



Find Your Future

Pride

Respect

Success

The Year Ahead

2023-24 Year 8 Edition

Key information for
parents/ carers and
students about
returning to school



Year 8

The Year Ahead

Doug O'Brien

Deputy Headteacher

As we approach the start of the next academic year, we wanted to share some key information with our school community. This document contains important information for parents/carers as well as students about the return to school process. We would encourage all members of our community to read the information contained carefully to get ready for an exciting year ahead at Penrice Academy.

We hope that all our students had a great summer holiday and are looking forward to their return. There are lots of fantastic opportunities for our students to look out for in the year ahead.

Our new 'The Year Ahead' publication contains all the following:

- Key Dates
- The First Day Back Arrangements
- 23/24 Tutor Groups
- Uniform Reminders
- Equipment Reminders
- Communication with Parents/Carers
- Penrice Plus Sign-up
- Attendance Reminders
- Support and Screening
- Policy Updates
- Ready for September Checklist
- GCSE Results News - Exceptional Achievements

There will be more information about the upcoming term in our second edition of the term ahead parent update. This will have lots of information about what your child will learn and all the things they have to look forward to, so keep an eye out for it in the coming weeks.

Key Dates 23/24

Autumn Term

Term begins for Years 7 & 11
Tue 5th Sep 2023

Years 8, 9 & 10 Return
Wed 6th Sep 2023

Half Term
Mon 16th Oct – Fri 27th Oct 2023

Last day of the term
Fri 15th Dec 2023

Spring Term

All Years Return
Mon 8th Jan 2024

Half Term
Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb 2024

Last day of the term
Thur 28th March 2024

Summer Term

All Years Return
Mon 15th April 2024

Half Term
Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May 2024

Curriculum Enrichment Week
Mon 22nd July - Fri 26th July 2024

Last day of the term
Fri 26th July 2024

The First Day Back - 6th September

We begin the school year on a Week A.
Students should arrive by 8:25am, ready for tutor to begin at 8:30am.

Period	Activity
8:30 - 9:00 Tutor Time	Extended Tutor Time and Assembly
9:00 - 10:15 Period 1	
10:15 - 10:45	Break 1
10:45 - 12:00 Period 2	Normal Period 2
12:00 - 1:15 Period 3	Normal Period 3
1:15 - 1:45	Break 1
1:45 - 3:00 Period 4	Normal Period 4

Year 8 Tutor Groups for 2023-24

Tutor Group	Tutor	Room
8EC	Ms Chandler echandler@penrice.org.uk	S7
8AE	Mr Easterbrook aeasterbrook@penrice.org.uk	T1
8CA (7RJ)	Mrs Ames comes@penrice.org.uk	H8
8PBA	Mx Banfield pbanfield@penrice.org.uk	H7
8JA (7PBR)	Miss Aldridge jaldridge@penrice.org.uk	S2
8RH (7CR)	Mr Hawkes rhawkes@penrice.org.uk	H4
8LK (7SJ)	Mrs King lking@penrice.org.uk	L4
8NM	Miss Mellerup nmellerup@penrice.org.uk	E5
8GW	Mr Winders gwinders@penrice.org.uk	H9
8ZG	Miss Garrod zgarrod@penrice.org.uk	S13

2023-24 Timetables

Students will receive copies of their new timetables during the extended tutor session.

Where is our tutor room?

Some rooms have new numbers. Check carefully!



