



Tanya Coleman
Head of School at
Penrice Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Penrice is full of festive spirit as I write this newsletter introduction with all students enjoying their Christmas lunch and sharing the joy of sitting together as one school community. The festive lunch has been one of just many events going on at Penrice in the countdown to Christmas.

Last week, our students shone brightly at the Winter Concert, the talent on show was incredible! From the harmonious voices of the Senior Choir to the raw energy of the Rock Band, the performances were truly inspiring. The creativity theme continued with Our Young Carers, they enjoyed a craft-making session last Wednesday, spreading cheer through Christmas creativity. Similarly, there have been plenty of happy prize winners on each day of our '12 Days of Christmas' attendance rewards which culminates on Friday with the draw for the star prize – an Amazon tablet. Remember, students have got to be in it to win it! We also embraced Christmas Jumper Day in full colour which brought us all happiness and laughter with some very brave outfits (pictures shared later in this newsletter). And breathe... but wait, there's more!

Also happening have been our longstanding tradition of Celebration Assemblies. These are a favourite part of my role as Headteacher - a chance to pause and recognise the hard work and achievements of our students. Congratulations to all award winners – whether it's Merit Badges, Subject Pins, Tutor Awards or Head of Year Badges, you truly embody the Penrice values. It has been a real joy to see students proudly wearing their new pin badges around school in the past few days. You'll find news and photos of our Heads of Year award winners further on in this newsletter.

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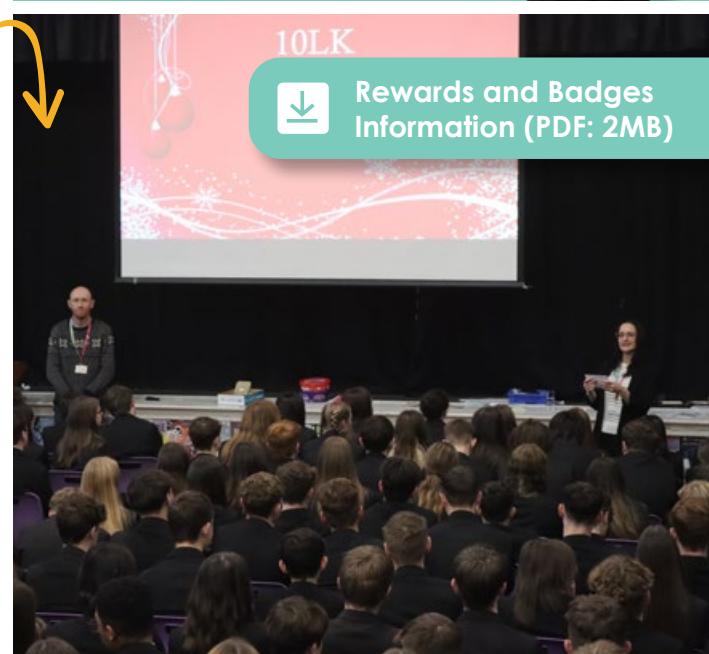


[Full Image Gallery](#)



THIS FRIDAY

The 12 Days of Christmas
Attendance Rewards Star
Prize Draw - An Amazon Tablet



As we enter the final few days of term, we turn our focus to Cinema Reward Trips and the 24-Hour Challenge. This year, our Year 11s will be supporting Cornwall Air Ambulance in the ultimate test of endurance, exercising for 24 hours. Last year, our Class of 2025 set a new fundraising record at £4,105. This year, we are hoping to better that and have set an ambitious target of £5,000! If you would like to help our Year 11's reach their target and support the air ambulance's crucial lifesaving work, then you can donate via the JustGiving page below. This wonderful range of experiences and festive fun wouldn't be possible without the hard work and commitment of all the staff here at Penrice, hours of planning and organising has gone into our Countdown to Christmas and there will be many staff staying up for 24 hours to ensure our 2025 challenge can continue the legacy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work.

[Support Year 11's 24-Hour Challenge](#) 

Despite all of the festivities, there is still lots of classroom learning to be done. I kindly ask that you encourage your child[ren] to finish the term strongly as there are still three important days to go. And finally, as this will be the last newsletter before we finish for the holidays... in advance of Friday at 3pm, I wish everyone in the Penrice community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2026!

