

15th May 2026

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Mr Rich Baker
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful to be back at Penrice Academy. Returning as Headteacher feels incredibly special and deeply personal. Penrice has always been a school I am immensely proud of, and it has been a pleasure to once again be part of this community. The commitment and sense of belonging I have experienced over recent weeks truly reflect what makes this academy such a special place to learn and grow.

This week has seen all our Year 11 students begin their GCSE examinations. They have done so with focus and a determination to be the best version of themselves. Our staff team is wholeheartedly behind them, providing continued academic support through booster lessons, alongside strong pastoral care to ensure every student feels supported during this important time.

Yesterday evening, we welcomed families into school for the Year 10 Progress Evening. The conversations were positive and highly constructive, making this a valuable moment in the Year 10 journey as pupils begin to look ahead to their own examinations next year. A big thank you to all those who attended.

Finally, it was lovely to see and hear about what looks to have been an amazing snowboarding trip over Easter. There are some fantastic photos included in this newsletter, which really capture the spirit of the trip.



Year 10
Progress Evening



Austria 2026:
Snowboarding Trip



Austria 2027 Snowboarding Trip



More Photos



TEAM SCIENCE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

On Friday 8th May, we marked this momentous birthday by bringing the science curriculum to life in David Attenborough style!

Across Science lessons, students found their 'voice for nature', developing their oracy skills by scripting and performing narrations inspired by some of Sir David's most iconic documentary moments.

Year 7 explored animal adaptations, Year 8 investigated plants, and Year 9 deepened their understanding of plants through bioenergetics.

The celebrations even continued into breaktime, with our Science team enjoying birthday cake which mysteriously disappeared at record speed!





Construction Careers Workshop

On Wednesday this week, selected Year 9 students engaged in an inspiring construction careers workshop led by industry professionals from Currie & Brown, Co Create Architects, Obedair and Hoare Lea.

Students explored key roles across architecture, engineering and project management, before tackling a live design brief in teams. Thank you to everyone involved for sharing your time, energy and expertise.

[Full Story](#)



HOMESWORK SPOTLIGHT



Tyler 9DM - Wallpaper Design
Subject: Art & Design



Year 11 Breaktime Exam Treats Today



[View Full Calendar](#)

Coming up at Penrice



Tuesday 19th May



Friday 22nd May



Thursday 18th June



Tuesday 23rd June



Tuesday 7th July



Thursday 9th July

Year 6 Transition Visits Begin

Year 11 Celebration Day

Year 11 Ball

Sports Day

Year 6 Welcome Day & Evening

Sports Personality of the Year Awards



Ten Tors Success

Huge congratulations to our two Ten Tors teams who successfully completed the demanding 35-mile challenge on Dartmoor. Their determination and teamwork embodies the very best of our core values – pride in themselves and their school, respect for the challenge, the environment and each other, and success earned through commitment and grit. These are moments that shape character and create lifelong memories.

An enormous thank you to our staff who give up their weekends to support and inspire our young people.



Successful Ten Tors Teams



MRS STEVENSON

Careers and Future Pathways
Lead at Penrice Academy

Summer Term Careers Update

This term, students across all year groups have embraced our ongoing programme of careers education, designed to broaden horizons and spark ambition.

From discovering the purpose of work in Year 7 to securing post-16 pathways in Year 11, pupils have engaged with employers, universities, and hands-on experiences. We live in an ever-changing world, and we continually monitor our careers programme to deliver the most appropriate opportunities for our young people.

Please use the link below to read a full careers update, with information specific to your child's year group.

[Read More](#)



CHAOS Radio and Whitemoor Academy Visit Our Farm

THE PENRICE FARM VISITS BEECH LODGE CARE HOME

On the 5th May, our school farm had the absolute pleasure of visiting Beech Lodge Care Home.

Thanks to Mrs Harding's fantastic organisation, a group of our Year 10 Animal Care students took four guinea pigs, two dogs and a tortoise along to meet the residents. Our students were impeccably behaved, speaking with real calmness and kindness – a true credit to themselves and to Penrice.

The smiles and conversations shared reminded us just how powerful these moments of connection can be. We're incredibly proud of our young people and we're loving playing our part in the St Austell community, building meaningful relationships across generations.



COMMUNITY CORNER

Free, local events and opportunities in the St Austell and surrounding areas.

Stronger Starts

Retail Apprenticeship



Interested in apprenticeships?

Tesco's Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeship may be the perfect next step for you.

