



# Penicuik High School Parental E Newsletter Issue 2







scottish credit and  
qualifications framework



Welcome to our latest e - newsletter

## Our new school values



KINDNESS



INCLUSION



DETERMINATION



RESPECT

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 continue like the new format and design? Feedback would be appreciated [penicuik\\_hs@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:penicuik_hs@midlothian.gov.uk) with the subject "Newsletter"

Some of our feedback has been on how to best view a Sway presentation. We hope the following guide helps with you getting the best view for yourself and the device you are using.

## Navigate to different sections in the Sway

When you open a Sway you will see the navigate button on the bottom right of the screen.

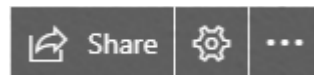
The navigation menu accessed via this button



allows you to explore an overview of the Sway based on headings alongside thumbnails of the section background images.

### Customised views

The menu on the top right of the Sway provides options for customising how the content is presented.



Click on the **cog wheel** to open the layout and play options. This allows you to change the layout for scrolling to either vertical or horizontal. You can also turn off animations from this menu. Sway provides an autoplay feature to loop the content continuously.

By clicking on the **3 dots** on the top right of the Sway more options are available these include **Accessibility View**, **Export** and **Print**.

### The Accessibility View

Sway [Accessibility mode](#) will present a non-interactive view of the presentation that is readable by screen readers online. In accessibility view the colour scheme is changed to black and white for high contrast and the layout presented vertically. The layout is also simplified with grouped images presented separately and animation removed to avoid distractions.

### Search a Sway

A useful feature that is activated in Accessibility view is **Find** this provides a **Search** box for you to search the text content of the Sway.

### Export as PDF and Word

Sway provides the option to convert to PDF and Word for downloading. In converting the content the layout is similar to Accessibility view with vertical layout and grouped media presented on separate pages. Content can be edited in Word to adjust the font, presentation and layout.

**Print** mode will convert the Sway into PDF for printing. If the layout is not satisfactory try converting to Word before printing.

## A message from Mr Biddick Headteacher



It is hard to believe are three weeks in already and summer holidays seem a distant memory but students have settled well into school and a lot is already happening. We now have a student e-bulletin alongside the parent version and it was great to see the wide number of extra-curricular activities across both sporting and cultural areas in the draft. We hope students will engage in these activities and we will track participation in wider achievement activities in and out of school to look at equity and any delivery gaps. During this session it is planned to put in place a tiered internal award system to recognise what young people are achieving. Finally, it is exciting to see forward planning starting for an S4-6 Italy trip as well as curriculum linked trips in Social Science and English. Education outside the classroom is important for all young people. I hope the sun continues to shine in coming week.

Best wishes Craig



S3 Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) S3 pupils in core RMPS have begun the YPI process for this session. Pupils have formed teams already and are researching social issues that they feel passionate about, and the impact of them on the local area. Teams will soon visit and interview a local charity linked to their social issue. Teams will then create presentations to pitch to judges at our in school YPI final, with the successful team winning £3000 for their chosen charity. Best of luck to all S3 pupils!

Laura Graham PT RMPS

**PHS  
SUPPORT  
AND  
INCLUSION**

## Support and Inclusion

We have been enjoying getting to know our new S1 students who are settling in well and accessing support in class as needed. Our subject teachers work hard to have inclusive classrooms with differentiated and adapted learning for students however, in some lessons there will also be learning assistants to offer additional support for any students who require it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our S6 Students who did a fantastic job being our S1 guides for the transition visit and during their first week in S1. Although their official duties are over, many are still doing a fantastic job supporting some of our S1 students who need a little bit of extra reassurance.

Our S1 students are about to sit their GL assessments in English and Maths. This allows us to see where the students are with their learning and allows us to put interventions in place if required. This is not something the students can study for and will take place over several English and Maths periods in the next few weeks.

We are beginning our Read Write training sessions again in the Support and Inclusion department. We will be focusing on S1 and our senior students. However, if you have a young person with additional support needs who you think would benefit from some additional training or who missed out on the Read Write training last year then please get in touch with your young person's guidance teacher or Mrs Wood who will add their names to the waiting list, please note priority will go to our senior students who will be sitting National and Higher qualifications this year.

*Leigh Wood* PT Support and Inclusion



Welcome,  
New Teachers!  
+ Support Staff!



## An introduction to new staff



### Hello I'm Rhona Forbes NQT Biology

I'm not from around here but my horses live just outside Howgate so I am quite familiar with Penicuik. I became a Biology teacher at the University of Edinburgh after studying Applied Animal Science at SRUC. I decided to study there because of my horses and I have a keen agricultural interest. I also do volunteering with Pony Club and Young Farmers which pointed me toward working and helping young people. I hope to support all students who enter my classroom and aid them in their educational and extracurricular lives.

