



Penryn
College

ACHIEVING through
CHALLENGE

“ Under the care and guidance of the staff, both my girls have blossomed into happy and confident children. ”

PARENT

moving to the BIG SCHOOL



A NEW CHALLENGE



For an 11-year old, finding your way around a big school on the first day of the new term can be challenging. That's why we make the move from primary to secondary school as smooth as possible.

There are a wide range of activities to support the move to Penryn College. Primary students visit us several times and our pupils return to their original primary schools to talk about life at 'the big school'.

Our close relationships with primary school staff help students settle in at the College. These relationships also ensure that we build on the progress that your child has already made.

A child's best chance of success comes from working in partnership with you. There is always someone available to answer any queries you may have. Parents' evenings, which take place throughout the year, give you the opportunity to meet with staff to discuss your child's progress.



SUPPORT FOR SUCCESS

Our Educational Support Team (EST) staff are always on hand to help students with any day-to-day problems or concerns.

Every Year 7 student is supported by their form tutor.

We also have a team of non-teaching staff working with Year 7 students who require additional support with their learning.

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The House System is a real strength of the school that gives students a sense of belonging and togetherness.

Year 7 students are put into one of four houses:

-  **Arwenack**
-  **Gluvias**
-  **Killigrew**
-  **Pendennis**

“ It is incredibly rewarding to see our students begin their lives at Penryn College as children and conclude their time at the school as young adults. They succeed academically, and, vitally, become well-rounded individuals. ”

HEADTEACHER

PARENTS/CARERS

Pick up the phone or come and see us at any time. Your role is crucial in inspiring, supporting and helping your child plan for their future. By working closely with you, we can make every moment of your child's time at Penryn College count.

There is a real sense of family, belonging and continuity at Penryn College. Some of today's parents were once students here themselves - and some of the teachers!



“ I feel my children are treated as individuals, which is very important. ”

PARENT

THE PARENTS' FORUM

When your child joins Penryn College, you are welcome to join the Parents' Forum, which organises learning events and meets regularly with senior staff to discuss ways to improve the College. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEWS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

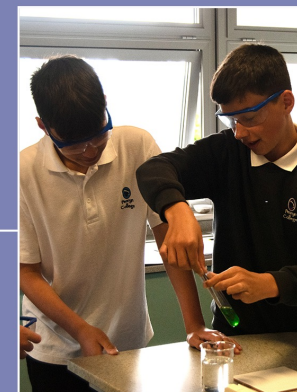
To keep up to date with the latest news and events at the school, follow us on Facebook (Penryn College Cornwall), Instagram (@penryncollegecornwall), and Twitter (@collegepenryn). Most importantly, please read the weekly newsletter we send to parents/carers by e-mail. Be sure to visit our website too: penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk



“ We watch them grow and we don't lose sight of the goals they want to achieve. ”

TEACHING ASSISTANT

the fun of LEARNING



ENGLISH

Through our exciting choice of texts and rich curriculum, we want our students to hear as many voices as possible: local voices, voices from the past, voices from across the globe, voices of the literary greats, and voices of the vulnerable and voiceless. Our aim is for students to appreciate and celebrate a world that is beyond their own, encouraging deep thought and independence. All students will develop their reading and writing in creative ways that will allow them to achieve their potential and participate fully in society.

MATHEMATICS

Getting to grips with Maths is challenging and exciting. Our passionate teachers use the latest technology and resources to ensure students experience a wide range of teaching styles, and we work hard to ensure pupils have a clear understanding of what they have achieved. Students are encouraged to develop their thinking skills and apply their mathematical knowledge to a variety of situations.

SCIENCE

Our curriculum aims to inspire students to be curious about the world around them and to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to investigate and evaluate concepts and ideas. We place strong emphasis on the use of practical work to promote enquiry and support students in thinking and working like scientists.