Uniform - We take pride in our appearance

Black Blazer with School Logo
(Compulsory Item)



Tailored White Long or Short Sleeve Shirt
Not Slim/Skinny Fit
(Compulsory Item)



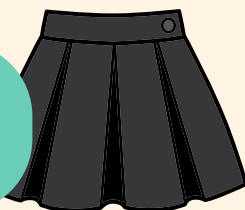
Plain Black Formal Tailored Trousers
Not Slim/Skinny Fit
(Personal Choice Item)



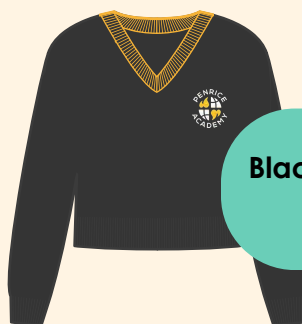
Black and Gold School Tie
(Compulsory Item)



Plain Black Formal Knee-Length Pleated Skirt
Supplied by Cornwall Screenprint
(Personal Choice Item)



Black and Gold Jumper
(Optional Item)



Plain Black Formal Knee-Length Tailored Shorts
Not Slim/Skinny Fit
(Personal Choice Item)



Plain Black Sock
Not Ankle Socks
No Logos
(Compulsory Item)



Black Polishable Formal Shoes
Not Boots or Trainer Style
No Logos
(Compulsory Item)



The uniform policy has examples of shoes that are and are not acceptable

Jewellery **UPDATE**

One watch can be worn, but nothing else on the wrist. No rings or bracelets. No necklaces. No charity bands unless agreed by the school.
**Smart watches are not permitted.*

One pair of small and discreet, plain ear studs are permitted. They can be placed anywhere in the ear. The Academy does not allow any facial or tongue piercings including plastic retainers.

Make-up **UPDATE**

Discreet make-up is permitted in the Academy and discretion is left with the Tutor, Head of Year and Leadership Team. False eyelashes are not permitted. No coloured nail varnish allowed, nor are false or acrylic nails.

Additional Support

We do have allocated funding available to support families in hardship to purchase new uniform items. Please get in contact with Mrs Kirstin Hooper for further assistance:
khooper@penrice.org.uk.



Please Read the Full Uniform Policy on our Website

UPDATE





Pre-Loved

Sell • Swap • Save the Planet

Parents/carers can buy pre-owned uniform via Penrice Pre-Loved. Penrice Pre-Loved is all about giving old uniform and school equipment a new home, re-using perfectly good items and reducing carbon footprint together.

Penrice Pre-Loved is available in the following locations:

- Our in-school Uniform Store (in the Medical Room).
- Online, via a Facebook Marketplace page.

The key difference between the Pre-Loved Uniform Store and the Facebook Marketplace page is that there will be no financial transactions in the Uniform Store.

The Uniform Store will only accept swapping items and donations/drop-offs*, whilst also providing free uniform support to those who need it.

**The Pre-Loved Uniform Store undoubtedly relies on the continued generosity of the Penrice community. Any donations will be gratefully accepted. Please ensure that uniform donations are cleaned and dry before drop off at the school gates.*

Equipment - We come fully prepared to learn



School Bag - All students must bring a school bag.

There are no restrictions on colour or branding.
(Compulsory Item)

A reading book
(you will be able to borrow from the school library)
(Compulsory Item)



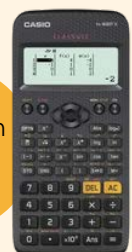
Pencil Case - Containing
Black Pens, Pencils, Ruler, Rubber, Pencil Sharpener and Highlighter(s)
(Compulsory Item)



A refillable water bottle to use through the day
(there are water fountains around school to re-fill your bottle)
(Compulsory Item)

Scientific Calculator
All students require a calculator, they can be purchased from the Penrice Shop
(Compulsory Item)

Recommended Model: Casio fx-83GTX





First PE Lesson

Y8 P Pop Groups:
Friday A P3

Y8 R Pop Groups:
Wednesday A P3

! FIRST DAY!



In the Autumn term we focus on Rugby, Netball, Hockey and Strength and Conditioning. There are lots of exciting clubs, fixtures and activities planned as part of our PE offer.

Bringing PE kit is essential. Check out the list of kit below to make sure you are fully prepared.

All students must bring their PE kit even if they are unable to participate, as they will be expected to take a non-active role in the lesson. Non-participants should bring a note with a reason explaining non-participation.



