

Friday 12th June 2026

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Rich Baker
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our Community Champions information evening last night. We are delighted to share that a team is now in the final stages of being formed.

Our Community Champions will play a vital role in shaping decision-making at Penrice. This initiative is another step in ensuring that community voices are heard and reflected in the way we move forward as a school. By working in partnership, we can continue to strengthen our connection with the wider community and make informed, inclusive decisions. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact penriceenquiries@penrice.celtrust.org and we will get back to you.



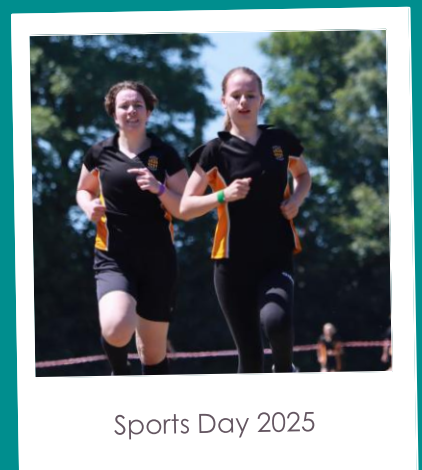
Community Champions

YEAR 11 GCSES

As we move through the final weeks of the academic year, there is understandably a strong focus on our Year 11 students as they complete their GCSE examinations. I would like to commend them for the determination and maturity they have shown throughout this demanding time. They have approached the challenge brilliantly, supported every step of the way by our dedicated staff and by the encouragement and care they receive at home. Thank you to all parents and carers for the invaluable support you continue to provide our young adults outside of school.

LOOKING AHEAD

There is so much happening across the rest of the academy in the coming weeks. Year 7 students are eagerly anticipating their Music Immersion Day (8th July), whilst Years 8 and 9 will each enjoy Maths Enrichment Days later this month, filled with team challenges as they put their problem-solving skills to the test! All Year 10 students will visit Truro College next week to explore future pathways, and Year 11 are within touching distance of their prom on the 18th June. Last but by no means least, we are all super-excited for Sports Day on the 23rd June, always a fantastic occasion filled with energy and team spirit!



Sports Day 2025



**Cornwall
Education
Learning Trust**



[View Full Calendar](#)

Coming up at Penrice



Wednesday 17th June

Year 8 Maths Enrichment Day



Thursday 18th June

Year 10 Truro College Trip



Thursday 18th June

Year 11 Ball



Tuesday 23rd June

Sports Day



Monday 29th June

Year 9 Maths Enrichment Day



Tuesday 30th June

Year 10 Callywith College Trip



Attendance Prize Awards

A huge congratulations to our Attendance Streaks Star Prize winners.

Year 7 - Kelsey | Year 8 - Rachel
Year 9 - Hayden | Year 10 - Bailey
Year 11 - Eoghan | Overall - Olivia

As a reward for their dedication, each winner received a Family Cinema Ticket worth £29 just before half term. A well-earned treat to enjoy with their loved ones. The overall winner, Olivia, also won a snack voucher worth £15 to spend on cinema treats!



Mandarin Students Enter Anthea Bell Translation Prize

Our Mandarin students have embraced a remarkable creative challenge by entering the prestigious Anthea Bell Translation Prize. Tasked with translating poetry and song lyrics, they demonstrated impressive skill in interpreting meaning and capturing linguistic beauty.

We are incredibly proud of their dedication and imagination. Celebrations included well-earned Chinese treats, alongside recognition of our talented internal winners. We now look forward with excitement as results from the University of Oxford are announced.

Cornwall
Air Ambulance
Your charity, saving lives



**SUPPORTING
CORNWALL AIR AMBULANCE**

Teachers Complete the Classic Quarter

We are incredibly proud to share that members of staff – Mr Johnson, Mr Hayward, Ms Coleman and Mrs Hammersley – recently took on the Classic Quarter challenge to raise money for the Air Ambulance. The team tackled the stunning but demanding 44-mile stretch of the South West Coast Path from The Lizard to Land's End.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have already raised over £1,000, which is a fantastic achievement.

[Learn More](#)



Year 11 Uniform Donations Are Welcome

As we celebrate the Class of 2026, we invite families to make a meaningful difference by donating any pre-loved school uniform your child no longer needs.

For some families in our community, access to good-quality uniform can be a real challenge, and your donation can have an immediate, positive impact. It's a simple but powerful way to show kindness and support others, and we hope you feel proud of the difference you are making.

Please ensure all items are freshly washed and fully dried before dropping them off at Reception.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our Penrice community.



YEARS 7-10

SPORTS DAY 2026

23rd June 2026

SPORTS DAY

Always a highlight in the school calendar. Please remember to pack a water bottle (free refills), sun cream, and a sun hat.



