



Tanya Coleman
Head of School at
Penrice Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing festive break, it has certainly been an interesting start to 2026!

Thank You

We warmly greeted students back through the gates on Monday 5th January completely oblivious to the weather disruption that was in store for us later in the week. I don't recall a week quite like it in all my 30 years in education - first with snow and ice in the early part of the week, then followed by one of the most severe storms to hit Cornwall in a generation. A massive thank you to the whole Penrice community – you were extremely supportive and understanding during very challenging circumstances. Your cooperation during last week really highlighted to me the positive strength in our community. It has been a welcome return to normality this week and we hope that everyone reading this has had their power and utilities restored. If anyone does need any support then please let us know.

A Big Term Ahead for Year 11

As part of normal service resuming, we were delighted to host a Progress Evening for Year 11 last night. Thank you to all families who attended and took this valuable opportunity to work in partnership with us, giving our young adults the best possible chance of success. The Progress Evening happened hot off the back of the recent PPE results handouts for Year 11, helping students to gauge their progress and set achievable targets as we approach the home straight to summer exams.

Period 5 begins next week on Tuesday 20th January, and occurs every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3-4pm. Year 11 students will be assigned Period 5 classes in subjects where they need the most support to reach their potential and our expectation is that all students attend these important revision sessions. Thank you in advance for your support in reinforcing this expectation from home.

Continues on next page...



Photos from the first day back in 2026



Year 11 open their PPE Results



Penrice Plus

Also happening this week was the launch of our new Spring Term Penrice Plus offering. Extra-curricular activities play a key role in the development of social and interpersonal skills, preparing our students for real-world scenarios where teamwork and adaptability are crucial. Most importantly though, Penrice Plus is all about helping students 'find their extra'. By engaging in pursuits outside the classroom, our students often discover talents they didn't know they had, which can boost confidence and self-esteem, with the added bonus of making new friends along the way.

Please encourage your child to attend at least one Penrice Plus club per week as part of their personal growth. A full schedule of activities is shared later in this newsletter with further information on the school's website.

Penrice 
Find Your Extra

[Further Information](#) 



YEAR 10

PPE PREPARATION EVENING

Thursday 22nd January

We're excited to invite Year 10 families into Penrice Academy for our PPE Preparation Evening. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the mock exam process, including tips on how to support at home with revision and exam preparation.

Further details are contained in the poster towards the end of this parent update.

[Full Story](#) 

24-HOUR CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Year 11 Smash £5,000 Fundraising Target





Ms Coleman Collecting Donations from Jewsons

Reflecting on St. Austell's **CHRISTMAS GENEROSITY**

Thanks to the incredible kindness and generosity shown by our families and local businesses, we were able to provide almost 70 Christmas food hampers and gifts to families within our school who needed a little extra support during the festive season. This support truly made a difference to families.

We would especially like to thank the following local businesses for their generous donations towards the hampers and gifts:

Salvation Army, AMPS Electrical, GM Services, Colwith Farm, Tamar Fresh, Jewsons (St Austell), Pilgrims Bodmin, Watergate Bay Hotel, Go Jute.

Your support and community spirit are greatly appreciated. As a result of this generosity, we are pleased to share that we now have a small stock of non-perishable food available to support families throughout the year. If you feel that your family would benefit from a food

parcel at any time, please email adminrequests@penrice.celtrust.org in confidence and we will be very happy to arrange this discreetly.

We are always grateful for donations of non-perishable food items to support our community larder. These can be dropped into the food trolley located in the Reception area at any time.

We would also like to say thank you once again to **Bonney & Jarman Ltd** and **Charlestown Regatta** who made significant donations to support all students in enjoying a free Christmas dinner, helping us share a special moment as a school community.

Thank you once again for your continued kindness, compassion and support of Penrice Academy.

A thank you message from the team at New Horizon, one of the organisations we supported with our Christmas Toy Drive.

“

As a team we do what we can to support people needing to flee their homes due to the risk of domestic abuse to feel as safe and joyful as possible over the Christmas period. I just wanted you to know how much easier this is for the children, parents and for our support team thanks to the incredibly generous gifts that you have donated.

