



Lucy Gambier
Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

We've made it to our final Parent Update of 2022 and our last full week of the school term has certainly been one to remember.

Throughout the week, we have been hosting our termly Celebration Assemblies for each year group, starting with Year 11 on Monday and finishing with Year 7's first-ever Celebration Assembly this morning. It has been wonderful to celebrate the successes from this term and recognise both tutor group and individual achievements. There were, as always, prizes on offer for those that have performed consistently throughout the term and we hope that the winners enjoy these early Christmas presents which include cinema trips!

On Tuesday night, we opened our doors at 5:30pm for the annual Winter Concert. Tickets were sold out well in advance of this event and the eager audience members were welcomed in from the cold winter air to warm up with some refreshments and Carol Singing ahead of the curtain raising at 6:00pm. All of the acts showed exceptional courage in taking to the stage and performed outstandingly. Well done to all involved – you should be proud of your achievement.

In the middle of the week, on Wednesday, a large number of our staff and students got into the festive spirit by wearing their Christmas jumpers. It was also the day for Christmas Lunch in the canteen! In return for wearing a Christmas jumper, students were encouraged to donate either money to charity and/or food to the local foodbank. It was excellent to see so many contributing to support those who are in need at this difficult time of year. Thank you to all the families and staff who got involved! We will update you with totals raised once the final count has been done.

So, that almost brings us to the end of term. We have just one and a half days left until we finish. Please remember that we close at 1:00pm on Tuesday 20th December.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday when it arrives.
Warmest regards,
Lucy Gambier



Celebration Assemblies



Winter Concert 2022



Christmas Jumper Day



Winter Concert 2022 Online Image Gallery



End of Term Arrangements

The school term will be ending on Tuesday 20 December at 1pm.

Registration: As normal

Lessons 1 & 2: Normal timetable

Lunch: 12 – 12.30pm

Tutor Registration: 12.30 – 1pm

Buses will arrive for those who normally travel by bus and have a valid bus pass. **The new term will begin on Tuesday 3 January 2023 with a Week B timetable.**



Mr Dave Lewis

Deputy Headteacher &
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Online Safety Over Christmas

As we move towards Christmas, it is a good time to be mindful of online safety. Many children will be given new phones, consoles or other tech this Christmas. These will provide hours of fun and enjoyment, but it is important to remember there are risks involved too.

Please take this opportunity to have a look at the latest information provided by National Online Safety in the poster at the end of this Parent Update which will help keep your children safe online so that everyone is able to enjoy a great Christmas.

Parent Voice Survey 2022 - Results & Actions Taken

Thanks once again to the 537 of you who took part in our Parent Voice Survey last academic year. As 2022 draws to a close, it is the perfect time to reflect on the year that has been, recognise progress and to identify further areas for improvement. With this in mind, we hereby share the summary data report from our Parent Voice Survey 2022 and the actions we have taken in response to feedback.

The Parent Voice Survey is not a one-off project that gets shelved at the end of the year. We will, of course, run a new survey in 2023 as we strive for continual improvement. Thank you one final time for your participation in this year's survey.



PARENT VOICE
SURVEY 2022
RESULTS & ACTIONS

PDF DOWNLOAD (884KB)



Pride

Respect

Success



Mr Pete Brodey
Music Teacher

Matilda Jr. The Musical Update

This week's Winter Concert also featured a snippet from the upcoming school musical production of Matilda Jr.

Following the casting in September, students have been working hard, under the guidance of Mr Goodlad, Mrs Hall and Mr Brodey, to learn their lines, get their heads around the choreography and perfect the songs.

After Christmas, the cast will be moving onto practising on the stage with the amazing set and props that have been designed and crafted by Mrs Morse and her troupe of backstage designers. The backdrops and objects already look fantastic and we cannot wait to see the finished product!



Matilda Jr. Teaser Performance

STUDENTS DELIVER FOODBANK DONATIONS

Thank you to all those who have donated items to the foodbank collection over the past two weeks.

On top of the student donations, Penrice staff have been encouraged not to buy each other Christmas gifts this year and to donate the money to a foodbank fund instead.

That pot of money was spent earlier today in the local supermarket, resulting in 6 overflowing trollies, all of which built upon the existing donations. Everything was sent to the St Austell foodbank depot this afternoon.

Well done to the entire Penrice community for this fantastic effort.



St Austell Foodbank demand is **up 30%** on this time last year.

PLEASE CHECK LOST PROPERTY

There are a range of coats and jackets on our lost property hanger in Reception – so many that we are running out of space! Please ask your child to visit lost property on Monday or Tuesday to have a look.



