



Penicuik High School Parent E Newsletter Issue 9







scottish credit and
qualifications framework



KINDNESS



INCLUSION



DETERMINATION



RESPECT

Our new school values

As part of our work towards achieving our Gold Rights Respecting Schools award, we have been reviewing our school ethos. Earlier in the year we established our new vision statement for Penicuik High School. *“At Penicuik High School we aim to create a caring community where everyone is respected, included, treated with kindness, and feels safe. We believe in nurturing*

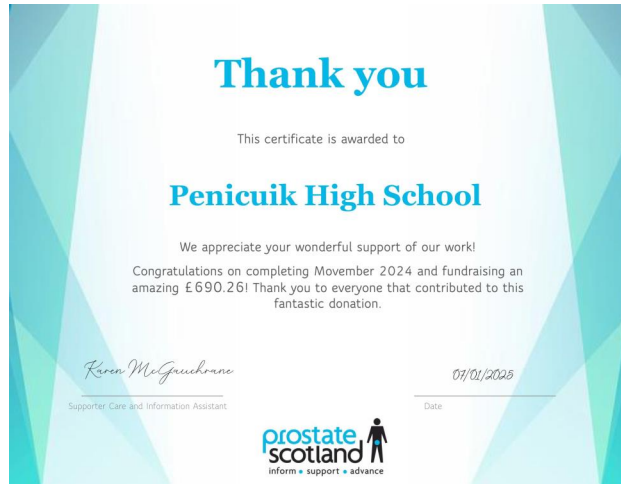
a learning environment that strives for excellence, values diversity, promotes dignity and encourages personal growth, preparing students to succeed in a connected world.” As part of this review, we have also revisited our school values. Our PRIDE values have served us well over the years, but it was felt that a refresh was needed. After consulting staff and student groups we believe that Kindness, Inclusion, Determination and Respect will help us achieve our vision for Penicuik High School and serve our community over the coming years. The next stage of the review is to take both the vision and values and incorporate them into our new relationships and behavior policy.

A message from Mr Dewar Depute Headteacher

Senior Phase Course Choice update

We are about to enter a very important time for our current S3 - S6 students as they start to consider and make their choices for next session as they move in to S4 - S6. The course choice information is now live on the school website and all information will also be shared with students at a coursing assembly this week. Every student making their choices will receive a 1:1 course choice interview with their guidance teacher or a member of SLT. Please encourage your child to use all the information available to them to make an informed choice and the right choice for them.





Letter from Prostate Scotland to PHS

Mr Craig Biddick (Head Teacher) Penicuik High School

39a Carlops Road Penicuik Midlothian

EH26 9EP

7th January 2025

Dear Mr Biddick

I am writing on behalf of Prostate Scotland to thank the staff at Penicuik High School for taking part in Movember and fundraising a fantastic £690.26! This is such a generous donation, and it was so very kind of you to think of us. Where possible, please pass our thanks to everyone that took part and to the students that so kindly contributed to this amount.

Your fundraising will directly help towards developing a range of services to help men across Scotland.



Calling all parents and carers, could you help out at one of our school events?

Future Pathways

On **Thursday 6th Feb, 8.40am - 11.15am**, we will be holding our annual S3 '**Future Pathways**' event. This highly successful morning allows our students to talk to wide range of people about their job, how they ended up doing this role and giving some thought to interview questions that may be relevant if applying for a job in this sector. This is done in a 'speed networking' approach with small students groups moving around and having 5 or so minutes with each speaker. Overall we would be looking for approximately 20 different speakers from all kind of businesses and industries. There is no formal presentation just a willingness to chat!

We are looking for parent volunteers who would be happy to come and speak about their job and be part of this hugely enjoyable morning. Its is loud and busy but it is a brilliant way of exposing our S3s to the variety of roles available to them once they leave school.