*Nicole Giorgi*



*New Computing Science teacher, joined August 2024. I have previously worked as a software developer for about ten years, before deciding to retrain as a teacher, getting my diploma in education from the University of Strathclyde in June 2024. I am a resident of Midlothian and have been living there for a little more than 7 years and I'm happy to join the high school as I'm really keen to support the local young people into positive destinations.*



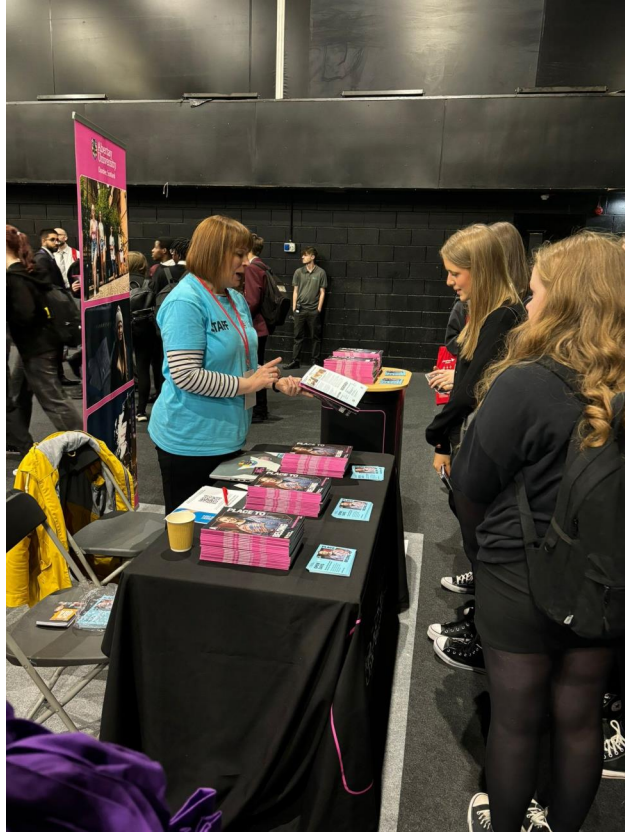
In Support and Inclusion we have been delighted to welcome 3 new learning assistants, Mrs Partridge, Mrs Russam and Miss Ross. Mrs Partridge joins us as a permanent full time member of staff. Mrs Russam joins us as a permanent part time member of staff, she will work 3 days in the department and 2 days in the school office and Miss Ross has joined us on a temporary contract to cover Mrs Taylor's maternity leave. We wish Mrs Taylor all the best and look forward to meeting baby Taylor very soon. Mrs Wood.

This thread will continue in the next issue.

Edinburgh UCAS Exhibition 2024 3 September 2024 Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh



This was the perfect opportunity to meet unis, ask questions, speak to subject experts, and compare courses ahead of the application deadline. Our S5 and S6 cohorts attended the event.









**Save the Date! Thursday 21st November, 6pm-8pm, Careers Fair at Penicuik High School. We will have representatives from all the major Universities, local colleges and a range of employers, some of whom will have active apprenticeship opportunities. This is open to all students from S2 upwards as well as parents and carers.**

## Expedition



The Silver D of E group has their Assessed Expedition next week so will be out of school from Monday to Wednesday walking in the Scottish Borders around Yetholm. Day 2 involves part of the Southern Upland Way along the border with England but no passports will be required.

## S4 Construction Skills



My S4 Construction Skills class had a day today with two bricklayers from 'P&M Sinclair' - a local building company. This was a fantastic day for them from which they have gained a great deal of knowledge and experience plus the opportunity to ask lots of questions about the building industry. This was a very worthwhile day in the sunshine thank goodness. Mr Merson



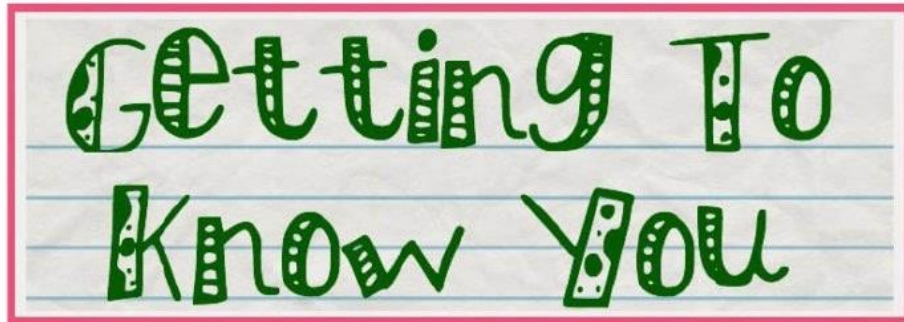


## Penicuik High School Senior Awards 5/09/2024



Last night we recognised academic and wider successes of our 2023-24 senior students. The evening was a wonderful celebration of many of our young people and it was great to see so many students attend with family and friends. The evening was hosted by our current School Captains, Caitlin Murray and Annabelle Proctor, who both did a wonderful job and were joined by Cal Hind, one of last session's School Captains. Cal, as ever, added humour and shared good advice in his speech. We were also treated to superb musical pieces by Andrew Moffat on Piano and Felix Boyle on Trumpet – both are truly talented musicians. Congratulations to all of our award winners – we are all very proud of you.

An ongoing series of staff surveys



This time in the hot seat is Mr Alistair Proctor our PT Science

Q. Any previous jobs?

A. Newspaper round, Crisp Run (reselling multi pack crisps in curated flavour combinations!), I also worked at Sainsbury's and had a lab job too

Q. Favourite thing about your job?

A. Knowing all the students and families, being a part of the community

Q. Favourite musician/band?

A. Bon Jovi, The Killers, Avicii

Q. Any pets?

A. A dog, Archie who's a Vizla and is very energetic!

Q. Favourite subjects when at school?

A. Chemistry, Physics, PE, History. I didn't like music though, because of the way it was delivered.

Q. Favourite book?

A. Textbooks, practical stuff.

Q. Favourite film??

A. Chariots of Fire.