

The Helstonian

December 2024

HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE



Oxford University
Trip - Page 21

Meet Benni
Page 11...

In this issue: Remembrance Day • Student of the Month • PTFA
Christmas Fayre • Student Success • Art Gallery • CyberFirst Girls

ASPIRATION • AMBITION • ACHIEVEMENT

ISSUE

14





LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of the College

The Autumn Term is always a long one and particularly busy at this time of year. The vast majority of students have been fantastic and a real credit to themselves and their families. I am so proud of their achievements and how many of them have been involved in the numerous Christmas activities. Whether they've starred in the panto, helped out at the PTFA Christmas Fayre, performed in the Christmas Concert or Carol Service, helped out with our Food bank collection, taken part in the 12 Days of Christmas programme, fundraised for the Tanzania expedition or embraced the Kindness Golden Ticket challenge, it has been a joy to see them get stuck in. There have also been numerous sporting events and successes - congratulations to all those who have participated and thank you to the staff for supporting them.

Many of our sixth formers have been applying to university and offers are starting to come in. A number have already been offered places at prestigious universities and others have interviews coming up in the New Year. Congratulations to Alice, Lily and Beth for being selected for interviews at Oxford (currently ranked the third best university in the world).

There are also students aiming to study medicine, go to university abroad or audition for a place at a conservatoire. Exciting times ahead for all of them, I'm sure. Talking of which, it was lovely to hear the great news about former student Thomas Fogg (aka Foggy) receiving a special Physics award having recently graduated from Oxford University (page 8), and that Jacob in Year 13 was recently recognised for his musical talents by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, receiving one of the Young and Talented Awards (page 21).

Christmas can be a wonderful time for many, but also a difficult time for some. We wish you and your loved ones all the very best over the festive season and look forward to what 2025 will bring.

RNLI Student Challenge

As previously mentioned, we will be challenging students to raise funds for the RNLI this year. We have some exciting plans ahead, however, as most of them feature activities outdoors we have decided to delay the challenge until the summer term, hoping for dry weather!

With best wishes,

Alex Lingard

Headteacher



• **IMPORTANT NOTICES** • **IMPORTANT NOTICES** • **IMPORTANT NOTICES** •

Important Messages and Updates

EQUIPMENT UPDATE

What should students bring to the College every day?

We have been reviewing the list of equipment that students need to bring with them every day. In the New Year, the following items will be required on a daily basis for students in Years 7 to 11.

Please can you ensure each of your children has the items listed opposite in bold for their return on Wednesday 8 January.

All students in receipt of Free School Meals will be given a free set of equipment, if needed.

It is really important every child has what they need for each lesson. The disruption and loss of lesson time caused when students are missing items can be significant. From Monday 13 January, tutors will be completing a weekly equipment check. If students are missing an item, this will be logged on Class Charts (please note: no behaviour point will be assigned) and the student will be expected to replace it as soon as possible. However, if a student repeatedly has missing items, we will issue a lunchtime detention.

As a back-up, each classroom will have a set of pens and pencils so that if a student forgets or

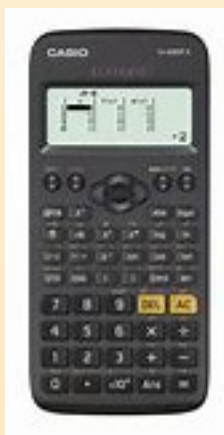
loses theirs, they will be able to borrow one so they can complete their written work with minimum disruption. In addition, we have decided to make equipment easily available so items will be able to be purchased from the library at North Site.

Every Lesson:

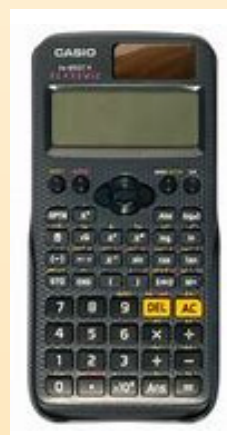
Black pen, Pencil, Eraser, Sharpener, Ruler, Glue stick, Yellow highlighter, Green highlighter, Green pen for marking corrections and improving work, calculator*

iPads must have enough charge to last them throughout the day (we recommend a minimum of 80% charge)

*Not all calculators work the same way. We recommend these models to use in your Maths and Science lessons:



CASIO FX-83GTX



CASIO FX-85GTX

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

20th 12.30pm Break up for Christmas

January

6th Inset Day

7th Inset Day

8th 8.45am Back to school!

8th Y11 Mock Results

14th Y11 Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening 4.00pm

29th UCAS Deadline

29th Y9 Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening 4.00pm

30th P16 Apprenticeship Fair

February

6th Y9 Options Evening

11th Y8 Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening 4.00pm

14th 3.15pm Break up for half-term

24th 8.45am Back to school!

24th P16 Mocks

March

5th Y7 Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening 4.00pm

10th Y11 Food NEA 2 Practical Exams

12-14th College Production

2024-25 Term Dates are available to view on the College website.

ABSENCE – Important Notices for Parents and Carers

If your child is absent from College, please can you call the College every day of their absence before 8.30am. Please leave a message with specific detail as to why they are unable to attend. Please can we also ask you to let us know of any medical/orthodontist appointments in advance. This helps unnecessary phone calls being made.

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM COLLEGE

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.

If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend Court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the Government. 'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any

person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

The Department for Education does not allow Headteachers to grant any leave of absence for children during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you consider that your request for absence is exceptional, please complete the form on the College website.

<https://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/web/attendance/672277>

A response from the school will be sent to you as soon as possible. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence.





Remembrance Day 2024



Rory W and Charlie L - South Site Quad



'Lest we forget'