Ms Coleman
Headteacher



Christmas Jumper Day



YEAR 11's
**24 Hour
Challenge**



In support of:
Cornwall Air Ambulance



[Full Image Gallery](#) 

**Winter Concert
11th December 2025**



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Well done to all award winners in our recent Celebration Assemblies! From merit badges to department badges and more, our students have really excelled themselves this term and we are very proud.

A special mention to our Head of Year Badge award winners for this term! This prestigious award is only given out once per term in each year group - a truly rare and well-earned achievement.

Ornelia (7JH)

Jayden (8CP)

Bobby (9NH)

Ella (10AE)

Eoghan (11ELC)



A CHRISTMAS FEAST TO REMEMBER!

Over the past two days, more than 1,400 students have tucked into a proper festive spread at Penrice, sharing laughter and making memories together!

This wouldn't have been possible without our phenomenal Caterlink team, who have been absolute Christmas heroes – prepping, cooking, and serving thousands of plates with festive cheer. Well done team!

A heartfelt thank you to significant donors Bonney & Jarman Ltd and Charlestown Regatta for your incredible generosity. Your support helped us make sure every student could enjoy this special tradition.

And... we suspect there may be even more generous Christmas Dinner sponsors hiding under the tree! The St Austell community has been amazing, and Mrs Pink in Finance is currently knee-deep in paperwork armed only with festive spirit and a calculator. Once the dust settles in the New Year, we'll be sure to give every significant donor the thanks they deserve.



Thank you to all those who have donated to our Christmas Toy Drive. From parents and carers to students and staff, you have all made a huge difference that will bring a sparkle of light on Christmas Day for those who need it most.

The toy donations will be shared between the Children's Ward at Treliske Hospital and the Women and Children's Refuge.

Thanks must also go to local charity Children's Wishes who made a heartfelt contribution to this appeal.



FOOD LARDER: A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR ST AUSTELL COMMUNITY

This season, the generosity of our local community has truly shone through. Thanks to your incredible support, the Penrice Community Food Larder has received plenty of donations that will make a real difference to families in our school community.

From cupboards filled with essentials to festive treats that will bring joy during the holidays, every contribution matters - and together, we've created something truly special.

Thanks to all those families who have made donations, including those on our Christmas Jumper Day here at Penrice. We would also like

to extend a special thank you to the following local businesses and organisations for their outstanding generosity:

- **Jewsons**
- **GM Services**
- **AMPS Electrical**
- **Tamar Vegetables**
- **GoJute**, for their thoughtful donation of jute bags to help us distribute the goods
- **The Salvation Army**, for their wonderful gift donations that will brighten many lives.

Your support reminds us what community is all about. From all of us at Penrice Academy, thank you for making this possible.

ST AUSTELL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND SPEECH

WORDS BY MR BRODEY, DIRECTOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

Earlier this month saw a fantastic celebration of Music and the Spoken Word at the St Austell Festival of Music & Speech 2025. Penrice Academy were proud to be represented by over 80 students throughout the week in a vast variety of disciplines. Our students competed in a number of classes ranging from solo performances, duets and school-based ensembles, as well as also representing a number of out-of-school groups.

Penrice was represented by the Senior Choir, Penrice Singers, Orchestra, Junior & Senior Rock Bands, Flute Choir, Drama Club and Year 11 Drama Class who, between them, took home three trophies and a shield!

There were also individual trophies for Bella in Year 7 and Joseph in Year 8 for achieving the best Under-18 scores in Piano and Violin, respectively, across all relevant solo classes.

We would like to congratulate all of the students who competed in any class as standing on a stage in front of an audience and receiving feedback from a professional adjudicator is a brave undertaking and everyone who competed really embodied Penrice's values of Pride, Respect and Success.

Although we are proud of every one of our students who participate in the festival, we would like to extend a special congratulations to the students and ensembles who won their classes.

MR BRODEY
Director of Performing Arts



Success for the Drama Club



Trophy and Certificate Winners



Young Poets Excel

YEAR 7 PANTOMIME TRIP

WORDS BY MRS YEO, HEAD OF YEAR 7

Our Year 7 students were an absolute credit to the school during their trip to see the Aladdin pantomime. From the moment they arrived, their excitement was infectious, and it was wonderful to see them fully swept up in the magic of the show. Their laughter, cheering, and brilliant participation added to the lively atmosphere and made the day truly special. Staff were especially proud of how respectful and engaged they were, and even received compliments from other schools and staff at The Hall for Cornwall. It was a joy to watch them share the fun, the jokes, and the classic panto moments together. Year 7 represented us beautifully, and we couldn't be prouder of the way they embraced the experience.



