



## 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Headteacher Blog #1

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students/Annwyl Rieni,Gwarchodwyr a Myfyrwyr



To introduce myself, my name is Lee Humphreys and I am the new Headteacher at Pencoedtre High School. The first thing I would like to do, is to thank staff, learners and parents for the welcome I have received since becoming Headteacher. I could not have wished for a more caring community to have come into. Also, it would remiss of me not to mention what we as a community have been going through during these unprecedented times. It is my sincere hope you and your families have kept safe and have taken care of each other!

### A little bit about me.

I come from a small mining village near Ystrad Mynach in the Rhymney Valley, called Cefn Hengoed. I am married to Samantha and have two beautiful children Scarlett (12) and Joseph (5). Some of you already know Scarlett as she was the original baby Neil in Gavin and Stacey.



Finally, I also own a Fish & Chip Shop in Maesycwmmmer, called Fish Kitchen 1854. Therefore, if you are ever out and about one evening or on the weekend, please free to pop in and I'm sure we can treat you to some complimentary onion rings!



Wow! What a start to the new academic year it has been! The world in which we live is different. The way in which we educate your child is different. I cannot thank my staff including the estates team, the admin team, the office staff, cleaners, and the catering team; for the way we have all pulled together to ensure a safe environment for all. They have been truly remarkable!

As you're aware your child came back to school on a phased return way, by Wednesday 100% of the school's community returned to fulltime education at Pencoedtre High. This was amazing! All learners have received an extensive induction period, where all our new systems were explained and consistently reinforced. So, in a nutshell what have we achieved in the short space of time:

- ✓ The establishment of year group bubbles to aid of a 'Track, Trace and Protect' system.
- ✓ The Implementation of one-way systems.
- ✓ The wearing of face masks for all during lesson transitions and in communal areas.
- ✓ Robust cleaning regimes throughout the day.
- ✓ The identification of designated areas for year group bubbles at break and lunch times.
- ✓ Reinforcing and reminding all our community about our culture for learning philosophies.





## Shaping our Vision

So, that's our preparation phase completed. Now the process of providing your child with an outstanding educational experience starts.

It is my belief that to enable a child to maximise their potential in school, there needs to be a triangulation of responsibility. At the top of the triangle is the pupil. They have a personal responsibility to set themselves high expectations for their future and play a full and active positive role within our school community. Underneath and supporting this is both staff and parents. My staff are passionate about having high expectations of each and every learner and deliver the best lessons they possibly can day-in and day-out. It is a tough and tiring job, but ultimately rewarding when we see learners maximising their potential.

Then to complete the triangle we have parental responsibility. I am passionate about developing positive relationships and clear communication lines with parents. It is vital! We have 4 simple school rules, that parents can help us to re-enforce which are:

- ✓ **Be Ready,**
- ✓ **Be Respectful,**
- ✓ **Be Safe, and**
- ✓ **Be Successful.**

When we have all three parts of the triangle working closely together we can achieve great things. Therefore, over the coming weeks you as parents will receive from me, activities so we can all engage and play a part in setting a new 'Vision' for Pencoedtre High School; and what if in the future it is going to be!



## New beginnings

I am sure just like me; you have been amazed by the day by day transformation on our school site, in the development of our new £35 million 21st century school. We are privileged to be afforded this opportunity and I for one cannot wait.

Please see link below for a presentation on our new school:

<https://www.pencoedtrehigh.org.uk/2020/09/11/information-update-from-our-main-building-contractors-bouygues/>



### Gentle reminders

Please can you reiterate to your child the importance of looking after their facemask. We do have a limited supply but have noticed that more and more children are losing theirs during break and lunch. Also, please be aware that when dropping your child off in the morning, please do not use the school entrance as a turning point.

### Canteen Gremlins

We have had technical issues with the tills not being able to connect to 'ParentPay', which have now been fixed. Please be aware that your child's account could possibly be in minus as no purchases were paid for during this time period. Therefore, can you make sure your child's account is in credit to cover this.

### Some final thoughts

We are back and it feels great but Covid-19 has not disappeared. We are already seeing other parts of the country where there have been spikes in infection rates that have led to local lockdowns. We all have a responsibility to ensure the safety of our community. As I explained in assemblies to all learners this week, it is quite simple; it is my responsibility to keep those around me safe, it is the responsibility of those around me, to keep me safe, so ultimately I can keep my family safe and you can keep your family safe.

*Remember, "life ain't about how hard ya hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done!"*

*Sylvester Stallone – Rocky Balboa*

Have a lovely weekend!

Thank you for reading/Diolch am ddarllen,

Mr Lee G Humphreys,

Headteacher