Lilia P and Ella T - North Site



Miriam M
Sixth Form Suite



Baby Egg and Flour Baby Project 2024

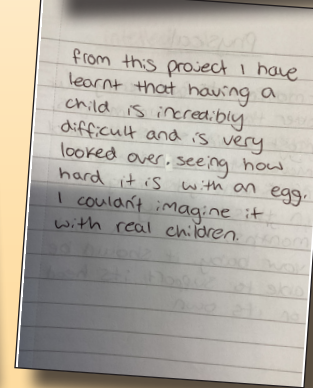
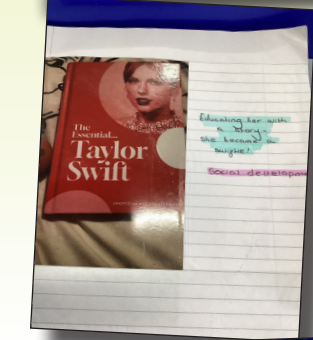
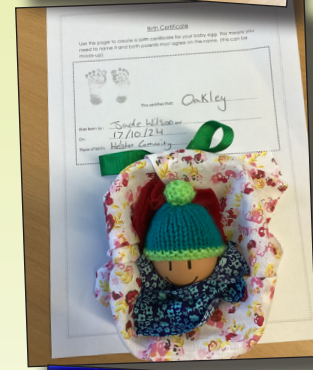
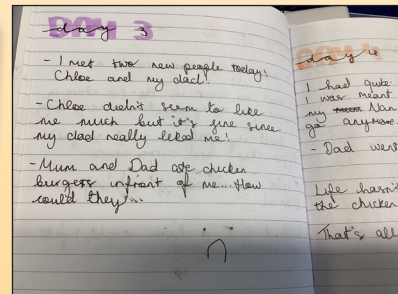
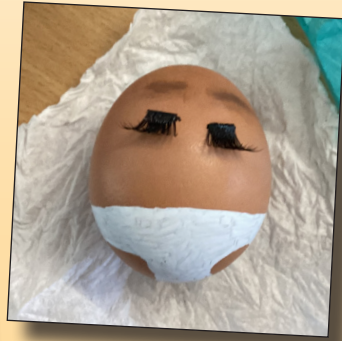
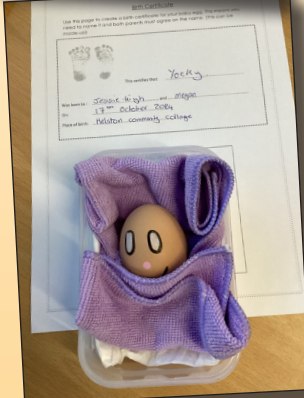
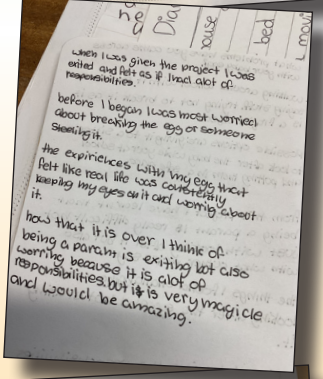
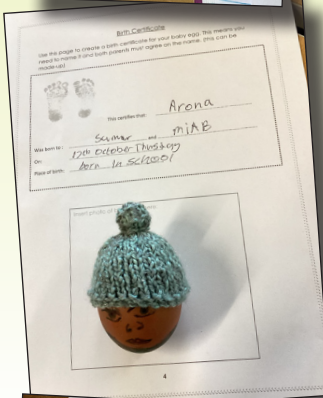
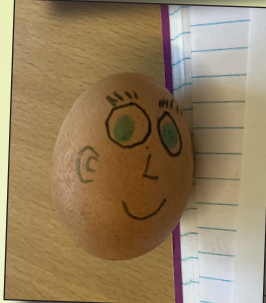
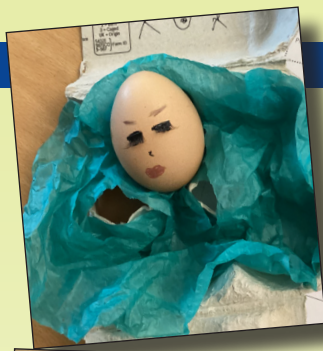
The Year 10 Baby Egg and Year 12 Flour Baby Projects aim to teach students about responsibility and empathy by assigning them a "baby" to care for. Each student is required to treat their 'baby' as if it were a real infant, ensuring its "safety" and "well-being" throughout the week-long project.

Through the Baby Egg Project, students develop a sense of empathy, which can help them appreciate parental responsibilities. They also learn the importance of constant vigilance and planning, understanding how easily accidents can happen! The project encourages students to think critically about the challenges and responsibilities of parenting, preparing them to understand the demands and skills needed for parenting in a fun yet meaningful way. Many of the 'Baby eggs' went on quite an adventure, attending lessons and various other activities in the community.

For Year 12, The Flour Baby Project is a hands-on educational activity designed to give students an understanding of parenting responsibilities, but it takes the concept a step further by using a small bag of flour to represent a baby instead of an egg. Some of the babies looked quite realistic from a distance and caused them to attract quite a bit of attention in the community! Through this project, students learn about the demands of

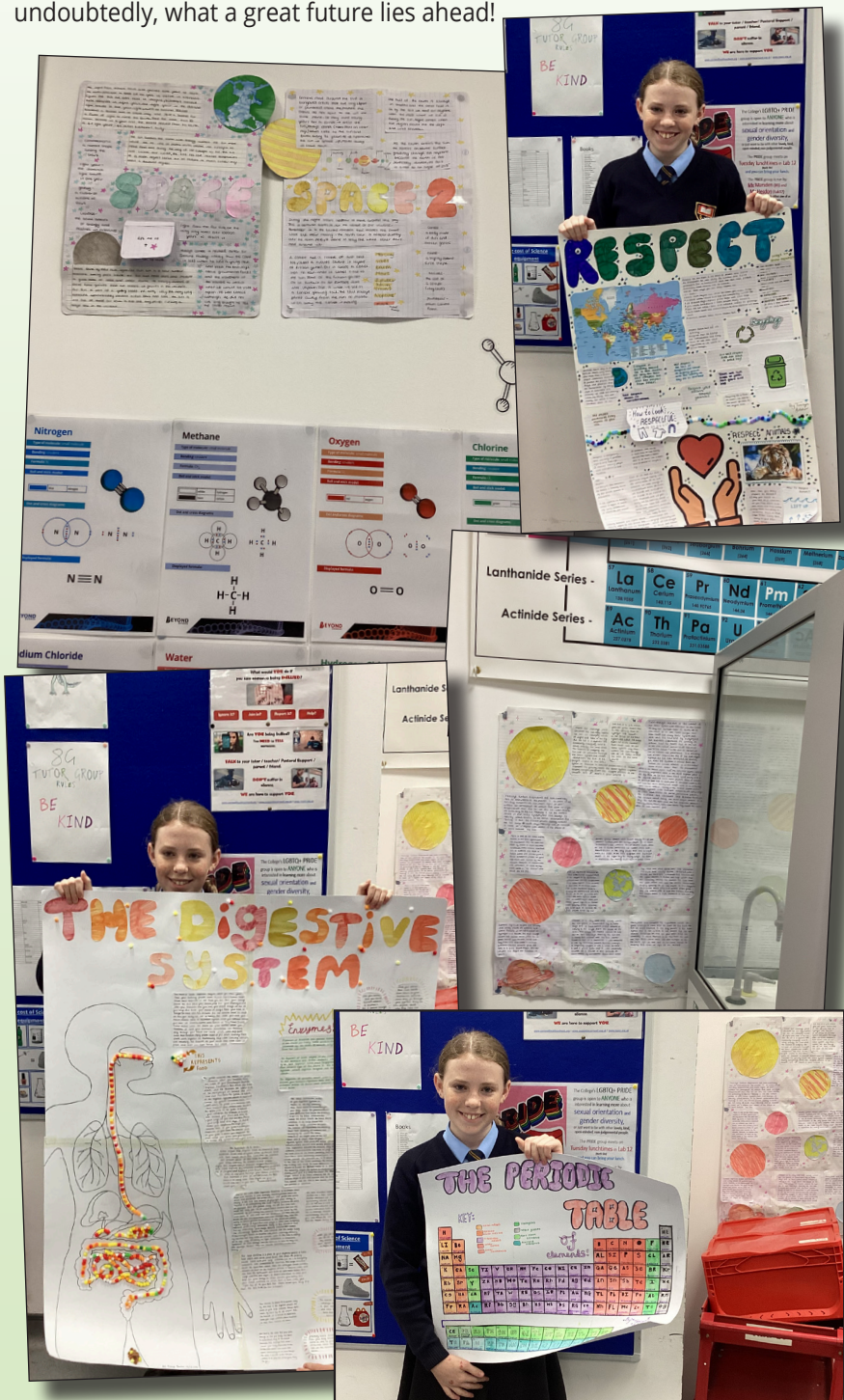
parenthood and gain insights into attachment. As students carry and care for their flour baby, they are encouraged to treat it as a real child. They are prompted to talk to it, soothe it, and carry it closely—similar to how a parent might interact with an infant. This process allows students to experience the emotional connection that develops with caregiving.