A lot of these families have had to flee with nothing at all and preparing for Christmas can be financially and emotionally overwhelming. Having a few gifts that have been sorted for everyone is a huge load off people's emotional load during this time of year. The children and parents have been so thankful. We have had tears of surprise when seeing the gifts that you have provided, and so many thanks you's it is overwhelming.



WE ARE HIRING

**SCHOOLS OPERATION AND
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR**

**EXECUTIVE PA TO
LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Schools Operations & Systems Administrator
Work closely with our Data Manager to maintain and develop the systems that support learning across the academy. This role plays a vital part in timetabling, curriculum organisation, class lists and using data intelligently to raise standards for all students.

Executive PA to the Leadership Team (CELT)
A pivotal role supporting senior leaders across Cornwall Education Learning Trust. This post requires outstanding organisation, professionalism and discretion, enabling leaders to focus on delivering our mission of a 100% exceptional educational experience for every learner.

FIND OUT MORE

KEY DATE



Period 5 Starts for Year 11

Tuesday 20th January

Period 5 is beginning on Tuesday 20th January, taking place every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3-4pm. Students will be assigned Period 5 classes in subjects where they need the most support to reach their potential and our expectation is that all students attend these important revision sessions.

CALLYWITH COLLEGE

OPEN MORNING
SAT 24 JAN 10AM TO 1PM

FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER AT CALLYWITH.AC.UK
Meet the staff | Tour the campus | Explore your options



Truro & Penwith College
**STEM & HEALTH
SKILLS CENTRE**
BODMIN

New specialist facilities for
Engineering, Digital, Nursing
& Healthcare

OPEN DAY
Sat 24 Jan 10am-1pm

Book your place today
truro-penwith.ac.uk/open-events



**Year 10 Maths Trip to the
University of Plymouth**





Engineering Success in Penrice Plus

Congratulations to our talented Engineering students who have successfully completed the Design, Engineer and Construct Penrice Plus extra-curricular course.

Reuben, Amelie, Fira, Lucie, Thomas and Andrii took on the challenge to design a net-zero neonatal ward for up to 20 babies. Blending creativity and technical skill with sustainable design, their 3D models were fantastic, and we're proud of their hard work and dedication.

Mr Easterbrook, Engineering Teacher at Penrice, said: "I was really impressed with how the students approached this design challenge. They were able to combine modern construction methods with sustainable design strategies to produce remarkable outcomes; they should be proud of their engineering skills."



Year 9 Assessment Information

Download here (PDF: 638KB)

Year 8 Geography

HOMEWORK SPOTLIGHT

Year 8 Geography students were tasked to complete a Structure of the Earth whilst completing their Natural Hazards unit of work in the Autumn Term.

Students had the choice of drawing, modelling or even baking a cake to represent a full structure of the Earth. Year 8 pupils rose to the challenge and displayed creativity, scholarship and pride in their homework efforts. Well done Year 8!

Winning Entries:

- 1 Sennen (8PR)
- 2 Marina (8KW)
- 3 Charlie (8CA)

Miss Whelan
Head of Geography



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

96%
And Above



= 1
Grade
Higher
in all subjects
compared to
students with 90%
and below.

MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

We're committed to helping every child thrive, both academically and socially, in a supportive and engaging learning community. Being in school every day that they can be is a key part of that success - attendance helps build confidence, secure friendships and ensures children don't miss important learning opportunities.

As highlighted in the graphic above, data shows that just a 6% swing in attendance can be the difference between a whole grade in every single one of your child's subjects.

Here are some practical top tips to support excellent attendance:

Build a calm morning routine

Start the day with a good breakfast and clear expectations - consistent sleep and preparation help young people arrive ready to learn.

Plan ahead where possible

Try to book appointments or trips outside of school hours and term time so children miss as little as possible.

Communicate early

If your child is unwell or has anxieties about school, contact us, we are here to support and offer help. We value partnership between home and school and want to help solve problems early.

Celebrate good attendance

Even small rewards or praise can motivate children to see attendance as something to be proud of.

