



**Lucy Gambier**  
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back via this first Parent Update of the academic year! We hope that you and your family had a memorable and restful summer break – it was wonderful to see so many happy faces walking through the school gates during the first days back wearing super-smart uniform.

### What's in this Update?

We're only two weeks into term and there is already plenty to share in this Parent Update including the introduction of our new Head Students, news of our upcoming open evening, a gold music enrichment award and news of our extraordinary August GCSE results!

### Year 7 Parent Information Evening

Last night we welcomed Year 7 families into Penrice for a Parent Information Evening, sharing key information such as the Year 7 curriculum, various school apps, enrichment opportunities and so much more. It was a pleasure to talk in

person to so many of you, sharing your enthusiasm for the start of the Penrice journey and all the opportunities that lay ahead for your child. We look forward to working with you over the next five years and to building strong teacher-parent relationships that benefit the children in our care.

### Class of 2023 GCSE Results

But as many new journeys begin, I'd like to take this moment to look back at the Class of 2023's achievements following the release of their GCSE results on Thursday 24th August. There were so many families gathered in the Assembly Hall on the morning – more than we can ever remember for a results day, and the sense of community was clear to see with so many tears of joy and heartfelt 'thank you's'.

Whilst we believe that there is so much more to a successful education than grades, you will share our pride in knowing that Penrice students continue to excel. The Class of 2023's outcomes matched the exceptional success of the Class of 2022 which placed our students as the number one state school in Cornwall for Progress and Attainment. We will be sure to take a look at the final national and county GCSE data when it is released later in the year.

- Lucy Gambier



[GCSE Results Day 2023  
Full Story](#)





**Mr Dean Darbourne**  
Head of Year 7

We wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for your attendance at the Year 7 Information Evening. Your support means a lot to us as we embark on this journey with your children. We are thrilled to report that Year 7 has started off exceptionally well. Their uniform looks amazing, they are polite and kind; they are a real credit to you as parents.

The students have shown great enthusiasm for learning, and their commitment to adapting to the new school year has been commendable. Their energy and curiosity in the classroom has been truly inspiring.

A reminder from the Information Evening - we kindly request your assistance in encouraging students to manage their lunch money wisely. This will help them develop important budgeting skills and ensure they have a balanced and nutritious meal each day.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in your child's education. We are excited about the potential of Year 7 and look forward to seeing your child's continued growth and success. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can make this school year a fantastic one for our Year 7 students!



## OPEN EVENT

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**  
**4:30pm - 7:30pm**

Find out more:  
[penriceacademy.org/open-event](https://penriceacademy.org/open-event)



**Mrs Donna McGrath**  
First Aid Instructor

As we continue this academic year, we kindly request your assistance in reminding your children to bring their water bottles to school.

Staying hydrated is crucial for their overall well-being and concentration during lessons. Free refill stations exist around the school so that students can top up their bottles before school and during break and lunch.

### SNOWBOARDING OPPORTUNITY



Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have a place on our Snowboarding trip to Austria during the first week of the Easter holidays in 2024.

If any student from Year 8-11 is interested, please see Mr Thomas. Alternatively, parents are welcome to phone in for more details.



### NEW HEAD STUDENTS

## OWEN & BETHANY

As we start a new academic year, we are delighted to share news of our newly appointed Head Students. Introducing Owen and Bethany!

We wish the pair all the best in the new role. We know that you will both be fantastic role models for the Penrice community.





*Award presented by Mrs Angela Renshaw, Vocal Strategy Lead at ASONE*

## Penrice Strikes Gold with Music Enrichment Award

We are delighted to share that Penrice has been awarded Gold as part of the Cornish Singing Schools Awards 2023 by ASONE Music Hub.

The Cornish Singing Schools Award is a programme that promotes singing across all educational institutions in Cornwall and measures commitment to developing and encouraging youth singing.

Penrice was one of only two secondary schools in Cornwall to achieve the top gold award, with Penryn College being the other secondary to claim the accolade.

Schools accrued points towards the award based on their engagement with activities such as Songfest and the Big Sing, and by inviting professionals into school to work with and encourage singing amongst young people.



*Carol Singing at Par Market 2022*



*Students Outside The Hall for Cornwall at 'The Big Sing' in 2023*

**Penrice** PLUS  
Find Your Extra

Penrice Plus activities started this week on Wednesday 13th September with Arts, Wellbeing, Sports and Academic clubs all taking place. Penrice sports teams have already been training and fixtures commenced this week with various matches against Penryn College.