The Flour Baby Project provides students with insights into attachment theory, particularly the role of consistent care, physical proximity, and emotional connection in fostering attachment. Students saw how the consistent care and effort of parenting fosters emotional bonds and helped them to understand the significance of attachment in child development. By simulating the caregiving experience, students gain a realistic perspective on the challenges and rewards that come with caring for a dependent. The Flour Baby Project is a valuable tool for teaching both practical and emotional lessons about caregiving, attachment, and responsibility. During their time as 'parents' Year 12 sought 'childcare' from the science technicians and were shocked when their babies were returned with a childcare bill and dirty nappies! The whole school community has supported both the projects fully and it has been great to see the innovative and mature way in which the students have risen to their parenting challenges.



Cornwall's Keenest Scientist?

To say Tamzyn in Year 8 loves Science has to be an understatement. Look at the incredible effort and talent she has shown in creating these amazing displays. The research that has gone into her work, never mind the creativity is just wonderful. What a great attitude, what a great role model, and undoubtedly, what a great future lies ahead!



Royal Navy Attract and Recruit Team

On Tuesday 19 November Post 16 had a visit from the Royal Navy Attract and Recruit team. Karen, Dan and Kahn arrived with bags full of equipment ready to lead 2 workshops where they put a group of eager Post 16 students through their paces. During the first session the students were set a task to build a structure to aid people in a humanitarian crisis, the students worked in small teams and had limited time to build their structure they then had to present to the other teams explaining the purpose of their structure and the difficulties they overcame during the process.

During the second session the students took part in various activities highlighting how to work as a team and build leadership skills. One of the activities saw the students timed whilst holding hands in a circle with their eyes closed and they had to feed themselves through a hula hoop to give them an idea of the challenges faced during an escape from a submarine.

The workshops were both very much enjoyed by the students including Alfie P Year 12 who said 'it was an eye opening insight into the varying types of work the Navy do'.



Former Student Wins Prestigious Gibbs Prize for MPhys Project

We are delighted to announce that Thomas Fogg, a recent graduate of the University of Oxford was awarded the Gibbs Prize for the best MPhys project this year.

Thomas' research, supervised by Manjit Dosanjh in collaboration with Cameron Robertson from Oxford, Andrea Latina from CERN and Alexander Gerbershagen from the Particle Therapy Research Centre (PARTREC) at the University of Groningen, focused on the effects of the first quadrupole magnet in a novel, toroidally symmetric particle therapy delivery system known as GaToroid.

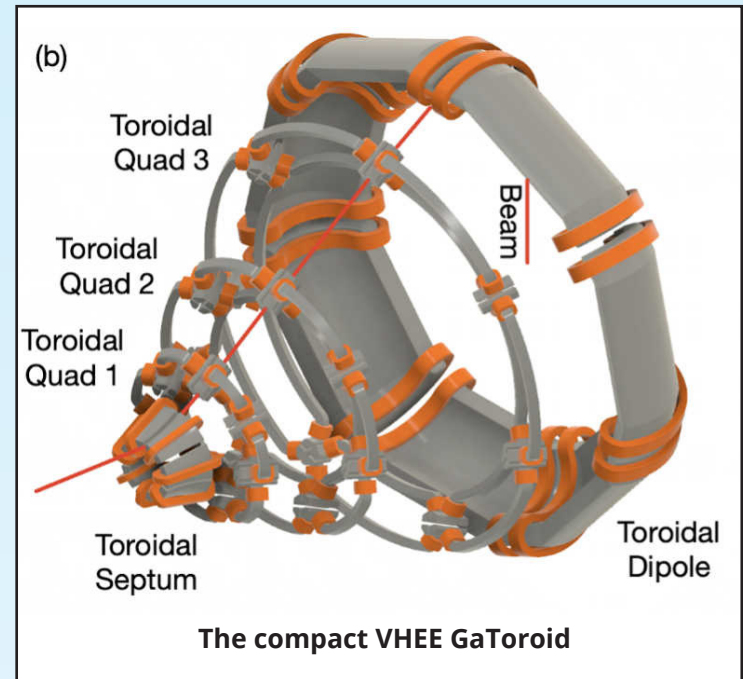
His work involved using a multipolar expansion to identify impurities in the quadrupole magnet and comparing the particle distributions tracked through this design with those of a regular quadrupole.

Despite the presence of certain impurities, the novel design was found to replicate the desired results excellently, marking a significant step forward in the development of the GaToroid system. This system has the potential to revolutionize particle therapy by offering cost-effective and space-efficient treatment options compatible with ultra-high dose rates.

Thomas's dedication and innovative approach have not only earned him this prestigious award but have also paved the way for further research in the field. He will continue his academic journey later this year, starting a PhD at PARTREC, where he will investigate ultra-fast irradiation mechanisms for particle therapy.

Congratulations to Thomas Fogg on this outstanding achievement!

<https://adams-institute.ac.uk/article/oxford-physics-student-wins-prestigious-gibbs-prize-mphys-project>



Thomas Fogg proudly pointing to the Denys Wilkinson Building where he completed his award-winning MPhys project on the innovative GaToroid particle therapy system.



Article and Photos copyright University of Oxford.

Town Council Meeting

On Thursday 21 November we joined Cathy Sherlock (Culdrose Community Centre), Trish Monks (Parc Eglos Service Student Pastoral Lead) students from our school (Imogen A, Elana-Brooke R, Leah C, Ava H-E - Year 7, Poppy G and Daniel M P16) for a Town Council Meeting.

All of them confidently spoke out about the needs for Youth Provision in our community representing all of the children in the Kerrier area not just service children. They all had prepared their own things to say and were all so passionate about what they would like to see in the development of the old Budgens building in the town centre.

The reason why we attended the meeting was because the town has been sat on £107k of money for 12 years from the sale of a dwelling, the students really did a fantastic job to encourage the town to allocate this money to the development. I would really like them to be recognised for their efforts, especially the Year 7s.

Afterwards, Mr David Turnbull (incharge of the project) said he would really like the school to get involved. His email is deturnbull@btinternet.com if you would like to contribute ideas to the project.



www.instagram.com/helstonccsport/

HELSTONCCSPORT

**We are now on
instagram!**

Follow to see regular PE
announcements,
recognise sporting
achievements and much
more...

