Friday 6th November

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Mr Carl Foster
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I complete my first full week as Headteacher at Penrice following the recent transition period, I have thoroughly enjoyed spending even more time with our learners. Through assemblies with different year groups and conversations around the school, it has been a pleasure to get to know our young people better. I have been incredibly impressed by their commitment in and beyond the classroom.



Headteacher Assemblies

I am also excited to announce our new Kernow Coins student rewards initiative. You can read more about Kernow Coins later in this newsletter and I am looking forward to seeing the impact this programme will have.

LOOKING AHEAD TO REMEMBRANCE

Next week brings one of the most important moments in the Penrice calendar as we mark Remembrance Day on Wednesday. Students involved in uniformed youth organisations are invited to attend our annual remembrance ceremony in their full colours. All classrooms will fall silent to mark their respect at 11am. This is a poignant and respectful occasion that is a longstanding Penrice tradition. It provides an opportunity for our community to remember and demonstrate one of our core values, Respect, as we honour those who have served and sacrificed for others.



Remembrance Day 2025

If your child is part of a uniformed youth organisation, e.g. Scouts or Brownies, please encourage them to attend school for the day in their organisation's uniform.

Cornwall Education Learning Trust

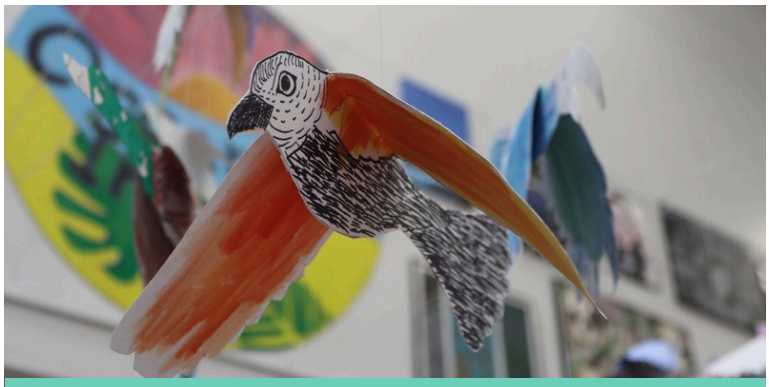


Author A.F. Steadman Visits Penrice

CELT's partnership with the St Austell Festival of Children's Literature brought an unforgettable author visit to local pupils before half-term, featuring award-winning author A.F. Steadman.

Learners from Penrice and surrounding local primary schools joined in person and online to hear about her journey as a writer and the inspiration behind the bestselling Skandar series. The event celebrated reading for pleasure and highlighted the positive impact books can have on children's futures.

Learn More



Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

It was a pleasure to welcome Year 7 families to our Meet the Tutor Evening before half-term, celebrating the fantastic start students have made to life at Penrice. The event provided an opportunity for positive discussions about progress, wellbeing and settling into secondary school.

Families also enjoyed viewing the Year 7 Big Draw installation, which showcased an impressive range of creativity and artistic talent. Thank you to everyone who attended.



Treat time for Year 9

Year 9 students were rewarded for an exceptional start to the academic year shortly before half-term with some sweet treats at breaktime.

Through the Next-Level Nines challenge, students have embraced opportunities to demonstrate excellence and community spirit. Many played a key role in Open Evening and Year 6 transition tours, showcasing Penrice with confidence and pride. A well-deserved treat recognised their outstanding efforts, and we look forward to seeing their continued success moving forward.



Year 9 Rewards





Read More



PREMIER LEAGUE REFEREE VISIT

Around 90 students enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to hear from Premier League referee Simon Hooper during a special visit to Penrice before half-term.

Speaking in the main hall, Simon shared his remarkable journey from grassroots football to officiating at the very highest level of the game. Students then had the chance to ask their own questions during an engaging Q&A session.

One of the highlights of the session came when Emelia in Year 10 who won a genuine Premier League match coin that Simon had previously used during a top-flight fixture.



An inspiring visit



Year 9 Boys' National Cup Match

Later in the day, Simon took charge of the Year 9 Boys' National Cup First Round match against Stoke Damerel School. It proved to be a closely contested encounter, with Penrice securing a hard-fought 1-0 victory to progress to the next round.

