



Penicuik High School Parental E
Newsletter Issue 4







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



We are delighted to share that we hosted an Emergency First Aid at Work training session on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th of September for our S4 cohort. Students spent a full day with the providers and those who attended and participated fully now have achieved this award. Not only will these students now have the award but this will also contribute to their SQA qualifications and the attributed SCQF level 6 UCAS points (level 6 is equivalent to Higher).

We were delighted to be able to offer this award as we believe first aid is not only an excellent qualification to have but a life skill for the future. There were 70% of the S4 cohort who completed the course and the Penicuik community now has these students trained and able to support if it was ever required.

The providers also commented extremely positively about our students stating they were fully engaged, polite and well mannered and a real credit to the school and the surrounding community.

This is a great achievement all round!

In addition, Can you think of a better name than "Penicuik High School E-Newsletter" for this bulletin? We are asking the pupils as well. Suggestions to penicuik_hs@midlothian.gov.uk with the tile newsletter name.





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:

Wed 4 December is the next meeting date.

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 or join our Facebook page - Penicuik High School Parents Association



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>

Shoebbox Trench



Miss Tinning's S3 class have been busy making Shoebbox Trenches for the last week. They used recycled materials and their knowledge of trench conditions in the First World War, to create a realistic trench in a shoe box. In doing so they have earned themselves a Bronze Heritage Hero Award from Archaeology Scotland.



Penicuik Jazz Band Performance - Monday 23rd September

On Monday 23rd of September, Penicuik High School's talented Jazz band performed in an evening of Jazz, alongside Graeme McDonald's Music School Band, Carlops Jazz Band and guests. As part of Penicuik Arts PenFest, the concert was held at Penicuik Community Trinity Hall, with the performers playing a variety of ballads, instrumental Jazz of the 50's and 60's some soul numbers

Upcoming Junior Concert - Wednesday 9th October:

We invite parents and friends to a teatime concert on Wednesday 9th of October, featuring our S1 & S2 pupils. The concert will feature solos and group ensembles at 4pm in the School's dining hall known as The Bite Site. Refreshments will be provided. Tickets are not required for this event.

Burntout Records Halloween Concert - Thursday 31st October:

Burntout Records are holding a Halloween gig and bake sale to celebrate the spookiest night of the year.

Burntout Records is our school record label and live music agency which run evening concerts in The Hub. The gig will feature our own artist with several first time performances from S2 students.

The event starts at 7.15. Tickets are £3, and can be bought at the door





Hello! My name is Kirsten Smith, I'm one of the new English and Media teachers. I am from Dunblane and moved to Edinburgh to study English Literature. I enjoy spending time at the beach with a book and a cup of coffee. I can be found in Room 44 and look forward to getting to know you all!



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.





1 - PHS School Clubs



- **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)**
- **Modern Languages Homework Club Mrs McEvoy's Room**
- **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)

Inner tube Bird Box



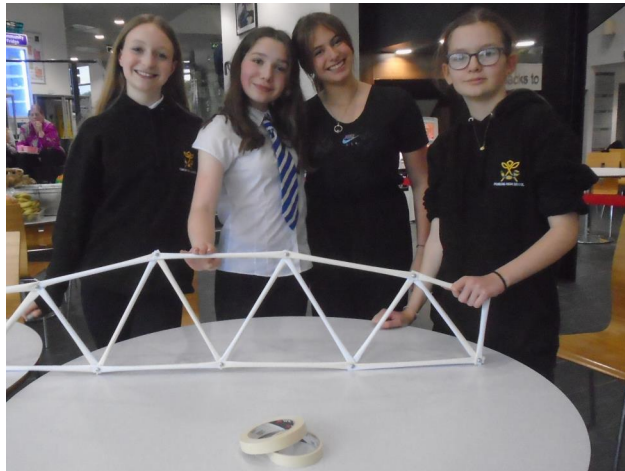
The CDT department is in need of any old inner tubes from bicycle tyres you may have cluttering up your garage/shed. Any size will do!! We repurpose them as hinges on the lids of our bird boxes. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

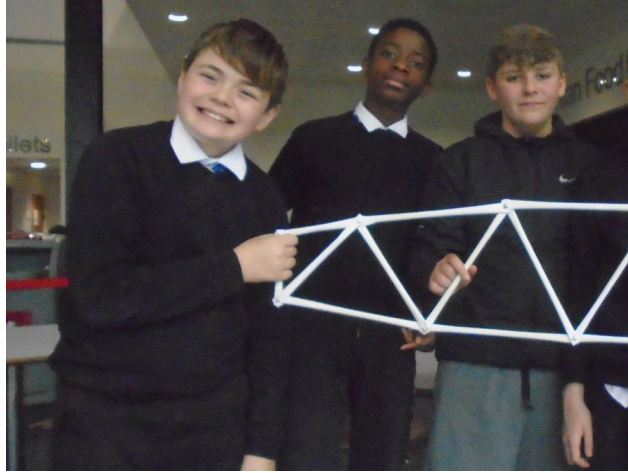
Construction & Build Environment Challenge



