



Penicuik High School Parental E  
Newsletter Issue 3







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.

### A message from Mr Biddick Headteacher



I trust that your family enjoyed the September break last weekend and the 'summer like' conditions of Monday were certainly a bonus.

We are continuing to evolve our Sway newsletter format and ensure information contained in it is useful and informative and welcome feedback any time.

Over the last few weeks it has been great to see the young people in school make useful suggestions about extracurricular activities to run this session and we will be encouraging all students to try and engage in something outside of learning in the classroom to extend themselves and build friendships.

During this session we will be introducing an internal school award at S1-3 for wider achievement that celebrates young people's involvement in and out of school. Alongside

this we will be analysing the levels of involvement and equity for all young people to ensure we are maximising the wider curriculum.

If you have any ideas around that please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards

Craig.



**Midlothian's Secondary Learners' Conference**

On Thursday 5th September 11 students represented Penicuik High School at the Secondary Learners' Conference. The theme of the conference was 'Learn to Learn'; the students worked together with others from different high schools to share their views and opinions on learning in school, feeling safe in school and their rights as a child in the education system in Scotland. The information collected will be used to influence Midlothian Council's policy work.

Midlothian Council Quality Improvement Managers and Officers ran the event and were quick to comment on how insightful, polite and attentive our students were. They are a credit to Penicuik High School - we are proud to have them as part of our community.



Parent Partnership meeting dates:

Thurs 26 September is the next meeting date.

Wed 4 December, Thurs 13 March, Wed 11 June are dates for the rest of the year.

Unless stated, meetings start at 6.30pm and held in person at school. This is an opportunity for you, as parents and carers, to hear more about what's happening across the school, raise issues

and ask questions. There will also be smaller meetings for the Parent Partnership committee members. If you're interested in becoming a committee member, or would like to find out more, please get in touch with Pauline Kerr [paulinemkerr71@googlemail.com](mailto:paulinemkerr71@googlemail.com) or join our Facebook page - Penicuik High School Parents Association



### **DYW Roadshow - Wednesday 2nd October**

The DYW Roadshow will take place at Meadowbank Sports Centre on Wednesday 2nd October this year. S4 - S6 students are invited to attend to find out about various career pathways and post school options. The Roadshow will feature a range of organisations from key sectors across Edinburgh, Mid and East Lothian, many of which will have live jobs. Students will be able to gather information about further and higher education courses, apprenticeships, training/volunteering opportunities and employment. Parental permission forms should be returned to Mrs Brandie in the Guidance Base.



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



Hello! My name is Chloe Henderson I'm one of the new English teachers. My favourite thing is a cup of tea and a good book. I can be found in Room 47 and look forward to getting to know everyone! I run a Creative Writing Group at lunchtimes on Tuesday lunchtimes and a Book and Biscuits group (read and have snacks) after school on Wednesdays.

### *Nicola Mowat RMPS*



**Ms Nicky Mowat interviewed by our in house team**

**Ms Mowat did probation year at Penicuik High School 10 years ago! After spending time teaching in West Lothian she's back because she knows Penicuik High School is the place to be. She says that she loves RMPS and that it's her favourite subject to teach. Pupils claim she is an excellent teacher who never fails to make them feel engaged.**



**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.**





- **Monday Lunchtime**
- **S3-4 Indoor Football (Miss McShannon)**
- **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**
- **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)**
- **Wednesday Lunchtime**
  
- **LGBTQ+ and Allies (Miss Graham)**
- **Young Carers (Mr Milligen - fortnightly)**
- **S1-S6 Badminton (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**
  
- **S1-2 Cheerleading (Miss Tavakoli)**
- **S6 Indoor Football (Mr Hunter)**
- **Junior Vocal Group (Miss Hamilton rm 3)**
- **Thursday After School**

**Code Club (Ms Giorgi) 3:40-4:10pm**

**S1-3 Rugby (Mr Witton)**

**S1-S6 Songwriters club (Mr Murphy)**



Our next Rag Bag collection is on Tuesday 1st October.

If you are fortunate enough to have any clothes for recycling it would be wonderful if you could bring them into school, in a bag for us to get them recycled. The clothes are either passed on if in good quality or repurposed if not. Whichever method is used the clothes do not go to landfill helping to reduce waste.

The school also benefits as we get a small amount of money from the collection which helps with supplies for the Eco School group.

If you have anything please bring into school and I will store the items ahead of the collection date. All donations are welcomed and need to be in school at the latest on Monday 30th September

Many thanks in advance,

Mr Berry Room 23



The CDT department is in need of any old inner tubes from Bicycle tyres you may have cluttering up your garage/shed. Any size will do!! We repurpose them as hinges on the lids of our bird boxes. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

[How to best view this newsletter](#)



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

The navigation menu is accessed via this button



**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.

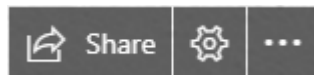
### **Search a Sway**

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.



### Autoplay settings



Loop continuously

Start

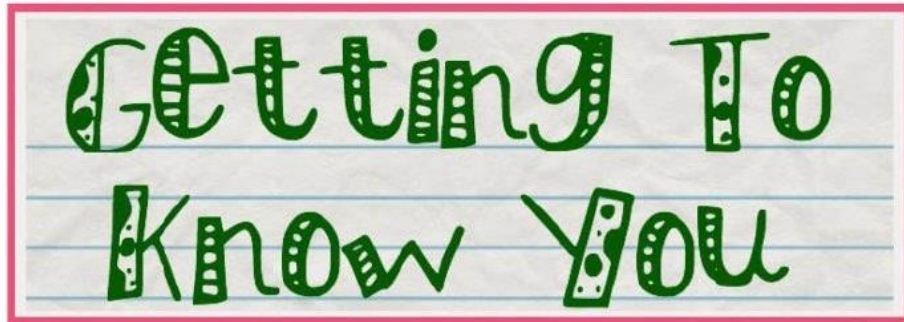
### Change layout



Default

Animations On

An ongoing series of staff surveys



This time in the hot seat Margaret Brandie Guidance (Liddell)/Languages. Interview by Emily Wilson

Question one: Can you tell us more about your job?

Answer: I am a guidance teacher and I also teach French for S1 to S6.

**Question two: How long have you been working at the school?**

**Answer: A very long time!**

**Question three: Who is your favourite musician/band?Also favourite film, tv programme and book, in addition most liked food??**

**Answer: Sterophonics, Friends**

**Question four: Cats or dogs?**

**Answer: Dogs.**

**Question five: Do you have any proud achievements?**

**Answer: Completing a skydive on my own.**

**Question six: Favourite subjects from when you were at school?**

**Answer: Modern languages: French and German.**

**Question seven: What is your favourite part of your job?**

**Answer: Working with young people.**

**Question eight: What is your favourite colour?**

**Answer: Red**

**Question nine: Favourite food?**

**Answer: Swiss chocolate!**

**Question ten: Any intreresting facts?**

**Answer: I play piano**