

## Bumper Edition!

Welcome to our bumper December 2016 edition.

Look out for our January 2017 edition – celebrating the excellence demonstrated by our learners throughout 2016!

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# Penicuik High News

Participation – Respect – Inclusion – Determination – Excellence



December 2016

## Dates for the diary

1 Dec – S1 John Muir Trip – 1P3

*1P3 will be undertaking their walk around the Clerk estate as part of their John Muir award.*

5-9 Dec – S4 Work Experience

*See inserted article for more information.*

6 Dec – S1 John Muir Trip – 1P4

*1P4 will be undertaking their walk around the Clerk estate as part of their John Muir award.*

13 Dec – Merit Awards

*See Head Teacher's Message.*

14 Dec – Great Scots IDL Morning

*Our first whole school IDL activity begins with the S1 Great Scot morning. Pupils will research influential Scots who have had a positive impact on our society, then present their chosen findings to their peers. Each practical class will choose a winning presentation to compete in the grand finale to crown our greatest Scot.*

15 Dec – S1 John Muir Trip – 1P5

*1P5 will be undertaking their walk around the Clerk estate as part of their John Muir award.*

15 Dec – Senior Christmas Dance

*Starting at 7.00pm pupils in S4-S6 can participate in our annual Christmas dance, featuring traditional Scottish country dancing led by a live band and with buffet/refreshments. Tickets are available from the PE department at a cost of £7*

15 Dec – Senior RMPS Mosque visit

*N5/H pupils will have the opportunity to visit Edinburgh mosque as part of their study of Islam. Permission forms and £3 should be returned to Miss Graham by 8 December 2016.*

16 Dec – S1 Maths Challenge/Christmas Dance

*S1 pupils will participate in their Christmas themed Maths Challenge (with prizes and house points available) before their Christmas dance – a culmination of their Scottish Country dance experiences in PE.*

20 Dec – Christmas Concert

*We will be hosting our annual Christmas concert to showcase the musical talent within our school. Starting at 7pm, tickets will cost £5 (adults)/£3 (concession). Tickets will be available from the Music department from 01/12/16.*

21 Dec – S2 Maths Challenge/Christmas Dance

*S2 pupils will participate in their Christmas themed Maths Challenge (with prizes and house points available) before their Christmas dance – a culmination of their Scottish Country dance experiences in PE.*

22 Dec – S3 Maths Challenge/Christmas Dance

*S3 pupils will participate in their Christmas themed Maths Challenge (with prizes and house points available) before their Christmas dance – a culmination of their Scottish Country dance experiences in PE.*

22 Dec – S1 John Muir Trip – 1P6

*1P6 will be undertaking their walk around the Clerk estate as part of their John Muir award.*

22 Dec – S4 Reports Issued

*S4 pupils will be issued with their reports which will provide information on their progress towards national qualifications.*

23 Dec – Christmas Assemblies

*All pupils will participate in our Christmas assemblies – to include the S6 Christmas Nativity. Term ends at 12.00pm*

9 Jan – Term 2

*All return at 8.30 am on Monday 9 January*

## Head Teacher's Message

December is a wonderful time in the school year, with preparations well underway for our traditional Christmas events like School Dances, Christmas Concert, the S6 Nativity and Merit Assemblies.

Of course the learning does not slow down even at this busy time, with Maths Challenges, The Great Scot Debate, Work Experience and Outdoor Learning Trips for our John Muir Award students still to be squeezed into the last few weeks of term.

This range of different learning experiences is at the heart of delivering a rich and challenging curriculum for all of our young people and in order to ensure that we are getting things right I would like to invite you to share your views via the on line survey below before the end of term (23 December 2016). <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6MDYCD7>

The final part of the (short) survey is about our Merit Awards System and we have been in discussion with staff and Student Council about how we can improve and raise the profile of this important aspect of recognising pupil achievement. Here is what we are doing thanks to the feedback we have had so far.

- 'Everyone should get something to encourage them in their learning.' – *Removal of the limit on the number of Merits that can be awarded to each class.*
- 'There should be one below bronze or one above gold.' - *New categories added; Merit, Bronze, Silver, Gold & Platinum.*
- 'All teachers should give merits.' - *All departments reminded to nominate pupils before closing date.*
- 'There should be an assembly to explain to students what the categories for merits are.' - *Assemblies planned for week of 5 December 2016 and [Merits Policy](#) updated and uploaded to school website.*

Finally we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, from all the staff at Penicuik High School.

## Reporting Absence from school

Parents/Carers are reminded that they should phone into the school office each day of their child's absence. The office is open from 8am. Any request for a pupil to have time off in term time must be addressed to Mr MacDonald, Acting Head Teacher.

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### Literacy News

UNCRC Article 31

**E.R.I.C.** – All first and second years read for the first ten minutes of each English class. We would welcome support from parents – please make sure that your son or daughter has a personal reading book in their bags at all times. The students are also expected to read this book at home for fifteen minutes each evening. There is strong evidence linking reading for pleasure and educational outcomes and we would like all our students to read regularly.



If you are thinking about Christmas presents, an ERIC book would be a great stocking filler. You can find ideas for teenage fiction on the following websites:

<http://scottishbooktrust.com/>

<https://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.waterstones.com/>

<http://www.foyles.co.uk/>



**D.E.A.R.** – On Thursday 8 December we will be having a tutor period devoted to reading for pleasure. During the period the whole school will Drop Everything And Read. Please encourage your son or daughter to bring a book to read for DEAR and feel free to join in yourself!

