



Find Your Future

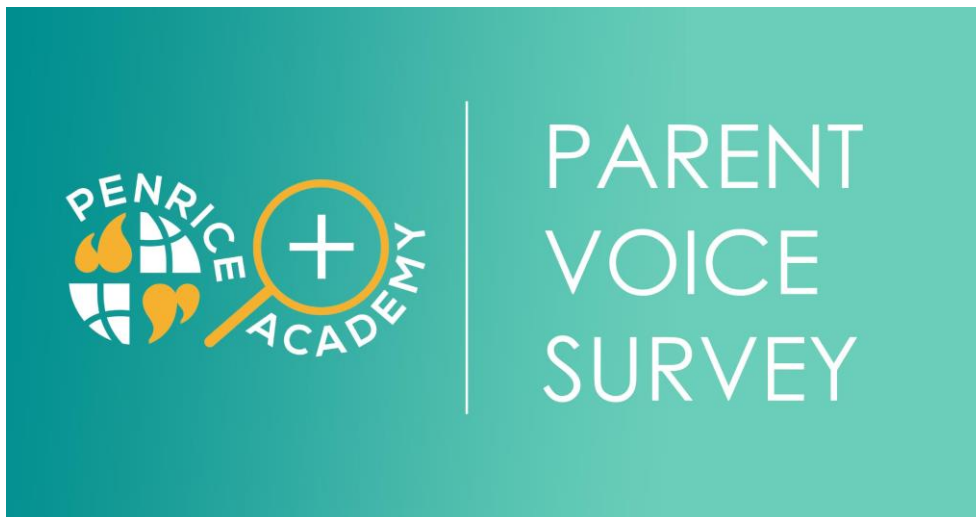
1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

The clocks have changed, the evenings are lighter and there is only one week left of the Spring Term. As the weather continues to improve, we are delighted to be increasing outdoor learning opportunities for pupils such as track, field and Astro sports in PE, outdoor field trips in academic subjects and a plethora of [new, outdoor Penrice Plus activities](#) on offer for next term.

The final week of Spring Term sees us focus on developing pupils' citizenship with a number of charitable initiatives – some covering all year groups with other activities/events being year-group-specific. However, before I share our plans for the final week of term, I'd like to start off by discussing the results of the recent Parent Voice Survey.

### Parent Voice Survey – Key Findings



**Headteacher:**

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Thank you to those who took part, we were pleased to receive 537 responses providing some really useful feedback. Some highlights from the responses included:

*The overwhelming majority of parents felt the school offered plenty of clubs and activities for their child. Please remember that we are currently asking all students to sign up for Penrice Plus in the summer term. More details can be found [here](#).*

*90% of parents felt their child feels safe in school. This is slightly above the national benchmark but our aim is, of course, for every child to feel safe in school. Please remember that if you have any concerns around your child, please get in touch with your child's Head of Year:*

Year 7 – Mrs Kirsty Taylor - [ktaylor@penrice.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@penrice.org.uk)

Year 8 – Miss Jade Cox - [jcox@penrice.org.uk](mailto:jcox@penrice.org.uk)

Year 9 – Mr Adrian Sutcliffe - [asutcliffe@penrice.org.uk](mailto:asutcliffe@penrice.org.uk)



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Year 10 – Mr Dave Palmer - [dpalmer@penrice.org.uk](mailto:dpalmer@penrice.org.uk)

Year 11 – Ms Clare Razzell - [crazzell@penrice.org.uk](mailto:crazzell@penrice.org.uk)

Students can also report any concerns using the '[Are You OK?](#)' page on the Penrice website.

We were also really pleased with your direct feedback that you would like more regular updates on how your child is progressing and what they are learning. We will look at addressing these concerns over the coming weeks.

We are currently dissecting all of the data and we intend to publish more information on the Penrice website in the near future.

## A Word on Financial Pressures

### Message from Dave Lewis – Deputy Headteacher

On the following pages of this parent letter are a number of charity events/fundraising initiatives that students will be getting involved in next week. This is part of our Character Curriculum – developing traits of citizenship and neighbourliness in our students.

However, we are acutely aware that many families are currently experiencing financial pressures. This will be exacerbated by today's national energy price cap rise. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that there is absolutely no obligation to donate. Penrice Academy fully understands that, for many, finances are strained and we are here to support.