This visit was made possible through the generosity and support of the family of Olivia in Year 8, who kindly gifted this opportunity to the school. We are extremely grateful for this thoughtful gesture, which created a truly memorable experience and inspired many of our students.

CLASS OF 2027 READY TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Year 11 enjoyed an inspiring and impactful day before half-term, beginning with a motivational assembly from speaker Stephen Seki, who encouraged students to work hard, believe in themselves and embrace every opportunity.

Later that day, Year 11 families joined us for our Year 11 Road to Success Evening, where practical guidance and support for the year ahead were shared.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We are excited to see what our Class of 2027 can achieve and look forward to celebrating their successes throughout the year.



Stephen Seki speaking



Year 11 Road to Sucess Evening





An inspiring and impacful day







YEAR 7 TAKE PART IN THE BIG DRAW 2026

Before half-term, all of our Year 7 students stepped away from one of their usual lessons to take part in The Big Draw 2026, embracing this year's inspiring theme, 'Make a Mark'.

As part of the day, students explored the work of contemporary artist Petrit Halilaj and discovered how art can be used to tell powerful stories and express hope during difficult times. Inspired by his story and artwork, our Year 7 students worked collaboratively to create a large-scale bird installation. Well done to Team Year 7 who embraced this activity and, together, created comething magnificent!

Full Story





Get Organised for the New Half Term

As students settle back into school after the break, we'd like to encourage families to clearly name all belongings, including coats, jumpers, PE kit, water bottles, lunch boxes and pencil cases.

Despite our best efforts, a large number of unnamed items find their way into lost property each term. Adding a name label makes it much easier for us to return belongings to their rightful owner quickly.

Thank you for your support in helping keep lost property to a minimum and ensuring items make their way home where they belong.

INTRODUCING
KERNOW COINS

Dear families,

Every day in school gives your child more time to learn, build friendships and grow in confidence.

That's why, from this half term, we are introducing two new ways of recognising the commitment that makes all of this possible.

Both have been designed so that every student can take part and no child is disadvantaged by circumstances beyond their control.

Recognising commitment

First, students whose attendance is 96% or above across each half term will earn 1,000 Kernow Coins. These can be exchanged for rewards at the end of that half term or saved across the year for a larger reward.

This scheme will run across all five remaining half-terms this year, so if a student misses out in one, they can achieve it in the next.

This is a significant move away from our previous prize draw, in which only some students could win. Now, every student who meets the threshold will be rewarded.

Another improvement is that, where absence is linked to a medical condition, disability or other circumstances outside a student's control, Heads of Year will have the flexibility to ensure no learner unjustly misses out on recognition for their commitment.

Each student will receive an individual login for the Penrice Recognition Hub, where they can see their own attendance. Years 7 to 9 will explore the platform in tutor time, and Years 10 and 11 will receive a step-by-step guide on ClassCharts.



Attendance information is visible only to the student and the school; if you have any questions about how this data is used, please contact Mr Beaugie.

Continues on next page...

Recognising improvement

Second, every week, one tutor group in each year will earn the Attendance Trophy.

The criteria for this will change each week. They are all designed around improvement, including most improved attendance, so that every group has real ways to earn it.

Each tutor group will have an Attendance Captain to receive the trophy. This leadership role will be open to a different student each term. This is about groups improving together, not about ranking groups against each other. Results will be shared in a way that celebrates achievement without singling out anyone who has found attendance difficult.

