



Lucy Gambier
Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

We've already completed two full weeks back and it has gone like a flash! The new academic year is certainly in full swing now - this was highlighted by the start of Penrice sports fixtures in rugby and netball against local schools on Wednesday and Thursday. Well done to all students who took part and proudly represented the school.

A New Subject on the Curriculum for Year 7

I am delighted to share with you some very exciting news in this week's newsletter! Mandarin is coming to the Penrice curriculum! Students in Year 7 will be invited to apply to join our new Mandarin Excellence Programme in the near future.

This is an exciting opportunity that will really push the most determined, academic students to the best of their abilities, helping them stand out from the crowd in future college, university, apprenticeship and job applications.

Please see below for further information.



Penrice Becomes the First School in Cornwall to Join National Mandarin Excellence Programme

Penrice Academy has this week announced that students in Year 7 will be offered the chance to study Mandarin Chinese on a flagship language programme.

The academy becomes the first and only school in Cornwall to join the Department for Education's Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) – an intensive curriculum offering in which settings must be rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' with strong performance in Modern Foreign Languages to be eligible to deliver.

The course is an ambitious, accelerated programme, designed to push the most

academically able, requiring an average of eight hours of Mandarin study a week and leads to a full GCSE in Mandarin. 4 hours of this will be classroom learning plus another 4 hours of independent study per week.

All Year 7 pupils at Penrice will soon be invited to apply and become the inaugural, 25-strong cohort with the first lesson due to take place immediately after October half-term. Learning Mandarin will not replace the learning of French or Spanish on the students' timetables, it is an additional option.

Mandarin is the most widely spoken language in the world, connecting speakers with an exciting

and dynamic culture as well as boosting career opportunities. Research by the British Council identifies Mandarin as one of the most important languages for the UK's future prosperity and influence on the global stage.



Mrs Yeo **Head of Languages**

“

“Being the only school in Cornwall to offer the Mandarin Excellence Programme is a fantastic opportunity for our students to stand out from the crowd; it will set students apart from the rest and open doors in future college, university, apprenticeship and work placements. It will add a highly coveted string to their bow.

“Languages perform extremely well at Penrice – we are very pro-language and it is something that we really value for our students. There is a wealth of evidence that highlights Mandarin will be one of the most important languages moving forward – particularly for the economy.”

Scott McDonald, Chief Executive British Council, said: “The Mandarin Excellence Programme is helping thousands of young people in England to develop the language expertise and intercultural skills which will open the door to a whole world of study and career opportunities. Mandarin is one of the most important languages for young people in the UK to learn right now. Not only does it lead to a greater understanding of China's people and culture, it builds stronger connections and mutual trust between our two countries, which is essential for future business, trade and prosperity.”

Heading up the programme will be Miss Emily Rose who joins Penrice following experience of delivering the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) at two different schools in Coventry during her teacher training year.

Miss Rose began learning Mandarin in Plymouth when she was 13 years old and continued to learn Mandarin all the way through to university where her chosen course was Asia-Pacific Studies. This included a placement year in China.



Full Story



Paul Johnson **Head of Year 7**

Year 7 Update

Now our second week is completed it has been great to see Team Year 7 really getting to know the school and enjoy their lessons. I know Science has been a particular hit with the Bunsen Burners!

From next week, Year 7s will join the rest of the school in making their own way to lessons after two weeks of being shown around. We will be giving them a map and staff will continue to be around to help guide them.

It has been brilliant to see how the students are ready to learn with their equipment. If there is any support required with equipment or other areas to help your child succeed with us please contact the school. It has also been great to see the engagement with Penrice Plus and our first sporting fixture on Thursday as well as the large numbers involved with Matilda the Musical.

Finally, I must say thank you to all of the families that attended the Year 7 Information Evening on Thursday night. We hope that the insight shared will be valuable and useful moving forward. If you have any feedback following the Year 7 Information Evening then please send your thoughts to enquiries@penrice.org.uk – this will help to shape future Information Evenings.

Pride

Respect

Success



Mr Laurie Goodlad
Director of Arts & Technology

Reminder: Ingredients for Food, Hospitality & Catering Lessons

If your child is not in receipt of Pupil Premium funding but you think that providing ingredients for these lessons may cause financial hardship, Penrice Academy can support the purchase of ingredients. To help us plan our ordering accordingly, please complete the short form [available here](#). A separate form will need to be completed for each student. All submissions will be treated with the strictest confidence.

If your child is not in receipt of Pupil Premium funding but you think you may be eligible, you can find out more on [our website here](#).

Term Dates for 2023/24 Academic Year

For those who like to plan holidays well in advance, the term dates for next academic year are now available on the [Penrice website here](#).

Job Vacancies

We are currently advertising for the following vacancies:

SEN Specialist (with an interest in literacy)
Teaching Assistant - Ukrainian Translator



Mrs Donna McGrath
First Aid Instructor

HPV Vaccines – Year 8 Final Call Out

Kernow Health will be visiting Penrice Academy on Monday 26th September to administer potentially life-saving HPV Vaccines. Links to copies of the Kernow Health letter to parents can be found below.

The current uptake rates at Penrice are as follows:

Year 8 HPV – **48.8%**

Year 9 HPV – **95.2%***

*majority of whom were vaccinated in 2021

[Year 8 Letter](#)

[Year 9 Letter](#)

Please note that we have brought forward the Consent/Registration Deadline to Wednesday 21st September at 15:00 as we need extra time to prepare for the vaccination day.



OPEN EVENING

Thursday 22nd
September 2022





CALLYWITH COLLEGE

INFORMATION EVENING



Tues 11 Oct 2022, 7pm - 8:30pm at Callywith College
For Penrice Academy Year 11 pupils and parents/carers

Pride

Respect

Success