@helstonccsport

College Uniform

PRICELIST	
Blazers	
• 24" - 36"	£25.50
• 38" - 42"	£26.50
• 44" - 50"	£27.50
Jumpers	
• 28" - 32"	£13.95
• 34" - 38"	£14.95
• 40" - 44"	£15.65
Ties	£5.00
Badges	£2.80

Available from North Site Reception - CASH ONLY or order online from the College website.



Helston Community College **PTFA**



Christmas Fayre



We raised amazing £1400 for the College





Meet Benni

Our New Four-Legged Friend for Mental Health Support!

We've all had those days when school feels overwhelming — whether it's the pressure of exams, anxiety about social situations, or just the weight of daily stress. But now, there's a fluffy, friendly face ready to help us through it. Meet Benni, our school's new dog, here to lend a paw to students in need! Benni is a gentle, tail-wagging Labradoodle who is trained to help students manage anxiety, stress, and even school-based avoidance. Super dogs like Benni provide a calming presence, helping us feel

comforted and less alone. How does Benni help our students (and staff)?

1. Reducing Anxiety

Just a few minutes of petting or sitting with Benni can help lower stress levels. His calming presence can slow heart rates, reduce tension, and even help with breathing when you're feeling anxious. Thus enabling students to carry on with their day.

2. Encouraging School Attendance

If coming to school feels difficult, knowing Benni is there can make all the difference. Spending time with him can help make school

feel more welcoming and less intimidating. He is particularly good at getting young people out of the car in the mornings.

3. Boosting Mental Health

Dogs are known to help boost serotonin and dopamine levels — the "feel-good" hormones. That means more smiles and less stress!

4. A Listening Ear (and Wagging Tail)

Sometimes, we need someone who is just 'there', judgment-free. Benni doesn't care about grades, deadlines, or peer pressure — he cares about making the people he is with feel safe and supported.



Benni's time is scheduled and overseen by the Pastoral team and time slots can be arranged with him through the PSA team. Like every member of staff at HCC, Benni has regular breaks during the day where he can often be seen chasing a stick, eating or sleeping on his bed.

Remember, asking for help is brave — and sometimes, help comes with four paws and a wagging tail. Benni is here to make sure you know you're never alone.

So, next time you're feeling anxious or just need a comforting friend, come say hello to Benni. He's ready to brighten your day and help make school a place where everyone can feel safe and supported.

Welcome to the HCC family, Benni!



HELSTON FATSTOCK SHOW 2024

Helston Fatstock Show is held at Franchis Farm in Wendron by kind permission of Mr B Cowell, on Saturday 9 November.

The Show was very well supported in all the classes by people far and wide. The classes range from baking, flower arrangements, photography, vegetables, cattle and sheep. It was the 152nd show, it is one of the oldest shows in the country. Other things to see on the day were local craft stalls and farm machinery. The main attraction is the cattle and sheep showing and judging which is what the show originated from. There was a charity auction on the day that raised £2,650 for Cornwall Air Ambulance.

The committee put lots of hard work in to getting this show ready for everyone to enjoy and they are already thinking about



next year's show that will be on Saturday 8 November 2025.

By Frederick W.



Frederick and his sister Lydia won third prize in the 'Breeding Pair' class and second prize in the 'Young Handlers' class with their Suffolks.

Tregullias Farm Trip



A group of students have had the great fortune to visit Tregullias Fram on The Lizard. The most southerly farm in the UK! They have visited once a week for this half term. The students have had a super time learning outdoors, looking after the animals, baking and crafting.

Rona Amiss and her family have been so welcoming. Thank you to Mrs Williamson, Mrs Betts and Mrs Garty for helping to organize and accompany the students every Monday.

CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS



Elsie has spent several hours in the supermarkets and many more sorting packing and wrapping the donations to make an outstanding 74 hampers. This week Elsie has been distributing her hampers to the local school who will then pass these on to families in their school. A massive well done to Elsie for all your hard work and the hours you have dedicated to this very worthy cause.

Elsie E of 9E has this year once again been helping local families that are in need this Christmas by making up food hampers. These hampers include items such as tinned food, gravy, stuffing gravy, Christmas cake, mince pies, biscuits, chocolate, snacks and soft drinks.

Elsie began helping with the Christmas Box campaign six years ago, saving up her pocket money to buy items for the boxes and was later helped by Helston brownies, written to neighbours and this year by squadrons at RNAS Culdrose.





It has been another busy half term in the Library. We have issued 466 books since the beginning of this half term in November.

We have finally had the technical issues resolved on our e-book platform and that is now up and running. If students or staff want to use this resource, download the following app:

To sign in you must click 'Add a library'. Then Type in Helston Community College.



eBook Platform

Then click 'sign in using Helston Community College'. The log in is your TPAT email and password. Please come see one of us in the library if you have troubles logging on. We are really excited to get this up and running for users here.

The end of November we did a quick celebration of the American celebration of Thanksgiving.



We had the students write on a post it one thing they were thankful for. Which was responded to in very thoughtful responses. I am thankful for our students and all who participated.

We had such a response to the call for Student Librarians that we have had to put our students through an interview process.

All of the students who applied and interviewed were lovely and it has been a tough choice for us

here in the Library. Everyone has had their own set of skills that would be great in the Library. However we had to narrow it down to 10 students. Our Student Librarians will be:

Year 9 - Jonah F

Year 8 - Savannah K , Savannah S, Besty R, India P

Year 7 - Imogen A, Ethan R, Felix G, Autumn M, Reubyn A

Congrats to our new Student Librarian team!!



This week saw a visit from the Nursery. A good time was had by all. We read about Elmer at Christmas and had some colouring in sheets to do. We also gifted the Nursery children books for Christmas in the hopes to instil a love of reading from a young age.

Our Year 7 reading competition is neck and neck between 7B and 7H. It will come right down to the wire for this one. It is too close to call at this point. The winners will be announced on the last day of term.

Finally, we have had a large order of books delivered. So, keep your eye out for new titles in the Library and on our e-book platform on your return in January.

From both of us here in the Library, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mrs Rogers and Mrs Ford



We raised £467.94 for Children in Need.



CRAFT & ENGINEERING CLUB

Craft and Engineering Club will start after Christmas and will run every Tuesday.

Come to DT2 at 3:15pm on Tuesdays.

We are going to kick the club off with a manufacture/making challenge.

See you there!

JOYEUX NOËL!

This week a group of Year 8 students made some Christmas cards in French and English for a group of Year 8 French students. The cards are now on their way across the Channel and our students will receive their cards from the French side in the New Year. Well done Year 8. We wish the cards bon voyage!

Miss Morbey.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

These were created by the year 10 and 11 HSC students for residents at local care homes. This helped to foster a sense of connection and empathy from the students, helping the understand the importance of how small acts of kindness can bring joy to others during the festive season.





On Wednesday 20 November we held our annual Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Celebration Evening in the South Site Hall. Students and their families were invited to celebrate their achievement with us and I was pleased to invite Mr Lingard our Headteacher to present the awards and who spoke so fondly about the DofE Awards on the evening.

