



Find Your Future

Pride

Respect

Success

# AN EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATION



**PROSPECTUS 2025/26**





Find Your Future



### Welcome

Welcome to Penrice Academy - a kind and caring community of pupils, parents, teachers, support staff and governors, all working together to provide our young people with an extraordinary education.

### Our Core Values

The Penrice Community is built on the core values of being proud, respectful and successful. By joining this community, your child will not only develop academically, but will also be nurtured into becoming a young adult, ready to make a positive impact on the wider world.

### An Education that Lasts for a Lifetime

A Penrice education is an education for a lifetime, an education where your child will develop character traits essential for future success, for forging positive relationships with others, and a school journey where they will discover new passions that will define them as individuals.

We look forward to warmly welcoming you and your family to the Penrice Community and we hope to see you at future open events.

## Welcome from the Head of School



**Ms Tanya Coleman**  
Head of School at  
Penrice Academy

Penrice Academy is a happy, safe and welcoming school community with highly effective support, care and guidance to allow all students to flourish and excel.

Alongside the support we provide, we are relentless in our expectations and ambitions for each and every one of our students, because your child is incredible and deserves the very best life has to offer. Through a fantastic range of educational experiences, our priority is to give your child the best possible chance of success and happiness when they move on to their next stages in education and beyond.

Our enriched curriculum allows students to learn broadly and widely, both inside and outside the classroom throughout their 5-year journey with us. We offer an enormous range of enrichment

opportunities through our Penrice Plus curriculum which includes over 40 choices from basketball to British sign language. Students can take advantage of a huge number of trips, visits and experiences planned every year including the annual Curriculum Enrichment Week, where we see students marveling at the Sagrada Família in Barcelona, visiting key landmarks in London, learning to surf on Fistral Beach and so many other things.

As we proudly celebrate Penrice Academy's 65th anniversary, we reflect on a remarkable journey of inspiring futures and transforming lives. For over six decades, we have been much more than just a school - we are a vital thread woven into the fabric of our community. Our commitment has always been to nurture potential, champion ambition, and provide a place where every student feels valued and supported. Together with families, local partners, neighbours and alumni, we continue to shape not only successful learners but compassionate, confident individuals who are ready to make their mark on the world.

We hope this prospectus will give you an idea of what Penrice has to offer. It's time to find your child's future!



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## We are Outstanding

Working with your child to choose a secondary school is undoubtedly one of the most important decisions your family can make with regards to their educational journey.

You will be reassured to hear that Penrice Academy was awarded an Outstanding rating in all four categories in our recent Ofsted inspection (results published April 2025). This achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our students, staff and of course, our families who continuously support and champion our school. The report recognises that, **"Pupils excel at Penrice Academy"**, **"Pupils behaviour is exemplary"** and most importantly that

**"Pupils are a credit to themselves, their school and their families"**.

These qualities are a direct result of the collective effort of our school community - parents who instill the importance of learning, students who strive to be their best and staff who go above and beyond every day.

We will, of course, continue to build on this success, ensuring that Penrice remains a place where children feel valued, inspired and empowered to achieve their full potential. We encourage you to read the full Ofsted report on the Penrice website.

### Inspection Summary

The quality of education: **Outstanding**  
Behaviour and attitudes: **Outstanding**  
Personal development: **Outstanding**  
Leadership and management: **Outstanding**

To read the full report, search 'Ofsted' on the Penrice website.



# Academic Excellence

## Helping Your Child Become Extraordinary

Whilst Penrice supports children of all abilities, we also make it our mission to provide huge opportunities that inspire and open doors for the most academically able.

In 2019, a report from the Sutton Trust identified that whilst just 7% of Britons are privately educated, they make up 39% of the leading professions. Here in St Austell, we are playing our part to change these national statistics by striving to offer Penrice students the best opportunities and experiences of any school.



## The Mandarin Excellence Programme

Penrice Academy is the only school in Cornwall to offer the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP), an intensive curriculum offering in which settings must be rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' with strong performance in Modern Foreign Languages to be eligible to deliver.