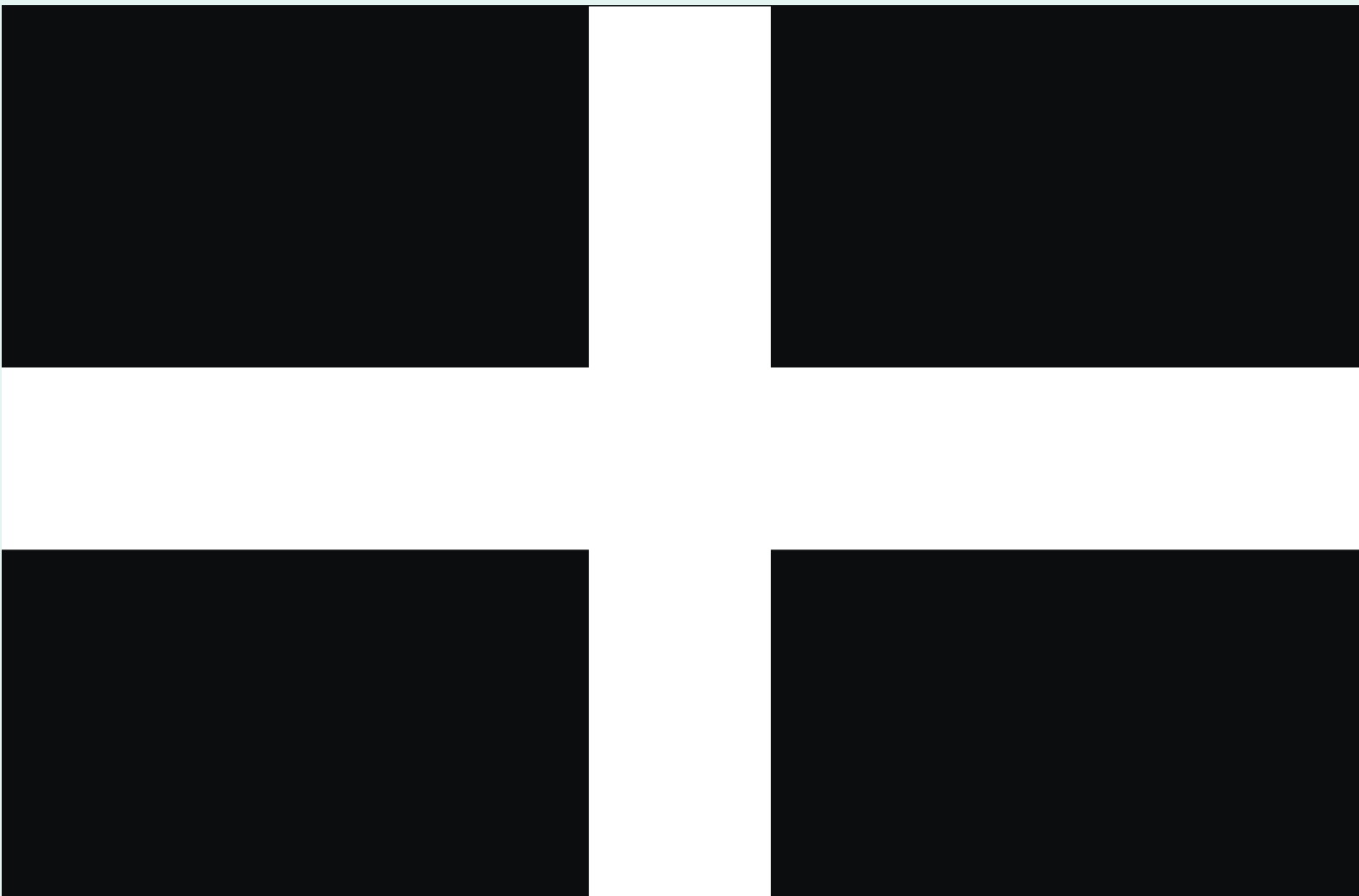
On the contrary, if your child is finding it hard to get to school, please get in touch with their Head of Year. Understanding the barriers helps us put the right support in place – for them, and for you if you need it.

Help us choose the rewards

Please encourage your child to complete the student rewards survey we have emailed them, or to share ideas with their tutor. Their suggestions will shape the rewards on offer.

With thanks for your continued support.

PENRICE ACADEMY

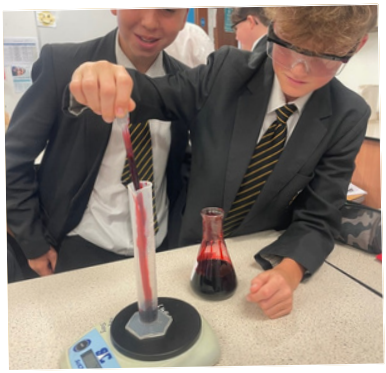




Spooktacular Science at Penrice!

