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**2nd October 2020**

# Welcome Back!

**A message from our Principal, Mr Landers:** We are now four weeks into our 'new normal' way of life at Pegasus Academy and I couldn't be more proud of how the vast majority of our learners have returned to school and adapted to life in year group bubbles, wearing masks and our staggered school days. We continue to take advice from the Local Authority, the Trust and Public Health England to ensure we are fully prepared if groups of learners in our academy have to self-isolate. So far it is pleasing to note that we have had no positive test results.

Learners have been shown the new Student Portal and know how to access lesson resources if they unfortunately have to self-isolate. This will ensure that they are able to complete similar work to learners still in school and so do not fall behind. We will be doing more work on this over the coming weeks.

Can I thank all the learners, staff and yourselves for the high level of support shown which has resulted in the highest attendance of any school in the Trust and significantly above attendance of many schools nationally. This really is going a long way in closing the gaps from the lockdown period.

## A Warm Welcome To Our Year 7 Students

Our new Year 7 students have settled very well into Academy routines. Their days are spent on the L4L floor with our four dedicated L4L teachers, Mrs Turner, Miss Taylor, Mr Dhesi and Mrs Dyer. They are making new friends and producing some exciting work already. Here's what two of our Year 7 learners said about their first few weeks at Pegasus.

*"I really enjoy working in the lovely classrooms as they are big and bright and make working easier."*

*"I felt a bit nervous going to a new school but the teachers and students helped me to settle in."*

Parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's first few weeks with us on Thursday 8th October, our Settling in Evening. All parents will be called by their child's Form Tutor within an allotted time slot. Further details of this will be sent to you by email or post if you have not provided an email address.



## Year 7 Photographs

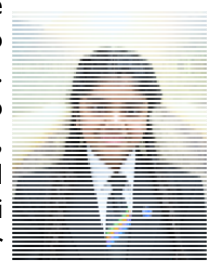


Tempest Photographers will be in the Academy on the morning of Monday 5th October to take photographs of Year 7 students only.

Please ensure that your child arrives on time looking smart and in the correct uniform.

## Year 7 Transition Winner

During Transition week back in July we encouraged our new Year 7 learners to take part in a transition competition. Well done to the winner, Nidhi, who completed some work in mathematics, wrote an excellent poem and baked some delicious flapjacks. Nidhi received a shopping voucher for her hard work.



# Free School Meals Are You Entitled?



## Are you entitled?

Have your circumstances changed due to COVID-19? Are you now in receipt of benefits such as Universal Credit? If you are, you may be entitled to apply for the Free School Meals entitlement for your child. Even if your circumstances have only changed for the short term, you still have the right to apply.

The Free School Meals entitlement can be applied for where the parent's income satisfies the following conditions at the time of applying:

Universal Credit (provided monthly net earned income of less than £616.66, after tax and not including any benefits)

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-On – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you believe your child should be eligible for Free School Meals based on this criteria, you can apply now. A paper copy of the application form can be collected from the School office, or applications can be made online via

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals/>

Please note, however, this procedure will only currently work via a PC or laptop, not via a phone or tablet device.

If your circumstances subsequently change meaning you are no longer entitled to Free School Meals, your child's school will continue to receive funding to support your child for 6 years.

All matters regarding Free School Meals are treated confidentially, this is supported by our cashless catering system.

# Have You Downloaded The weduc App?





Smart Communication

We recently sent out information to parents/carers regarding our new Weduc app. This app will allow you to see information about how your child is doing here at Pegasus and also help us to communicate even better with you. If you have not received your enrolment code please contact the Academy.

For issues registering on the app with your code please contact Weduc direct on 01509 221349 or email [support@weduc.co.uk](mailto:support@weduc.co.uk).

**weduc**  
Smart Communication

## How to download & register your app

- ♥ Step 1. Download the Weduc app  
  

- ♥ Step 2. Enrol using the enrolment code sent to you via email/letter
- ♥ Step 3. Confirm your email address & phone number on the app
- ♥ Step 4. Enter the pin sent to you via email/text
- ♥ Step 5. Create a password
- ♥ Step 6. Start using your app, now!

If you require any additional support, please contact Weduc Parent Support on 01509 221 349 or [support@weduc.co.uk](mailto:support@weduc.co.uk)

# Lost Property

We have a large amount of unclaimed lost property including coats, shoes, trainers, PE kits, keys and jewellery. If you have lost anything during the last year, please come along to Resources. Tell a member of staff what you have lost and they will take a look to see if we have it.



Items unclaimed by Friday 9th October will be donated to a charity shop.