This is an ambitious course designed to push the most academically able, starting in Year 7 and running right through until Year 11.

Being the only school in Cornwall to offer the Mandarin Excellence Programme is a fantastic opportunity for your child to stand out from the crowd, allowing them to learn the second-most spoken language in the world and opening doors to future opportunities.

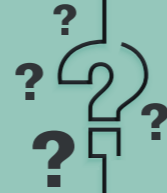


For further information, search 'MEP' on the Penrice website.



## Leading the Way - Did You Know?

Penrice Academy has been selected to house the Centre of Excellence for Cornwall Education Learning Trust. The Centre of Excellence is responsible for training the next generation of teachers in Cornwall and acts as a central hub for all trainee and newly qualified teachers in the Trust.



## The Scholarship Programme

Penrice offers a prestigious Scholarship Programme for academically high-performing students, running from Years 8 to 10. Your child could be one of currently 150 enrolled on this programme across the three year groups, providing a range of additional opportunities to inspire pupils.



### YEAR 8

#### The 'Big Question Society'

Year 8 Scholars attend a series of group talks based on the Oxbridge questioning tool, sparking academic discussion and nurturing curiosity.



### YEAR 9

#### Scholarship Lecture Series

In Year 9, scholars enjoy a lecture series run by staff across the school, creating a university-style experience to help students discover their passion and possible future aspirations.



### YEAR 10

#### The Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)

The HPQ is an independent study project. It is an additional Level 2 Qualification, highly coveted by colleges and sixth forms, and is equivalent to a full GCSE.



## Penrice Future Medics

Our *Future Medics* programme is a dynamic initiative designed to ignite curiosity and ambition in our students who are considering careers in medicine and healthcare.

Over the past academic year, our students have dived into thrilling hands-on workshops featuring a real ambulance and emergency response vehicle, while also gaining invaluable insights from engaging talks by GPs, healthcare experts, university representatives, and many more inspiring voices.

Through engaging and hands-on careers experiences, students gain a deeper understanding of what it truly takes to pursue the incredible field of medicine and healthcare. From interactive workshops to inspiring guest speakers, the programme blends academic insight with real-world relevance.

Future Medics  
Ambulance  
Experience by  
Role 1 Medical



# Extraordinary Opportunities

Your child was convinced they couldn't do it; but they are almost there and about to prove themselves wrong. They gingerly take a few more steps along the tight rope, trying not to look down into the abyss that is the quarry water below! One more step and, yes! They gleefully step onto land to the sound of rapturous applause from their classmates who cheered them all the way.

Not what you would expect your child to learn in school? - This is just part of an afternoon in Curriculum Enrichment Week where our Action & Adventure students take on the High Rope Assault Course! It is experiences like these that define Penrice students, building character and extraordinary memories.



Search 'CEW' on the Penrice website.

## Curriculum Enrichment Week

Taking place at the end of each academic year, Curriculum Enrichment Week (CEW) is all about friends, fun, and finishing the academic year in style! When your child enters Years 8 and 9, they will also be able to choose residential trips which have recently included locations such as the Isles of Scilly, London, France and Barcelona!



Barcelona

Inside the Sagrada Familia!



Year 7 CEW Experience



Action & Adventure Week

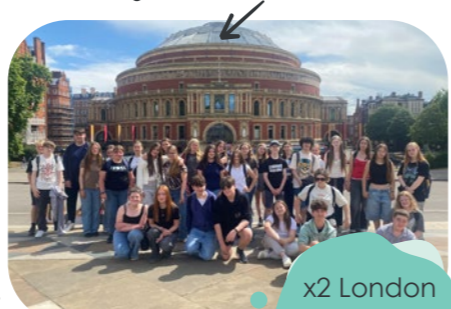
The Royal Albert Hall!



Kernow Week



Phoenix Firefighters



x2 London Trips

## African Adventures

In 2025 and 2023, Penrice took a group of students to Tanzania and Ghana respectively. Our incredible students supported two schools on aid missions, teaching lessons and helping with building work. Our next African Adventure is planned for 2027!



