



# Penicuik High School Pupil E Newsletter Issue 6







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 behavior policy.

## A message from Miss Lyon Principle Teacher



Welcome to the latest edition of our Student Newsletter! November is an extremely important month for some of our senior students; on the 25th November our prelims start. A reminder that prelim assessments are part of your preparation for your final exams; they give you the opportunity to experience exam-like conditions and equip you with the revision skills needed for assessments of this nature. They are sat for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses.

The outcome of the prelims will provide staff and students with valuable information for planning next steps and targets, as well as being used (in conjunction with other material) to form predicted grades.

Prelim evidence (along with other evidence) can also be used in an exceptional circumstance.

A reminder that there are a number of resources that you can use to help you prepare. Please look on your year group google classroom, in the classwork section there is a topic called 'SQA Exams/Prelims/StudySupport/Coursework.' In this topic you will find the prelim timetable, a copy of the prelim assembly presentation, a list of current study support classes, a guide to access ACHIEVE (an online revision resource) and an electronic copy of the SQA My Coursework booklet.

Emotions such as stress and anxiety are natural and are telling us that there is something in our environment to which we need to respond - in this case, a prelim. For some people stress and anxiety can manifest more visibly; this is why some people will cry before or after a prelim.

The best advice? - be proactive. In other words, make sure you do something. This could be:

- Looking over revision material you have made
- Talking through your concerns about a prelim with your class teacher/peers/guidance teacher
- Some people benefit from not revising right up to the last minute

Please remember there is always a 'Plan B'. With prelims there is also still time but ultimately it is your responsibility to do your best.

I would also ask our junior students to be supportive peers during this time; if you see a sign indicating that an exam is taking place in a room you should not enter that room and ensure you are silent while moving around areas of the school where prelims are taking place.

COME WATCH !!  
2025 LEAVERS



**FOOTBALL**  
GAME

FRIDAY 22ND NOV  
AFTER SCHOOL  
LOCATION : ASTRO IN THE PARK

S6 LEAVERS **VS** TEACHERS

Prom Committee

Donation for Entry  
(recomended £1)

A must see event after school this one!!! Do not miss it. Friday 22nd November. Charity collection at the gate, please give what you can afford.

## BAKE SALE



MOVEMBER CAKE SALE

BREAK TIME IN THE BITESITE

THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2024

ALL PROCEEDS TO OUR MOVEMBER COLLECTION



**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>



The National Saturday Club run extra-curricular clubs for young people across the UK in partnership with Universities, FE Colleges and cultural institutions. The first Saturday Club in Scotland is an Art and Design focused club starting January at Edinburgh College of Art, and is a completely free 20 week programme for 13-15 year olds.

There's more information about the club below: <https://saturday-club.org/club/edinburgh-college-of-art/> and more generally about the National Saturday Club here: <https://saturday-club.org/>