Penrice Black/Gold Sports Top
Boys and Girls Versions Available
(Compulsory Item)



Penrice Black/Gold Rugby Shirt
Boys PE
(Compulsory Item)



Penrice 1/4 Zip Outdoor Top
(Optional Item)



Penrice Black/Gold Sports Shorts

Our Penrice PE shorts in gold and black are recommended, however generic plain black shorts are also acceptable.



Penrice Black/Gold Sports Skort

Black and gold sports skorts can be worn by girls during PE. Alternatively, girls can wear plain black sports leggings. Wearing both options together is also acceptable.



Plain Black Sport Socks
(Compulsory Item)

Studded boots are required for outdoor rugby and football.

Sports trainers are required for indoor PE lessons, court-based lessons, PE lessons on the astroturf and summer athletics lessons on the field.

Shin pads and gumshields are advised in Football, Hockey and Rugby.

Penrice ^{PLUS}

Find Your Extra

All our Penrice Plus Clubs are completely free for **all** students

FREE



We are delighted to announce that the new online preference form for next term's Penrice Plus is now open. We're asking all parents and carers to sit down with their child(ren) over the summer holidays and pick out some activities they'd like to participate in.

Please **submit your child's preferences by Thursday 31st August** via the relevant online form which can be found on our Penrice Plus webpage, or click the link below.



View the Autumn Term
23 Brochure

SIGN UP



New Year 7 Sign-up Link

SIGN UP



Year 8 to 11 Sign-up Link



Parental Communication

We have a number of mechanisms to communicate with parents and carers. This year we are adding a new platform called Class Charts.



NEW



Class Charts - Parent App



Parents can view their child's attendance, merits and behaviour points. Any detentions a child has will now be recorded through Class Charts.

In **September** details of how to set up your parent account will be shared.



Satchel One - Parent App



Parents can view their child's homework. Homework tasks are set and recorded through Satchel One. Any missed homework activities will be recorded in Satchel One and not Class Charts.



School Gateway - Parent App

This is the platform we use to send communications to parents.



Parent Updates

Our parent updates share key information about the school. They are emailed out or shared via School Gateway.



The Term Ahead

What will your child learn this term? What exciting opportunities are coming up? The term ahead has all the information.



Parent Information Evening

In-person evenings for each year group, with specific and relevant information for you and your child.

Year 8 - Thursday 25th January 2023

SAVE
THE DATE

Progress Reports

Following last year's parent forum we are redesigning our progress reports to help provide information to parents in the best possible format.

NEW

Progress Evenings

Year 8 have two further evening events:

Year 8 Options Evening

Thursday 2nd May

Year 8 Progress Evening

Thursday 9th May

SAVE
THE DATE

Follow us on Social
Media for regular
updates



Parents can email queries at any time to the relevant member of staff or enquiries@penrice.org.uk

Student Support

The Student and Family Centre (SFC)

The Student and Family Centre is part of our Pastoral Support at Penrice Academy. We recognise that for some students, school is not always an easy experience and they may need extra support from our caring staff within the SFC. If a student needs help with making the transition back to school they can always visit the SFC for some additional help. Please email Kirstin Hooper (Student Support Team Leader) khooper@penrice.org.uk



Breakfast Club

8:00am - 8:20am
Mondays - Fridays*



PROUDLY
SPONSORED BY: MCKS

*during term time only



FREE

We run a Breakfast Club every school morning in the canteen where students can enjoy cereal, fruit, yoghurt, breakfast bars and a drink to start the day.

SIGN UP



To sign your child up for our free breakfast club, click the link above.

Screening Tests

Claire Gurd
Deputy Headteacher

At Penrice, we value reading and recognise how reading is of paramount importance, enabling success in all aspects of education and life beyond school. To help support our programme of reading interventions and to enable our teachers to target reading support, we will be conducting screening tests of all our students early in the academic year. These tests will allow us to produce an accurate reading age for your child. We will then identify if they need any additional support, to guarantee that every child leaves our school reading fluently and with accuracy. The screening tests will also help us to identify if your child may require additional SEND support or access arrangements for other assessments.