Ms Penrose  
Outdoor Education Coordinator

"Do it. It will change you."

It will give you skills that you didn't know you could learn. It will stand out on your CV, and it will give you the confidence that you can do anything you want to do if you set your mind to it."

## Outdoor Education

Blisters, sweat, aches and pains, but an unrivalled sense of pride as your child crosses the finish line following their expedition, clapped home by family and friends. These are the magical moments that you and your child will remember forever – the moments that define them, teaching them key character traits such as self-sufficiency, resilience and determination.



# Extraordinary Care

For more information, search 'Pastoral Care' on the Penrice website.

## Dedicated Pastoral Staff

It is totally normal for children to face emotional challenges as they grow up. Some challenges may occur during school, whilst others happen outside of school. Some challenges may be short-term issues whilst others might be longstanding struggles. And some challenges may be within your child's control to fix (with guidance and support), whilst others may be completely out of your child's control – such as a family bereavement.

No matter what life throws at them, Penrice's vast support network will be there for your child throughout their 5-year journey, teaching them crucial life skills in compassion, courage, resilience, self-confidence, and so much more.

Crucially, we understand that there is no blueprint for a 'normal student'. Together, we celebrate the fact that every child is unique and this is what makes Penrice such a vibrant and inclusive community.

**VIEWS FROM OFSTED**  
*Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is nurtured with equal determination.*

## Available Support

As a Penrice student, there are a whole host of 'safety nets' in place to catch your child in times in need, helping them to get back on their feet in no time! These 'safety nets' are not just limited to problems faced in school, but also support for issues that may arise at home too.



Tutors



Student Family Centre



Breakfast Meet and Greet

### Further Support Available:

- Young Carers Support
- One-to-One Support
- Emotional First Aid/Mental Health Support
- Signposting to Outside Agencies
- Gender Support
- Behaviour Management Support
- Attendance Support
- Social and Emotional Support
- Access to School Counsellor

- Group Work
- School Support Pets

Daphne & Dora School Cats



“

## LACEY

Interviewed on GCSE Results Day

Heading to Callywith College to Study A-Levels

“I really struggled at times in school – I didn't know where I fitted in, particularly in Year 9. But I reached out and asked for support in the school's Student Family Centre (SFC) in Year 9 and I managed to get a hold of things.

It was in the SFC that I was introduced to Mrs Sutcliffe [Pastoral Support Manager] and she has been there for me ever since, no matter what. She has genuinely been incredible! I don't think I would've made it to where I am today without Mrs Sutcliffe's help – she's amazing!”

”



## SEND – A Highly Inclusive Provision

At Penrice, we are truly inclusive. Our provision ensures that all young people, including those pupils identified with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can enjoy and benefit from a rich educational experience.

We pride ourselves on every student having access to an ambitious curriculum, so they may achieve their full potential, as well as participating in the wider enriched curriculum.

We offer a range of strategies, programmes and activities to support students who may find aspects of learning more challenging. The views of parents and carers are very important to us and we are keen to continue to develop home school partnerships to support our young people with SEND at Penrice Academy. By working together, we aim to make your child's experience of school a positive one, where they will flourish both pastorally and through exam success.



Mrs Kirsty Taylor  
 Assistant Headteacher, Inclusion & SENDCo

For further information, search 'SEND' on the Penrice website.

# Find Your Passion

Every child is unique. It is for this reason that we offer a gigantic array of opportunities in all aspects of school life to ensure that every student can discover their talents and interests!

With an enormous range of classroom subjects and Penrice Plus activities, not to forget a whole host of careers, college and university experiences each year, your child will soon carve out their own identity.



**Penrice** PLUS  
Find Your Extra

Penrice Plus (Penrice+) gives all students the opportunity to take part in inclusive extra-curricular clubs and activities throughout the week.

Your child's next Penrice Plus Club could inspire them to pursue a healthy hobby for the rest of their life!