# **WEEKLY AUTISM AND NEURODIVERSITY FOOTBALL SESSIONS**

**STARTS**  
**22ND AUGUST 2024**

**PENICUIK ATHLETIC YOUTH  
FOOTBALL CLUB**

**THURSDAY 5 - 6PM**

**MONTGOMERY PARK ASTRO,  
BOG ROAD**

**Boys and Girls Aged 10-15**  
**All skill levels welcome**

**For more details please email: [ben@teamunited.org.uk](mailto:ben@teamunited.org.uk)**

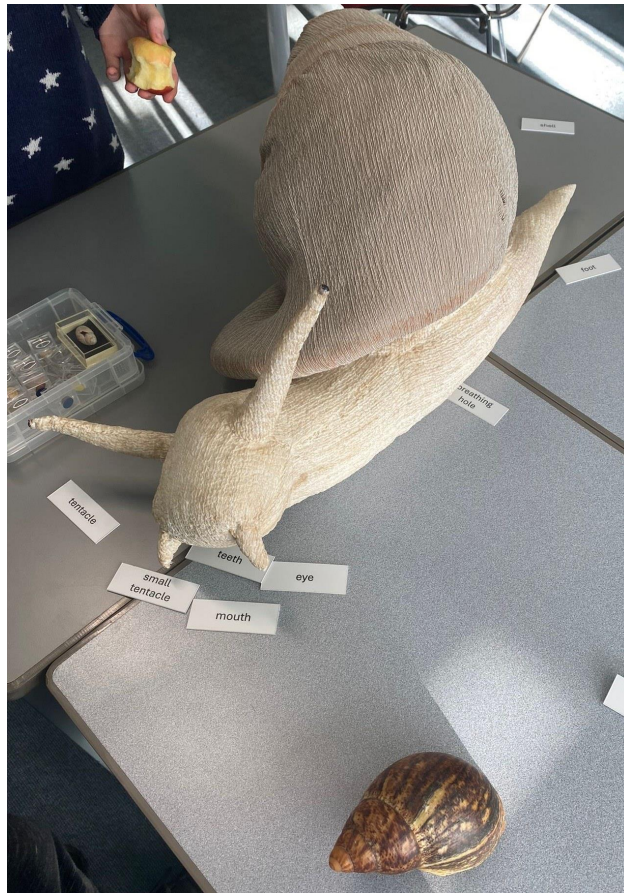
All new players must complete a Player Profile before we  
can confirm a place.

Scottish Registered Charity No SC 039699



This week we welcomed local firm, OCS ( <https://ocs.com/uk/> ) into school to talk to some of our students about what they do and the roles they have available for school leavers. They have 2 or 3 three opportunities for Graduate Apprentices in Electrical Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Mechanical Build Service Engineer and Estimating and up to 20 Modern Apprenticeships in Electrical and Heating Engineering for an August start next year. OCS are based in Loanhead and will be at our Careers Fair on Thursday 21st December 6pm-8pm, please come along and speak with them, and many others, directly.





We welcomed Sandie from RZSS ( Royal Zoological Society of Scotland) this week to talk to some of our pupils about the work of RZSS. We learned all about Sloths, Anteaters and Polynesian Snails! We discovered where RZSS work across the world and their far reaching remit beyond Edinburgh Zoo.



The School's Bite site will hold its annual Christmas dinner on Thursday 5 December this year. Note the date if you want your child to attend. *Image not an actual PHS Xmas dinner!*

## Celebrating Book Week Scotland 2024

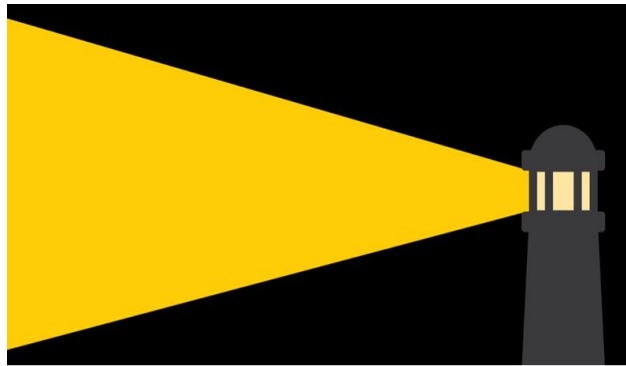
[Book Week Scotland](#) is an annual celebration of books that takes place across the country. Book Week Scotland 2024 will take place from 18 – 24 November and is supported by Creative Scotland and SLIC.

This year's theme is **hope** and will contain the following strands:

- **New Dawns** – the excitement of starting fresh and trying something new
- **Guiding Lights** – a celebration of those who give us strength, guidance and keep us going
- **Hope for the World** – how hope can cause us to act and advocate for a fairer, juster future
- **Pockets of Joy** – the small and everyday comforts that give us joy
- **The Best it Yet to Come** – our dreams, hopes and aspirations and how they shape our lives

# Scottish Book Trust

inspiring readers and writers





### HAMPER APPEAL:

For a number of years Penicuik High School have run a hamper appeal to support members of our community at Christmas time. We are going to be collecting items for food hampers over the coming weeks and distribute them before the end of term.

From Monday 18th November there will be boxes by the main school entrance that pupils can drop off items for our hampers. The final day for bringing in goods will be Friday 6th December.

Below is a suggested list of some items that would be suitable for the hampers.

If you feel able to send in any items they would be gratefully received.