# Coronavirus or Cold/Flu? Know the Symptoms

Colds, flu and Covid-19 are caused by different viruses, but can have similar symptoms. It can be hard to judge which one you may have.



Most people who feel ill with **coronavirus** will have at least one of the key symptoms:

- a high temperature (37.8 degrees or above)
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

Please do not send children to school if they or any member of your household is displaying the above symptoms. Stay at home and book a test for the symptomatic person. Guidance on isolating should be followed until a test is taken and a result is received. If your child is symptomatic or has had symptoms and is unable to get a test they must complete the ten-day isolation period and must not return to school. Everyone else in the household should isolate for 14 days. As soon as you have your test result you **must** communicate this with school, even if your child does not have coronavirus and is still ill.

All learners must wear a face mask when in corridors/communal areas of the Academy. They should only be removed when in classrooms or when eating/drinking. Disposable face masks are available for learners to purchase for 20p each if they have forgotten/lost/broken theirs. If you are exempt from wearing a mask, you must inform a member of staff who will provide you with an exemption lanyard. Face masks should be regularly replaced (if disposable) or washed to stop the spread of germs please.

Hand sanitizers are placed at many locations around the building, including all classrooms. Please ensure that you use them.

We thank you for your support in helping to keep our Academy a safe place to learn.

## Student Leaders 2020-2021

Congratulations to our Year 11 Student Leaders for 2020-2021. We look forward to working with our Presidents, Robert and Charmaine (pictured) and Vice Presidents David and Paris.



Student Leaders in Years 8, 9 and 10 began their training this week. They are eager to represent their respective Year groups. Well done to:

### Year 8

Chloe, Destiny, Haleema, Lauren, Sahaara,  
Stefan and Taylor

### Year 9

Daniel, Daniel, Destiny, Hubert, Joslin,  
Sophie and Vlad.

### Year 10

Abdul, Bethany, Iqra, Musi, Muskaan, Rahdia,  
Rhys and Sameer.

Year 7 learners keen to become Student Leaders will be able to find out more later in the year.

# Year 11 Upgrade

Year 11 Upgrade is now fully up and running. Year 11 learners now have a 6th lesson on Tuesday to Thursday. This is an opportunity for our them to UPGRADE their GCSE subjects!

A big well done to all the learners that attended the first session! We had over 95% attendance. These sessions are not optional and all Year 11 learners must attend. We have some exciting rewards coming for those that do attend!

Year 11 learners have also been gifted a pack of revision materials and guides by the Academy so they can begin revising for their mock exams.

## Virtual Open Events

This year, due to the current situation, we have sadly had to cancel our usual Open Events. In place of this, we have created a dedicated section on our website to let you see what Pegasus Academy has to offer! We will be adding more information to this over the next few weeks, including introductions to our senior staff and key areas of Academy life. You can also book a socially distanced day time tour of the Academy!

Take a look by visiting

<https://www.pegasusacademy.org.uk/open-events>

An electronic version of our latest prospectus can also be found on the above website or by clicking the short link

<https://tinyurl.com/y2hg63gc>



## Coming Up Autumn 2020

5th October	Y7 Photographs
8th October	Y7 Settling In Evening (Telephone consultations)
23rd October	Break up for Half Term
2nd - 13th November	Year 11 mock examinations
3rd December	Y11 Awards Evening
18th December	Break up for the Christmas holiday
4th January 2021	Academy re-opens

# Attendance Matters

## Why is good attendance and punctuality important?

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

## What does 90% attendance mean?

- ☒ **90% attendance** = ½ school day missed every week!
- ☒ **One school year at 90% attendance** = 4 weeks of learning missed!
- ☒ **Over 5 school years of school** = ½ school year missed!
- ☒ All children and young people nationally whose school attendance is 90% or below are considered to be persistent absentees.
- ☒ Our Attendance Officer is likely to be in regular contact with you until your child's attendance improves.

We encourage you to attend school every day!

## Uniform Reminder

Students in Years 8 to 10 are currently being asked to arrive in their kit on days when PE is timetabled. Can we remind you that you need to wear a blazer over the top and no hoodies please.

Year 7 and 11 learners should bring their kit in their bag and change in the Academy.

We also remind learners that jewellery is limited to the following:

- one small ring of religious significance only and a note from a parent/carer is needed in your planner
- one small, plain, metal stud in each ear, preferably the lobe
- a watch

No facial piercings and no stretcher style piercings are allowed.

No jewellery is to be worn at all for PE lessons.

If you are required to wear jewellery for medical reasons, suitable medical evidence must be provided to the Academy.