



Lucy Gambier
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I must start today's Parent Update by thanking you for your support and understanding last Tuesday following snow overnight. Please rest assured that closure is never a decision we take lightly. We understand that the snow was very localised; some may have experienced a deep coating whilst others may have witnessed very little snow whatsoever. The school was inspected by our Site Team early in the morning and was deemed inaccessible. Furthermore, the bus companies contacted us to say they wouldn't be able to run as they had also experienced heavy snow at their depot. In the end, we were left with very little option but to close the school.

A Big Week for Year 11

Returning back to normality, there was a big focus on Year 11 last week who finished receiving their final PPE results. The Year 11 Progress Evening followed on Thursday night. We understand that there is a mixture of feelings towards the results. The key message we have been giving to Year 11 throughout this week is: there is still time, it is still in your hands.

As for the next steps, there are a number of things we will do as a school, and there are a number of

things that students can do themselves to ensure they get the results they are aiming for. Mr Gavin Thomas, Assistant Headteacher, explains more in a parent information video shared at the bottom of this page. This video also mentions the introduction of Period Zeros for Year 11 which begin this week and will be a regular timetabled feature between now and the end of their Penrice journey.

Planned Strike Action by Teachers Nationally

Last week it was announced that the [National Education Union \(NEU\) members will be striking on Wednesday 1 February](#). As it stands, further strike dates are also planned on 2nd March, 15th March and 16th March.

We are aware of these latest developments and are currently working with CELT to determine the best course of action for the 1st February. We will issue further comment as soon as possible, detailing if the school will be closed altogether, open to some year groups, or open as normal.

Final Words

We're already looking forward to the week ahead which sees the other half of the Year 9 population enjoy the Bodmin Jail experience and a number of our Year 10 English students heading to the Hall for Cornwall to see An Inspector Calls!

Kind regards,

- Lucy Gambier



PPE Results

What have we learned?

What next?





MEET THE ACADEMY COUNCIL

On Thursday, we held the latest Academy Council meeting where elected student representatives from each year group gave their input on the running of the school.

There was a wide variety of topics on the agenda this week. The agenda included:

- opinions on the current structure of the school day
- feedback on our work and assemblies on Harmful Behaviours
- feedback on the new Character Reports, and
- thoughts about the students' toilet facilities around the school.

Students were highly engaged during the meeting and it was great to see all members taking their monthly opportunity to have their voices heard. All input from the meeting is collated by myself (Alex Archer) and is then shared with Senior Leaders to feed into decision making.

We look forward to bringing you more updates from the Academy Council team as the school year progresses.

Words by Miss Alex Archer - English Teacher and Chair of the Academy Council



Student Vaccinations

A busy and successful week of vaccinations witnessed 419 students in Years 7-9 receive their Nasal Flu vaccine.

The next vaccination date is 27th February. This date will be for the routine childhood vaccinations of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Meningitis ACWY. These particular vaccinations are for Year 9 and anyone who missed any of these jabs previously currently in Years 10 and 11.

Letters will be emailed out when we receive news from Kernow Health.

Mrs Donna McGrath - First Aid Instructor



Mr James Hammersley
Assistant Headteacher

Explanations on Outdoor Routes, Coats and Toilets

We are incredibly proud of our students and all they achieve during their time with us. We have the highest expectations of what our students can achieve, and how they behave. Our systems and rules support all students to succeed; some of these can seem as trivial, but collectively they add up to create standards and values that make the school so successful.

With this in mind, I wanted to explain the reasons behind the way we ask students to use outdoor routes, take off coats indoors and timings to access the toilet facilities.

Why we continue with outdoor routes post-Covid

We ask students to access classrooms from outside to avoid overcrowding in corridors. During Student Voice Surveys, students have told us that busy corridors make some feel anxious, and in the past, inappropriate behaviour has occurred in crowded corridors where staff cannot see what is going on.

Coats in Corridors

To reiterate what Ms Gambier explained a few weeks ago in the Parent Update, with the weather being so unpleasant, we expect students to wear coats to and from school, and when outside our buildings. We expect these coats to be removed when indoors for the comfort of everyone, to avoid water being dripped onto floors and wall displays, and so we can see all students are wearing full uniform.

Access to Toilets

Finally, we recently refurbished our toilets and they are available to students to use before school, at breaktimes and between lessons. There are a number of students who require toilet passes to use facilities for medical reasons at any time. For all other students, we will not allow them out to use toilets during a lesson unless absolutely necessary. We want to maximise learning time and minimise disruption to teaching.

If your child requires a toilet pass, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.



Mrs Lorraine Turner
Head of Careers

National Apprenticeship Week 2023 #NAW2023



National Apprenticeship Week 2023 (NAW2023) takes place from 6th to 12th February 2023. This week brings together everyone passionate about apprenticeships to celebrate the value, benefit, and opportunity that apprenticeships bring.

The popularity of apprenticeships is growing rapidly with young people able to start them at a wide range of entry levels including:

- Traineeships - a programme for those not quite ready to go into a full apprenticeship
- Intermediate Apprenticeships - beginning the apprenticeship journey, starting age from 16, no upper age limit
- Higher and Degree Apprenticeships: usually a slightly higher level aimed at college leavers at 18+, no upper age limit. Often progress to Degree-level apprenticeships and higher.

Technical education has been transformed in recent years through programmes such as apprenticeships, T Levels and other skills products. This year's National Apprenticeship Week will specifically encourage students to consider and celebrate how technical education can help them develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career with future ready skills.

I will be educating students about apprenticeships during assemblies and activities tutor workshops during NAW2023. There will also be informative content shared in future Parent Updates and on our social media channels. We warmly encourage you to discuss apprenticeships as a pathway with your child when NAW2023 takes place.

YEAR 7 TRANSITION PARENT SURVEY THANK YOU

A quick thank you to those Year 7 parents who completed the recent Year 7 Transition survey. We have received plenty of useful feedback that we can use to shape the Transition process moving forward.

Ms Tanya Coleman - Deputy Headteacher



Penrice ^{PLUS}

Find Your Extra

Activity Spotlight PENRICE CHOIR

We visited Penrice Choir after school on Thursday to see our talented singers rehearse popular songs from multiple decades such as Cyndi Lauper's *True Colours* to more modern tracks such as *Skin*, by Rag 'n' Bone Man.

The session was led by Penrice Music Teacher Mr Jones who gave expert tuition with a particular focus on breathing technique when singing during this session.

Students are more than welcome to join the super-friendly choir who meet every Thursday after school in MS1. Please get your child to speak to Mr Jones or Mr Brodey if they are interested!



[VIEW ALL PENRICE PLUS CLUBS](#)



Pride

Respect

Success