

## Dates for the diary

### 5 Oct – Parents' Association AGM

*The meeting will be held at 7pm in the Assembly Hall. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.*

### 7 Oct – S1 Interim Reports Released

*S1 pupils will be issued with their interim reports which will provide a snapshot of their progress thus far. (Full reports for S1 will be issued in May)*

### 13 Oct – S3 Geography Farm Experience

*Our S3 geographers will be visiting a working farm as part of their Farming studies. Permission forms are due back by 06/10/16. For more information see Mr Archibald.*

### 13 Oct – Scottish Apprenticeship Show

*Open to pupils in S4-S6 considering applying for an apprenticeship upon departing school. Students will get the opportunity to meet apprentices and their employers. Multiple hands-on and interactive zones will give students an insight into the benefits of apprenticeships across a range of different job types. For more info students should see their Guidance teacher.*

### 17– 21 Oct (inclusive) – Holiday

*Pupils will be on their midterm break, returning Monday 24 October at 8.30am*

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[penicuik.mgfl.net/](http://penicuik.mgfl.net/)

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# Penicuik High News

Participation – Respect – Inclusion – Determination – Excellence

October 2016



## Parents' Association

We had a very well attended first meeting of the session where we welcomed D. MacDonald as Acting Head Teacher and R. Jamieson (DHT) presented the 2016 exam results. The parents' association have donated £40 for prizes towards the Big Day walk and £500 towards the set up of the new Reading Room. Our next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 5 October at 7pm.

Information can be found on our Facebook page 'Penicuik High School Parents' Association', or I'm happy to answer any questions you may have by e-mail: [jennifer-martin@talktalk.net](mailto:jennifer-martin@talktalk.net)

*Jennifer Martin PA Chairperson*

## Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the October Edition of our newsletter. The feedback from the first issue has been excellent and thanks to everyone who took the time to contact the school with such positive comments and suggestions.

After the breathtaking start to the term for students and staff, culminating in another fantastic Big Day, we are delighted to have been invited to the Parents' Association AGM on Wednesday 5 October to share how parents and carers can get involved in the life of the school and how to best support your child's literacy and numeracy skills at home.

The evening commences with the main business of the Parents' Association AGM at 7.00pm followed by short presentations by Mr Thornley, leader of the Home-School Partnership Working Group and Mrs Forrester, Principal Teacher of Maths.

All parents and carers are very welcome.

*D MacDonald  
Acting Headteacher*

## Better Eating Better Learning

We are into year two of an exciting BEBL initiative, we are one of 6 clusters selected across Scotland to participate in this project. The project aim – "to raise attainment and close the gap" we know that children who eat a well-balanced diet are well placed to learn better in school – but better learning is also about improving the quality of young peoples' learning experiences. Curriculum for Excellence has brought new thinking and opportunities to how we can excite young people in learning about food and nutrition and we are constantly innovating and changing our curriculum. We are working with catering partners to improve the dining experience and recently visited the Parents' Association to share our vision of BEBL within PHS and the cluster primaries. We have also submitted a bid to the Good Food Nation Fund to develop an outside dining area with a pizza oven – fingers crossed! We are currently setting up a working group and would welcome parent and pupil voice. Please get in touch via the school office to participate in this exciting initiative, look forward to hearing from you!

*Miss Mitchelmore*

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**Better Eating, Better Learning**

A New Context for School Food

## Back to the 80's

Can you remember back to the days of Amstrads, Nintendo, Karate Kid, Ferris Beuller's Day Off, rubiks cubes, Kim Wilde, Cyndi Lauper, Michael Jackson....???

Well, let Penicuik High School take you on a trip back in time. The parts have been cast and we will be bringing 'Back To The 80s' to the stage in June 2017!

## Tutor Periods

11 October Period 2

25 October Period 4

## Penicuik High Wider Curriculum Activities

At Penicuik High we offer a variety of wider curriculum activities for pupils to participate in and enrich their school experience. Following on from our Active Schools programme, included is a summary of our non-sporting opportunities. All activities are open to all students (unless specified in the title), free to pupils and are led by teachers or senior students:

Activity	Where	Leader	Day and Time
Vocal Group	Room 4	Mrs McIntosh	Monday 15.30-16.45
Burnt Out Records	The Hub	Mr Murphy	Monday 13.10-13.30
Coding Club	Room 36	Cameron McNeill (S6)	Monday 15.30-16.30
S1 Science Club	Room 54	Mr Scott/Isla Thom (S6)	Tuesday 13.05-13.35
Wind band	Room 4	Music Dept.	Tuesday 13.10-13.30
Big Art Club	Art Dept.	Miss Dixon	Tuesday 15.30-16.30
Book Group	Room 48	Miss Fleming	Tuesday 15.30-16.15
Percussion Group	Room 4	Music Dept.	Tuesday 15.30-16.00
Rights Respecting Schools	Room 25	Mrs Forbes	Wednesday 13.00-13.30
Jazz Band	The Hub	Music Dept.	Wednesday 13.10-13.30
Cello Group	Room 4	Music Dept.	Wednesday 13.10-13.30
Silver DofE (S4-6)	Room 39	Mr Merson	Wednesday 13.00-13.30 Selected Friday afternoons (tbc)
Ukulele Group	Room 4	Music Dept.	Wednesday 15.30-16.00
Bronze DofE (S3)	Room 22	Mr Lawson/Mr Thornley	Thursday 13.00-13.30 Selected Friday afternoons (tbc)
Fiddle Group	The Hub	Music Dept.	Thursday 15.30-16.00
Guitar Group	Room 4	Music Dept.	Friday 13.00-13.30

**NOTE:** Check the daily bulletin for any changes to the above – details may change .  
Please inform family that you are attending clubs and will be late home or arrange suitable transport / lift home.

*Didn't receive this newsletter by email? Please update your contact details by informing the school office in writing, to ensure you receive future editions directly to your inbox. Data check forms were issued to all students at the start of term, these should be returned to the school office by **Friday 7 October**.*

## Rights Respecting School Award



In April of this year, Penicuik High School successfully achieved the Record of Commitment stage of UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award. Since then, we have been working towards achieving Level 1.

In order to do this, we visited Ross High School in Tranent, who have already achieved this stage, and generated some fantastic ideas. We are planning a number of campaigns throughout the year to help promote our school ethos of PRIDE and will keep you all updated on what we are doing every month.

## Penicuik High School DofE

With the Qualifying Expeditions for the Gold and Silver and Bronze groups now complete we are just about ready to start the process again.

Twenty one students took part in their Bronze expeditions in the Pentland Hills and the Scottish Borders around Melrose. They were very lucky with the weather and they all performed very well despite the weary faces by the end.

The group of 8 Silver students had their expeditions around Innerleithen then down to the Pennines for their qualifier. They also did very well despite some epic adventures when some of their navigation choices could have been better! They were all still smiling at the end.

Our first ever Gold group headed into the wilds of Corrou and Torridon for their adventures and performed exceptionally well.

Could I please ask if your child has taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme this year please nudge them in the direction of their eDofE account to get their evidence and assessors reports uploaded to complete their award.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for information on how to continue our success into 2017!

Happy trails

Mr Merson