To achieve the award our students have taken part in walking and camping expeditions in the local area and on Bodmin Moor. They have also been completing instrumental music and singing lessons, arts, craft and photography projects, taking part in drama and theatre productions, learning to cook, playing in a rugby, football and netball teams and attending dance and martial arts classes and so many more activities. We are also proud that our students have collectively completed over 2000 hours volunteering their time supporting places in the community as part of their award. I know these organisations have valued the support given by them and in many cases, they have told us that our students have stayed on volunteering their time despite finishing their award.

The DofE team at the College would like to say congratulations to everyone that has achieved the award this year.

D Semmons, DofE Manager & L Ford, Assistant DofE Manager



Mayor opens South Site Quad



After a year out of action, the quad area on South Site finally reopened this month to much joy. The Quad has had a full make over, with a new floor, new artwork and a new shelter. All the walls, guttering and flat roofs have been repaired or painted, plus several new windows have been installed. Thank you to Helston Town Mayor, Miles Kenchington, for coming over to declare the area officially open again! The funds to complete the work came from government and community grants with not one penny coming from the School's budget! We think it looks fabulous!





Drama Department News

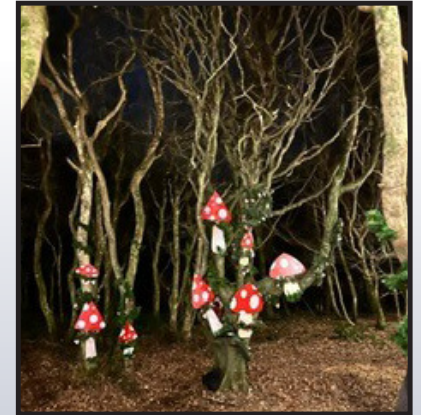


Rehearsals are in full swing for our next whole College production of 'James and the Giant Peach' due to be performed in the second week of March 2025.

This year's annual College pantomime performed to the whole school by our KS4 and KS5 students was 'Little Red Riding Hood' - the Revolting Rhymes version. It was performed 8 times throughout the week!

2024 has been a year of lots of theatre trips! We have been to The Minack to see Miracle's 'Love Riot', Bodkin Theatre's 'Bike', 'Am I Nuts' by Stargazey Theatre, 'Cross Roads' and 'Chicago' at The Burrell Theatre, 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at The Hall for Cornwall and Rogue's 'Winter Wood' in Tehidy Woods. All the trips have been arranged to inspire the students for devising their own original theatre and are vital for analysing theatre both the acting and design elements.

Here are some photos from our trip into a magical Winter Wonderland in the depths of Tehidy Woods.





Willow VDV

Art Gallery



Grace P



Aimee W

Mx Marsden's Year 11 GCSE Art & Design class have excelled themselves this term with their incredible still-life paintings, inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh. Each student has produced a beautiful piece that wouldn't look out of place in a local art gallery!



Delilah T



Autumn S-W



Louis D

Art Gallery



Annabelle C



Jess K

Ava J



Evelyn B

12 Days of Christmas Activities



...making Christmas Decorations



...delivering food donations to the Food Bank



Computing Department Bebras Challenge 2024

The Bebras Challenge is a UK-wide competition that introduces computational thinking to students. Held annually in November, it engages students in interactive tasks designed to develop their problem-solving and logical reasoning skills—essential for success in computer science and beyond.

We are thrilled to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our students in this year's challenge. Congratulations to our **Best in School** awardees:

- **Juniors (10-12):** Scarlett Sheperd 7E
- **Intermediates (12-14):** Emma Kenyon 9E
- **Seniors (14-16):** Joint winners Stanley Farrant 10G and Emily Murphy 11C

Additionally, we are proud to announce that **20 students earned the prestigious Gold award**, placing them in the top 10% of participants nationally. These results highlight the outstanding talent and commitment of our students.

7A	Juniors (10-12)	Zachary Edwards
7E	Juniors (10-12)	Scarlett Shepherd
7E	Juniors (10-12)	Hugo Laurence
7E	Juniors (10-12)	Bradley Hughes
7E	Juniors (10-12)	Eden Ninnis
7H	Juniors (10-12)	Ethan Rock
8A	Inters (12-14)	Amelia Stace
8B	Inters (12-14)	Thomas Dyer
8B	Inters (12-14)	Daniel Waddoups
8F	Inters (12-14)	Leo Barber
8F	Inters (12-14)	Orla P
9A	Inters (12-14)	LH
9B	Inters (12-14)	Jacob Shannon
9B	Inters (12-14)	Noah Short
9B	Inters (12-14)	Charlie Mills
9C	Inters (12-14)	Cayden Adams
9C	Inters (12-14)	James Wolstencroft
9D	Inters (12-14)	Oliver Richmond
9E	Inters (12-14)	Emma Kenyon
9E	Inters (12-14)	Merryn
9E	Inters (12-14)	Emily Burke
9G	Inters (12-14)	Jonah Fullman
9G	Inters (12-14)	IB
9G	Inters (12-14)	Alex Herdman

Next Step: The Coding Challenge

Building on the Bebras Challenge, all participants are invited to take part in the new **Coding Challenge**, which replaces the OUC as the next step for UK Bebras participants. This inclusive challenge is open to all skill levels, with five levels designed to match students' abilities, regardless of age.

• **How to Enter:** Details will be shared in the Teachers Messages area in early January.

• **Preparation:** Resources and guidance can be found here: [Coding Challenge - UK Bebras](#).

Congratulations once again to all our participants. Your hard work continues to inspire, and we look forward to seeing your success in the Coding Challenge and beyond!

Helston Steals the Show in CyberFirst Girls Competition!



Get ready to celebrate, because Helston Community College has made a splash in this year's CyberFirst Girls competition! Organised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), this exciting annual event is open to Year 8 girls across the UK and is all about empowering young women to dive into the world of cybersecurity. This year's showdown took place from November 6th to November 20th, and it was packed with brain-

teasing puzzles on topics like logic, coding, cryptography, and cyber defence.

Helston didn't just participate — we dominated by entering the most teams in the competition! While the regional crown slipped through our fingers this time, our teams absolutely crushed all previous school records, showcasing incredible talent and determination.

Leading the charge were the

"Programming Pookies" (Olivia E, Amy C, Orla P and Connie I), scoring a jaw-dropping 3,733 points! Close behind were the "Kernow Koders" (Jenny B, Evelyn M, Sienna P and Jenifer S) with a fantastic 2,731 points.

These stellar performances highlight the creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving superpowers of our students.

A huge shout out goes to Mr. Burke, who became the ultimate lunchtime hero by coaching and cheering on the teams every step

of the way. His energy and support played a big role in helping our girls achieve such remarkable success.

The CyberFirst Girls competition is more than just a contest; it's a chance to spark curiosity and build confidence in the next generation of tech leaders. Helston is proud to be leading the way in inspiring future innovators.

Congratulations to all of our participants for their phenomenal achievements — you've made us proud!