Dragons Den

In January our S1's are beginning a topic on Entrepreneurship, learning what it means to be an Entrepreneur or Business Owner and will culminate in the students forming their own mini companies and pitching to a panels of 'Dragons' similar to the Dragons Den we know well from TV. We do have some excellent people already confirmed but would love to add to that **specifically anyone who does arts or crafts or makes things that maybe you sell at local craft fairs**. The times we would ask you to visit are;

Thursday 30th January 9.30am - 10.20am We will have 4 or 5 Dragons and students will move around each 'Dragon' for a quick 10 min chat about your business, how you set yourself up, your careers aspirations when you were at school, challenges of running a business etc You won't be speaking in front of a whole class, its will be informal and chatty.

Thursday 3rd April 9.30am - 10.20am The Dragons Den. Students will pitch their ideas and you will be able to offer feedback. This will be very positive and supportive environment.

We do not expect any kind of formal presentation, you can bring products, examples, posters if you have them but really we just need yourselves and your enthusiasm! The purpose of this topic is to make the possibility of owning their own business more real option to the students and will hopefully inspire them to start to consider what they could achieve.

If you can help with either of these events please contact Hazel Jobson at h.jobson@midlothian.education



This free, in-person recruitment event is a fantastic opportunity for school pupils, college leavers, and parents/carers to explore apprenticeship opportunities with some of our valued partner employers, including Balfour Beatty, Forrit Technology Ltd, BEAR Scotland, and EMA Architecture + Design Ltd.

- **Date:** Thursday, 27th February
- **Time:** 17:15 – 19:00
- **Location:** [Edinburgh Napier University Craiglockhart Campus](#)

At this event, you will have the chance to meet employers who are recruiting Graduate Apprentices in 2025 and explore the benefits of Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships. Exhibitors will include HR professionals, senior managers, and current and former Graduate Apprentices, offering valuable insights and advice about apprenticeships.

We're also thrilled to have Kelly Dawson and Bernie Critchley, our Careers Development Consultants, on hand to provide expert support. Whether you need guidance on CV writing, cover letters, interviews, or assessment centre preparation, they'll be available to help answer your questions.

This event is a valuable opportunity for pupils, parents, and carers alike. Whether you're actively considering apprenticeships as a career route or simply curious to learn more, there's something here for everyone.

To secure your place, please register your attendance by completing the registration form via the link below before 17th February 2025.

[Register Here](#)



Free Study Support from e-Sgoil

Registration for the 2024/25 National e-Learning Offer Evening Study Support programme is now open. This Scottish Government funded provision is focussed on delivering equitable access to all Senior Phase learners and is completely free. Students will need their Glow login and password to access. Students should see their guidance teacher if they have lost their details.

Study Support comprises live, interactive webinars and are delivered by experienced, GTCS registered teachers. In excess of 50 different webinars are on offer each week during term time, covering the most popular curricular areas as well as an extensive range of other subjects.

Link - <https://e-sgoil.com/senior-phase/study-support/#FAQs>



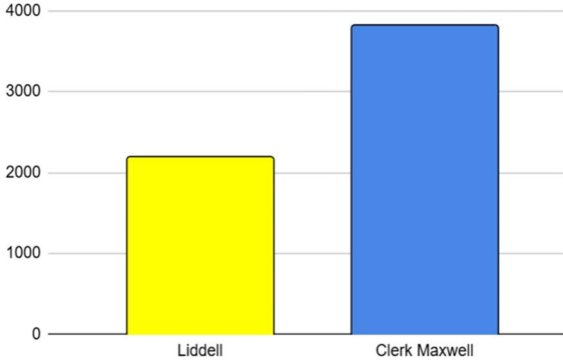
50/50 Club

Do you want to be in on a chance to win some cash... and help us raise funds for our Parent Partnership at the same time? Sign up to our 50/50 Club for £5 per month (multiple entries allowed) via this online form.

<https://forms.gle/uxkWKo4racL4Krym9>

We give out 50% of the entries to one monthly winner and keep 50% towards fundraising. This helps us support things like prize giving, uniform costs, hygiene products, and hopefully some families with the cost of trips.

HOUSE POINTS



NEW CLUBS!

