



Pride

Respect

Success

PARENT & CARER WELCOME GUIDE

“Pupils excel at Penrice Academy.”

Ofsted 2025





Welcome to Penrice, a kind and caring community, built on our core values of **Pride**, **Respect** and **Success**; where students come to learn and develop their character, to grow into confident, independent young adults.

Pride

Our students are proud to be part of this community. They take pride in how they present and conduct themselves, and in the quality of work they produce. Our staff take pride in their work with students to develop them both academically and socially.



Respect

We are respectful of each other and our beliefs, allowing individuals to grow into their own unique self without fear of prejudice.

Success

Students at Penrice are able to feel successful every day, not just through the outstanding academic results they achieve, but through small wins each time progress is made or an obstacle is overcome; knowing that being the best version of themselves is the ultimate quest and the only expectation we have.



We are so excited to welcome your child into the Penrice community - a place where we aim high, support each other, and thrive together.

Welcoming Year 7

To our new Year 7 families,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I introduce myself as the Head of Year 7 at Penrice Academy. Whether you are joining us from a local primary school here in Cornwall or moving from further afield, I am personally excited to welcome you all to join our Penrice family. I cannot wait to get to know your incredible children and help them settle into the next phase of their journey. Starting secondary school is a big step, and we understand it can bring a mix of emotions - excitement, curiosity, and perhaps a few nerves too. Please know that we are here to support you every step of the way. Our aim is to ensure that your child can thrive within our school community to be safe, happy and successful.

Many of you will have built a brilliant relationship with the primary school community and we hope to create that same feeling of connection with you here at Penrice, all working together to support our young people.

At Penrice, we pride ourselves on being a caring and inclusive school where every child is encouraged to grow not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. Year 7 is a time of new beginnings - new friendships, new subjects, and new opportunities. We are committed to making this transition as smooth and enjoyable as possible and we encourage you to reach out to us for anything we can do to support you as a family. We believe that strong partnerships between school and home are key to a successful and happy school experience.

We also offer a wide range of exciting extracurricular activities and enrichment opportunities for all interests - whether it is sport, music,

drama, art, science, technology, or community service. Getting involved is a fantastic way to make new friends, discover new passions, and build confidence. We encourage every student to try something new and make the most of everything on offer. We know that as your child gets involved in these opportunities, they will build brilliant new connections.

One of the most important relationships students will build is with their form tutor. Your child's tutor will be your first point of contact each day and will play a key role in supporting your wellbeing, monitoring your progress, and helping you settle into school life. They are there to listen, guide, and celebrate your child's successes with you. We encourage your child to get to know their tutor and feel comfortable reaching out whenever they need support or advice. With this in mind, we are all one community and are all here to welcome and support them.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone in September. The first few days will be focused on helping students get to know the school, their teachers and their classmates. There will be plenty of time to ask questions, explore your new environment, and begin to feel part of our school community. We know that starting something new can feel daunting, but we will be with your child every step of the way to make sure they feel confident and excited about the journey ahead.



Mrs Alex Yeo
Head of Year 7



The School Day

The School Day

8.00 - 8.25am	Arrivals
8.30 - 9.00am	Registration and Assembly
9.00 - 10.15am	Lesson 1
10.15 - 10.45am	Break 1
10.45 - 12.00pm	Lesson 2
12.00 - 1.15pm	Lesson 3
1.15 - 1.45pm	Break 2
1.45 - 3.00pm	Lesson 4
3.00 - 4.00pm	After school provision



Penrice Parent Apps

At Penrice, we believe that strong partnerships between parents and teachers are essential to student success. To help foster this connection, we make use of a selection of carefully chosen apps that keep you informed and engaged with your child's educational journey. These tools are designed to give you real-time access to key information, allowing you to stay up to date and involved every step of the way.

Whether it's celebrating positive achievements or addressing concerns early, having this insight allows you to support your child more effectively from home. By embracing this technology, we aim to create a more transparent and responsive school experience for families. These tools not only help streamline communication but also empower parents to play an active role in their child's development, both academically and personally.

We currently use three different apps, each with their own functions that enhance your experience as a Penrice parent/carer. **Please note that app registration can only take place upon full enrolment in September.**



For more information please search 'Parent Apps' on the Penrice website.