Celebrating Outstanding Effort in 10Cp.D GCSE Computer Science

We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on the incredible dedication and hard work of the 10Cp.D GCSE Computer Science class. Their commitment to learning outside the classroom has been truly inspiring, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

Recently, the class embraced the use of Tassomai, a cutting-edge subject retrieval app designed to support their studies. Each student was encouraged to meet at least 5 out of 7 daily goals per week. The results speak volumes about their determination and discipline:

- **Stanley Farrant** achieved an outstanding 100% course completion with an impressive **88%** accuracy.
- **Lewis Wells** completed 100% of the course with an excellent **88%** accuracy.
- **Benjamin Harmsworth** also reached 100% course completion, maintaining a remarkable **85%** accuracy.
- **KK** showed great effort with 58% course completion and a commendable **77%** accuracy.



These impressive statistics highlight the class's unwavering commitment to mastering the subject. The dedication shown by these students is already translating into measurable improvements in their paper exam performance, demonstrating the power of consistent effort and effective study tools.

Congratulations to all of you for your hard work and perseverance. Keep up this exceptional effort! With this level of dedication, you are undoubtedly on track to achieve amazing GCSE Computer Science grades at the end of the course in Year 11. Well done!

Mrs Hocking and Mr Burke



HARBOUR HAVEN COMMUNITY HUB



celebration of cooking and community.

Our pupils, representing various year groups and the Cornish Cooking Club, showcased their culinary skills with an array of delicious treats:

- Year 7 baked traditional Cornish Fairings,
- Year 9 crafted delightful Mince Pies,
- Year 10 made Spiced Shortbread, beautifully decorated by Year 11,
- And Year 13 prepared elegant Festive Onion Tarts.

Beyond the kitchen, the pupils served their creations to the local community, taking the time to chat about school life and their love of

cooking. Their impeccable manners and impressive skills received glowing praise from all who attended.

It was heart-warming to witness these young individuals engaging so politely and maturely, building positive connections within our community and spreading Christmas cheer.

A huge well done to everyone involved for representing our school so brilliantly. Mrs Morgado



Spreading Christmas Cheer at Porthleven Harbour Haven Community Hub.

Last week, I had the pleasure of escorting 11 talented pupils from Helston Community College to the Porthleven Harbour Haven Community Hub for a festive

Scan here to book!

Activities are taking place across Cornwall during the school Christmas holidays

- Multi sports, dancing, forest schools, reindeer feeding, horse riding and lots more!
- For children aged 5 to 16.
- A hot, healthy meal available for all children.
- Funded places for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

For more information:
 W: www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme/
 E: Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk
 T: 01872 324287

FIND AN ACTIVITY NEAR YOU!



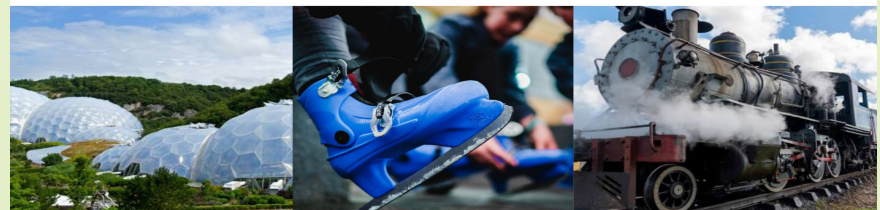
Take part in family experience days this Christmas!

This Christmas there will be activities, trips and experiences available for families to access together.

You will be able to access sites such as The Eden Project, Heligan, Rogue Theatre and many more!



Scan here to find out more information on our website and see what is available.



For more information:
 W: www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme/
 E: Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk
 T: 01872 324287



Young & Talented Cornwall Award

Earlier this year one of our most talented musicians, Jacob Jewell in year 13, performed at the TPAT music concert in the Hall for Cornwall. Representatives from the Lord Lieutenant's Fund encouraged Jacob to apply for the Young and Talented Cornwall Awards. The fund is headed by Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall Colonel Edward Bolitho KCVO OBE. It strives to help those young individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding talent in a particular field – such as sport, the arts, science, voluntary service and enterprise. Jacob was the successful applicant of the award. Below are Jacob's words:

At the start of the summer holidays, I applied for a grant from Cornwall Young and Talented to help go towards a new guitar. Having joined Helston School Jazz Orchestra in 2020 I was lent by the music department the Jazz Band's guitar to use. Now my passion for jazz playing has grown, encouraging me to pursue a career in the music industry. I am incredibly grateful for the support Cornwall Young and Talented has provided me in purchasing a new guitar to use once I leave HCC. The grant I received has gone towards an instrument that will allow me to progress as a musician.



Oxford University High Achievers' Trip



In early December high achieving students from year 11 and 12 were invited to Exeter College in Oxford University.

Over two days the students attended workshops linked to making university choices, UCAS applications, engineering, humanities, and ended with a workshop about AI, where students discussed the ethical considerations about the development of AI.

On the trip the students stayed in the halls of residence and spent the two days immersed in the historic buildings of Oxford. The Helston students also met with students attending Oxford University to hear first-hand of their experiences of the University and the very different way of learning compared to other universities.

The trip culminated with a tour of the world-famous Bodleian library, here they visited an exhibition displaying original drafts from authors ranging from Tolkien to John le Carre.

Praise Points



Leaderboard

Year 7



Skye	7B	159
Henry W	7D	117
Rebekah S	7A	106
Ellyott M	7H	103
Daniel P	7D	101
Reece W	7A	101
Jheniela B	7B	99
Alistair D	7B	92
Alice G	7D	90
Oscar S	7D	88

Year 8



Aaron I	8F	151
Emilia R	8E	138
Isobel P	8E	135
Millie N	8F	129
Polly R	8G	119
Leo B	8F	111
Jesse H	8F	102
Daniel W	8B	99
Johan C	8D	97
Nathan W	8F	96

Year 9



Kenie M	9E	125
Elodie H	9H	117
Frederick W	9E	105
Courtney K	9E	101
Finley W-H	9E	100
Ava C	9B	99
Millie H	9E	97
Olivia A	9E	96
Jacob S	9B	96
John C	9B	95

Year 10



Tyler P	10A	121
David S	10A	100
Elijah C	10D	97
Charlotte H	10G	92
Isaac A	10D	81
Roxy H-P	10H	80
Lily B	10G	78
Tamsin M	10A	78
Oscar P	10H	78
Hugh K	10D	74
Ayanna O	10H	74
Reuben R	10H	74

Year 11



Andrew D	11C	58
Daisy S	11H	57
Grace G	11C	51
Meah H	11A	49
Florence S	11D	49
Evan S	11C	48
Leah H	11C	47
Joel K	11B	47
Lily T	11A	47

Year 12



Ry H	12D	17
Emily P	12A	17
Finn A	12E	16
Alistair S	12E	16
Rhys W	12A	16
Phoebe J	12B	15
Kieran S	12B	15

Year 13



Martin B	13B	17
Daniel M	13D	13
Harrison M	13A	12
William W	13B	12
Daniel W	13A	11
James R	13D	10
Ashley D	13B	9
Daisy W	13D	9

★
Well Done!

