



Parent Update

18 November 2025



Tanya Coleman
Head of School at
Penrice Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been one of profound reflection and sadness at Penrice Academy.

Last Tuesday, as we marked Remembrance Day and honoured those who gave their lives for our freedom, we also faced the heartbreak task of sharing the news that one of our long-serving and much-loved teachers, Mrs Penny Powell, passed away suddenly over the weekend.

Penny was an exceptional teacher whose warmth, dedication and care touched countless lives within our school. Having joined Penrice in 1998, Penny inspired the young people of St Austell for 27 years, spending a significant proportion of her time as a Science Teacher. I expect there will be some parents who are reading this newsletter right now that were taught by Mrs Powell many years ago. In recent years, as Penny made steps towards full retirement, she continued to work at Penrice on an ad-hoc basis. Over the past few years, she was heavily involved in Outdoor Education (Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh), Work Experience and Curriculum Enrichment Week. She also continued to teach on occasions as a cover teacher. Her loss is deeply felt by everyone in the Penrice community and a page to further commemorate Mrs Powell is shared later in this newsletter.

Students were given extended tutor time on the Tuesday morning to process the news and talk openly with their tutors and friends. Heads of Year, pastoral and safeguarding teams were also available throughout the day to offer guidance and emotional support. As the week progressed, memory boxes were placed in Reception, the Student Family Centre and the Safeguarding Office for anyone who wishes to take the time to write a message or share a memory of Penny. Support remains available, so please encourage your child to reach out if they need to talk.

As a school, we will continue to come together to support one another during this difficult time. Penny's legacy will live on in the countless students she inspired and the colleagues who had the privilege of working alongside her.

Thank you for your understanding and care.

Ms Coleman
Headteacher



Support Available

If you feel that your child needs additional support, please email DSL@penrice.celtrust.org and we can arrange this for them.

Additional External Support

[Kooth](#)



[ChatHealth](#)



[NSPCC](#)



[Penhaligon's Friends](#)





REMEMBRANCE DAY



ODD SOCKS DAY AT PENRICE

On Friday at Penrice, we joined together for Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week.

Odd socks remind us that everyone is unique, and those differences should be celebrated, not judged.

In a time when kindness matters more than ever, it was great to see everyone using their #PowerForGood, standing united against bullying and for respect and empathy.



WAYS TO REPORT BULLYING AT PENRICE

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, Head Students Reuben and Evie featured in a video to remind students and families of the ways in which you can speak up - and why it matters.

There are a variety of ways to report incidents and get help at Penrice, and you can use whichever method you find most comfortable.

[Watch the Ways to Report Video](#)



Penny somehow always combined academic rigour with just the right amount of humour, personality and kindness – a winning combination that must have shaped thousands of young lives.

Staff Member

She always inspired you to grab opportunities and adventures. She will always be one of my favourite teachers.

Student

Her teaching skills were incredible. She was always patient and kind.

Student

Mrs Powell was so passionate about her family and passions. She covered me once in English and I've remembered her heart of gold ever since. She told me all about the opportunities I could achieve in the future. Mrs Powell was such a kind soul. She was just amazing.

Student

She was my DofE assessor and she taught us life skills. When I was crying, she helped me feel better even though DofE was hard.

Student

Your huge and loving personality has been a beacon of positivity and no doubt the reason why you are loved by so many of the Penrice community, including staff, students and their amazing families. You took so many new trainee teachers under your wing of experience and taught them the true meaning of what makes a fabulous teacher. Grades were of course important, but character was always at the centre of your core. You provided so much love, care, support and opportunities both in and out of the classroom and everyone knew that your door was always open.

Staff Member

Mrs Powell came on Ten Tors with me and my friends and honestly made the whole thing more enjoyable. She always made us laugh when we were crying from the walk and kept us distracted with stories. She was phenomenal.

Student



In loving memory of

Penny Powell

I remember she taught me and she loved talking about her boat and Duke of Edinburgh. She also knew my uncle, and she loved teaching him. She was a fantastic teacher.

Mrs Powell was the sweetest person. She was very passionate about her boat. She was very funny and kind. She loved her boat.

Student

I remember I had Mrs Powell for Science in Year 7. She was a great teacher and really funny. She always wanted to help people learn and I think that's awesome.

Student

She used to tell us stories about her boat and would make our whole class laugh.

Student

A bright, bubbly, beautiful woman who couldn't have given more of herself to students! A true inspiration to new teachers.

Staff Member

My memory with Mrs Powell was on a Duke of Edinburgh walk in a small village on the Fowey River, sat with her feeding ducks biscuit browns on a sunny day.

Student

A force of nature, Penny lived life to the full & had a story for every occasion. Only last week she told me she spoke Portuguese!

Staff Member

Very affectionately often referred to as "Mrs Boat Lady" by pupils.

Staff Member

In Year 7, she was my form tutor and told us about the pigeons she raced and sold.

Student



STAFF RESULTS

1st - Mr Round
2nd - Mr Johnson
3rd - Ms Coleman

Penrice Parkrun Fun

A huge thank you to all our amazing students, families and staff who joined us for the recent Parkrun, the perfect way to start a crisp autumn morning. Even the sun made an appearance to cheer us on.

It was a very close call amongst the staff runners.

Watch this space for future Penrice Parkrun events. We'd love to see even more of our community getting involved.