Schoolgateway



FUNCTIONS

- ✓ Merits, behaviour and detentions
- ✓ Attendance tracking
- ✓ Absences tracking
- ✓ See homework tasks
- ✓ Child's timetable

- ✓ Receive school communications
- ✓ Child's timetable
- ✓ Medical information
- ✓ Merits and behaviour*

*Merits and Behaviour Points are initially placed in ClassCharts and then synchronised to School Gateway within 72 hours. Data in this app may therefore be slightly delayed.

- ✓ Add school dinner money
- ✓ Pay for school trips
- ✓ Pay for Curriculum Enrichment Week
- ✓ Online purchases from the Academy Shop

Safeguarding



For more information please search 'Safeguarding' on the Penrice website.

At Penrice, we recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse and a right to learn.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep students safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for students, a deputy and a safeguarding governor.
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

Penrice Safeguarding Team



Mrs A Macdonald

Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs K Slipper

Operational Designated Safeguarding Lead



Ms R Kevill

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr O Brotherhood

Designated Teacher of Children in Care



Mr J Scotland

Safeguarding Team



Ms H Gill

Safeguarding Team



Mr K Hartland

Safeguarding Team



Mrs C Gurd

Deputy Headteacher



Mrs A Davey

Safeguarding Administrator



Mr P Bundy

Safeguarding Governor

"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective." **Ofsted 2025.**

Penrice Pride



Search 'Uniform' on the website.

At Penrice, we believe our school uniform is more than just what we wear - it is a way for students to show pride in themselves and feel part of something bigger. Wearing the uniform helps create a sense of belonging, equality, and togetherness across our school community.

General Uniform

Black blazer with Penrice Academy logo

(compulsory item available from Screenprint or Keywear).

Black and gold jumper with Penrice logo

(optional item available from Screenprint or Keywear).

To be worn under the blazer, not instead of the blazer.

Black and gold clip-on tie

(compulsory item available from Screenprint or Keywear).

White Long or Short-sleeved Shirt with Collar

Not fitted and must be able to be tucked in. Suitable for wearing with a tie.

Black Uniform Pleated Formal Skirt - knee length

(suitable version(s) available from Screenprint or Keywear).

Trousers - Black formal tailored

No jeans, combat trousers, leggings/stretch-type trousers, cropped trousers, drainpipes or skinnies. No decorative loops, logos, studs or additional buttons. Belts should be black and functional.

We recommend that the trousers are purchased from Screenprint or Keywear.

Formal, tailored black shorts (knee length)

(suitable version(s) available from Screenprint or Keywear).

Black polishable shoes without logos of any kind

No trainers, canvas, sandals, boots or flip-flop style shoes. 'Vans' style skate shoes, or similar, are not permitted.

Socks - plain black only with no logos (not trainer style).

Accessories

Jewellery

One watch can be worn, but no rings, no bracelets or necklaces. No charity bands unless agreed by the school.

Earrings and Other Piercings

One pair of small and discreet, plain ear studs are permitted.

The Academy does not allow any facial or tongue piercings including plastic retainers. Students will not be allowed in school if they refuse to remove them. A plaster covering the piercing is not acceptable.

Where additional jewellery items are worn, students will be asked to remove these and items will be stored at Reception until the end of the day.

Tattoos

It is illegal for children under 18 years to have a tattoo and so these will not be accepted at Penrice Academy under any circumstances.

Make-up

Discreet make-up is permitted in the Academy and discretion is left with the Tutor, Head of Year and Leadership Team. False eyelashes are not permitted. No coloured nail varnish allowed, nor are false or acrylic nails.

Hairstyles

Should be neat, tidy and of an acceptable natural colour. Patterned, shaved or multi-coloured highlighted hair is not permitted in the Academy. If hair colour is used it should be of natural appearance and of one colour only.

Tramlines, shaved hairstyles or extreme hairstyles of any kind are not acceptable, and hair should be cut no shorter than a Grade 2. Hair accessories should be functional and discreet. If you are in doubt, please consult your child's Tutor or Head of Year before your child's hairstyle is changed.

Uniform Questions

Please email penricetransition@celtrust.org to check if you are unsure if a uniform item will be permitted. If in doubt, we advise that parents keep receipts until checking.

PE Uniform

Boys and Girls

- Training shoes
- Black and gold sports top with Penrice logo
- Plain black shorts
- Black games socks
- Black tracksuit (optional)
- 1/4 Zip jumper with Penrice logo (optional)

Boys Only

- Black and gold reversible rugby shirt
- Studded football boots

Girls Only

- Black and gold sports skirts and/or plain black shorts or leggings.

