



Penicuik High School Parental E Newsletter



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Penicuik High School E Newsletter Issue 1







Welcome to our first electronic newsletter!



2 - A message from Mr Biddick Headteacher

It has been great to welcome back all our young people last week, including our new S1 who we first met in June during the transition days. We have a great staff team here ready to assist all young people to thrive socially, emotionally and academically over their time in school and are committed to working with parent / carers. I hope you enjoy our new approach to communicating with you as parent/carers. The communication survey was helpful in telling us what you like and what needs to improve and as a result we will be sending out a regular e-bulletin to help communication. Some information will still be shared via Group Call emails and we will continue to harness social media. I look forward to working with you all across the session.

Best wishes Craig

2023/4Exams



Congratulations to our students on some very good individual examination results in the recent SQA exams in May.

We did see some variability in results across some cohorts and this matched the national picture but we are continuing to work on improving outcomes for young people through work

with staff to improve teaching and learning and with organisations such as Tree of Knowledge

who work with young people on setting goals, preparing for exams and dealing with stress.

In terms of cohorts; In S4 we saw a mixed picture with a fall across those obtaining 5 at level 5 but S5 bounced back from last year's results and S6 results were stable. Overall % pass rates improved from the last regular exam diet in 2019 for S5 and S6.

More information in attainment will be available in September when insight releases fuller data on school performance and this will be discussed with the Parent Partnership Group.

Our New School Values

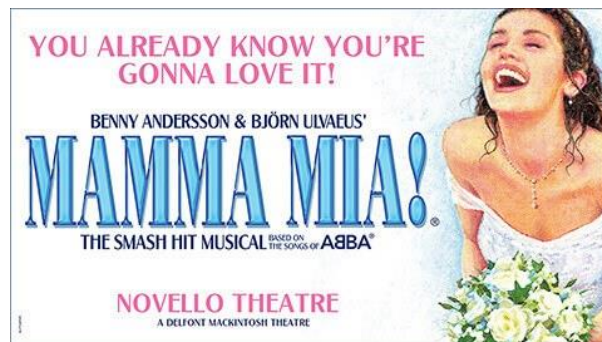


As part of our work towards achieving our Gold Rights Respecting Schools award, we have been reviewing our school ethos. Earlier in the year we established our new vision statement for Penicuik High School. *“At Penicuik High School we aim to create a caring community where everyone is respected, included,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

School Trip to London



London June 2024 Twenty five S5 and S6 pupils went for a 3 day visit to London with Social Subjects. It was the first proper school trip since Covid. We took the train which for some was their first time on one. For some it was also their first time out of Scotland! All very exciting. After arriving at Kings Cross we took our first underground journey to our accommodation. We repeated these underground journeys many times over the three days and for some it was the highlight of the trip and made them feel not so touristy. We were staying in the student accommodation at the London School of Economics. It was right next to Borough Market and station and two minutes walk from the Thames. Our first item on the itinerary was our tea and we ate out over looking the Thames and St Paul's Cathedral. We then walked to the West end to watch the musical Mama Mia. It was great and the theatre was another first for many of the pupils. We walked back along the Thames in the warm evening to the accommodation. The next day was a packed agenda... After breakfast we went to the British Museum. The pupils went off to explore the galleries, some paid extra to see the Roman exhibition that was touring at the time. Afterwards we had lunch in a cafe and headed to Madame Tussauds. From there it was over to Spitalfields Market for our tea and then into an escape room. All the groups loved the interactive problem solving in the Escape room, which made a change from walking around exhibitions. A murder in a haunted ware house was what they had to solve. All the groups managed to escape without being rescued. A first for me who always needs to be let out! On our final day we spent the morning exploring Borough Market and became foodies for a few hours. Then it was back to Kings Cross and the train home. It was a great non-stop trip where the pupils and teachers thoroughly enjoyed experiencing London together. Definitely one to do again. Mr Johnstone





New Books for the New School Year



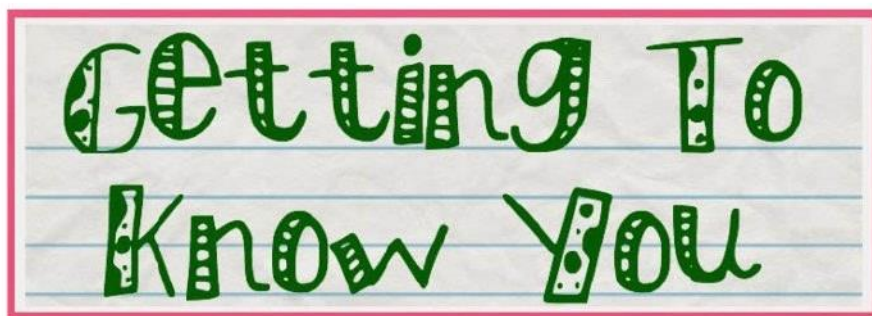
I very much look forward to welcoming both our new and returning pupils.

The library is open all breaks and lunch times. You are welcome to eat here too.

Mr N Smith



First in an ongoing series of staff surveys



This month in the hot seat is Caroline Steele our Careers Advisor



Q. Tell us a bit about what you do?

A. I am the schools careers advisor and support

Q. Any previous jobs?

A. I worked in a laboratory in a grain store and an office of a drain cleaner!

Q. What book left a lasting impression on you?

A. Harper Lee - To Kill a Mockingbird

Q. Is there a particular philosophy or mantra that guides your life?

A. Smile, it makes things better

Q. How do you handle life's uncertainties and challenges?

A. Pretend it isn't happening

Q. Favourite/least favourite food?

A. Vegetables/meat

Q. Favourite colour?

A. Green

Q. Cats or Dogs

A. Dogs

Q. Favourite Subject when at School?

A. History

Q. Proudest achievement?

A. Learning to drive so I could get out of Penicuik

Q. Anything else to share?

A. I support Morton and love Marvel films

LGBTQ+ Allies Club



LGBTQ+ and Allies Club

Penicuik High School is proud to host a popular, safe and successful LGBTQ+ and Allies Club. Pupils meet on a weekly basis and anyone is welcome to join. Here they discuss LGBTQ+

topics, offer advice to others who are struggling with their sexuality or identity, and organise school events that raise awareness and promote equality. The club provides a safe and fun environment to explore LGBTQ+ issues.

The club meet every Wednesday lunchtime at 1.20pm in room 28, and you are welcome to bring your lunch and join us from 1.05pm. We also have a Google Classroom set up for members to join and communicate through. The code is: 34jjz7c. NOTE 24/5 club restarts 28 Aug 2024.

You can speak to one of our LGBT champion staff members, or your Guidance teacher. LGBT staff champions are: Miss Graham, Ms McLennan and Mr N Smith.

Uniform





It is lovely to see many of our young people in their new uniform, looking smart and representing our school. Thank you to all families who are sending their children in uniform. Branded uniform items can be purchased from Brown and Out (please see flyer below) and high-street items are widely available. By offering more flexibility and choice we expect all students to wear appropriate uniform. If you have any concerns please contact your child's guidance teacher.



3 - Flyer from Brown and Out

Penicuik High School Uniform

This catalogue of products is a selection of the approved uniform items for Penicuik High School. School uniform is available to purchase from brown&out throughout the year.

We will contact you by text/email when your order is ready to collect from your preferred location, either brown&out or Penicuik High

School. We can also post orders direct to you, however, there is a postage & package charge for this service.



Orders can be placed:

ONLINE | brownandout.co.uk/shop/penicuik-high-school

PHONE | 01721 723 773

IN PERSON | Unit 17, Southpark Ind Est, Peebles, EH45 9ED



brown&out