Keeping Our Community Safe

On Friday 7th November, we welcomed a very special visitor to Penrice Academy!

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment, we were delighted to host Sky from the Devon and Cornwall Police Dog Section Unit for a routine educational visit.

Sky and the visiting team toured the Academy and even dropped into a few lessons, much to the excitement of our students.

Visits like this help raise awareness of the vital work our Police do and the important role they play in keeping our communities safe.



Congratulations to the Class of 2025



Government GCSE Data Released

Congratulations to our Penrice Class of 2025 who have been recognised as the highest achieving state school cohort in Cornwall this year. A huge thank you to our community of parents, carers and staff, whose support and encouragement made this possible. We are very proud of you.



Welcome Back Photos

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY APPEALS



PENRICE COMMUNITY LARDER

As we head towards the festive season, we're inviting families to support our Penrice Community Larder by donating non-perishable food items. A donation trolley will be placed in Reception, and we'd love to fill it with contributions that will go directly towards creating Christmas food parcels for local families in need.

Every tin, packet or treat makes a difference. Donations will be gratefully received over the coming weeks. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE APPEAL

We are also collecting toys and gifts for children aged 4–16 years who will be spending their Christmas away from home.

It would be greatly appreciated if students, parents, and staff could donate a toy. Donated toys must be new, in original packaging, with labels attached.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

We're inviting all Penrice students to take part in our Christmas Card Design Competition! This is a chance for your child to showcase their creativity and have their artwork featured on the official Penrice Christmas cards for 2025.

All current Penrice students are welcome to enter. Designs must be A4 in size and can be either portrait or landscape. Paper is available to collect from the Art Department. Completed entries should be handed into the Art Department by Tuesday 25th November.

The top 25 designs will also feature in our Penrice Advent Calendar, counting down the days to Christmas on social media. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child's artwork to be celebrated across our online community!

Last year's winning design by AJ



Pride

Respect

Success

ADDITIONAL HOMEWORK CLUBS NOW AVAILABLE

Break Time Club (Room CS3)

Days: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, Break 1

NEW!

After School Club (Room CS3)

Days: Mondays to Thursdays, 3:00–4:00pm

What Students Get

- ✓ A quiet space to focus.
- ✓ Access to staff support.
- ✓ Time to stay on top of homework before heading home.



Interested in Becoming a Teacher?

It's the start of a new half-term for our fabulous trainee teachers based in the Centre of Excellence (COE) here at Penrice. We look forward to seeing how they all grow and develop as the academic year progresses, working at various CELT schools.

Did you know that you can train to be a teacher with Cornwall Education Learning Trust? To find out more and have your questions answered, email our Centre of Excellence via coenquiries@coe.celtrust.org and we can arrange an initial phone call.



Mrs Stevenson

Head of Future Pathways at Penrice

Work Experience Update

Our Year 10 students have now completed three of their CLASS lessons focused on applying for work and Work Experience (WEx), along with four tutor time sessions supporting their WEx applications. Students are now expected to continue their search for a placement independently.

Since returning after half term, we have been offering drop-in WEx support sessions during breaktimes to help students with their applications and placement search. Thank you for your continued support. If you are able to offer a Work Experience placement to a student through your own workplace, we would be very grateful - please do get in touch.

BUDGETING WORKSHOP

Would you like help to manage your money more effectively?

Join us for practical advice and support at our free budgeting workshop

1st Wednesday of the Month 12.45 – 2.45pm

Light and Life Centre

Brunel Business Park, St Austell, PL25 4TJ

If you would like more information contact Andy andy@staustell.foodbank.org.uk



Reminder: One-to-One Appointments Available with Mr Toms (Head of Year 11)

We understand that Year 11 can be a challenging time for students and families. To ensure every child feels supported, we're offering 15-minute individual appointments with Mr Toms, Head of Year 11.

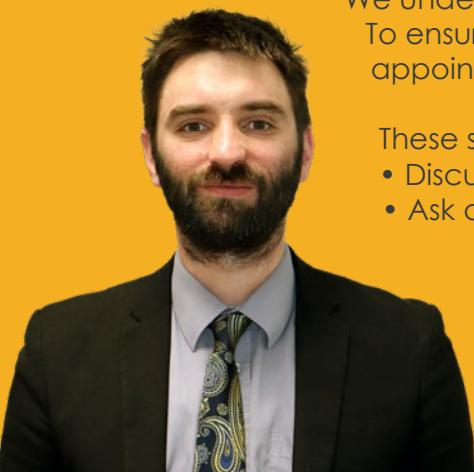
These sessions are designed to give families the opportunity to:

- Discuss any concerns about wellbeing, progress, or upcoming exams
- Ask questions about how we can best support your child
- Work together to make sure students feel confident and prepared

[Book One-to-One Appointment*](#)



*Please note that all appointment slots are first-come, first-served basis.



CELT Academic Calendar 2026-27

September 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	4	5
10	8	9	10	11	12	11	12
11	15	16	17	18	19	18	19
12	22	23	24	25	26	25	26
13	29	30	31				

April 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17							1
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
30							1
31	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
33	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
34	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
35	30	31					

Teaching Days: 190

INSET Days: 2

Commuted INSET Days: 3

Total Days: 192 (+3 Commuted)

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!

caterlink
feeding the imagination