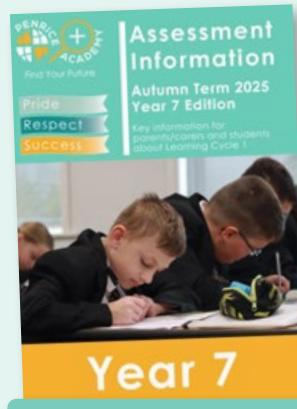
YEAR 7 AND 8 ASSESSMENTS INFORMATION

Now that we are approaching the end of the first full term of this academic year, students in Years 7-8 will soon be sitting progress assessments in the new year.

Earlier this month, families should have received the below resource pack(s) accompanied by an explanation video.

We encourage all parents and carers to download and use the information provided alongside their child to assist with their studies at home.

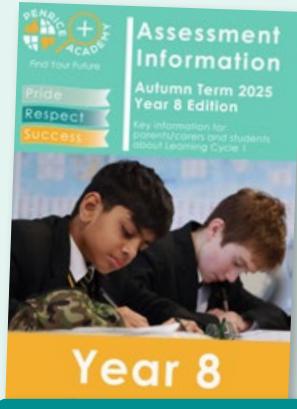
Year 7 Parent Information Video



Year 7

PDF: (715KB)

Year 8 Parent Information Video



Year 8

PDF: (730KB)



Year 11 – A Look Ahead to 2026

An information video about the next steps for Year 11, including what to expect in the new year, was sent out last week. In the event that you missed it, you can view the video by clicking the link about (YouTube).

YOUNG CARERS' CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WORKSHOP

Our amazing young carers have been getting into the festive spirit with a cosy Christmas craft workshop!

From decorating their own gingerbread men to writing thoughtful Christmas cards for loved ones, the room was full of creativity, laughter, and plenty of icing sugar. We were grateful to be kindly supported by Barnardos Young Carers Family Support worker.

If your child is not yet identified as a Young Carer at Penrice and you feel they would benefit from support in school, please contact Ms Gill via hgill@penrice.celtrust.org.



Young Carers' Christmas Crafts Workshop



Future Medics Explore Psychology

On Friday, our Future Medics students had an incredible opportunity to dive into the world of psychology!

We welcomed Tegan Hooper, Senior Assistant Psychologist at HMP Channings Wood, and Ellie Sparks, Trainee Clinical Psychologist from the University of Exeter, for an interactive session exploring careers in psychology.

Students explored the career of a Psychologist through interactive "Psychology in Practice" activities, testing their skills and learning why the principle "there is no health without mental health" is vital across all areas of healthcare.

HOLIDAY PLANNING REMINDER

As you begin planning ahead, please remember to check our school term dates to help avoid booking holidays during term time. Consistent attendance is really important for children's learning and well-being, and we appreciate your support in ensuring they are in school every day possible.

You can find the full list of term dates on our website via the link below.

[Term Dates](#)



Meet the team | Tour the campus
Explore your options

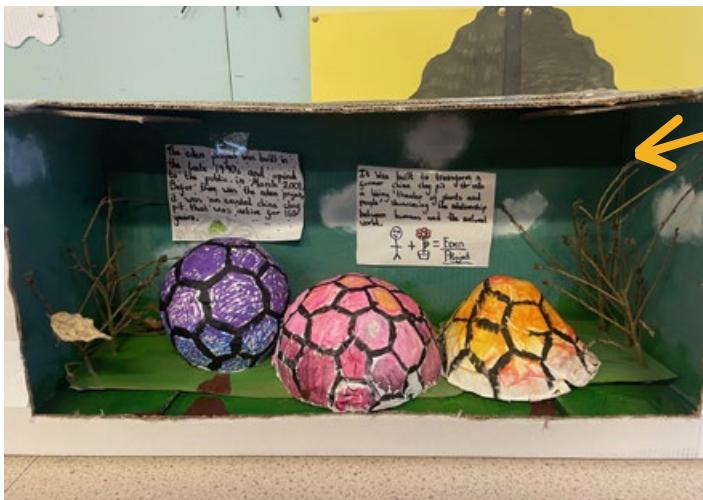
TRURO COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

