

Dates for the diary

3 Nov – P7 Morning Visit & Open Evening
P7 pupils will spend a morning at the High School. P7 parents and students are then invited to join us in the evening to see a demonstration of the school in action.

3 -4 Nov– History/ Art London Trip *Higher History students will have the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament as part of the growth of democracy unit. Art students will have the chance to explore galleries and exhibitions across London. For more information see Mrs Forbes/Miss Dixon.*

4 Nov – S3 Interim Reports Issued
S3 pupils will be issued with their interim reports which will provide a snapshot of their progress thus far. (Full reports for S3 will be issued in May)

7 & 8 Nov – S2 History of Medicine Trip
All S2 students will visit Surgeons' Hall and the National Museum to look at the history of medicine in Scotland and its development over the last few centuries. The year group will be split, with half going out each day. Permission slips should already be with the school office. For more information see Mr Scott or Mrs Forbes

10 Nov – Open Morning
Come and see a normal working morning at Penicuik High School. There will be tours of classes and refreshments. All welcome at 9.15am

17 Nov – S2 Dynamic Earth Trip
All S2 students will have the opportunity to visit Dynamic Earth to explore the concepts being studied in the 'Earth's Forces' topic. Permission slips should be returned no later than 10/11/16. For more information see Mr Archibald.

18 Nov – S5/6 Interim Reports Issued
S5/6 pupils will be issued with their interim reports which will provide a snapshot of their progress thus far. (Full reports for S5/6 will be issued in February)

21 Nov → 1 Dec – S4 Prelim Diet
See inserted article for more information.

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Penicuik High News

Participation – Respect – Inclusion – Determination – Excellence

November 2016



Head Teacher's Message - Learning for Life!

With the ever present drive and pressure to get the best possible exam results in the Senior Phase, it is sometimes easy to forget that the main aim of Curriculum for Excellence is to develop young people who are successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

At Penicuik High we work hard to give our students a broad range of learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, and there is a keen focus on developing skills for life, learning and work in all lessons. The interdisciplinary work (where subjects come together to deliver learning) in first and second year, gives pupils opportunities to apply their skills in different, challenging situations so they can understand how important literacy is in working as part of a team, how vital numeracy can be in developing creative solutions to enterprise tasks or how good organization and communication skills can be the key to problem solving challenges.

However, we know that we can do more and as part of our ongoing curriculum review we will be contacting pupils, parents, teachers, support staff and partners to get a range of views about what is working well in the school and what provision we need to develop.

D MacDonald Acting Headteacher

Tutor Period

8 November Period 6

Tutor time is suspended for the duration of examination diets. There will only be one in November

22 Nov – S1 John Muir Trip
See inserted article for more information.

24 Nov – S5/6 Parents Consultation Evening

Parents/Carers will have the opportunity to discuss their learner's progress in S5/6. For more information on our new appointment system see the inserted article

29 Nov – Parents Association Meeting
Open to all parents/carers – the meeting will be in Penicuik High School at 7pm.

S4 Prelims

S4 pupils sitting National 5 exams will have their Prelims between 21 November and 1 December inclusive. All S4 pupils will shortly be issued with a revision booklet that will contain:

- Revision techniques,
- Useful online resources for revision,
- A timetable of Study Support classes provided by the school.

The timetable of Study Support classes will also be e-mailed to parents by 4 November so that parents are aware of when these take place and can encourage pupils to attend.

Pupils will be given a Prelim Exam Timetable and subject departments will ensure that all are aware of the requirements of their exams and what they should be revising. Please note that there will be *no study leave* for these exams and students are expected to attend their regular classes when not in an exam.

National 4 Maths classes will also have assessments during this time.

Sporting Results



Netball – Scottish Cup: PHS 24-4 Beeslack HS

Football – U14 Friendly: PHS 3-3 Lasswade HS
U14 Scottish Shield: Queensferry HS 1-3 PHS
Senior Scottish Shield: PHS 1-2 Peebles HS

Rugby – Active Schools U14 mixed 7s completion: PHS entering two teams and placing 2nd and 3rd

Hockey – Active Schools festival. PHS entering two teams and placing 3rd and 5th

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association held it's A.G.M on 5 October. Our office bearers for the year are: Jennifer Martin-Chairperson, Gillian Shepherd-Vice Chair, Liz Davidson-Treasurer and Lynsey Weir as Secretary. Anyone wishing a copy of the annual report can contact me, jennifer-martin@talktalk.net Our next meeting will be on 29 November at 7pm.

We will be providing tea and coffee with home baking for a small donation at the S5/S6 parents evening on 24 November

Rainbow Laces

Our school were given 100 pairs of rainbow laces from Stonewall Scotland. These were distributed around pupils and staff. They became incredibly popular and there weren't enough pairs to meet the demand!

These laces show that there is no room for homophobia in sport. There is a serious message behind them. Research shows homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are still prevalent in sport:



- 72 per cent of football fans have heard homophobic abuse
- One in five 18 to 24-year-olds say they'd be embarrassed if their favourite player came out
- Young people are twice as likely to say anti-LGBT language is harmless if it's just meant as 'banter'

To change attitudes in sport, we need to show that there are more of us who welcome and accept LGBT fans and players. Well done pupils of Penicuik High School for supporting this very worthwhile campaign.



Activities Week 2017

Our annual activities week booklet was issued to all students last week. This is the final week of our school year, in June 2017, when all students participate in an activity of their choice. It enables pupils to expand their experiences, challenge themselves and widen their friendship circles. Activities range from cooking classes to CSI investigations to residential in Spain and Scotland. Pupils are asked to make 3 choices and we aim to allocate every youngster to one of their choices. Details about each activity are in the booklet, along with monthly and weekly payment plans. It is our aim that cost should not prohibit anyone from partaking in the week. Should this be the case, please contact child's guidance teacher, in the first instance. A copy of the booklet is available from the school office.



Forms should be returned to the school office by November 11th

Online Parents' Evening Booking System

From this year parents evening appointments will be booked online. A couple of weeks before your child's evening a link will be sent to you via e-mail. Attached is a letter, along with instructions, to assist. Can I assure you that it is a very easy system. This November we have our S5/6 evening and further details will be e-mailed to the relevant parents shortly.

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

John Muir Award (S1)

At Penicuik High School S1 pupils have been undertaking the John Muir Award through their class work in a variety of subject areas. Pupils will be taking part in a walk around the Clerk Estate, using the landscape to learn about sustainable forestry, local wildlife and landscape change. These trips also provide an opportunity to learn about the life, work and philosophy of John Muir himself.

DofE Award

Letters have gone home with all those students that expressed an interest in participating in the Bronze or Silver award this year. If your child would like to take part but hasn't collected a letter or has forgotten to return it please see Mr Merson.

Even if they have missed the first meetings there is still plenty of time to participate! The costs involve a £17 registration fee for the award and then £80 for Bronze and £180 for Silver.

