



Find Your Future

Pride

Respect

Success

Headteacher:

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Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to Spring Term 2022!

The start of the new term is now well under way and I must start today's letter with a massive thank you to the whole Penrice community for your cooperation in our back-to-school Covid-19 testing process. Over the two days we completed a total of 1,591 tests (lateral flows and PCRs), identifying very few positive lateral flows. We are confident that the school environment is as safe as possible for our students and we look forward to a successful term ahead.

Character Development Day

The first day of term (Friday 7 January) witnessed students in Years 7-10 taking part in Character Development Day...

Year 7 – Courage

Year 7 focussed on Courage. What it is and how you can develop weaknesses into strengths. Our key message this term for Year 7 is to develop strengths, helping them become brave, honest and resilient.



Year 8 - Citizenship

Students completed three sessions all aimed around exploring their place in the world and the community around them.

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In the morning, a 'fun run' raised awareness for, and embodied the character values of, our chosen school charity, the RNLI. An academic session then looked at the importance of communication and languages and understanding different cultures. Lastly, a creative session saw students complete a litter pick then design a slogan / logo to encourage all Penrice students to look after their school environment.

Year 9 – Choices

The focus for Year 9 was very much on being 'GCSE Ready', particularly in relation to resilience and how we cope with disappointment, as well as building effective learning habits.

A key highlight for Year 9 was a Microsoft Teams seminar with a wide range of Penrice alumni, discussing career paths and choices.



Year 10 – Civic Responsibility

Year 10 studied the concept of democracy, the power of the voice and ensuring that they become active citizens in both their school community as well as the global community. They were given a unique opportunity to meet with Steve Double, our local MP from the Conservative party, asking him some challenging questions in a live Q & A session in the assembly hall.

The day represented the first of many opportunities for students to develop themselves beyond the academic curriculum and we will look to continue this approach as the term progresses.

Further information and pictures from the day can be found in the [news section](#) of the Penrice website.

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Year 11 PPE (Pre-Public Exam) Results

A special mention for our Year 11 students who picked up their PPE results on Monday this week. There were numerous emotional phone calls home to parents as students shared their news with loved ones.

We hope that the entire PPE process has helped our students to feel better prepared for their final GCSE exams and we look forward to our talented Year 11 cohort taking on the real thing this summer.



Ready to Learn Refresher

We kickstarted Monday by refreshing students on our 'Ready to Learn' ethos, reminding pupils of a series of non-negotiables as we seek for them to take pride in their books, using them very much as a learning resource. As part of being ready to learn, we kindly ask you to ensure that your child has in their pencil case a pencil, a pen, a highlighter and a ruler as a minimum requirement.

Routine Vaccinations – Upcoming Dates

The NHS School Immunisation Team plan on returning to school for routine childhood vaccinations later this term.

The dates are as follows:

- 3rd March
- 17th March
- 11th May

Nearer the time, you will receive a communication from the NHS School Immunisation Team via Penrice Academy with details on how

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to consent to your child receiving these vaccinations. If you do not consent your child will not be immunised.

At this current time, we do not have any information on whether a team will return to deliver further Covid-19 or Flu vaccinations. However, you can book your child's Covid-19 vaccination outside of school via the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk). To book a flu vaccine, please speak to your GP.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Message from Dave Lewis, Deputy Headteacher

Since the issue of harmful sexual behaviours hit the national news last year, we have been working closely with the student body to ensure everyone continues to feel safe at Penrice Academy and understands the importance of building healthy relationships. During the Character Development Day on 7th January, each year group had the opportunity to participate in a tutor session designed to promote awareness of harmful sexual behaviour through activities, discussion and reflection.

The Children's Commissioner's office began a programme of work focussing on peer-on-peer abuse following the avalanche of testimonies on the Everyone's Invited website set up in March 2020, that highlighted the scale of the problems around harmful sexual behaviours. A surprising but overriding message from young people is that parents should start conversations with their children early.

Please [find here a link](#) to the guidance released by the Commissioner to raise awareness and provide support.

Covid-19 Isolation Period Update

As I write this letter, the government has just announced a change of guidance on the isolation period required after testing positive for Covid-19. On Monday 17 January, the isolation period will be reduced to 5 full days, provided that you complete negative lateral flows on day 5 and the morning of day 6. This change will apply to Penrice students who test positive. Full information on the [BBC website](#).

School Charity Fundraising

The first donation to the students' chosen charity, the RNLI, was handed over on Tuesday by our Year 7 Academy Council representatives (Dylan and Aoife).

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£536.88 is a fantastic start to the school's fundraising efforts and we look forward to continuing this positive momentum throughout 2022.



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Best wishes,

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