New S2/3 Lunchtime Basketball

Club Starting Monday 20th January

Games Hall 1.15pm - 1.40pm

ALSO

Wednesday Badminton will now also include Pickleball as well



- **Monday Lunchtime**
- S1-2 PHS Swifties (Mrs Sneddon, room 45)
- Debate club (Miss Astor) room 42
- Burnt Out Records (Music Dept The Hub)
- BGE Science Homework Help
- Basketball S2/3 (Games Hall)

Monday After School

- Spin (Miss McShannon)
- Senior Vocal Group (Mrs McIntosh room 4)
- Chemistry N5 and AH

Tuesday Lunchtime

- Eco Schools (Mr Johnston)
- S1-2 Maths homework (Mr Knox)

- S1-S2 Indoor Football(Mr Hogg)
- Creative Writing Group (Ms Henderson)
- Wind Band(Mr Walker)
- Percussion Group (Ms Waddell)
- Guitar Group (Mr Mcleod)

Tuesday After School

- S1-3 Netball (Miss McShannon)
- Modern Languages Homework Club Mrs McEvoy's Room

Wednesday Lunchtime

- LGBTQ+ and Allies (Miss Graham)
- Young Carers (Mr Milligen - fortnightly)
- S1-S6 Badminton and Pickleball (Miss Gungui)
- Rights Respecting school (Mr Murphy)
- STEM club (Ms Forbes room 49)
- Jazz Band(Mrs MacRae)
- String Group (Miss Dance)

Wednesday After School

- S4-6 Basketball (Mr Witton)
- Book & Biscuits (Ms Henderson Reading Room)
- Dyslexia homework Support group (Mrs Wood, room 5)

Thursday Lunchtime

- S6 Indoor Football (Mr Hunter)
- Junior Vocal Group (Miss Hamilton rm 3)

Thursday After School

- S1-S6 Songwriters club (Mr Murphy)



The annual PHS Christmas Hampers were a huge success again this festive season. An incredible amount of items were donated and distributed to those in need. Well done to all who donated and/or helped with the making up of the hampers.

Congratulations

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS



On Sunday 15th December, Scottish Rugby hosted their National Youth Cup Finals weekend at Murrayfield, with boys and girls teams from all across Scotland competing in the U16 and U18 National Cup & Shield finals.

Current PHS pupil, Gregor Ritson (S5), along with former pupil Cameron Wilson, were playing for Boroughmuir in the U16 Cup Final, winning a tense and exciting game 20-15, against Currie.

Lewis Carter (S6) was playing for Peebles in the U18 Shield Final. Peebles also won their game, 40-33 over West of Scotland.

All 3 boys started their rugby journey at Penicuik and it's a testament to the coaching and encouragement they received at the rugby club and through the school, that they have achieved so much.



A huge congratulations to the following S3 pupils who have made it to the YPI final. In March they will present their pitches to judges who will decide on one of the following to win £3000 for their chosen charity.

Change Mental Health - 3L2

Seun, Abbie, Grace, Aaron, Sam, Joe

Simba - 3L2

Olivia, Olivia, Carla, Beth, Ellie

STAND International - 3L4

Atanas, Alex, Alistair, Christopher, Josh

VOCAL - 3C3

Struan, Andrew, Dominic, Finlay

Bright Sparks - 3C3

Maya, Nicole

When You Wish Upon A Star - 3C5

Rheia, Lily, Erryn, Lily

Cancer Card - 3C5

Rose, Connor, Euan

The YPI final will take place in the assembly hall on Thursday 13 March 2025.



Homework of the week winners from the end of last term.

Josh Wilson-Oosterhoff 1P5

Louis McCall 1P1

Molly Neil 1P1



*It is accurate
*It fills the
page
*Work on the
shading





RRS definitions

Dignity

This means every single one of us has value as a human being and that should be respected.

Pupil praise



FAO Headmaster

Good morning

I am currently a school crossing guide (lollipop staff) with the responsibility of crossing children at the road outside the Roadhouse public house. A lot of negativity often surrounds today's children but I would like to put on record I have found your pupils to be polite with all but a few saying thank you when crossing. It is really appreciated on these cold dark mornings. Not sure if you still have assemblies or indeed newsletters but can you ensure that their politeness has not gone unnoticed.

Best wishes moving forwards

John Blain