HISTORY

Our History curriculum covers topics that are crucial for students to know in order to have cultural capital to understand the society and world in which they live. We teach our students to have a sense of enquiry and to be able to use source materials and ask challenging questions about interpretations and evidence presented. Students need to understand that history is always open to interpretation, and that at the heart of the subject is the need to question and challenge what they read and learn. At Penryn College, we want students to learn about the history of their community, Britain, Europe and the world. They should develop a chronological overview that enables them to make connections, debate significance and help them become confident and questioning individuals.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography at Penryn College means developing an understanding of how human and physical processes work together at different scales to shape the environment, and building the skills needed to explore and understand these changes. Both human and physical geography topics are studied in each year. Big ideas such as globalisation, development, climate change and sustainability are introduced early on and are regularly revisited. Our curriculum extends pupils' prior learning and lays the foundations for studying topics with increasing levels of complexity. In this way, we provide both a 'knowledge-rich' curriculum, as well as the 'spiral curriculum', where we return to big ideas and key concepts in geography to make links and build increasingly sophisticated thinking.

STEAM

STEAM is the exciting combination of Design Technology and ICT/Computing, creating a curriculum which best fits the world our students are going to live and work in. We provide all pupils with the best possible knowledge, skills and experiences to enable them to flourish in the fast-changing and highly technical jobs of the future. They will become more aware of the huge variety of careers available in the STEAM industries and the pathways through education to reach them. STEAM will support the students, alongside our industry partners, to apply and combine knowledge and skills learned across the school to solve real-world problems.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

We examine moral, ethical and philosophical issues through the lens of different religious and non-religious world views. At Key Stage 3, units of work are taught in accordance with the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus and include Christianity, Sikhism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism, as well as a unit of work exploring spirituality in Cornwall.

At Key Stage 4, pupils can opt for AQA GCSE RE, which includes a study of Hinduism and Christianity, or non-examined statutory RE. Having the opportunity to study and compare different religions, cultures and traditions is fascinating and can help shape personal opinions and prepare students for interacting with the world around them.



“The manner in which staff care for students and keep them safe are outstanding elements of the College’s work. Parents are unanimous that their children are taught well.”

OFSTED

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) is studied by all students in Key Stage 3. Pupils will study either French or Spanish for three years; they can then choose to continue with their language as one of their GCSE Options choices. Lessons focus on the seven skills needed to become an expert in language learning: reading, writing, speaking, listening, memorisation, translation and grammar. We work with Truro College and the University of Exeter to give students the experience of language learning in higher and further education, and we have run many successful trips to France and Spain.

LIFE SKILLS

Life Skills lessons which deal with relationships, sex education, drugs and citizenship are central to each student’s personal development. These powerful subjects are explored through investigations, discussions and individual projects, and delivered by our specialised ‘Lifestyle’ team. Careers, personal finance, global issues and diversity issues are also considered in ways relevant to a young person’s age and maturity.



“ Throughout their school journey, pupils are encouraged to think carefully about their next steps and be aspirational for their future. ”

OFSTED

the fun of LEARNING



CREATIVE ARTS: ART, DRAMA, DANCE, MUSIC AND MEDIA

Creative Arts transforms young lives by helping develop powerful and distinctive forms of communication and expression. In lessons, students are inspired to be creative, innovative and to take risks; they are given rich experiences which help them develop their sense of self and their ability to communicate with others effectively. In all of the Creative Arts subjects, students learn from exploring work from a variety of artists, cultures and practitioners. They also have the opportunity to develop their own practical skills through exploration.

PE AND SPORTS

The Lifestyle Department offers a holistic approach to ensure all students are prepared for active and healthy futures. Physical Education at Penryn College includes a wide range of sporting activities to ensure pupils are given a chance to shine. The Lifestyle Department provides an extensive and nationally-leading extracurricular programme designed to provide students with specialist opportunities. This includes recreational activities, all the way to representation in county, regional and national competitions. Our Life Skills curriculum provides students with the knowledge, resilience and confidence to make safe, healthy and informed choices - now and in the future.



FOOD AND NUTRITION

In Food Preparation and Nutrition, we have a strong focus on learning through practical work, with many areas of food science being explored through individual and group practical lessons. We have strong links with subjects such as PE and Science, and throughout Key Stage 3 and 4, we cover the functional qualities of ingredients to help us effectively plan and cook delicious and nutritious meals.

We also explore the wide range of factors that affect our food choices, including social, moral and environmental issues that have an impact on our chosen diets and lifestyles. Our curriculum is supported with a range of clubs, events and competitions, during which students get the opportunity to showcase their wonderful skills.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO EDUCATE A CHILD

Having our own footpath to The Combined Universities in Cornwall is a great asset.