Thank you for working with us. Together, we can help them build routines, resilience and success.



Experience Being a Teacher with Paid Summer Internships

Do you know a university student who would like to try teaching before they commit to training?

Cornwall Education Learning Trust is offering paid teaching internships this summer - a brilliant way to explore a career in education, gain real classroom experience, and understand what life in a school is really like.

What is it?

A 3-week, paid internship (approximately £455/week) for undergraduates (from Year 2 upwards) or master's students interested in teaching.

Trainees will be placed in one of CELT's 16 schools across Cornwall, work alongside inspirational teacher mentors, shadow lessons, help with support activities, plan and deliver parts of lessons and take on meaningful school projects.

Why apply?

- Get a true taste of teaching before committing to teacher training
- Learn hands-on skills and build confidence in real classrooms
- Connect with teaching professionals and other interns
- Strengthen job applications - and fast-track interviews for CELT's initial teacher training programme
- Gain valuable experience and a written reference you can use for future opportunities.

Whether an individual is curious about teaching or wants to explore a career in education, this internship could be their stepping-stone into something meaningful.

[Find out more](#)



SPRING TERM CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

KEY

P = Performance Sports
Represent Penrice in Fixtures



ARTS



WELLBEING



ACADEMIC



SPORTS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

FRIDAY (CONT.)

BREKTIME CLUBS

Music Expression Session **Y7-11**
MS1 (PB) / Break 1

Music Expression Session **Y7-11**
MS1 (PB) / Break 1

Music Expression Session **Y7-11**
MS1 (PB) / Break 1

Music Expression Session **Y7-11**
MS1 (PB) / Break 1

Music Expression Session **Y7-11**
MS1 (PB) / Break 1

Karaoke Club **Y7-10**
MS1 (PB) / Break 2

Student Parliament Drop-In **Y7-11**
E8 (SA) / Break 1

Homework Club **Y7-11**
CS3 / Break 1 (Various Staff)

Homework Club **Y7-11**
CS3 / Break 1 (Various Staff)

Chess Club **Y7-10**
M6 (FS) / Break 1

LGBTQ+ Club **Y7-11**
CL1 (WW) / Break 2

Homework Club **Y7-11**
CS3 / Break 1 (Various Staff)

Young Carers' Drop-In **Y7-11**
CL1 (HG & KS) / Breaks 1 & 2

Model United Nations **Y9&10**
E7 (AR) / Break 2 *Runs Week B only

Penrice Senior Choir **INVITE ONLY**
MS1 (MJ)

Drama Club **Y7-9**
Drama Studio (CA)

School Production* (Into the Woods) **Y7-10**
Returning Students Only (CA) *5pm finish

Mural Art Club **Y7-10**
Art Block (VT)

Penrice Rock Band **INVITE ONLY**
MS1 (PB)

Basketball **Y7-10**
Meet in Sports Hall (Team PE)

Homework Club **Y7-11**
CS3 (Various Staff + SEND Support)

GCSE & BTEC Music **INVITE ONLY**
MS1 (PB)

Diamond Art / Mandala Mindfulness **Y7-10**
Art Block (JH)

Music Technology Club **Y7-10**
MS2 (PB)

School Production (Into the Woods) **Y7-10**
Returning Students Only (CA)

Crossfit Club **Y7-10**
The Zone (Team PE)

Badminton **Y7-10**
Sports Hall (Team PE)

Duke of Edinburgh **INVITE ONLY**
Returning Students Only (AP)

Homework Club **Y7-11**
CS3 (Various Staff + SEND Support)

Penrice Orchestra **INVITE ONLY**
MS1 (PB)

Hockey **P** **Y7-8**
Meet in Sports Hall (Team PE)

Farm Club** **INVITE ONLY**
Meet in AC1 (CH)

Penrice Kitchen **INVITE ONLY**
Returning Students Only (MM)

Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) **INVITE ONLY**
CS2 (KT)

Homework Club **Y7-11**
CS3 (Various Staff + SEND Support)

Student Magazine **Y7-10**
CS1 (OB)