Other Important Information for All Students

- A plain black under armour type top is acceptable in poor weather conditions.
- Shin pads for football and hockey.
- Mouth guards for rugby and hockey.
- Students must bring their PE kit even if they are unable to participate, as they will be expected to take a non-active role in the lesson. No jewellery is to be worn in PE lessons.

Funding Support

We do have allocated funding available to support families in hardship to purchase uniform.

Please get in contact with:

Mrs Hooper, khooper@penrice.celtrust.org



Pre-Loved

Sell • Swap • Save the Planet

Penrice Pre-Loved is all about giving old uniform and school equipment a new home, re-using perfectly good items and reducing costs and carbon footprint together.

Penrice Pre-Loved is available via:

- Our in-school Uniform Store / Swap Shop.
- Online, via a Facebook Marketplace page (link available on our Uniform webpage).

100%

Here and Ready to Learn

We love seeing our students in school every day - it is the best way for them to learn, grow, and feel part of our vibrant school community.

There are 190 school days each year, leaving 175 days for holidays, appointments, and quality time with family and friends. That's why we encourage 100% attendance wherever possible.

Excellent attendance helps students to stay on track with their learning, build strong friendships, and feel confident and connected. It also sets them up for success in the future, opening doors to exciting opportunities and careers.

Of course, we understand that sometimes illness happens. If your



child is too unwell to attend, please let us know by emailing penriceattendance@celtrust.org. Our team will make sure they're supported in catching up when they return, although we are not able to provide work during short absences. Together, we can make every school day count!

DID YOU KNOW?

If your child's attendance drops to 90%...

Over 1 year they will miss 19 days of school or 95 lessons.

Over 5 years they will miss 95 days, 19 weeks, 5 months or 475 lessons!



Please search 'Attendance' on the Penrice website.

100%

Engaged in Enrichment

At Penrice, we believe that learning goes far beyond the classroom.

"Pupils show very high levels of commitment to their learning and personal development." **Ofsted 2025**



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

Penrice Plus

Penrice Plus offers a broad range of breaktime and after-school activities. All students need to do is decide which clubs they are going to attend in September. The full offer will be shared when we return in the new term.



Sports Clubs

We encourage and facilitate opportunities for all students to play competitive sport. We fully believe that the life values students learn on the sports field support them to win in the exam hall as well as helping them to keep healthy and active.

All students have access to a wide range of sporting activities and clubs throughout the week. We run comprehensive sporting fixtures on a seasonal basis in Athletics, Cricket, Netball, Hockey, Football, Rugby and more.



Curriculum Enrichment Week (CEW)

Curriculum Enrichment Week takes place during the final week of Summer Term each year. We offer a fantastic range of enriching activities, both here in Cornwall and further afield. Year 7 students will have the opportunity to take part in an exciting week of learning and experiences outside of the classroom.



Additional Opportunities at Penrice

We have many other opportunities for Penrice students to experience something new and develop their skills! Whether it's learning a musical instrument, getting involved in enrichment challenges, educational trips or taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award or Ten Tors, there will be lots for your child to try during their time at Penrice.



100%

**Safe,
Successful
and Happy**

We want every student to feel safe, happy and respected - and to show that same respect and kindness to others. That is why we encourage a strong culture of care, where positive behaviour helps everyone feel proud of themselves and their school. We are here to guide and support students in making good choices, using a clear and consistent approach that is fair for everyone in the community.



For more information about the ClassCharts app, please search 'Parent Apps' on the Penrice website.

Behaviour and Expectations

Our Expectations Policy is in place to ensure we provide a safe, calm and orderly environment where all students are ready to learn and no individual impacts on the learning of others.

We use a system of 'Behaviour Points' to help track those who are struggling to meet our expectations. Staff will issue points to any students who need additional support to meet our expectations. These can be issued during lessons, tutor time or social time, and will be recorded electronically via ClassCharts.

Policy Aims

- To create an environment conducive to learning.
- To ensure behaviour is managed consistently and fairly.
- To provide a framework of 'actions equals consequences'.
- To enable behaviour to be tracked by staff.



For our full Expectations Policy, please search 'Policies' on the Penrice website.

