



Penicuik High School Parental E
Newsletter Issue 12







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 behaviour policy.

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of our newsletter..



Dear Parent / Carer

As the days get lighter and the weather warmer, I start to realise we are getting closer to summer. At the same time, I also realise staff are going into overdrive to encourage and support young people to pass exams and fulfill their potential. Our exams results in the last few years are satisfactory – but they could be better. The raw potential and talent of our young people is often there and we know that many cope well with course work at the time and show their understanding of taught material. So what goes wrong? The missing ingredient for a number of young people is they do not review work in an efficient and rigorous way so can't remember factual or procedural knowledge in the exam. This means despite having the ability to pass they do not play the game properly and can't prove it. The research is clear – consistent retrieval of knowledge strengthens memory and leads to security of learning. Students need to work logically through the course material and practice answering exam type questions. When they can't answer those questions they need to look for extra support from staff and/or some of our effective revision sites such as ACHIEVE. Please encourage and support your child to come to study support and immersion classes over coming weeks and work with them to organise a study programme. Importantly, support is also available if they are stressed and anxious. There is always a balance to strike between challenge and support. We are committed to supporting all young people through this year's diet.

Kind regards

Craig



YPI Final

On Thursday 13 March we have our Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) final. S3 pupils who made it through to the final have spent the last few months preparing for it in the hope of securing the £3000 grant for their chosen charity. The charities represented this year are:

Cancer Card -

When You Wish Upon A Star -

Change Mental Health -

Bright Sparks - <https://brightsparkspg.org/>

STAND International -

VOCAL -

SiMBA -

S2 pupils will form the audience for the final, and will see first-hand the hard work put in by our finalists. Best of luck to all involved! Watch this space where the winners will be announced in next week's newsletter!



DYW in support of Skills Development Scotland Apprenticeship week have put together a booklet featuring details of Apprenticeship routes, events and LIVE apprenticeship vacancies. These can be accessed by the link or the QR code. Use either link to access but please note that some Youtube videos may not be viewable on school chrome books. Please use QR code to access from a personal device if required.

https://read.bookcreator.com/zrxfZY05hrMzQhKiyarVpUkJbn82/aoQt5MyxSAy1AJFS_ODJqQ/ISLdYMkKSdajD7ChFO8Uew



Apprenticeship Week 2025

Caroline Rosie

Forest & Outdoor Leadership Awards



Our FOLA group are currently completing their outdoor learning award. Each week they do a litter pick of the Penicuik area and recently they asked the public what areas of Penicuik needed cleaning up and the response they received was amazing. They started with Bellman's Hill leading up to Cuiken Primary and managed to fill 2 bags full of litter!

Well done to our FOLA group.



Hold Fast Challenge - <https://www.holdfastchallenge.com/> Some S2-S3 students will get the opportunity to take part in this challenge in May. In order to be considered for a place we need to see a high level of participation and effort from you during PE lessons and you need to be exemplifying our school values in all subjects. A reminder these are; Kindness, Inclusion, Determination and Respect!



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.

Student leader Instagram QR code

Scan the code to see and keep up to date on what our senior pupils have been doing around PHS



PHS 180 DART CLUB IS GO





If anyone has an old dart board they no longer want/use and are willing to donate it our dart club would love a second board!



The school has another Rag Bag collection this coming Tuesday, 11th March. If you have any unwanted clothing items you wish to go to a good cause please send them into school on Monday.

We greatly appreciate all your donations.

Many thanks,

Eco Schools team

Cheer leading - Stella's Army Penicuik



A group of our students who compete with Stella's Army Cheer leading Team came in second at the SOAR competition at Meadowbank Edinburgh on 1st/2nd March 2025 with only two points between them and 1st place! A brilliant effort. Stella's Army is a local cheer leading team who remember the coach's sister and ex PHS Pupil Stella Anderson who sadly passed away from cancer 8 years ago at the age of 17. It is the girls second season as cheerleaders and they say they could not be prouder of their achievements so far. Olivia tells us "We went to SOAR limitless and came second place out of many amazing and experienced teams! We have a few more competitions this season and we can't wait to smash it again!"

The cheer leading pupils are -

Olivia Loughran

Rheia Black

Abbie Rennie

Erryn Anderson

Freya Armitage

Lily Millar

Neve McEwan

Nicole Connachan

Our congratulations to all the team.







For the Bronze DofE we have Navigation training this Friday and First Aid/ Tents again the following Friday. Bronze and Silver participants should be working on volunteering, physical and skill sections. Evidence should be added to eDofE accounts. Any problems - come and see Mr Merson after school on Wednesday or Thursday or catch me during the day if it is a quick question.



- **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 S1/2/3 (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)
- Scripture Union (Rm 13)
- 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)

- Darts Club Old Gym Hall

Thursday After School

- S1-S6 Songwriters club (Mr Murphy)



RRS definitions

Social Justice

This means that duty bearers should remove barriers to help you achieve your potential.

A Rights are for ALL children. UNIVERSAL	B Rights are there at BIRTH. INHERENT	C Rights CANNOT be taken away. INALIENABLE	D Rights DO NOT have to be earned. UNCONDITIONAL	E All rights are EQUALLY important. INDIVISIBLE
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The ABCDE of Children's Rights show us the nature of your Rights. You have Rights and that they cannot be taken away from you.

The Scottish Government have written your Rights into Scottish Law. It is important that you can speak to an adult (duty bearer) if you feel that your Rights are not being met.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY[®]
6 MARCH 2025

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>

The above link will take you to a free book token, Tesco Penicuik usually have the free books but it also can be used for money off any book. They are available from World Book day 6/03/25.

International Women's Day 08/03/25



Standing in solidarity with women everywhere