### GREEN TEAM

Penrice Plus Option  
(Years 7 - 10)

The 'Make Space for BEES' Project 2024



## Incredible Subject Choices

When it comes to classroom learning, students can choose from a whopping 26 different subject options during the course of their Penrice journey! Our wide selection of options will help your child open as many doors as possible to future careers.

**26**  
Subject Options

For more information, search 'Curriculum' on the Penrice website.



Animal Care



Business Enterprise



Mandarin



Child Development



### Arts Clubs

Examples include:  
School Production  
Penrice Band  
Printmaking



### Wellbeing Clubs

Examples include:  
British Sign Language  
On the Farm  
Green Team



### Academic Clubs

Examples include:  
Fiction Addiction  
Penrice Quiz League  
History Mystery



### Sports Clubs

Examples include:  
Badminton  
Archery  
Girls' Fitness Club

Over  
**40**

Activities Per Term



For more information, search 'Penrice Plus' on the Penrice website.

2024-25 Academic Year

**20,000+**

Sessions Attended

Shadow



**MOLLY | YEAR 11 | ANIMAL CARE STUDENT**

"It has been so fun working with animals, learning about their behaviours and how to look after them properly. I'm thinking of a career in Zoology at the moment and this summer I completed my work experience at Screech Owl Sanctuary."

# Sporting Penrice Pride

At Penrice our goal is to make sure that every child establishes a deep-rooted love of exercise. To achieve this, we will make sure your child constantly feels included in PE and is pushed to succeed, regardless of their sporting ability. We promote inclusivity when it comes to PE, offering A, B and C teams in as many sports as possible whilst regularly rotating players.

Whilst inclusivity is a key focus, there is also elite-level training provision and high-profile opportunities. If your child has big sporting aspirations, they can proudly represent the school in county, regional and national competitions in which Penrice has a consistent, strong track-record of performance.



Over **200** Competitive Fixtures in 2024/25

## Elite Sport, Exceptional Success

We have a strong track record at developing our elite athletes. Our commitment to high-performance sport is reflected in an outstanding year of achievement in 2024/25 with two boys' county football titles, two boys' county cricket titles, and a girls' county athletics title - all in one academic year!

With expert coaching, excellent facilities, and a culture that champions dedication and teamwork, Penrice is the perfect environment for aspiring athletes to thrive and succeed at the highest levels.



## Sports Facilities and Inclusivity



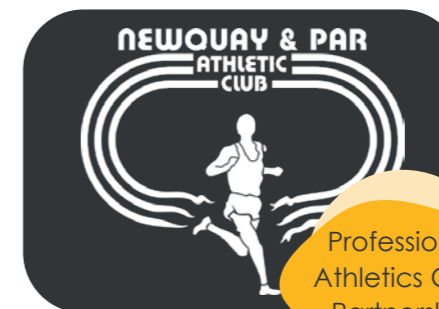
The Zone Gym  
x5 Grass Sports Pitches  
x1 Large Astro Pitch  
x3 Outdoor Courts  
x1 Indoor Sports Hall.



## Elite Training and Mentoring



Strength & Conditioning Clubs



Professional Athletics Club Partnership



Inspirational Visitors

Ben Hammersley from the Exeter Chiefs!



### Sports Personality Awards Evening

An annual Penrice event to celebrate the achievements and successes of our young sports stars.



# Igniting Imaginations

## Opportunities for All

Think your child is too shy to get involved in the Creative Arts? – Think again!

Being part of our Creative Arts team doesn't mean they have to step into the spotlight and perform solo on centre stage. There are a whole host of other ways students get involved, whether it be our skilled set & prop designers, our stage and lighting crew, or our various bands and choirs, it is all part of one big 'Team Penrice' effort!