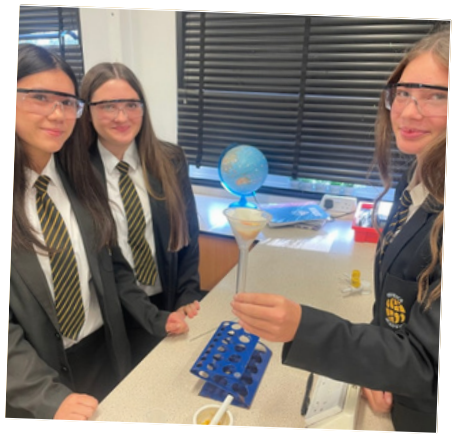
Science took a spooky turn this Halloween as our students became forensic scientists!

PUMPKIN DNA EXTRACTION
Students explored the chemistry of life, using washing-up liquid to break down cell membranes before extracting and observing DNA from pumpkin cells!



Pumpkin DNA extraction

THE VAMPIRE MYSTERY
After a mysterious vampire encounter left a patient experiencing extreme fatigue, students investigated the science behind the symptoms!



Becoming forensic scientists

Using simulated blood samples, they calculated density and explored how a reduction in red blood cells could affect oxygen transport, aerobic respiration and energy release.

Both investigations brought scientific knowledge to life through hands-on experiments, problem-solving and a little Halloween magic!

Who knew Halloween could be so scientific!?

Prom Fashion Show Postponed

Please note that the Prom Fashion Show, originally scheduled for 10 November, has been postponed due to a clash with the St Austell College Open Event.

We appreciate your understanding and apologise for any inconvenience caused. A new date will be confirmed and shared with students and families as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to celebrating this special event with students at a later date.

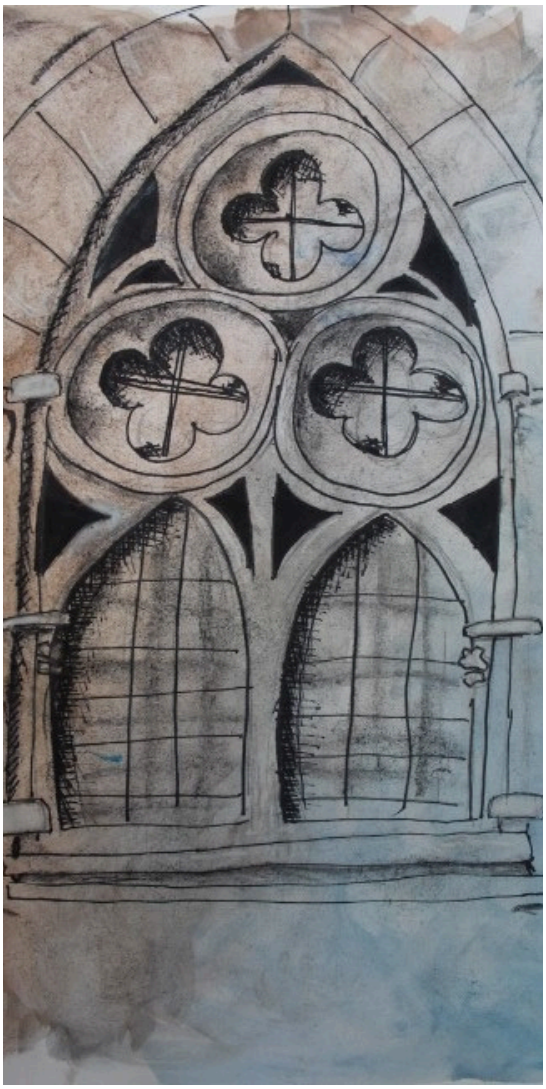
New Caterlink Autumn and Winter Term Menu Launch