### S3 - Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

UNCRC Article 12



On Thursday 10 November the S3 cohort took part in the launch for the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). The YPI teaches secondary students the fundamentals of philanthropy and engages students within their community to develop teamwork, communication, research and presentation skills. The final will be held on Monday 27 February where one team from Penicuik High School will win a £3000 grant for their chosen charity.

### S2/3 Personal and Social Education

UNCRC Article 24

S2 PSE classes have been investigating puberty and the importance of personal hygiene, while S3 have been learning about sexual health. Both cohorts have been emphasising the importance of healthy relationships through their work. PSE teachers are placing a large emphasis on the promotion of physical and emotional health and wellbeing.



They are following an adaption of the Share programme, developed by NHS Scotland. The publication '[Talking with your teenager about relationships and sexual wellbeing](#)' is available from NHS Health Scotland to help facilitate discussion at home.

### Adverse Weather Plans

As November brought the first flakes of snow, we would like to reiterate our closure procedure.

Where adverse weather causes the closure of the school we will endeavour to inform pupils and parents at the earliest possible time. Closures will be advertised on the Midlothian Council's '[School Closures](#)' website page and broadcast on Forth One radio.

In the event of this (hopefully unlikely) action, there is a wealth of work which all pupils can be engaging with on the school's website '[Snow Days](#)' tab. The work is differentiated by year and curricular area to allow pupils to follow work which is closely tied to their normal working timetable

### Christmas Hamper Appeal

UNCRC Article 24

Our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal has begun. Non-perishable items are collected and distributed throughout the community to those in need over Christmas.

Donations of food or cash can be left at the school office or students can bring food donations into school to the RMPS department at break or lunchtime. All donations welcome and go to those in need in the Penicuik Community. Items for donation are:

- Box of teabags
- jars of coffee, jam, honey and marmalade
- hot chocolate
- sugar,
- tins of soup, fruit, vegetables, fish and meat/pie and custard
- Christmas cake, pudding and mince pies
- UHT milk
- Pasta
- Rice
- Fruit Juice, flavoured water, diluting juice
- Box of chocolates
- Bottle of schloer
- Bag of sweets

Any donations would be greatly appreciated by both the school and community. Please ensure 'use by dates' are valid for Christmas Day.

## Sporting Results

UNCRC Article 15

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Netball – Senior Girls Penicuik HS 13 – 5 Newbattle CHS

Balerno HS 40 – 5 Penicuik HS

*Penicuik progress to the next round after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in group*

Football – Senior Lothian Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round: Craigroyston 2 – 5 Penicuik HS

Girls U-14 Scottish Cup Penicuik HS 1-0 Tynecastle HS



## Community Partnerships – Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club

A special thanks to PAYFC for their donation of a set of new football strips (age 12-14) for the Penicuik HS S1 & S2 Football Teams to use for matches. The Club applied for funding for these strips through the McDonalds Sponsorship scheme arranged by the Scottish FA. The strip tops are blue & white stripes and have the Adidas & McDonalds logo on them. There are also blue shorts & socks included and there are 16 strips in total and a full goalie Strip.

PAYFC are always looking for new members to join the club. We currently have 341 players from age 4 1/2 - U19's and we also have 50+ girls playing in the club across three different age groups. More information on the club is available on the club website - [www.payfc.net](http://www.payfc.net)

## S4 Work Experience

UNCRC Article 29

From 5-9 December our S4 pupils will be out of school on their work experience placements – an important part of our career education programme. Learners have been placed with local employers and organisations in a wide range of areas including; education, childcare, construction, scientific research – to name a few.

During their time, they will be treated as young employees and will try a range of tasks and activities to explore the skills and attributes employers are looking for.

Over the years we have found that this experience is invaluable to pupils in enabling them with the skills for work.

## S2 Careers Appointments

UNCRC Article 29

Following the pilot of short career appointments for S2 pupils in Penicuik High School last year, this approach has been rolled out across the whole of Scotland! The school Careers Advisers, Caroline Steele and Stephen McBroom, will be speaking to S2 pupils next term. We will be discussing progression towards the senior phase and introducing the services of Skills Development Scotland - supporting the pupils by providing careers input both in school and after they have left. If you would like to find out more or would like to attend the meeting please contact [caroline.steele@sds.co.uk](mailto:caroline.steele@sds.co.uk)

Caroline will be attending the Subject Choice parents' information evenings and *all* parents' nights throughout the year. You are more than welcome to get in touch whatever year your learner is in and arrange a meeting in school or just speak to us at any parents event. For more information to help with subject choice have a look at [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)



## S4 Design and Manufacture Trip

A group of S4 Design and Manufacture students enjoyed an educational visit last Wednesday to Angus & Mac wood workshop and Napier University Polymer Lab. Angus & Mac specialize in making bespoke wooden staircases and the pupils were given a tour of the workshops and design studios where various specialists manufacture wooden products such as furniture and traditional oak frames for houses. We also witnessed a computer controlled router cutting components for one of the staircases.

At Napier polymers lab the students got hands on experience in a variety of plastic manufacturing processes such as injection moulding and compression moulding. The feedback from the trip was very positive with all pupils identifying new learning experiences that relate to the course.

*Mrs McKaig and Mr Beards*

## Tutor Period

8 December Period 2

21 December Period 4

*Didn't receive this by email?  
Please update your contact details by informing the school office in writing, to ensure you receive future editions directly to your inbox.*

## Rights Respecting Schools

UNCRC Article 42



As part of our work towards achieving Level 1 of the Rights Respecting School award we have been highlighting a weekly right from the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child to all learners through their daily newsletter.

As part of our continued emphasis on educating young people about their rights we have linked our articles to Articles which are pertinent. For more information on what each article means, visit the [UNCRC website](http://www.unhcr.org).