Several of our S2 students attended the above event at Edinburgh College, Midlothian Campus. They took part in three challenges, Bridge Building, Roof Tiling and Mono-blocking. They all had an enjoyable time coming a close second to St. David's High School. They were all a credit to Penicuik High School.










We are having a Halloween disco for our S1 pupils



COSTUMES
OPTIONAL!



PENICUIK HIGH SCHOOL


SI DISCO

WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER
7.30PM - 9PM

£3

TICKETS ON SALE

BREAK AND LUNCH IN THE LIBRARY



Barcelona Trip 2025





2 - Barcelona 2025

This is to inform you about a Modern Languages trip we are planning to take to Barcelona from Tuesday June 9th – Friday 13th 2025. The trip is for 3 nights / 4 days and costs £698 for flights and half-board in a hostel hotel in the city centre. We will spend our time in the city of Barcelona visiting the main tourist sights there, for example the Sagrada Familia Cathedral and the Nou camp football stadium. We are hoping to take 24 -30 pupils from senior phase S4 –S6 with initial preference being given to those studying Nat 5 and Higher Spanish. Please note that the trip will only run if we secure a minimum of 24 pupils and in order to reserve a place, please return the Parental Consent Form and a deposit of £100 by this Friday the 8th of October. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Penicuik High School’ or you can pay in cash.

Further information available from Mrs McEvoy.



Here's a 'homework of the week' from Art by Amy King in 1p5. First in an occasional series in the bulletin to highlight outstanding efforts by our pupils.

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

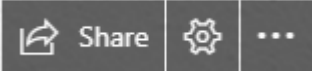
A useful feature that is activated in Accessibility view is **Find** this provides a **Search** box for you to search the text content of the Sway.

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.



Share Settings ...

Autoplay settings

3 s 60 s

Loop continuously

Start

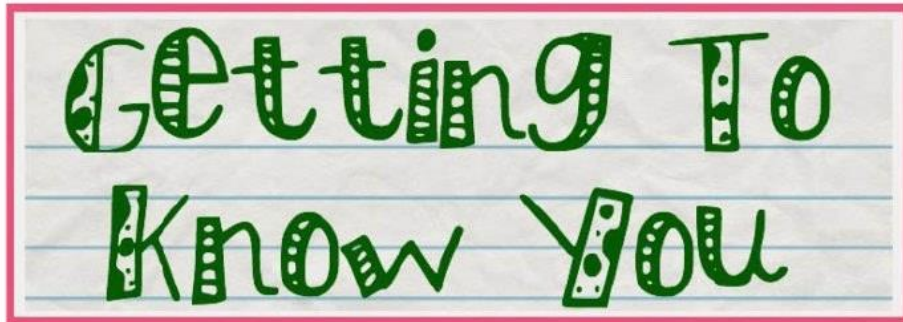
Change layout

Default

Animations On

The image shows a settings menu for a Sway presentation. At the top, there are three buttons: 'Share' with a share icon, 'Settings' with a gear icon, and a three-dot menu icon. Below these is the 'Autoplay settings' section, which includes a slider for autoplay duration ranging from 3 seconds to 60 seconds, with a checkmark and the text 'Loop continuously'. A 'Start' button is located below the slider. A horizontal line separates this section from the 'Change layout' section, which features three layout icons: 'Default' (selected with a checkmark), a two-column layout, and a three-column layout. At the bottom, there is an 'Animations' toggle switch currently set to 'On'.

An ongoing series of staff surveys



This time in the hot seat DHT Hollie Lyon interviewed by Bella Holsgrove

Question one: Any previous jobs?

Answer: I've worked in retail, been a cleaner and also a bar maid.

Question two: Why teaching?

Answer: I enjoyed school and appreciated the benefits of a good education so wanted involved in that.

Question three: Who is your favourite musician/band?

Answer: Whitney Houston and Celine Dion

Question four: Favourite subjects when at school?

Answer: History, RMPS and Physics

Question five: Do you have any proud achievements?

Answer: Becoming a mum while being a deputy head.

Question six: Best thing about working in PHS

Answer: The students.

Question seven: Any memorable quotes or sayings you go by?

Answer: "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." - Malcolm X