

30 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

There has been plenty to celebrate in the second week back as the summer term gets in full swing. This latest parent update has strong themes of safeguarding, mental health and wellbeing, including an exciting announcement that I will save until the end. However, I would like to start by passing on a pertinent message from Devon and Cornwall Police.

### **Police Notice – Carlyon Bay**

#### **Important message from Kay Adams, Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

We have received information from the Police on a number of occasions that Carlyon Bay beach is an area of concern with regard to the safety of large groups of young people who are congregating there. This seems to involve young people from all local secondary schools from across all year groups. Of particular concern is the large amount of alcohol being consumed, use of some illegal substances and some incidents of sexual harm.

I intend to meet with safeguarding leads from all local schools, the Police, the Council and representatives from Carlyon Bay to discuss the issues and consider how we can contribute to keeping our young people safe. In the meantime, I thought it was important to share our concerns with you.

### **Us Plus Student Mentor Scheme is Launched**

There was an exciting development in Penrice Academy's Emotional Health and Wellbeing support infrastructure this week where 18 Year 9 students were trained to become the school's first ever Us Plus student team. The aim of the programme is to offer an alternative support channel to students who want to talk to someone about any troubles they are experiencing.

On Monday 26 April, Mrs Taylor trained our inaugural cohort to support the emotional, mental health and wellbeing of their peers, particularly those in the younger year groups. The training involved the development of teamwork, listening and safeguarding skills, helping the school to establish this new, alternative safety network. You can read more on our website [here](#).

### **Penrice Academy Becomes First Secondary School in the UK to Become TIS Accredited**

I thought I would save the best news until last! Yesterday, Trauma Informed Schools (TIS) visited us as they performed an in-depth audit of our provision of mental health and wellbeing support. TIS is a group of expert educators and psychologists with decades of experience in supporting troubled children in a diverse range of school settings.

After going under the TIS microscope on Thursday 29 April, I am delighted to announce that they were blown away with the extent of our provision and we received some exceptional feedback from the consultant. We are the first ever UK mainstream secondary school to be accredited with the Trauma and Mental Health Informed School Award.



**EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS**

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This award has been the result of hard work and buy-in of all of the staff at the school and it is heart-warming to hear how Penrice Academy is a safe, compassionate and supportive community for young people to grow and develop. We look forward to further strengthening our provision of emotional health and wellbeing support with schemes like the Us Plus student mentors being just one example of many.

I wish you all some well-deserved time off as we head into the bank holiday weekend before returning to school on Tuesday 4 May.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Gambier".

**Lucy Gambier**  
Headteacher