- Starting salary of £23,662 (pro rata)
- No qualifications or experience required
- Support from dedicated coach, colleagues and The King's Trust
- Exciting progression opportunities
- Vacancies available nationally
- Part time options available on pro rata salary



Apply now for
September 2026 start:
tinyurl.com/Tesco-Cornwall

TESCO

Recruitment on a first-come, first-served basis

A LEVELS IN ST AUSTELL

Information Evening
Thu 4 June | 5.30pm - 7pm

CORNWALL COLLEGE

Learn More



COMMUNITY EVENT

PENRICE JOINS PARKRUN AT EDEN

Saturday 16th May



Join Us This Weekend at Eden

There is only one sleep to go until the next Penrice Joins Parkrun event on Saturday!

We're encouraging Penrice students and families to gather at The Eden Project as we join in with the local Parkrun.

The beauty of Parkrun is that you can walk, jog or race the route. We're encouraging as many parents, students, and staff to come together and enjoy the many benefits of Parkrun.

Whether you're aiming for a Personal Best or most looking forward to a coffee and a natter at the finish line, there's something for everyone. Plus, it's free, and we promise there's no judgement if your pace is more 'tortoise' than 'hare'!

Register for your barcode and save the date: Saturday 16th May, 8:30am, Eden Parkrun! Further information and registration on the official Parkrun website below.

Register Here



PAPAYA

Let's talk about our kids and their tech

ONLINE PARENT TALK WITH NICOLA:

CORNWALL SCHOOLS PARENT TALK
MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2026 – 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM



JOINING LINK:

[ACCESS VIA THE TEAMS LINK HERE](#)



Nicola MacDonald

Nicola MacDonald is a Resilience Coach and Author of the non-fiction book, *Resilient Teen*. She is the Founder of My Resilient Mind and Co-Founder of The Digital Detox Club. She runs resilience workshops and talks for schools, parents, and adults in the workplace. She specialises in mindfulness, tech addiction, youth mental health and conscious parenting.

Nicola is an empowering and uplifting speaker who shares her knowledge in a non-judgemental way linking to her own experiences of parenthood and her own previous struggles with teen anxiety.

PAPAYA

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Parenting in the **digital age** has never been more complex, with issues surrounding screen time, social media use, and gaming.

Many parents are concerned about their children's mental health, especially the impact of screens on it.

In this interactive talk, Nicola unpacks some of the **complex issues** surrounding smartphone use and, in a **non-judgmental** manner, aims to help you find solutions that work for your family.

Topics

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.



National Online Safety have published a really helpful parent/carer information poster regarding Online Grooming. The poster includes safety tips, what to look out for, how to spot warning signs, and so much more. You can download the high-resolution poster via the button below.



Download The Online Grooming Safeguarding Poster
PDF: 4.4MB

SUMMER TERM 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Homework Club CS3 All Year Groups	Athletics Sports Hall Years 7-10	Cricket Sports Hall Years 7-10	Green Team H5 All Years	Athletics Sports Hall Invite Only
Orchestra MS1 Invite Only	Drama Club Drama Studio Years 7-9	Diamond Art Art Block All Years	Homework Club CS3 All Years	Chess Club M6 All Years
Senior Choir* Drama Studio Invite Only	Duke of Edinburgh S12 Years 9-11	Dungeons and Dragons M11 All Years	Music Technology Club Music Block All Years	Cricket Sports Hall Invite Only
KEY	Farm Club** Farm Years 7-8 Invite Only	Higher Project Qualification* TBC Year 9 Invite Only	Young Enterprise Year 10 Invite Only	Karaoke Club Music Block All Years
Break 1 Clubs	GCSE & BTCC Music Music Block Years 10-11	Homework Club CS3 All Years		LGBTQ+ Club CL1 All Years
Break 2 Clubs	Higher Project Qualification Year 10 Invite Only	Science Club S11 Years 7-10		Penrice Rock Band* Music Block All Years
After-school Clubs	Homework Club CS3 All Years	Summer Show Main Hall Year 10 Invite Only		Summer Show Main Hall Year 10 Invite Only
	Mandarin L4 Invite Only			
	Penrice Kitchen T2 Years 9-10 Invite Only			
	Student Parliament E8 All Years			

*Club starts after half-term

**Farm club will first be offered to those students next on the waitlist.

REGULAR EXTRAS



The Penrice Library
Open every breaktime. Available to all year groups.



Expression Sessions
Every Break 1 in the Music Block.