We work with university lecturers to design projects, and undergraduates are student mentors. The Careers team enables students to work with a range of local employers. We also work closely with Penryn Council and the local police.

If we're at the heart of the community, our students can only benefit!

STUDY SUPPORT

Every year, a majority of our students take part in our Study Support programme, which caters for everybody's needs. Activities run before school, during lunchtimes and after school, up to, and sometimes beyond, 6.00pm. There is also a 'Schools on Saturday' programme for students and members of the community to attend, with a host of sporting, creative and academic activities. Also available is a full holiday programme, which includes environmental studies, outdoor adventure, art, ICT, journalism, music and sport.

Students also participate in a wide range of special events throughout the year, such as the Dance Production, Drama and Music performances, plus much more.

The school site is open 51 weeks a year and during most evenings. The College belongs to the community and we want you to be a part.

LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

We know that technology will be at the heart of our children's future lives - in their education, their social lives and their careers. We want our students to use the internet well - this is one of the key reasons we provide pupils with an iPad. We work with families to help students develop great internet study skills and to help them understand when and how to use the internet usefully and safely. Preparing pupils for modern life isn't just about showing them how to use technology. They will need to think creatively, investigate and solve problems, research, and work effectively in a team. We are committed to helping young people develop these skills.



“Cooperation, keenness, enthusiasm and the ability to learn independently are among the key things we develop in our students.”

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

“Our inclusive leadership programme encourages students to collaborate effectively and challenge themselves.”

OUTDOOR EDUCATION
CO-ORDINATOR

outdoor challenge

LEADERSHIP

We value student leadership very highly. Leadership encourages students to learn in ways that help them find out more about themselves. There are leadership programmes and opportunities for all ages, including the Student Council, becoming a prefect, mentoring, and opportunities to work on the holiday programme and in the community.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor experience is an exciting part of school life and includes climbing, surfing, orienteering, sailing and other watersports.

During their time at Penryn College, students will have the opportunity to learn through many outdoor activities, including the Year 7 Activity Day, the school ski trip, or even signing up to be a part of the Ten Tors expedition.

In later years, students are able to obtain qualifications in outdoor activities.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

This character-building award encourages greater achievement in young people and is highly regarded by employers. It develops independence and problem-solving skills - attributes that can be used for the rest of a student's life.

“There's a great team spirit here. We all get on well with each other and the teachers. We feel safe, and the facilities are amazing!”

STUDENT

BEING SAFE, BEING HAPPY

We are proud that students tell us Penryn College is a friendly, welcoming school. At every opportunity, we encourage pupils to get involved in school life and to respect and help others. We regularly meet groups of students, especially the Student Council, to hear their views about school life and to check that they feel happy and safe. We actively encourage all students to report any concerns through the @talk app on their iPads. We have specialist teams of staff who support students and families with attendance and well-being, as well as behaviour concerns such as bullying or offensive behaviour. All staff are safeguarding trained and we work together with students to ensure that Penryn College remains a friendly, happy and safe place to be.



“The culmination of five years’ hard work means as much to us as to the students.”

TEACHER

facing THE FUTURE

LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships made at school can last a lifetime. The strength of the bonds formed here are at the heart of every young person’s experience at school.

At Penryn College, students will have worked hard to prepare for adult life and will enter it as active, responsible citizens. Whatever they aspire to, our role has been to help them meet their personal challenges and provide opportunities that will enable them to thrive in the future.

By their hard work and commitment, the main agents of change are the students themselves. For us to watch them leave in pursuit of their future aspirations is both rewarding and sad. We’ve watched them grow and all too soon it’s time to see them on their way.



BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES

Learning from the ages of 11 to 16 is not the final stage of a young person’s formal education. The vast majority of our students continue in education or training, studying A levels, vocational qualifications or apprenticeships.

Cornwall College, Falmouth Sixth Form, Truro & Penwith College, Helston College and local training providers all offer excellent facilities, courses and opportunities. On our doorstep, the University of Exeter and Falmouth University offer a comprehensive range of higher education courses, enabling our young people to make the most of their talents in their home county.





“Pupils follow an exciting curriculum with a broad range of different opportunities. Leaders are ambitious for pupils and there is an ethos of ‘having a go’, without fear of failure. Pupils embrace this challenge, both in and outside of the classroom.”

OFSTED