Mr Gerald Parry
Maths Teacher & CEW Lead



Mr Gavin Thomas
Assistant
Headteacher

CEW2023 Update for Years 8 & 9

Due to the delay in sending out confirmation emails to parents of children who successfully applied for a residential trip, we have extended the initial deposit deadline to 22:00 on Monday 19th December.

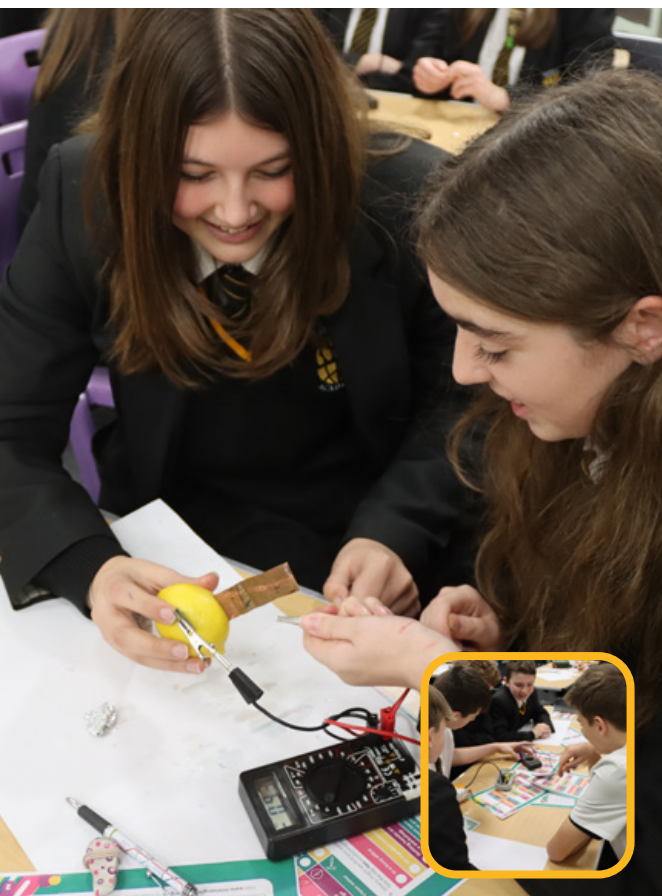
If you have any difficulties in making payment by this date, please contact us at CEWenquiries@penrice.org.uk as soon as possible.

A reminder that letters confirming local and school-based activity allocations will be sent out in the new year.

Proposed Snowboarding Trip 2024

We are floating the idea of a Snowboarding Trip to Austria during the 2024 season. A letter was sent home earlier this week which can be accessed [here](#).

If you are interested in your child taking part then please complete the online form (link in the letter) so we can gauge interest and decide how to proceed.



YEAR 9 ENERGY QUEST WORKSHOP

Groups of Year 9 students have taken it in turns this week to enjoy a science workshop all about energy. The workshop is run by Tomorrow's Engineers and helps students to uncover engineering skills they didn't know they had.

Our Year 9 students were challenged to put themselves in the shoes of engineers and design a solution to power a mobile phone using only the contents of a backpack. This was working to develop students critical thinking skills, teamwork and communication.

Year 9 designed some awesome fruit batteries and managed to record some impressive voltages using everyday materials to solve the problem they were faced with.

SUMMER CAREER EXPERIENCES

15%
Early Bird Discount

ENDS DECEMBER 31ST

INVESTIN   Accredited by Trustpilot



InvestIN is recommended by Mrs Lorraine Turner, Head of Careers at Penrice Academy.

InvestIN is a UK-based organisation that provides students aged 12-18 with an immersive experience of their dream career.

Courses range in costs from in-person experiences in London to much cheaper one-day virtual online experiences.

TRURO COLLEGE



OPEN EVENING

THU 12 JAN 5PM TO 8PM

FIND OUT MORE AT TRURO-PENWITH.AC.UK

Meet the tutors | Tour the campus | Explore your options



PART OF
TRURO & PENWITH
COLLEGE

TRURO COLLEGE



IB DIPLOMA INFO EVENING



PART OF
TRURO & PENWITH
COLLEGE

THU 19 JAN AT 7PM



CALLYWITH COLLEGE



OPEN DAY

SAT 28 JAN 10AM TO 3PM

FIND OUT MORE AT CALLYWITH.AC.UK

Meet the tutors | Tour the campus | Explore your options



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

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Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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