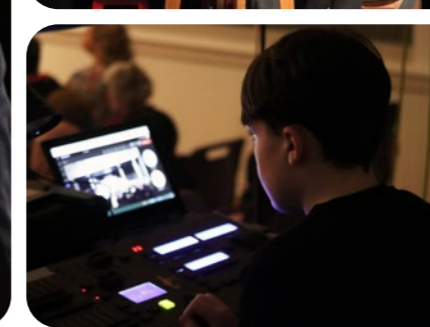
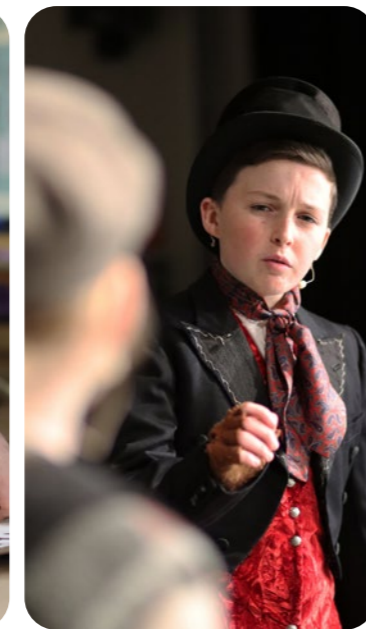
For those who do like to take centre-stage, performing in our annual School Production is a must!



Rock of Ages - Teen Edition (2025)



## ANNUAL PENRICE WINTER CONCERT

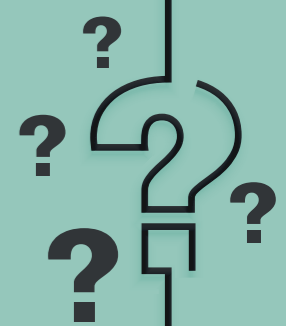


Carol Singing at Trevarna Residential Home

## Did You Know?

We offer tuition on the following instruments:

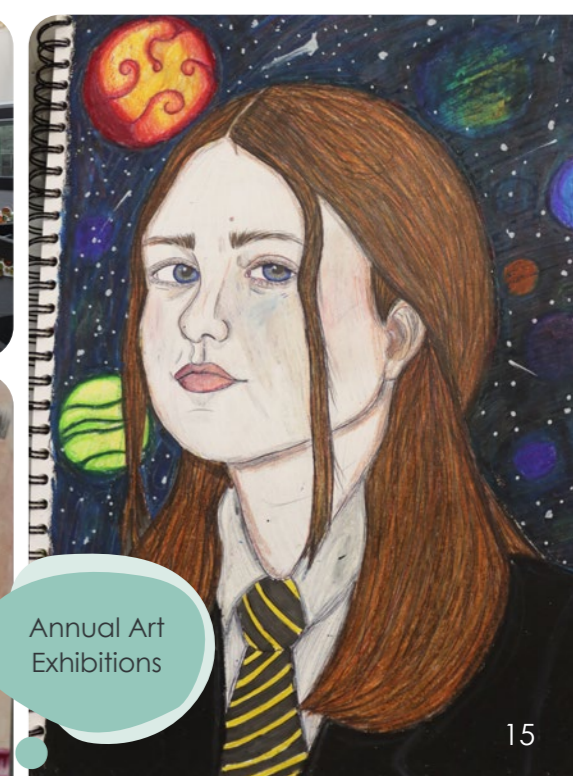
- Piano, Keyboard, Violin, Viola, Cello, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Guitar (Electric and Acoustic), Bass Guitar, Ukulele, Drumkit, Orchestral Percussion and Voice.



## Free Music Tuition

We are pleased to offer all Year 7 students the opportunity to take part in up to six free music lessons on an instrument of their choice.

This is a fantastic chance for your child to explore a new instrument or develop existing musical skills, completely free of charge.



Annual Art Exhibitions



School Production of Oliver! Jr. (2024)



# Extraordinary Young Adults

Year 11's 24-Hour Charity Challenge (December 2024)  
**£4,000+**  
Raised for charity



Over  
**£40,000+**  
Total raised in the last seven academic years

From the moment they start Year 7, your child will be encouraged to join the Team Penrice effort, raising awareness and funds for local, national and international causes.