Rewards and Praise

Our staff provide a positive and purposeful learning environment, where students are encouraged to participate and contribute to the learning, building strong and positive relationships with all of our staff. We have a number of ways of reinforcing and rewarding positive behaviour:

Merits

We love recognising and celebrating all the great things our students do. Your child will have lots of chances to earn merits from their very first day. They might get a merit for brilliant classwork, helping a friend or showing kindness.

All of the merits from your child's tutor group are added up each term, and the group with the most wins a special prize - like a trip to the cinema! It's a fun way to celebrate their hard work and recognise team success.

Praise Postcards

All students have the opportunity to have a Praise Postcard sent home to their parent(s)/carer(s) when they make a significant

contribution to the Academy community, have produced an outstanding piece of work or demonstrated excellent effort. A Praise Postcard is worth two merits.

Star Student

This is a weekly award selected by each Head of Year.

Award Badges

Students can gain recognition for their efforts and achievements through badges. Penrice students proudly display these on their blazers.

Celebration Assemblies

Achievements will be celebrated at the end of each term in a 'Celebration Assembly'. In addition to merit prizes, there are also awards students can win for high attendance, excellent effort in each subject, and individual prizes nominated by each Tutor and Head of Year.



For our full Rewards Policy, please search 'Policies' on the Penrice website.

100%

Reading Ready

Reading is at the heart of all our learning across all areas of the school. As a school we have prioritised reading in all subject areas as an excellent way to learn. We would strongly encourage students to continue to read with parents and carers for at least 20 minutes per day. Alongside this, we hope students will also read their own level of books at home, independently. This is particularly important during the summer break.

Tutor Reading

During tutor times, tutors and other expert adult readers will read engaging and challenging novels to students. Through this experience, your child will hear a range of aspirational vocabulary, encounter new cultures and views, opening their eyes to the wider world.

Vipers Cave

In lessons and through home learning, students will develop their skills and understanding of how to become an expert reader, through our VIPERS CAVE reading skills programme. Teachers will both support and challenge students to explore a wide range of complex texts.

Reading Intervention

We believe everyone can be an expert reader, although we know this isn't easy for everyone. Therefore we will support individuals with small group and 1:1 sessions to enable all students to become fluent and confident with their reading.



Free Books Available to All Students

The Penrice Library helps to create confident, enthusiastic readers and engage students in life-long learning. Fostering a love of reading is extremely important and The Library offers both fiction and non-fiction material.

Students are able to borrow up to four books at a time; these can be renewed/returned within the two-week loan period. Overdue reminders are sent automatically to email accounts. We do not charge fines but if a book is lost a full replacement charge is levied.

Learning an Instrument

We have a thriving Music Department and are extremely pleased that many of our students take up the opportunity to learn a musical instrument alongside their academic studies. Being able to play an instrument is a wonderful gift that helps to develop students' self-esteem, confidence and diligence and is something that we encourage. We have a team of experienced and qualified peripatetic music teachers who deliver expert tuition on a range of instruments. The majority of these teachers are provided by Cornwall Music Service Trust.

Music lessons take place during the school day and students have permission to excuse themselves from their timetabled lesson to attend their music lesson. Whilst some students prefer to play for the sheer enjoyment of the instrument, other students may be driven by goals and targets and where appropriate, students may be entered for graded exams and suggested for local ensembles.

We currently offer tuition on the following instruments:

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

Financial support is available for students who are in receipt of Free School Meals or are listed as Pupil Premium.



For more information, please email Mr Brodey, Director of Performing Arts, via: pbrodey@penrice.celtrust.org



Alternatively, there is lots of information available on the Cornwall Music Service Trust (CMST) website: cmst.co.uk



Penrice Winter Concert 2024

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.

The sign-up process for these lessons will take place during the first Year 7 Parents' Evening in September, where more information will be available. We encourage all Year 7s to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to learn a new instrument!



Your Penrice Community

It is not just your child that is joining the Penrice community – you are too.

We are a vibrant, diverse and welcoming family. We believe that everyone should feel a sense of belonging at Penrice, not just in school life but as active citizens in the wider St Austell community and beyond.

We value the insight, experience and unique perspectives that parents and carers bring to our community. Whether through regular communication, school events, feedback opportunities or partnerships in learning, your voice matters. At Penrice, we believe that education is a shared journey – and we are proud to walk it with you every step of the way.

