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**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 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.

### Year 11 Applications Day

The first day of term for Year 11 focussed on their next steps during Applications Day. The day focussed on two important elements to help ensure they are 'future ready'. These were a College and Sixth Form workshop, and an Application and CV writing workshop.

We were joined by staff from Cornwall College group, Truro and Penwith College, Callywith College and Bodmin Sixth Form who all worked with students throughout the morning, discussing the details of their courses and assisting students with their online college application systems.

Students then took part in a 2-hour Applications and CV writing workshop delivered virtually in classrooms by Emma Trudgeon from [Careers South West](#). The workshop showed students the key

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elements on creating successful applications and CVs for future employment; equally relevant to those thinking about applying for apprenticeships this year and those wishing to do part time work whilst studying at college, or even those looking to gain valuable work experience during the holiday periods.

Last Friday's work was bolstered on Wednesday with lunchtime drop-in sessions from Truro College and Callywith College, answering any student queries related to applications. This drop-in activity will happen monthly until April.

### 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.

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## 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 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

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Penrice students who test positive. Full information on the [BBC website](#).

## College Open Events – Change of Plan

The previously advertised events of Truro College's IB Information Evening and Callywith's Open Evening will now be held virtually instead of face-to-face. Please visit the respective websites for further information.

## Year 10 Exam Support Sessions

The first of our regular exam support sessions for Year 10 took place this week. Please encourage your son/daughter to attend if you feel they need additional support.



# YEAR 10 Exam Support Sessions



**Every Thursday | 3-4pm in CL1**

## What's covered?

- Coping with the pressures of Year 10.
- How to increase my grade with simple strategies.
- Revision techniques, things that actually work for you!
- Answering exam questions - "How do I start?!"
- Planning your answer.
- Literacy skills.
- Enhancing vocabulary through games.
- Plus anything else you want support with!

*For further information, please email Miss Smith via [ASmith1@penrice.org.uk](mailto:ASmith1@penrice.org.uk)*

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## 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).

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



Best wishes,

**Lucy Gambier**  
Headteacher

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