Penrice selects a new 'featured charity' to support each academic year, resulting in a concentrated school effort and one large fundraising pot that really makes a difference to the chosen, worthy cause.\*

Over the course of their five-year journey, your child will be shaped into an empathetic and grateful young adult who appreciates what they have, cares for others and is ready to be a positive global citizen upon leaving Penrice.

As for making the all-important decision of choosing the charity that should benefit each year, this is all down to the student representatives on our Student Parliament who are empowered to research, shortlist, discuss and vote for proposed causes.

\*Other charities can still be supported throughout the year, particularly if students have benefitted from specific causes whom they wish to raise funds for.

## PROUDLY SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

We are proud to serve our local community and support those in need. By working in collaboration with local charity DISC, as well as Morrisons Supermarkets and the Salvation Army, we have been able to provide hundreds of support hampers to those in need over the last academic year.

Fundraising events form a key part of student life with numerous bake sales, art and craft sales, and our annual Christmas jumper day to name just a few!

Lastly, over the past 4 years we have also been privileged to be able to welcome a number of Ukrainian students into the Penrice Community.

PICTURED ON YEAR 11 LEAVERS' DAY  
**VARA | CLASS OF 2023**

"I was really scared to go to school when I first arrived here in Year 10. I thought people might make fun of me because I couldn't speak the language, however I have actually made some amazing friends at Penrice. The school were so helpful at helping me improve my English knowledge"



**EMMA | YEAR 11**

"Welcoming Ukrainian pupils has made me feel like our school is really supportive to other students. It's been a nice experience to see the Ukrainian students making friends again and learning what we are learning – it's giving them a fresh start."

# A Love of Reading

## Developing a Love for Reading

Reading is part of the bedrock to a successful education; it is the foundation upon which all other learning can be built upon. It is for this reason that we take reading so seriously at Penrice, ensuring that your child develops a passion for books, storytelling and creative writing.

We are proud to read in tutor periods three times a week, with students following the story in their own books as it is narrated by a teacher.

Each book is carefully selected based on age-appropriate themes and moral teachings. Not only does this increase the linguistic knowledge

For further information, search 'Literacy and Reading' on the Penrice website.

and cultural capital of our students, but it also teaches a love of reading, encourages new insights into other worlds, and helps to foster the respect we need to have for other people and the living world around us.

**EDIE**

National Young Writers' Author Competition Winner, 2023 and 2025.



## Inspiring Author Visits

As part of enriching our curriculum, we periodically welcome noteworthy authors into school to lead assemblies and workshops with students. Penrice turns into a hive of excitement and inspiration during such events.

The buzz amongst students as they sit, listen, and ask questions to famous, published authors is tangible. Don't be too surprised if your child bursts home through the door one afternoon to share their excitement about books... yes, books!



📷 Anika Hussain

📷 Anthony McGowan

📷 E. L. Noory

Visiting Authors in the 2024/25 Academic Year



## Year 7 Reading

A Kind of Spark – by Ellie McNicol  
 Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief – by Rick Riordan  
 Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry – by Mildred Taylor  
 Chinese Cinderella – by Adeline Yen Mah



## Year 8 Reading

Girl. Boy. Sea. – by Chris Vik  
 Stone Cold – by Robert Swindells  
 Adventures of a Young Naturalist – by David Attenborough  
 Lark – by Anthony McGowan  
 The Gifted the Talented and Me – by William Sutcliffe  
 Welcome to Nowhere – by Elizabeth Laird



## Year 9 Reading

Noughts and Crosses – by Malorie Blackman  
 Lord of the Flies – by William Golding  
 The Poet X – by Elizabeth Acevedo



# Gold Standard Grades

We believe that there is so much more to a successful education than grades, but we equally recognise that grades are the 'currency' that open doors to higher education courses and future job prospects.

You can rest-assured that your child is in safe hands at Penrice. We have ranked in the top 2 of schools in Cornwall for student progress for the last three consecutive years.



Search 'GCSE Results 2025' on the Penrice website.