We have a fantastic range of activities for our students to get involved in over the term. Watch this space for updates on activities, fixtures and match results!

PLUS



**Mr Paul Johnson**  
Head of Year 8

### Year 8 Update

I hope that you had an enjoyable summer – it has been great to welcome the students back as Year 8s. I've been really pleased with the step-up in maturity and have had lots of staff commenting on how impressed they are with the year group's start to the year.

Our focus this year is Taking Opportunities. Students have the chance to try so much at school but need to be responsible for taking these chances and not always waiting for somebody to ask them or tell them they should do it. With the Options process coming later this year, please can you encourage them to be show bravery, courage and desire in stepping up.

Please continue to use your child's tutor as the first point of contact for general enquiries such as homework and clubs. This year our year group is being supported by Mrs Stevenson as our Pastoral Support Mentor (PSM) based in the Student Family Centre. Each week in assembly, I signpost Year 8 to all of the different support that is available to them in school. I'd also like to welcome Miss Archer who is Assistant Head of Year 8!

There were so many amazing achievements in the year group last year. I know about most of those from in school but need your help to celebrate the fantastic successes that take place outside of school. Any clubs, organisations, competitions, matches, meets, representations (the list could go on!) then please email me so I can celebrate them in assembly. If you have any pictures or video then that's even better.

The upcoming Year 8 Information Evening on Thursday 9th November is a date to save when you will be invited to come to school to explore how we can work together in supporting your child this year.



## YEAR 11 SAVE THE DATE

A Year 11 Progress Evening is taking place on Thursday 28 September. This is an in-person event.

A letter with details regarding booking appointments will be out next week.



# ClassCharts

Part of **tes**



**Mr Carl Foster**  
Deputy Headteacher –  
Behaviour and Attendance

### Introducing Class Charts

Penrice Academy has introduced an online system called Class Charts. This system will be used to monitor the progress of your child and track attendance, merits and behaviour.

'Priority 1' parents and carers with email addresses registered on our database will have received log in details on Wednesday afternoon. If you have not yet seen this email, please check your 'Junk' folder in the first instance.

If you download the Class Charts app or log onto the website via the internet, you will be able to see your child's progress and effectively monitor their attendance and behaviour points. In the coming weeks, we will also be issuing logins to all students so that they can also monitor their progress.

We hope that by using Class Charts, you will receive ongoing communication and progress updates from the Academy. Find below a support booklet that will give your further information of how to use Class Charts. Please note that Homework will continue to be set on Satchel One.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

If there are any other priority contacts in your family who should receive important communications like Class Charts logins and failed to do so on Wednesday, you may need to make updates to the contact details we hold. Please email [enquiries@penrice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@penrice.org.uk) to arrange this.

**Class Charts Help Guide**  
(PDF: 1.54MB)







**Mr Laurie Goodlad**

Assistant Headteacher Director of Arts and Technology

**Ingredients for Food, Hospitality & Catering Lessons**

Learning how to cook with fresh, seasonal ingredients is a skill that will serve our students for a lifetime. Not only do we want our students to learn how to live healthy lifestyles, but we also want them to be confident in the kitchen so that they can provide for themselves and their families, both now and in the future.

Our Food & Nutrition lessons are an integral part of our curriculum and provide students with these opportunities. We expect students to provide ingredients for each recipe given to them, and a suitable container to transport their food home. The behaviour policy will be applied for missing equipment if students are not prepared for their practical Food & Nutrition lessons.

We recognise that the additional cost of purchasing ingredients for Food & Nutrition lessons in Years 7 and 8, or Hospitality & Catering lessons in

Years 9, 10 and 11, can be challenging for many families and we are keen to ensure that the cost of ingredients is not a barrier to participation in these practical lessons.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, ingredients will automatically be supplied by the school and there is nothing further for you to do.

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, 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](#).

**Year 7 Excel at Summer Challenge**



**MR DARBOURNE, HEAD OF YEAR 7**

“We received some wonderful photos over the holidays from our new Year 7s who fully embraced the Summer Challenge!

It was great to share the photos in assemblies and at Thursday’s Year 7 Parents’ Evening.

Here are just a few highlights including home baking, reading to a pet, and our ‘Extreme Reader’ competition!”

