



**Lucy Gambier**  
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by passing on a huge thank you from all the staff at Penrice for the support you have given the school and your children during this week. We are responding to all questions individually and directly with our parents and carers. We are here to help, and it has been lovely to take time to engage in constructive and useful discussions with many of you over the past few days.

One key point that is clear from our conversations with parents is that we all care deeply for the education and welfare of Penrice students – this is, without a doubt, our common goal. As mentioned in Saturday's letter, our success is built upon trust, mutual respect and strong relationships between students, staff and parents.

The Penrice Community has quickly reestablished a normal, calm learning environment. This week has presented a valuable opportunity for pupils, staff and parents to reflect on last Friday's events.

We planned an extended tutor time on Monday morning to allow time to reflect on our feelings and thoughts following Friday. It also provided an opportunity for all students to have their voices heard in a calm and constructive manner; this included a student voice survey about toilet access. All feedback has been reviewed and collated by the student Senior Prefect Team and has been discussed at the Year Team Council and Academy Council meetings this week. The Senior Prefects will be delivering assemblies to all year groups over the coming weeks to present the

results of the student voice and make suggestions moving forward.

I am extremely proud of the way your children have handled a challenging situation this week, they have been mature and very sensible in their understanding for the need of rules to help keep them safe at school, as well as being able to offer some constructive ideas moving forward.

We will be sure to update you in due course of the outcomes of the student survey and the Academy Council suggestions.

As always, questions, meeting requests and feedback can be sent to our central inbox: [enquiries@penrice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@penrice.org.uk) from where they will be responded to or forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

### Looking Ahead

As we look forward, we can now officially say that we are halfway through the academic year and there are some terrific highlights ahead for us all to look forward to. Between now and the end of March we have the school production of Matilda, Year 11's annual 24-Hour Charity Challenge and, of course, Celebration Assemblies to finish the month of March.

### In Today's Update

There has been plenty going on since we returned on 20th February. This Parent Update includes news of a visit from renowned author Ben Davis, our Year 10's Geography fieldtrip to Plymouth, a visitor from the University of Cambridge, friendly competition in our Year 11 Business Enterprise class and finally, the showcasing of some amazing work from our Year 7s who have been creating Motte and Bailey castles in History.

Kind regards,  
**Lucy Gambier**





### University of Cambridge Visitor Talks to Students

Thank you to the inspirational Rosie from The University of Cambridge who visited on Tuesday 21st February to lead workshops with our Year 11s and our Year 8 Scholarship Group.

Rosie, a former student from the University of Cambridge, studied at the Downing College campus. She shared fantastic, unbiased insight into UK universities, discussing the various types of campus structures, the learning styles, and how to understand university league tables. Rosie finished by sharing her own university experience, explaining why she chose the University of Cambridge and how it met her requirements as a student.

We hope that last week's seminar was a useful, eye-opening experience for our pupils as they set their aspirations for when they leave Penrice.

### PLANNED STRIKE ACTION

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding during the second round of National Education Union (NEU) strike action which took place yesterday.

Please also note the additional upcoming planned strike dates of **Wednesday 15 March** and **Thursday 16 March** which may or may not take place depending on progress made in government talks with the union.

Please note that the above planned strike dates do not affect the performances of our highly-anticipated production of Matilda Jr.



### Year 10's Trip to Plymouth Last Week

## MATILDA TICKETS

Tickets are selling out fast for our school production of Matilda!! Make sure you get your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.

[Reserve Tickets](#)



## UPCOMING YEAR 9 EVENT

Year 9 Parent & Student Information Evening

**THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

[Full Information & RSVP Form](#)



## Cost of Living Support

In response to the ongoing cost of living crisis, we have created a dedicated website page summarising all of the support available to Penrice families; this includes school-related support and living support outside of school.

**COST OF LIVING SUPPORT**



## RENOWNED CHILDREN'S AUTHOR BEN DAVIS VISITS PENRICE

We were super-excited to welcome famous author Ben Davis into school last week who hosted assemblies and workshops with Years 7 and 8!

Having written books including 'My Embarrassing Dad Has Gone Viral', 'My Dad is Definitely not a Crime Lord', and 'The Private Blog of Joe Cowley', there were plenty of questions from intrigued students!

A big thank you to Mr Davis for visiting and helping us to turn even the most reluctant readers into bookworms!

Read all about Mr Davis' visit on our website news story.

[Full Story](#)



**Mr Mike Sullivan**  
Teacher and Trip Co-ordinator

### Ghana Fundraising Events

A reminder that over the next few weeks we will be running some fundraising events in school to support our trip to Ghana and to help us provide much needed resources for the school that our students will be working at.

On Monday, we hosted a fantastic mobile Bake Sale during breaks 1 and 2, raising just over £220!