“

## VIEWS FROM OFSTED

*Pupils excel at Penrice Academy. Staff strive relentlessly to meet the school's extraordinarily high expectation to raise aspiration and enable pupils to realise their potential, regardless of background or need.*

”

**OVER 80%  
GRADE 4+**

In English, Maths and Science.

**46%  
GRADE 7+**

in PE, with 100% achieving Grade 4+ or more.

**57%  
LEVEL 2 DISTINCTION+**

In Drama.

## LATEST 2025 RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS



**2**  
New Goats on the Farm



**3**  
Sold-Out Nights (Rock of Ages)



**20+**  
Outdoor Education Walks



**80**  
Elected Student MPs



**50**  
Sports Award Winners



**284,398**  
Merits Awarded



**3**  
County Sports Titles



**14**  
Tutor Books Read



**1**  
Prom Night to Remember



**100+**  
Student Leaders



**30**  
Begin Learning Mandarin

# Penrice In Numbers

Data from the 2024-25 Academic Year

# A Smooth Transition

We have plenty of transition events in place to help your child take small steps towards starting secondary school at Penrice. By the time they reach their first day in September, your child can be confidently walking through the school gates, full of excitement and ready to meet their new classmates again following the various welcome events!

Our Welcome Day and Evening is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the transition process where students experience a taster day, full of icebreaker activities, before parents and carers join later in the day for an information evening.



Year 6 Welcome Day 2025



For further information, search 'Transition' on the Penrice website.

## Transition Timeline

All dates provided are a predicted schedule and are subject to change. Please always check the Penrice website for the latest information.

Transition Event/Activity	Approximate Date
Open Evening 2025	25th September 2025
Daytime Guided Tours	29th September - 10th October 2025
School Application Window*	Runs until End of October 2025
School Places Announced*	March 2026
Welcome Email/Communication	March 2026
Primary School Visits from Penrice Staff	May/June 2026
SEND Transition Days	June 2026
Welcome Day and Evening: July 2025	July 2026
Additional Private Welcome Meetings/Discussions	July 2026
Summer School	August 2026
First Day of Year 7	September 2026



## Inspiring Futures Since 1960

Whilst your child's Penrice journey will end after five years, the lessons they learn and character traits they develop will set them up for a successful life.



### KATIE MUNDAY

Class of 2013

Seasons Delivery Specialist at Network Rail

"I always told the teachers I wanted to be a train driver and they always encouraged me. Penrice gave me the confidence and grades to go to Truro College which taught me independence and the opportunity to go to University."



### STUART ANSELL

Class of 2012

IT Systems Engineer at Monmouthshire Building Society

"I was inspired by my IT and Business Studies teachers to develop, including opportunities to start studying my BTEC in IT early."



### HANNAH KNIGHT

Class of 2017

Legal Secretary at Coodes Solicitors following a Business Administration Apprenticeship

"Penrice did a lot of Careers Fairs which helped me identify that A-Levels were not the only option for me. Learning about diplomas which were coursework based helped me on my journey. My key piece of advice would be to do what feels right for you, not just what everyone else is doing."





*Honouring the past, inspiring the future.*

**65 years strong – join the legacy.**



This year marks a remarkable milestone in the journey of Penrice Academy - 65 years of inspiring, educating, and empowering generations of students. Since opening our doors in 1960, our mission has remained steadfast: to help every student find a fulfilling future.

As part of our 65th anniversary celebrations, we're inviting former students to be part of the story. Whether you were here in the early days of Penrice or graduated more recently, we'd love to hear from you! Share your favourite memories, proud moments and friendships that started in our classrooms or on the school field.

If you have any photos tucked away - school trips, sports days, prom snapshots or class pictures, then we'd be thrilled to see them.

Your stories are the heartbeat of Penrice's legacy, and we want to celebrate them with our current students, staff, and wider Penrice community.

Join the conversation throughout this term by joining the Facebook event page and using #Penrice65 to help us honour the past while inspiring the future.



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