As part of this new chapter in your child's education, you can look forward to:

Parent Evenings



At Penrice, each year group receives at least one Information Evening and one Progress Evening during the academic year. In Year 7, an Information Evening will take place in September – an opportunity to get to know us better and meet your child's tutor. The Progress Evening will take place in the Summer Term - a chance to reflect and review.

Frequent News



News and events are covered in our parent newsletter, on the Penrice website and on social media. Penrice is active on Facebook, Instagram and X. As well as communicating about Penrice news, we also promote local non-profit external events that benefit our families e.g. charity fun runs and youth clubs.

Community Events



Creating opportunities to get everyone together is the lifeblood of Penrice – such events make everyone feel a part of something bigger.

In the last 12-months we have:

- Hosted our annual Winter Concert.
- Dazzled sell-out crowds at the 2025 School Production, Rock of Ages!
- Hosted a weekend Sensory Garden build.
- Welcomed the wider community at our annual Penrice Open Evening.
- Gathered at three 'Penrice Joins Parkrun' events at Eden.
- Hosted a Penrice Sports Personality of the Year Awards Evening.
- Ran a community food larder.
- + Many more

Parent Voice Opportunities



Lastly, we place great importance on valuing every voice. Parents and carers can attend our termly face-to-face Parent Forums – a chance to hold constructive group conversations with our Senior Leadership Team that help us to continue improving.

As well as the termly gatherings, we also regularly ask families to complete online surveys to offer detailed insight about how we are doing in different areas of school life. These survey results are often benchmarked against previous years and/or other secondary schools in CELT to help us regularly monitor progress, learn best practice and consistently improve.

Money and The Canteen

Online Payments to school with ParentPay

A secure service called ParentPay is used to pay for school meals, trips, after school clubs and more online.

ParentPay offers parents and carers the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever they like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password. If you have more than one child at Penrice, or children at other ParentPay schools, you can create a single account login for all of your children. All parents/carers will receive a unique ParentPay

account activation code from the school before starting with us.

Making payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history to view at a later date; no card details are stored in any part of the system. Once you have activated your account, you can make online payments straight away.

PayPoint can also be used to make cash payments via a local PayPoint store instead of online. PayPoint payments are recorded by ParentPay and can be seen by logging into your ParentPay account. The nearest PayPoint stores to school are: Asda and Texaco filling station, Southbourne Road. Reception should be notified if parents/carers wish to use the PayPoint facility and a plastic card will be issued so that you can make cash payments at local PayPoint stores.

Cashless Catering System

Penrice Academy has a cashless catering system which provides us with a more efficient, faster and ultimately better quality service.

This system uses the latest technology and eliminates the need for your child to carry cash throughout the day. It is also biometric (thumbprints) so there is no need for your child to carry a card as the system will recognise their thumb at the pay point and at the tills.

Please note that no cash is accepted at the till points in the Canteen.

Any amount of money can be paid into your account, and any money spent on food and drink will be deducted on a daily basis.

We have 2 payment options available to parents and students – online payments and emergency coin and note payments at the cash machine located in the Canteen.

A 'spend limit' can be put in place for an individual student by making a written request to the Finance Office.

In accordance with current legislation, we operate an 'Opt In' policy and parents/carers need to complete the Cashless Catering section within the Data Capture Form (Admissions+). If you choose for your child not to be registered on the Biometric System, a 4 digit PIN Code will be allocated. Please note that PIN Codes do not have the same level of security and it will be your child's responsibility to remember the code and keep it secure at all times.



For further information, please search 'Catering' on the Penrice website.



Lunar New Year Celebrations
in the Penrice Canteen
(January 2025)



SEND Support

At Penrice Academy, we welcome everyone into our community. We will ensure that students are offered an inclusive provision, this means that they can enjoy and benefit from a broad and balanced education as well as enrichment opportunities available at our school.

We want students to have access to the National Curriculum at the level that's right for them, so that they are challenged but can be successful. We want students to achieve their full potential while at school, and celebrate their successes.

The SEND Team includes Autism Champions, Literacy and Dyslexia Support Specialists, SEND Teachers and SEN Teaching Assistants. We are based in The Learning Centre, alongside our colleagues in Art and Design.

How can we help?

Everyone is unique, so the help we offer will be all about your child and what they need to be a successful learner throughout their Penrice journey. This could include:

- Reading Recovery – being a more confident reader will help in all subjects.