Tue 13 Jan 5pm-8pm

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

GO FURTHER



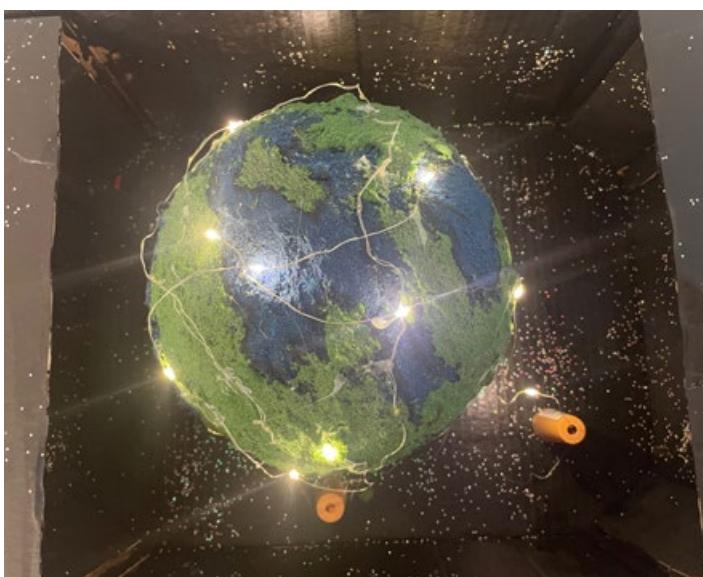
SPOTLIGHT ON HOMEWORK

This newsletter's 'Spotlight On Homework' explores Year 7 Science.

Our students produced an outstanding range of dioramas for our Science in Cornwall project, showcasing both their creativity and their deepening understanding of the unique science on their doorstep.

From dramatic coastlines and mining heritage to rainforest biomes and conservation work, each model captured a different aspect of Cornwall's scientific story.

The standard was incredibly high, and judging proved a real challenge. After a very close contest, first place was awarded to the beautifully detailed Eden Project diorama by Poppy (7AS) with second place going to an impressive model of Earth by Aimee (7SR) that demonstrated excellent scientific explanation and craftsmanship. The students' enthusiasm, imagination and pride in local science shone through every piece.



Support Organisations



In an emergency,
call 999



Worried about a child?

Multi-agency Referral Unit (MARU)
0300 123 1116

Out-of-hours number 01208 251300
multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk



Support for children and young people is available from
Cornwall's Early Help Hub
(01872) 322 277
earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk

NSPCC
0808 800 5000



Citizens Advice Cornwall who will be
able to issue you with a **food bank**
voucher - call 0800 144 8848

Financial support or advice on
care and support services for
families
0808 208 2138
www.supportincornwall.org.uk



YOUNGMiNDS

Support young people with
the tools to look after their
mental health
Parents helpline -
0808 802 5544
Young person -
Text SHOUT to 85258