Boys' Football **P** **Y7-9**
Meet in Sports Hall (Team PE)

Netball **P** **Y7-8**
Meet in Sports Hall (Team PE)

Set & Prop Design **Y7-10**
T1 (AE)

Studio 4 Dance* **Y7-10**
Assembly Hall *£2 charge per session

Green Team **Y7-10**
H5 (PR)

Homework Club **Y7-11**
CS3 (Various Staff + SEND Support)

Mandarin Excellence Programme **INVITE ONLY**
L5 (LR)

Young Enterprise **INVITE ONLY**
Centre of Excellence (SC)

Boys' Football **P** **Y10**
Meet in Sports Hall (Team PE)

Girls' Football **P** **Y7-10**
Meet in Sports Hall (Team PE)

Netball **P** **Y9-10**
Meet in Sports Hall (Team PE)

AFTER SCHOOL

Year 11 Information

Period 5 lessons begin on Tuesday 20th January, happening every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3-4pm.

Students will be assigned Period 5 classes in subjects where they need the most support to reach their potential.

+ Breaktime Sports Clubs

Sports clubs also available in the Sports Hall every breaktime throughout the week. Just turn up. Max 30 students. First come, first served.



+ The Penrice Library

Open every breaktime Mondays - Fridays. Available to all year groups, just turn up.



HOW TO SIGN UP?

You will no longer need to sign up for clubs. All clubs (unless stated 'Invite Only') will be drop in. Due to health and safety, Badminton club is capped at 30 students. Please register your interest for this specific club through parents and carers.



**Farm Club: 20 students who were on the waitlist for last term's Farm Club will be invited to apply first.

Year 10 PPE Preparation Evening*



Thursday 22nd January | 4:15pm or 5:45pm

*Book timeslot below.

This evening is designed to help you understand the journey your child will be on over the next 16 months, leading up to their GCSE examinations. While exams may feel a long way off, the habits, routines and support put in place now will make a real difference to outcomes later.

What to expect?



Key information ahead of exams.



Impactful tips on how to revise effectively.



Core 4 revision study skills.



Guidance on planning your revision.



Support with mental health.



Guidance on how parents/carers can get involved.

**BOOK YOUR PREFERRED
TIMESLOT HERE**



Parenting a young person 12-19



 ParentsPlus

Parents Plus Adolescents Programme

A 9-week workshop delivered weekly. Each session is 2-hours in length. This virtual programme is delivered on Microsoft Teams.

This is an evidence-based workshop that covers topics such as:

- Understanding teenagers
- Pressing the pause button
- Getting to know your teenager
- Establishing rules with teenagers
- Connecting with your teenager
- Communicating rule positively
- The power of encouragement
- Using consequences
- Dealing with conflict and aggression
- Problem solving with teenagers
- Creating a discipline plan
- Family problem solving
- Empowering teenagers
- Establishing routines
- Parent self-care
- Active listening

When?

Thursdays, 6:00-8:00pm
starting 29th January 2026

Where?

Delivered on
Microsoft Teams



To book visit

[parentbooking.cornwall.gov.uk/
book/add/p/4](https://parentbooking.cornwall.gov.uk/book/add/p/4)

Contact us

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk/parenting
Email: parenting@cornwall.gov.uk

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT YOUR CHILD MAY BE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS EVERYDAY?

WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?



MAIN MEAL OPTION OF THE DAY

.....

PASTA KITCHEN

.....

JACKET STATION WITH TOPPINGS

.....

**CHOICE OF SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES
WRAPS , ROLLS, BAGELS**

.....

ALL SERVED WITHIN THE **FREE
SCHOOL MEALS MEAL DEAL** - WHICH MAY
INCLUDE A DESSERT, A DRINK OR FRUIT *
FOR THE TOTAL VALUE OF FSM AMOUNT

*** DIFFERENT SCHOOL MEAL DEALS VARY**

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO APPLY

WWW.GOV.UK/APPLY-FREE-SCHOOL-MEALS OR SPEAK TO THE SCHOOLS RECEPTION



OR SCAN HERE!

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feeding the imagination