- Bespoke Curriculum – some students working at Entry Level will work together in small groups for most of their lessons.
- Lunch Club and Home Learning Club – to help students with homework and build their independence.
- Social, Life Skills and Lego Therapy – we want every student to be a confident, independent young person as well as a successful learner.
- Dyslexia Support – specialist support if your child needs further help with their literacy skills.
- Post 16 Support – to help students make the right choices when they leave Penrice.
- 1:1 Support – someone to help your child become more independent, organised and confident.
- Parent Cafés, so you can talk about your child's learning and the support they receive.

SEND Transition to Penrice Academy

Starting secondary school can seem daunting, but it's an amazing opportunity, and the team are here to support your family. The SENDCo and Designated Safeguarding Lead work closely with primary schools so we know more about how to help your child be successful when they start at Penrice Academy.

The Penrice Academy Farm

We are extremely lucky to have our own Farm at the Academy and our 'Outdoor Learning Environment' comprises of one main barn and several outdoor paddocks.

The animals on the Farm include goats, a pony, pigs, guinea pigs, rabbits, chickens, degus, an African land snail and a bearded dragon, all of which are cared for by our students and Farm Manager. We also have two cats and two farm dogs who visit daily.

We actively encourage students to take ownership and responsibility of the animals during their time at the school. Your child may want to get involved and help with the animals at break-times - this is a great way to make new friends and learn some new skills!

In Year 9, we offer a BTEC Level 2 qualification in Animal Care. We very much look forward to welcoming new students to our Farm!



The Student and Family Centre (SFC)

The Student and Family Centre is part of our Pastoral Support at Penrice Academy. We recognise that for some students, school is not always an easy experience and they may need extra support from our caring staff within the SFC.

At times, students may be feeling upset or worried; they may have some friendship difficulties, which might affect their day-to-day learning, or they might just want to pop in to say "hello" before the start of the school or to check they have everything they need for the day ahead. We are here for your child. Finally, your child may need to meet a professional from outside of school who is already supporting them and who might want to see them during the school day. The SFC is a safe and comfortable place for these meetings to be held.

Some of our interventions include:

- Financial Support
- Access to Foodbank Vouchers,
- One-to-one mentoring,
- Group Work,
- Gender Support,
- Behaviour Management,
- Attendance Support,
- Social & Emotional Support,
- Young Carers,
- TIS (Trauma Informed Schools),
- One-to-One Support,
- TIS Group Work,
- Emotional First Aid/Mental Health Support,
- Careers Advice & College Applications,
- Signposting to Outside Agencies,
- School Counsellor.



Mrs Kirstin Hooper
Student Support Team
Leader, TIS Practitioner &
Mental Health First Aider

✉ khooper@penrice.celtrust.org



Ms Kelsie Sutcliffe
Pastoral Support Mentor
for Year 7

✉ ksutcliffe@penrice.celtrust.org



COST OF LIVING SUPPORT



To learn about all the ways in which we can help or signpost you, please search 'Cost of Living Support' on the Penrice website.

Gold-Standard Care

Promoting positive mental health and supporting vulnerable children and young people is at the heart of our work. The quality of the provision throughout the school is excellent. This has been acknowledged by our recent National Whole School Wellbeing Gold Award (2023).



It has been clear from the outset that Penrice Academy places great store on the centrality of wellbeing to the success of the children in their care, and the wellbeing of the staffing body as whole.

Assessor: Marius Frank, September 2023



An Exciting Learning Journey Ahead

SUCCESSFUL7^s

At the heart of our school are the values of Pride, Respect and Success, and these values guide everything we do. We are committed to nurturing curious, confident and active learners; students who take pride in their work, show respect for others and strive to succeed in their own individual ways.

In every subject, we encourage students to explore, question and discover what they are passionate about. Whether it's experimenting in science, debating in English, creating in art, or problem-solving in maths, we want students to find their voice, develop independence and take ownership of their learning. Curiosity is the spark that ignites all great learning - and we are here to nurture this.

Upon starting in September, all Year 7 students take part in our exciting Successful Sevens programme, which begins with the Successful Challenge Card; a fun, meaningful way to build key habits and celebrate learning. From showing resilience and responsibility, to collaborating respectfully with peers, each challenge supports our students in becoming well-rounded, reflective learners.