Thank you in advance

The Rights Respecting Schools Group

Cupboard Basics 1	Cupboard Basics 2	Christmas Treats
Pasta	Coffee	Selection Boxes
Rice	Tea	Festive Chutney
Pot Noodles	Sugar	Mince Pies
Beans	Cereal	Christmas Cake
Pasta Sauce	Powdered Milk	Stollen
Tinned Soup	Diluting Juice	Popcorn
Beans	Fruit Juice	Sweets
Other Tinned Goods	Jam	Hot Chocolate
Chocolate Spread	Ketchup	Marshmallows
Custard	Brown Sauce	Biscuits
Jelly	Mayonnaise	Crisps
Rice Pudding		Crackers
		Breadsticks



**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. tickets are available from Mrs Brandie in the Guidance Base**

*As part of the Careers Fair Mr Dewar, DHT Curriculum, will complete a presentation to update students, parents and careers' about the current curriculum offer and the timetable process. This will include information regarding current and new qualifications and offer advice on the course choice process for students moving in to S3, S4, S5 and S6 but may be useful for S2 students as well to start the planning process.*

*The presentations will take place at 18.15 and 19.15 and the room will be confirmed nearer the time.*



- **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)



A number of PHS staff are taking part in Movember this year. We are doing so on behalf of Prostrate Scotland. We are selling badges and growing mustaches to raise funds. It's a very worthwhile cause as you can see from the following mission statement -

*We are a Scottish charity set up to provide information, advice and help on prostate health and [diseases test and treatments](#). Nearly 1 in 2 men in Scotland will be affected by prostate disease at some stage of their lives and 1 in 10 are likely to develop prostate cancer. [Prostate cancer](#) is the most common cancer in men in Scotland. Our Mission is to 'inform, educate, support, campaign and advance on prostate disease in Scotland'. We want to see and help enable:*

- *More men in Scotland to be aware of prostate disease and know where/how to get help treatment;*
- *Public policy taking prostate disease into account and prostate diseases and treatment are higher up the policy agenda;*
- *More men in Scotland surviving prostate cancer, and an increase in the numbers of men seeking early diagnosis;*

- *Men in Scotland with prostate disease have access to the latest and most appropriate forms of treatment*

Our pupils and staff have made a strong start to supporting this worthwhile cause, between online and in person donations we are already **half way** to our fundraising target!

**Badges to show support will be available all month from the PHS library for a £1 donation.**

**A bake sale with mustache cupcakes will also be held in school 21st November.**

**Donations can also be made on JustGiving QR Code below, thanks for any support**



## S6 Leavers Hoodies



### S6 Hoodies

This years leavers hoodies will be supplied by Brown and Out, supplier of the new school uniform. To order, please see link below to the school eShop. <https://www.browncandout.co.uk/product/leavers-hoodie-2025-penicuik-high/>

The price is £29.95 each. There is a choice of 10 colours and 5 size options. These are available to see and try on in the Clerk Maxwell Guidance Base.

The hoodies are available for personalisation. We would recommend you use your first name or surname. If you chose to use a nickname please be aware these will be checked by school prior to printing. All personalised hoodies are non-refundable.

Deadline for orders is Friday 20th December. All hoodies will be delivered to school free of charge around February holiday so you can wear these in school for your last few weeks at PHS.

Any questions or concerns around payment, please see Miss Campbell



Indivisible: This means that all Rights are of equal importance.



Links to Prelim Assessment Schedule and Study Support

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1mPBm0yVF2yuaUekvBLfrmvyknj6xPOXjbKOKpaX6YQk&usp=mail>

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=12mpBHZ\\_nBbAgafUAEXMW7u0ychQBxjMq4RRcLheh4gQ&usp=mail](https://drive.google.com/open?id=12mpBHZ_nBbAgafUAEXMW7u0ychQBxjMq4RRcLheh4gQ&usp=mail)



One of pupils Andrew Hope S4 laying the wreath on behalf of the school at the Penicuik Remembrance Memorial Parade. Andrew was marching with the Cadets, however last year he raised the question as to why we don't lay a wreath as a school. As a result he was given the honour to lay a wreath this year. Andrew did the school proud with his representation for Penicuik High School.