We have further #FundraisingFriday events that we plan to host include:  
Gym Challenges (press ups, pull ups, dips) – Friday 10th March  
Keepy-uppy challenge – Friday 17th March  
Half court and Quarter Court Basketball Challenges – Friday 24th March

Each of these remaining three events cost 50p to enter with prizes for the winners. Please send your child to school with a small amount of cash if they wish to get involved.

Thank you in advance for your support and for helping Penrice students to make a positive impact in the wider world.

### Year 7 Motte and Bailey Castles

We've had some wonderful Motte and Bailey Castle models showcased by our Year 7 students this term, including an edible design from Brody!

Well done to all who have shown great creativity and imagination in this assignment.



## CURRICULUM FEATURE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Having heard rumours of friendly rivalries and a weekly leaderboard displayed in assembly, we recently dropped in on Year 11's Business Enterprise GCSE class to investigate what all the commotion was about.

Over the past few weeks, Business Enterprise students have been competing in a stocks and shares simulation competition with each student being given a generous (but sadly virtual) £100,000 initial investment!

Hear how they have been getting on and what they have learnt in our latest Curriculum Feature.



## FULL CURRICULUM FEATURE



**Mr Gerald Parry**  
Teacher and CEW Lead

### CEW Payments

Please be aware that payment 3 for our CEW residential trips and payment 2 for our local/school-based activities is due on Friday 3rd March. If you are experiencing any difficulties in meeting the cost of your child's chosen activity, please contact us at: CEWenquiries@penrice.org.uk.

### Year 8 & Year 9 Activity Availability

Due to some students transferring to another activity, a number of spaces have opened up on some of the activities which were previously oversubscribed. This includes both local activities and residential trips. Please keep an eye out for further information. We will be advertising all the available places though this bulletin over the next couple of weeks. Alternatively, if you would like to be added to any of the activity waiting lists before then, please send an email to CEWenquiries@penrice.org.uk stating your child's name, tutor group and the activity waiting list you would like them to be added to.

### Prom Donations

Ahead of the Class of 2023 Prom this summer, we're welcoming any donations of old prom clothing and accessories including: Dresses, Suits, Shoes, Purses and other Accessories.

To donate, please buzz the school gates and our reception team can then collect your items.

Alternatively, we are widening the scope of the Penrice Pre-Loved Marketplace Group to allow for such items to be sold on the platform.



**Pre-Loved**

Sell • Swap • Save the Planet

Pride

Respect

Success



## IMPERIAL COLLEGE VISIT PENRICE IN YEAR 10 STEM WORKSHOP

Penrice Academy was incredibly fortunate to host some visitors from Imperial College on Tuesday of this week. Some of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to find out more about the STEM pathways offered at Imperial College and about a research project looking into the treatment of cancer.

This was then followed up with a really exciting workshop where our students experienced a deep dive into how microscopes work and how they were being used to facilitate the research into 3D cultures of cells to improve understanding about cancerous cells. Year 10 students also compared different types of microscopes and were challenged to identify a range of different samples using this equipment.

This event gave our students the opportunity to see first hand some of the STEM career pathways available to them in their futures and was a really valuable learning experience for all involved.



**Mrs Donna McGrath**  
Individual Care Plan  
Coordinator/First Aid Instructor

### Year 9 & 10 Vaccinations

Earlier this week, Year 9 and 10 parents should have received a letter regarding Meningitis and Tetanus/Diphtheria/Polio vaccinations scheduled for Monday 13th March.

These vaccinations were originally planned for Monday 27th February, but were postponed for a fortnight. If you had previously consented for your child to be vaccinated then you do not need to complete the form again.

Kernow Health can answer questions regarding these vaccinations and their contact details are provided in their [recent letter \(PDF: 227KB\)](#).



### Year 9 Boys' Hockey Team in Regional Finals

Best of luck to our Year 9 Boys' Hockey team who travel to Millfield in Somerset this weekend to compete in the regional finals!

Well done on getting this far already!



# Free Parenting Clinics

with  
Anisa Lewis  
Positive Parenting  
[www.anisalewis.com](http://www.anisalewis.com)



March

23rd @ 10am & 8pm

Anxiety

(3 to 18-year-olds)

Does your child show signs of anxiety?

What exactly is anxiety?

How can I support my child with anxiety?

Anxiety can manifest in our children through constant worry, excessive avoidance, social fearfulness, perfectionism and irritability.

If this resonates with you and you are curious join Anisa (Parenting Coach) on the 23rd of March for her monthly Free Parenting Clinic, this talk is focused on Anxiety and what we can do to support ourselves and our young people.

Join us on zoom, for the 30-minute talk.

Book here:

<https://anisalewis.as.me/theclinic>

or

email: [hello@anisalewis.com](mailto:hello@anisalewis.com) for the booking link