These achievements are celebrated in a special assembly where they are recognised for their efforts and accomplishments. It is a joyful occasion where we come together as a community to share in the pride of their hard work and progress.

By the end of their first few weeks, students will 'graduate' from the Successful Sevens programme with a real understanding of what it means to be a successful learner - one who is curious, confident and lives out our school values every day.

We can't wait to see all that they will discover and achieve!



Mandarin Excellence Programme

Penrice Academy runs a Mandarin Excellence Programme where students can learn this incredible language over the course of five years.

Congratulations to all those who applied and secured places on this programme. Mrs Rebecca Yeo will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.



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



Useful Information A-Z

Absences

If your child is unable to attend the Academy for any reason during any school day, please contact us by phone or email to explain the reason:

01726 72163 (Option 1)

penriceattendance@celtrust.org

Address

You need to notify us of any changes to address, telephone number or email address. It is essential that we hold telephone numbers for at least two people who can be contacted immediately in an emergency. The Academy also operates a texting and emailing service to parent(s)/carer(s).

Assemblies

Each year group has its own assembly once a week. Year 7 assembly is on Fridays. Assemblies are designed to provide a positive start to the academic day, update your child with important messages and celebrate student successes.

Contacting Staff

Working together makes a big difference to your child's experience at school, so we

really value parent/carer input.

If you would like to contact a member of staff, you are welcome to call Reception or email them directly. Please note that teachers and Heads of Year have busy timetables full of lessons, registrations and meetings, so they may not be able to respond straight away. Most meetings with parents happen after the school day finishes.

Your child's Form Tutor is usually the best place to start - they are there to help with day-to-day questions and support.

Curriculum

In Years 7, 8 and 9, students study the full breadth of the KS3 National Curriculum and beyond. Developing strong, knowledge rich foundations across a broad range of subjects; our ambitious approach for all students includes studying a Modern Foreign Language for the full 5 years.

All students will study English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Art, Music, PE, CLASS, RE, Drama, Food, Product

Design, Computer Science, Design Technology and French or Spanish (except as agreed by the SENDCo).

Towards the end of Year 9, students will get to personalise their timetable and experience our enrichment curriculum. This broadens each student's horizons and ensures all enjoy a breadth of vocational and academic opportunities.

Your child will have a two-week timetable (Weeks A and B) to make sure all subjects have the appropriate amount of lesson time. You can help by checking that your child has the right books and equipment each day for their lessons.

Entrance and Exit from Penrice Academy Premises

Students who arrive and leave Penrice Academy on foot must use the Polmear Road entrance/exit and cross the road at the puffin crossing. Charlestown direction students may use the pedestrian gates at the front of the school.

Essential Equipment

We want your child to have all they need to progress in their learning and feel prepared. Every day they must bring their school bag and inside that bag they should have:

- A pencil case containing; pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, highlighter.
- A calculator.
- A reading book (your child will be able to borrow this from the school library).
- A refillable water bottle to use through the day (your child can drink water during lessons as well as break times and there are water fountains around school to refill bottles).
- The reading ruler, mini whiteboard, whiteboard pen and plastic folder that your child will be issued at the start of September.
- Any exercise books that your child has taken home (up to A4 size).

Students are responsible for maintaining the good condition of their exercise books, text books and equipment.

At the start of term we will provide anything they are missing from their pencil case. Beyond this, if your family is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and need support with equipment, please email Mrs Hooper via khooper@penrice.celtrust.org

First Aid and Medical Provision*

Qualified First Aiders are available during the school day for emergencies only. If your child requires ongoing medical support, e.g. Type 1 Diabetics, they will be looked after by our First Aid Team. A designated member of staff is responsible for Medical Care Plans for those students who require them.

**see also 'Medical and Dental Appointments'.*

Homework Guidelines

Home learning at Penrice is an essential part of our provision. It helps all students to cement and further their knowledge in all the subjects they study whilst also developing independence and resilience. Home learning helps to strengthen connections within long term memory, making all students more knowledgeable. All home learning will link closely to the learning students are undertaking in lessons and will take around 20 minutes to complete per subject.

Home learning is set on the ClassCharts app. All students and families will receive login details upon starting at Penrice. Support for home learning is available at Penrice.

