school, we have always placed a high value on reading based activities. Carefully selected texts can entertain and motivate a student, whilst enabling them to explore new knowledge or strengthen their existing understanding. Of course, one of the biggest advantages of these on-demand approaches is that the materials can be revisited, slowed down and repeated if necessary.



Of course, we are also aware of the challenges extended periods of home learning have presented to many of our students. We know how much they miss their friends and being part of the school community. We also acknowledge the impact of long periods of unbroken screen time on our young people's emotional health and wellbeing. Subjects have been encouraged to seize opportunities to utilise non-screen activities to deliver their curriculum, such as creative tasks, exercise programmes and home cooking. Hopefully, through the EHWB tracker on ClassCharts, our weekly tutor contacts and our ongoing pastoral focused assembly programme we have taken some key steps towards supporting your daughter during these unprecedented times.

For further details on our remote learning programme, please visit the home learning pages on our website.

Kind regards,

Mr Ward

Senior Assistant Headteacher

(Remote Learning Lead).