WE ARE HIRING

PASTORAL MANAGER

**APPRENTICE
ADMINISTRATOR**



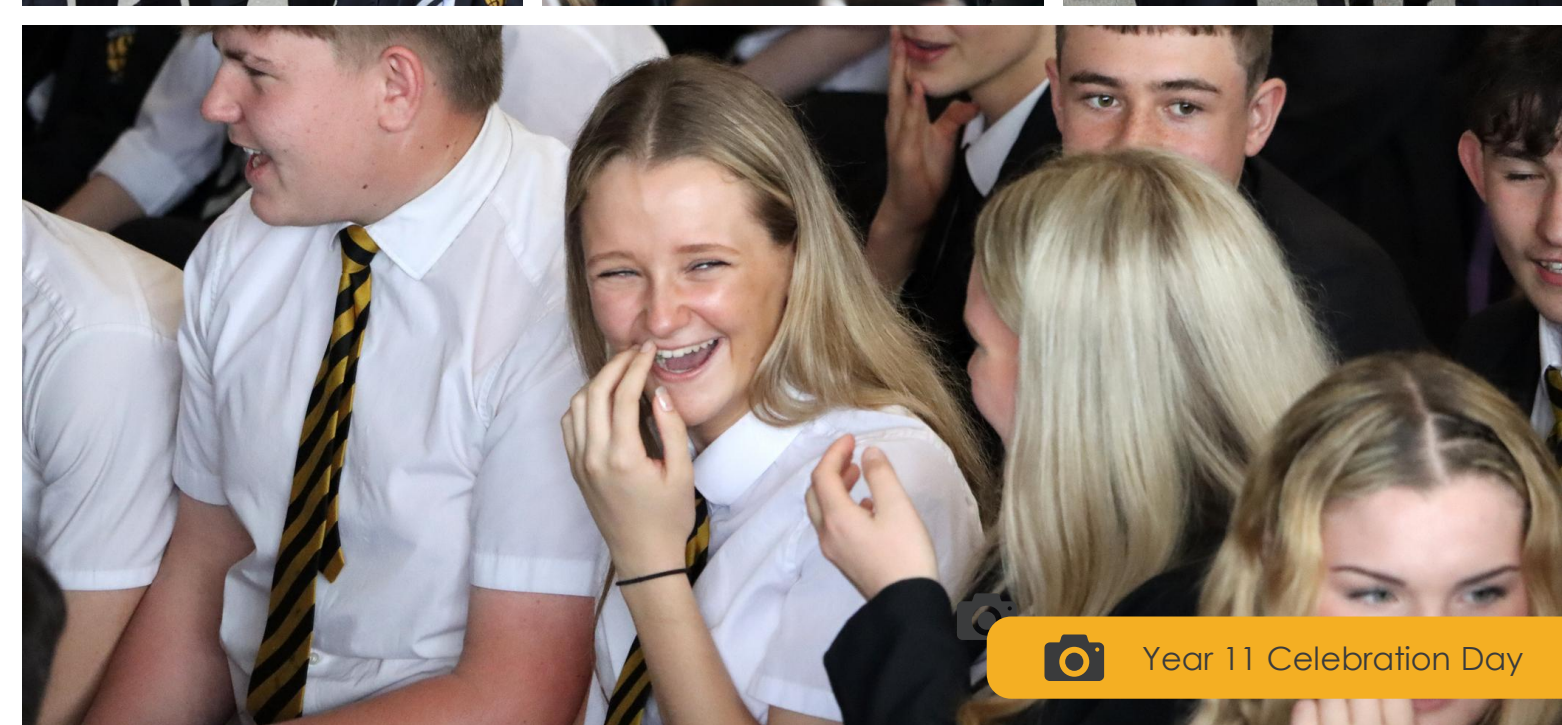
YEAR 11 ENJOY THEIR CELEBRATION DAY

Year 11 Celebration Day was a joyful tribute to the Class of 2026. Celebrations began with our cherished ballroom dancing tradition, with rehearsals led by Mr and Mrs Thomas, showcasing impressive moves ahead of the Year 11 Ball.

A heartfelt final assembly followed, filled with laughter, memories and a brilliant staff "Masked Singer" performance.

After lunch, students let their hair down at a well-earned Silent Disco, celebrating the end of an intense exam period.

The day concluded with a moving guard of honour, marking the end of a remarkable five-year journey. With a few more exams left, there is not long to go until the Year 11 Ball on 18th June.



YEAR 7 TUTOR FARM VISITS

It was a lovely morning at the Penrice Academy Farm for tutor group 7CR recently.

Each term, all of our Year 7 tutor groups get the chance to visit this special space, swapping classrooms for fresh air and open space with some very friendly (and occasionally cheeky) animals. Tamarix, our mischievous goat, certainly kept everyone on their toes and provided plenty of laughs along the way!

From feeding the animals to simply enjoying a peaceful moment outdoors, it was a chance for students to slow down and connect with nature.



Oxford University Visitor

Yesterday, we hosted two fantastic careers sessions for Years 8 and 9, led by Reanna from Oxford University.

All Year 8 students, currently in the 'Explore' stage of their careers programme, learned more about their post-18 options and what university life is like.

Interested Year 9 students attended a session in the main hall to find out more about Oxford. They gained insight into studying there, explored possible post-16 pathways, and challenged common myths about universities like Oxford.



Lost Property and Labelling Request

We kindly ask that all items brought into school are clearly labelled with your name. This includes items such as uniforms, coats, PE kits and bags.

Naming items helps students quickly identify their own property and allows staff to return lost items more efficiently. It also reduces the number of unclaimed items in our lost property area.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain an organised and respectful school environment.

PENRICE ACADEMY PRESENTS

LITTLE SHOP OF

HORRORS



2-4TH MARCH 2027

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and reliable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.