In addition, if finances are affecting your ability to support your child with school then please let us know. We can help with school uniform, equipment and school trips. If you would like support then please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

## Non-Uniform Day for Ukraine – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Next week, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April we will be holding a non-uniform day with the donations going towards the St Austell Ukraine Support Group. The non-uniform day has been arranged by the school's student-led Academy Council.

We are encouraging students and staff to wear blue and yellow in support of Ukraine. Donations will be accepted via tutors from Monday onwards and can be either £1 or an item that can be given to those in need.

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## Ukraine – Cuddly Toy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has donated cuddly toys for Ukrainian refugees! We will continue to accept donations of cuddly toys until the end of term.



A full update and a special message of thanks from Mrs Malcolm can be found on the [Penrice website news article here](#).

## Year 11's 24-Hour Charity Challenge



On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, Year 11 are delighted to be running the traditional 24-Hour Challenge, starting at lunchtime. The event is a real test of each student's endurance and stamina as they are required to take shifts cycling, rowing and dancing, non-stop for 24 hours.

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This year's event is in aid of three charities:

- Kidney Care UK
- The Brain Tumor Charity
- Young Lives vs Cancer

All of these three charities have played a key role in the lives of particular students and staff who are taking part in the 24-Hour Challenge and we look forward to raising as much money as possible for these worthy causes.

We look forward to following the students' progress as they work through the night in this test of endurance and stamina. More information and some words of encouragement from the chosen charities can be found on the [Penrice website news here](#).

### **Year 9's Charity Dodgeball Tournament for the RNLI**

Year 9 have been in the Sports Hall during tutor times this week as they take part in a Dodgeball Tournament, raising funds for RNLI. We have semi-final matches on Tuesday: 9LG vs 9DW, 9AM vs 9RW and then the final!

There will be a cake sale to celebrate the end of the tournament. We would like it if as many Year 9 students could bring in cakes for the cake sale please. All money is going to the RNLI - over £100 raised from the knockout games so far so the cake sale will add to this total.

### **Boccia Tournament at Truro College**

Away from fundraising, elsewhere in school happenings, I must give a special mention to our two Boccia teams who finished 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the recent Cornwall Schools' Boccia Tournament.

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Boccia is a competitive team form of Boules played at the Paralympics with participants being seated to allow parity with wheelchair users.

Almost 20 schools were participating and the event represented an opportunity for students who cannot always make the school sports teams to represent Penrice Academy. We are very proud of them all.

### Covid-19 Update

From today, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April, the government have issued new guidance for schools:

- Children (under 18) who are unwell **and** have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- Children (under 18) with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people **for 3 days**

Please be aware that schools are no longer supplied with free lateral flow test kits for students, and PCR test are no longer available.

### A Reminder to Bring Water Bottles

As we enter Spring and enjoy a spell of warmer, sunny weather, please ensure that your child brings to school a water bottle in order

to keep themselves hydrated. There are various water fountains around the school where students can refill bottles.

## Upcoming College Open Events for Years 10 & 11

### Duchy College Rosewarne Taster Day – Wednesday 13 April

Years 10 & 11 can book a Taster Day at Duchy College Rosewarne in the following subjects: Animal Management, Vet Nursing, Floristry, Horticulture, Land & Wildlife Management, Conservation and Environmental Sustainability, and Dog Grooming. Further information [here](#).

### Truro College – Thursday 5 May

# TRURO COLLEGE

# OPEN EVENING

# THU 05 MAY 5PM TO 8PM



VISIT [TRURO-PENWITH.AC.UK](http://TRURO-PENWITH.AC.UK) TO FIND OUT MORE

Meet the tutors | Tour the campus | Explore your options



### Cornwall College St Austell - Thursday 19 May

Discover courses, apprenticeships, tour the campuses and meet the teachers. Further information [here](#).

## Final Words

It is always nice to end a letter with good news and we were all very emotional earlier this week when Ellie in Year 11 drove past Penrice receiving a guard of honour from her year group.

She was travelling to Treliske Hospital to ring the bell on her ward, signifying the end of her cancer treatment. From all of us here at Penrice, well done on standing up to cancer Ellie.



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Have a relaxing weekend.

Kind regards,

*Lucy Gambier*

**Lucy Gambier**  
Headteacher

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