free, safe & anonymous
advice at kooth.com

shout
85258

**"It's alright to
ask for help"**

SAMARITANS
116 123



0800 58 58 58
Helpline for men
www.thecalmzone.net

HOPELINE247
0800 068 4141

TEXT: 07860 039 967



**Young
People
Cornwall**
Support for young people
aged 11 to 25
youngpeoplecornwall.org

SAFER FUTURES

Ending Abuse in
Cornwall &
Isles of Scilly

0300 777 4777
Mon-Fri 9am-9pm
Sat- 9am-5pm



LEARNING TOGETHER
CORNWALL EDUCATION LEARNING TRUST

School aged vaccinations

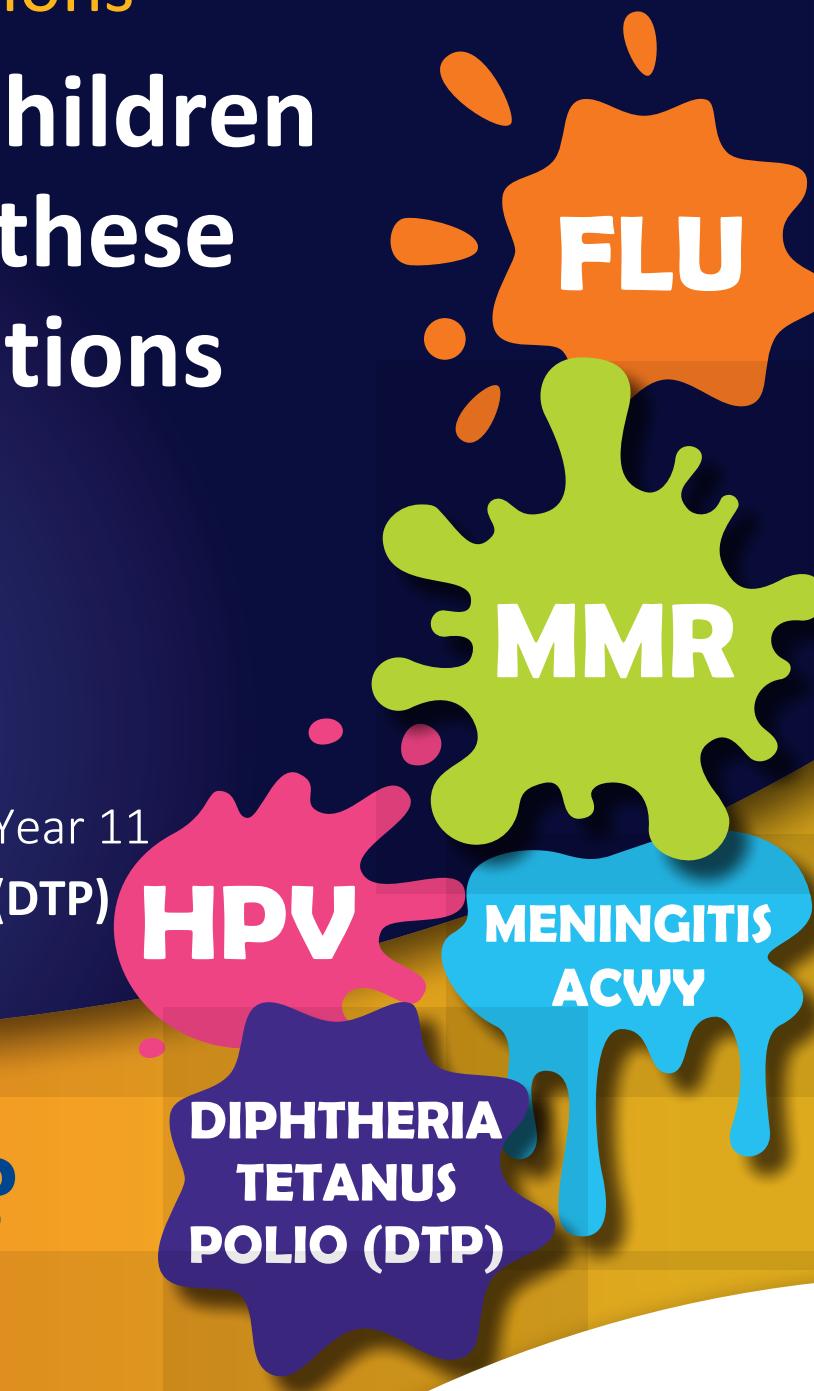
**Did you know children
will be offered these
routine vaccinations
at school?**

-  **FLU** - Reception - Year 11
-  **MMR** - Catch-up
-  **HPV** - Year 8 - Year 11
-  **Meningitis ACWY** - Year 9 - Year 11
-  **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)**
Year 9 - Year 11

Did you miss us?

We also have community
clinics across Cornwall for:

-  Home educated children
-  Anxious children
-  Children who missed the
session at school



Call us on

01872 221105



NHS

Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST



Please join us for our 5
week online
Parent Led CBT Intervention

* Each session will take place online, weekly, beginning **Monday 5 January 2026** (10am or 6pm) with MHST practitioners.

* Parent-led cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is a brief psychological intervention in which parents and carers are supported in applying CBT principles in their child's day-to-day life.

* Please sign up via the online form here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/qWsPTfwXC3> or scan the QR code

Sign up closes 29/12/2025 at 5pm