Insurance

Penrice Academy does not insure your child's personal items. If students wish to bring expensive items onto the premises then they are advised to ask you, the parents/carers, to arrange cover with your own insurers. For trips abroad, staff will make the necessary arrangements and include relevant insurance in the cost.

Internet Enabled Devices

We want your child to be able to learn and develop socially without any distractions from mobile devices. With this in mind, students are not allowed to use mobile phones or smart watches at Penrice Academy at any time, including break and lunch times. If there is a genuine need for students to contact parent(s)/carer(s), they can use the telephone on Reception at the discretion of staff.

If your child has a mobile phone with them in school, it must be turned off and put in their school bag before entering the school grounds. They must not be used at any time on the school grounds, including in classrooms, toilets, corridors, dining spaces,

yards or playing fields. If any such item is seen or heard in the Academy, the item will be confiscated by the member of staff and the incident will be recorded according to the Behaviour Policy. The item will then be given to Reception for safe storage. Your child will be able to collect the item at the end of the day.

In cases of repeat offences, parent(s)/carer(s) will be requested to collect the item. Penrice Academy accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage of expensive items brought to the Academy.

Lunch Club

Within our Learning Centre environment, we offer a Lunch Club facility for students who may be anxious in crowds, are unable to choose a healthy option or find it daunting to eat in front of other people.

Students meet in the Hall at lunchtime five minutes before the official start of lunch, enabling them to get their food before the rest of the students arrive. Some students prefer to eat their lunch in the Canteen with the support of staff, while others have permission to eat in the Learning Centre, which offers a calm and peaceful environment. Once students have eaten, they can play a variety of games within the Learning Centre.

Medical and Dental Appointments

Where possible, we advise that dental or medical appointments are made outside of school hours. If your child needs to attend a dental or medical appointment during the school day, they must bring an appointment card or a note signed by you and then hand into their form tutor.

Continues on next page...

Alternately parents/carers can email:

penriceattendance@celtrust.org
ahead of the appointment.

If the school have not been notified and a student does not have a letter or appointment card, they may only be permitted to leave the premises after direct contact with parent(s)/carer(s) has been made.

Movement

We want all students to feel safe; therefore we ask that they walk calmly and quietly along our outdoor routes between lessons, keeping to the left in single file at busy times.

We started using outdoor routes as a covid measure back in 2020. Student feedback showed that they felt safer and more comfortable using outside routes as there is more space to cater for the amount of people/traffic. We therefore decided to keep our outdoor routes in place after covid restrictions lifted. We encourage students to bring a coat for walking outdoors.

Progress Evenings

There is a programme of progress evenings to help us work together to support your child's learning. These include a 'Meet the Tutor' evening where parents/carers will be invited in to address any specific concerns.

Dates will be provided in advance for such events, allowing you to plan your appointments. If at any time you have concerns or questions about your child, an appointment can be arranged with the Head of Year, Form Tutor or Subject Teacher by contacting Reception.

Progress Reports

You will be issued with progress reports twice across the academic year. The progress report will give details about how your child is progressing and engaging with their learning in each subject.

The progress reports will also give improvement targets and ways that you as parents/carers can best support your child to improve in each subject at home, along with general

information including reading age, attendance, merits and behaviour points.

School Transport and Drop Offs

If students are travelling to school by bike, we ask that they please wear a helmet. Students are not permitted to bring scooters or skateboards into the school.

The main car park is for school buses and staff cars. To keep students safe, it must not be used for pick-ups or drop-offs. At the end of the school day, if students are travelling on buses or coaches, they should walk straight to the upper yard next to the staff car park. If their bus has arrived, they may board immediately. Staff will be on duty to help students find their bus and tell them where to stand whilst waiting.

Movie Magic



- OR -

Search
'MyPenrice'
on
YouTube

We recently asked our incoming Year 6 students if they have any big questions they would like answered before starting at Penrice.

Our current Year 7s were more than happy to discuss and answer their questions as part of our **#MyPenrice** video series.



#MyPenrice
No.1: Feeling Nervous



Further Questions

Please do visit our website to learn more. If you have any remaining questions about transition and/or Year 7, please contact:

✉ penricetransition@celtrust.org



Term Dates 2025–26

#WeAreCELT

September

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30					

October

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November

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December

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January

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March

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April

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May

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June

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July

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August

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

 School day - schools are open to pupils

 Staff INSET training - closed to pupils

 School holiday - closed to pupils