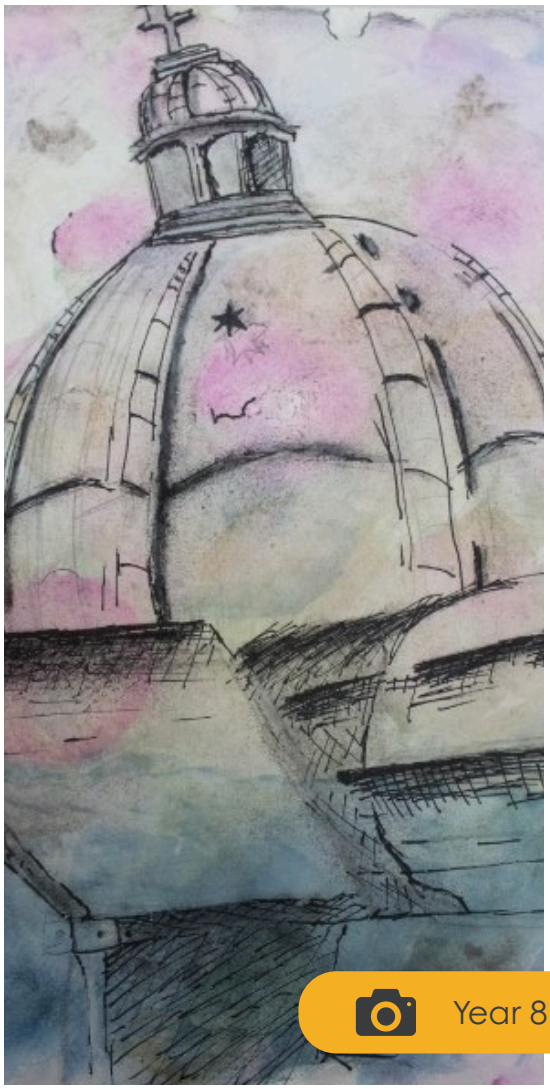
We're pleased to share that our catering provider, Caterlink, has introduced a new three-week rotational menu for students.

The refreshed, seasonal menu offers a variety of nutritious and tasty options throughout the term, helping to provide greater choice at lunchtime.

Parents and carers can view the full menu, including daily meal options, using the link below. We encourage families to take a look and discuss the choices available with their child.

Learn More









Year 8 Art - Gothic Architecture



CELT Malaga Trip















CELT Loire Trip

Supporting every child to **Thrive**

Meet our therapy team

At CELT, we are proud to have a dedicated Therapy Team supporting our schools throughout the 2026-27 academic year.

The team includes Educational Psychologists, an Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapists, and a Speech and Language Therapy Apprentice.

Working alongside school staff, they help create inclusive learning environments where every child can thrive, learn and succeed.
Throughout the year, the team may:

- Visit schools and classrooms
- Observe learning environments
- Model effective strategies for staff
- Deliver training and professional development
- Provide advice that supports pupils across classes and schools

You may see members of the Therapy Team in school, interacting with pupils as part of their work to support staff and enhance learning environments. These interactions help develop inclusive approaches that benefit all children.

At CELT, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to flourish, and our Therapy Team plays an important role in helping our schools provide the support children need to reach their full potential.

Sarah King
Educational Psychologist



I work with young people to find out what their strengths are, what they love spending their time doing and what they tend to find more challenging.

I use this information to work with them, their teachers and their families to help them make the changes they would like to see. I work hard to try and make things go as smoothly as possible for young people in school.

Louise Ryves
Speech and Language Therapist



I support young people with communication skills. This can be anything from understanding what is said to them, to being able to ask for the things they need, to being able to talk to and be with friends.

I meet with them and we may carry out some activities together so that I can find out about their strengths and the things they find harder. We work together find effective ways around things that are tricky for them.

Morwenna Boisseau
Paediatric Occupational therapist



I help children and young people take part in the things they need and want to do at home, at school and in everyday life .

I spend time finding out what helps them feel safe and ready to learn. We then work together to find ways to make practical everyday activites feel more manageable.

Wendy Thomas
Educational Psychologist



I work with young people to find out what their strengths are, what they love spending their time doing and what you find more challenging.

I use this information to work with you, your teachers and your family to help you make any changes you would like to see. My main goal is to help things go as smoothly as possible for children and young people in school.



BECOME A COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Wellbeing Community Inclusion

We are seeking people who want to make a difference to local schools and education.

We are keen to hear from people with experience, expertise or an interest in any of the following areas:

- Pupil wellbeing
- Staff wellbeing
- Community links
- Family links
- Safeguarding
- SEND

What is a community champion?
Community champions are volunteers who support a local school with key aspects like wellbeing, community links or inclusion. Volunteers will represent the views of children, families, staff and communities.

This volunteer role has been designed to be flexible to fit around work and family commitments.

I'm interested! Tell me more

Cornwall Education Learning Trust