The tests will take place during the first two weeks of the academic year, during lesson time. Students will be extracted from their lessons in groups to complete the tests online.

The screening test will be accessed using a computer and will last approximately 45 minutes. Please can you reassure your child about the screening and discuss with them the importance of completing the test to the best of their ability so we can calculate an accurate reading age.

Following the screening process, we will contact you to share the results and discuss any possible reading intervention that we recommend for your child.

If you have any questions about screening, please get in touch.

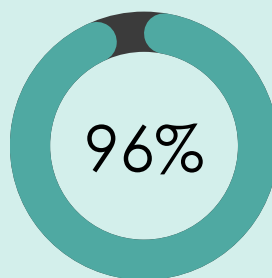
Attendance

Here at Penrice Academy, we recognise the importance of regular and punctual school attendance. We routinely monitor attendance to ensure that all students understand the importance of attendance and feel supported to develop excellent attendance habits. We also love to celebrate excellent attendance through weekly merits, attendance raffles and during celebration assemblies just to name a few.

We do however understand that at times, students are unwell and absence is unavoidable. In this case, we ask that parents/carers contact the school with a reason for absence. In addition, we know that at times, some students struggle to attend school. At Penrice Academy, we pride ourselves on our pastoral care and we will do all we can to remove any barriers that students may have which stops them attending daily whilst ensuring they feel fully supported. If you feel we could do anything more to support your child, please contact the Academy.

To further encourage and support positive attendance, from September, we will be conducting home visits to households where a student is absent for a period of time and we have received no contact from parents/carers to confirm a reason for their absence.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this, in the first instance please contact our Admissions and Attendance Officer, ebennett@penrice.org.uk.



Students who attend school at least 96% of time achieve a grade higher (on average) in every subject they study for GCSE, compared to students with attendance below 90%

A recent study has shown that if a child is absent for one of the first days of the new term, for unauthorised reasons, they are much more likely to miss long periods of their schooling compared to their peers who attended those first days. These children had a predicted overall absence of almost 45%. This shows just how important it is that children are at school, ready to learn, in the first days of the September term. We will be holding a 'Day 1 Attendance Prize Draw' on each year groups first day. There will be a range of great prizes up for grabs. All students need to do to be eligible is be in on the first day! There will be more rewards to look forward to throughout the first few weeks back.

Lots of prizes to be won on the first day back. Just be in school to be eligible to win!

Policy Updates

Each year, Penrice conducts a review of all uniform, behaviour and expectations policies. We would encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with our updated policies for the 2023/24 Academic Year.



**Penrice Uniform Policy
2023/24**



**Penrice Behaviour Policy
2023/24**





PENRICE CANTEEN



Catering at Penrice is provided by Chartwells, and a wide range of options are available including cooked and cold breakfast and lunch items, bakes and desserts. By far the best value option is one of the meal deals. Students with Free School Meal entitlement will have enough on their account each day to purchase one of these meal deals as long as they use their credit to buy all the items as a bundle. The meal deal items if bought individually would add up to around £4.

The daily specials menu and price list will be shared on the school website at the start of term:

<https://www.penriceacademy.org/catering/>

Please note that we operate cashless catering and so students will need to purchase items using credit on their account. We have two payment options available to parents/students – online payments and emergency coin and note payments at the cash machine located in the Canteen. Students will either scan their thumb or enter a 4-digit pin number at the till to purchase items using credit on their account.

LUNCH MEAL DEAL



1 Topping Pasta/
Jacket Potato & Homebake

+ Bottle of Water
or Orange or Apple Kulana
or Viva Milkshake

£2.75



DELI SANDWICH MEAL DEAL



1 filling Sandwich & Homebake

+ Bottle of Water
or Orange or Apple Kulana
or Viva Milkshake

£2.75

MAIN MEAL DEAL



Main meal & Homebake

+ Bottle of Water
or Orange or Apple Kulana
or Viva Milkshake

£2.75



SALAD MEAL DEAL



Salad & Homebake

+ Bottle of Water
or Orange or Apple Kulana
or Viva Milkshake

£2.75



Lockers

Lockers are available to hire for £3 per school year plus £3 deposit for the key (£3 charge for a replacement key if lost).

We have lockers spread across the site but not as many lockers as students so lockers will be offered first to the new Year 7 students before being opened up on ParentPay for Y8-11. Those who already have a locker will be able to extend their hire of that locker for this next academic year - those parents/carers will receive a direct communication to check if you want to renew the locker hire.

Lockers will be made available on Parent Pay to parents/carers of new Y7 from Tuesday 5th September and will then be available for all other years from Mon 18th Sept.

Lockers will be issued on a first come - first served basis until all are spoken for.



September Ready Checklist



Uniform - Check that you have all the uniform you need



Equipment - Check that you have all the equipment you need



Penrice Plus - Complete the sign-up form

Deadline: 31st August



Breakfast Club - Complete the sign-up form

Deadline: 31st August



Tutor Group - Know who your tutor is and where the tutor room is



Policies - Look at our updated policies



Contact Details - Email enquiries@penrice.org.uk if any details have changed



Travel Arrangements - Make sure you know how to get to school on time and how to get home.

- **Morning** - The school is open to students from **8:00am**. Students should arrive no earlier than this and should be on site by **8:25am**.
- **Afternoon** - Parents should note that there is no pick-up from the front of school after school. Please arrange pick-ups away from the school site to allow buses access.

Resilience Leads to Extraordinary GCSE Results

There was heartfelt joy and happiness at Penrice Academy this morning where the Class of 2023 opened their result envelopes surrounded by family, friends and very proud teachers.

The positive relationships forged between students, teachers and parents over five years were visible throughout the morning with the school's Assembly Hall full of congratulatory conversations, words of thanks and sincere best wishes.

At Penrice, English, Maths and Science all scored over 80% Grade 4+, which is over 15% higher than national averages in 2019 (the most recent set of pre-covid results).

Focusing on Science in particular, over 70% of Penrice students secured Grade 7 or above in Biology, Chemistry and Physics – that is 30% higher than the national average in 2019.

The extraordinary results in these core subjects equips our students with the currency they need to move on to the next phase of their education and have every door still open to them.



“

Every single teacher that I had was just phenomenal with their support. When telling my teachers my grades today, they were so so incredibly happy for me!

”

Thalia (Head Girl)

Thalia was overwhelmed by her results, securing almost all Grade 9s! She next heads to Callywith College to study A-Levels of Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Geography.



“

I'm so proud with how I did in Maths; I've always struggled a lot with Maths and to see that I've done well in it is a massive achievement for me.

”

Alfie (Head Boy)

Alfie was also delighted with his results which have secured his place in Truro College. Alfie will begin studying A-Level Geography and Law, and a BTEC in Music Production at Truro College.



“

I'm feeling like I've done really well with my results. When I came to England, I didn't speak the language, but today I feel so proud of myself and what I have achieved. I would like to say thank you to Mrs Thomas who really helped me to settle in at Penrice. And Mr Stokes in Maths also deserves a special mention as I achieved a Grade 8 in that subject!

”

Vara

Vara joined Penrice during Year 10 having fled the war in Ukraine. Despite this extraordinary setback, she has excelled at Penrice and we are all very proud of her!



“

It's been a long journey, I really struggled at times in school – I didn't know where I fitted in, particularly in Year 9. But I reached out and asked for support in the school's Student Family Centre (SFC), in Year 9 and I managed to get a hold of things. It was there that I was introduced to Mrs Sutcliffe and she has been there for me ever since, no matter what. She has genuinely been incredible!

”

Lacey

Lacey was extremely delighted after achieving the highest mark possible in Engineering (a Level 2 Distinction). She was also over the moon after opening her envelope to see a Grade 8 in English Language.



Pride

Respect

Success