(Praise Points as of 17.12.24)



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

November - December



Year 7

Isla M

Isla has been recognised not only for working with great diligence and consistency in English, but also for always being so helpful and kind. She has perfect attendance, zero behaviour points and loads of praise points. What a start to Year 7!
Mrs Wilton



Year 10

Ella T

Ella has made a great start to her GCSE years with an amazing attitude and securing an excellent result in her RE mock exam. Ella is also an amazing musician performing spectacularly in the Jazz and Concert Bands.
Mr Parekh



Year 8

Aaron I

After a stunning Year 7, Aaron is excelling again in Year 8. A true all-rounder with a great attitude embracing all the opportunities available to him.



Year 11

Prussia P

Prussia was nominated for being an exemplar tutee. She is punctual, hard working and a model Helstonian! What more can you ask for?!
Mrs Hayes



Year 9

Finley W-H

Finley was nominated by Ms Morbey for consistently working hard in French, however, he could have been nominated by all of his teachers! He has made a cracking start to Year 9 along with perfect attendance and a perfect behaviour record.



Post 16

Lily H

For her exemplary work ethic in all aspects of Post 16.
Kieran Ryan



Well Done

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Nominations

YEAR 7 YEAR 8 YEAR 9 YEAR 10

Sophia P	7	For her excellent contributions to Geography. Ms Hawksworth	
Anna H	7	Sustained contributions and interest in Geography. Mr Stuteley	
Henry W	7	Sustained hard work in Geography.	Mr Stuteley
Anna H	7	Brilliant focus and effort in DT every lesson!	Mrs Ford
Toby D	7	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mr Woolcock
Bruno M	7	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mr Woolcock
Reuben W	7	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mr Woolcock
Ashley K	7	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mr Woolcock
Yara W	7	For consistently being helpful and polite.	Mrs Spink
Lennox Q	7	For setting an excellent example to other students. Lennox is always polite, helpful, thoughtful and supportive of others.	Mrs Spink
Poppy F	7	consistently working hard in Spanish	Miss Morbey
Ailla D	8	For her excellent contributions to Geography. Ms Hawksworth	
Tori K	8	For her excellent contribution in PE lessons and after school clubs.	Ms Bragg / Ms Roberts
Evie S	8	Excellent attitude to learning in gymnastics.	Ms Bragg / Ms Roberts
India P	8	Excellent homework using animation in Geography. Mr Stuteley	
Archie N	8	Sustained contributions and interest in Geography. Mr Stuteley	
Daniel W	8	Sustained contributions and interest in Geography. Mr Stuteley	
Poppy E	8	Most improved in Geography.	Mr Stuteley
Olivia E	8	Outstanding teamwork with the Programming Pookies and score, competing in the CyberFrist Girls Challenge. An amazing 3733 points.	Mrs Hocking
Amy C	8	Outstanding teamwork with the Programming Pookies and score, competing in the CyberFrist Girls Challenge. An amazing 3733 points.	Mrs Hocking
Orla P	8	Outstanding teamwork with the Programming Pookies and score, competing in the CyberFrist Girls Challenge. An amazing 3733 points.	Mrs Hocking

YEAR 8 YEAR 9 YEAR 10

Connie I	8	Outstanding teamwork with the Programming Pookies and score, competing in the CyberFrist Girls Challenge. An amazing 3733 points.	Mrs Hocking
Aaron I	8	Outstanding commitment to PE and extracurricular clubs.	Mr Woolcock
Ellie S	8	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mrs Pryor
Olivia E	8	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mrs Pryor
Ella J	8	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mrs Pryor
Morris S	8	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mrs Pryor
Amelia B	8	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mrs Pryor
Evelyn M	8	Showing great enthusiasm in French lessons. Miss Morbey	
Olivia L	9	It is always great to have some strong student leaders in school and Olivia was nominated by the PE team for demonstrating excellent leadership skills in PE lessons. Ms Bragg / Ms Roberts	
Kayna G	9	Sustained hard work in Geography.	Mr Stuteley
Isabelle G	9	Sustained hard work in Geography.	Mr Stuteley
Zack B	9	Consistently great work in DT!	Mrs Ford
Thomas J	9	Great commitment shown in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs.	Mr Woolcock
Charlie M	9	100% attendance to the end of November, an improvement of nearly 13% on last year.	Mrs Weir
Ava C	9	100% attendance to the end of November, an improvement of 10.5% on last year	Mrs Weir
Anna B	9	Working hard in Spanish and great result in the assessment	Miss Morbey
Cayden A	9	Fantastic effort and participation in his Science lessons - well done!	Mrs Davies
Lucy R-M	10	For her sustained effort and positive attitude in English Ms Ross-Macdonald	
Aston M	10	For asking great questions to develop his understanding in Geography.	Ms Hawksworth
James B	10	Excellent work ethic and contributions to English lessons.	Mr Gillman
Harley W	10	Excellent work ethic in English lessons.	Mr Gillman

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Nominations

YEAR 10 YEAR 11 YEAR 10 YEAR 11 YEAR 10 YEAR 11 YEAR 10 YEAR 11 YEAR 10 YEAR 11 YEAR 10 YEAR 11

- Beatrice M 10 Excellent effort in RE mock exam and a great result.
Mr Parekh
- Isaac J 10 An outstanding 3051 Smart Revise questions attempted between 16th September and 16th November, attaining an impressive accuracy rate of 96%, which will undoubtedly help him reach even higher marks in future assessments. Mrs Hocking & Mr Burke
- Abigail B 10 Demonstrated commendable proficiency in GCSE Business, between 16th September and 16th November, achieving an impressive accuracy rate of 83% on Smart Revise. Mrs Hocking & Mr Burke
- Poppy W 10 Demonstrated commendable proficiency in GCSE Business, between 16th September and 16th November, achieving an impressive accuracy rate of 88% on Smart Revise. Mrs Hocking & Mr Burke
- Tyler B 10 Superb engagement in lessons & excellent verbal contributions Mr Swayne
- Kateryna K 10 A great start to GCSE History and a fantastic assessment - an example to the class! Keir Trevithick
- Maisy M 10 For improving her attendance by nearly 14.5% compared to last year. Mrs Weir
- Riley F 10 For improving her attendance by just over 14% compared to last year. Mrs Weir
- Stanley F 10 100% attendance to the end of November, an improvement of nearly 10.5% on last year. Mrs Weir
- Aston M 10 For excellent attitude and positivity in Drama. Mrs Spink
- Bryher E 10 Excellent work ethic in her Science lessons. Mrs Davies
- Lily B 10 Fantastic work ethic and enthusiasm in her Biology lessons. Mrs Davies
- Amber F 10 Enthusiastic and supportive Sports Leader. Exemplary role model. T Studd
- Charlotte T 11 For her outstanding effort and commitment on her mock synoptic assessment. Ms O' Hare
- Rowan B 11 Excellent commitment and work ethic in the approach to English mocks. Mr Gillman
- Max K 11 Excellent commitment and work ethic in the approach to Computing mocks. Mr Birkett
- Beth W-R 11 For taking part in Handel's Messiah and representing the College so well. Mr Parker
- Ava J 11 Exceptional GCSE Business mock paper 1 result! Mrs Hocking & Mr Burke

YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11 YEAR 11

- Ashton W 11 Excellent commitment and work ethic in GCSE Business, resulting in a fantastic paper 1 mock result. Mrs Hocking & Mr Burke
- Meghan H 11 Excellent commitment and work ethic in GCSE Business, resulting in a fantastic paper 1 mock result. Mrs Hocking & Mr Burke
- Olivia H 11 Sustained effort this term in all her PSA assessments which contribute towards her final grade.
- Matilda S 11 Excellent effort and sustained interest in Geography. Mr Stuteley
- Liam C 11 Excellent effort and sustained interest in Geography. Mr Stuteley
- Max D 11 Phenomenal work on his coursework. Mrs Ford
- Teonne S 11 Excellent mock result and Risk Assessments. Mr Philpott
- Nathan R 11 For improving his attendance by nearly 16% compared to last year. Mrs Weir
- Alice B 11 For improving their attendance by nearly 14.5% compared to last year. Mrs Weir
- Grace G 11 For improving her attendance by nearly 14% compared to last year. Mrs Weir
- Jorja H 11 100% attendance to the end of November, an improvement of nearly 11% on last year. Mrs Weir
- Miriam M 11 For unwavering dedication to Drama, her support of other students and commitment to excellence in everything she does. Mrs Spink
- Cameron P 11 Dedication to his Biology studies - well done! Mrs Davies
- Noah T 12 For his model work ethic and always being polite. Justine Howe
- Lucas F 12 For his excellent attitude in all his lessons and in Post 16. Justine Howe
- Lucy F 12 For her excellent effort in all her subjects and her enthusiasm for Post 16. Kieran Ryan
- Daniel W 13 Sustained effort this term in both L3 BTEC Business and L3 Cambridge Technical IT, in preparation for his January exams. Mrs Hocking
- Leah M 13 For her positive attitude and dedication to her studies. Kieran Ryan
- Georgia C 13 For her positive and friendly attitude in Post 16 and effort in her studies. Kieran Ryan

Head of Year 7

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we approach the end of a wonderful first term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and experiences of our Year 7 students. Writing here, I am delighted to share with you that our youngest recruits have gained nearly 9,000 positive Praise Points between them on Class Charts. Over 5,500 of these are for being Engaged in their learning. Dropping into lessons has been an absolute delight and I feel so proud of what these students have accomplished, in what could arguably be one of the biggest step-ups in their academic careers.

Our Year 7 students have truly embraced the opportunity to be leaders within our school community. From participating in the Student Voice to supporting charity events and helping to organise assemblies, their enthusiasm and sense of responsibility have been truly inspiring. These young leaders have already made a positive impact, and we are excited to see how they continue to develop in the New Year.

I am really pleased to be able to share with you all, the re-opening of our Quad on South Site. The Year 7s and 8s have really taken to this location and I really look forward to seeing their interactions together in the warmer, summer months. Refurbishment and additional furniture for the students will continue into 2025.

One of the highlights of the term was our recent visit to the Hall for Cornwall to see Jack and the Beanstalk. It was a fantastic experience, filled with laughter, excitement and a few unexpected surprises! The students represented the school beautifully, showing excellent behaviour and wholehearted enjoyment. It was a joy to see their smiles and hear their laughter throughout the performance. Our Year 7 Disco was another big success where we raised money for the recently established PTFA.

Year 7 students have made a remarkable start to their academic journey. Our students have also shown exceptional talent and teamwork on the sports field, with notable successes in football, netball, and rugby events. Their dedication and perseverance have not gone unnoticed.

As we look back on these achievements, I want to thank all our students for their hard work, enthusiasm, and kindness towards one another. You should all be very proud!

As we approach the end of term, I want to thank you for your continued support in ensuring our Year 7 students have had a positive and successful start to their secondary school journey.

To help our students return in January ready to learn, I kindly ask for your support in ensuring that:

- **Uniform** is correct, clean, and in line with the school policy. This includes appropriate footwear and PE kit.
- **Jewellery** remains minimal, with only permitted items (such as a single pair of stud earrings).
- **Equipment** (e.g., pens, pencils, rulers,) is complete and ready for use.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of our students and their families a warm, joyful, and safe Christmas. May the holidays be filled with laughter, love, and special moments together. We look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year, ready for even more exciting opportunities and challenges.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Warmest wishes,

Jack Dudley - Head of Year 7 and Transition



Head of Year 8

Year 8 have had a good start to the year with students taking part in a whole range of activities, sports fixtures and events. The year group never ceases to amaze me with their talents and enthusiasm for what they do. We now have an excellent Student Voice who will feed back to the Senior Leadership Team the thoughts of the year group, in relation to their experiences in College. We have an experienced team of Student Leaders who are helping rolling out the new Leadership program and arranging activities for the Year 8s and other years. I can already see potential Head Prefects starting to shine through this group of students.

As we approach the end of term, we are preparing for the challenge of the upcoming Year 8 assessments. These start the week of the 8 January and you will have received details via emails on how you can support them. In Tutor time we have been exploring different methods of remembering and looking at the different activities that can be done in order to prepare as much as possible for the task ahead. It is so important for parents to sit with the students and look to see what advice has been offered and how that can be applied to the different subjects. At Helston we take these exams seriously, preparing for them is important. If your child says to you they have no revision, please direct them to the booklet that was emailed out a fortnight ago.

As mentioned in the last Helstonian, Year 8 are fundraising for something for the Quad down on South Site. This has been a central feature for the students back in Year 7 and has been out of bounds whilst being improved, for some time. They are very happy to have it back. Not only is it a lovely environment to be in where lunch can be eaten, but it is a covered area away from the cold wind that comes up the valley from Tresowes Hill! Because of the student's attachment to it, the Student Voice has asked to fund raise for plants, a bench and other ideas to improve it further. The fundraiser on the last week of term for Year 8 only is Hot Chocolate in Tutor time and is a means of raising funds for such a worthwhile cause.

I wish you all a very restful and Merry Christmas. A happy and healthy New Year and I look forward to continuing leading Year 8 into 2025.

Siobhan Barnes - Head of Year 8



Head of Year 9

As the year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on what has been a fantastic term for Year 9. The past few months have been a whirlwind of achievements, growth, and community spirit and we couldn't be prouder of what this cohort has accomplished. Year 9 students have demonstrated outstanding effort and enthusiasm in the classroom, consistently striving for excellence and supporting one another along the way. This half term has seen their first assessment window of the year already come and go and the students were brilliant. During tutor times they were able to discuss the importance of revision and differing strategies to help prepare for upcoming assessments - setting this tone early will only help them more as they venture into KS4. Teachers have highlighted the resilience and curiosity shown by many of the students, particularly as we delve deeper into the curriculum and explore new challenges. In addition to this, one half of the cohort were lucky enough to take part in a careers event where they were shown the varying opportunities which Cornwall has to offer in the geothermal sector. The other half will experience this later in 2025.

Not only has this term been one of successful academia but also on the sporting front. From dominant performances on the football field to incredible teamwork on the hockey pitch, Year 9 has shown true determination and sportsmanship. A special shout out to the U14's girls football team who put up a valiant display in the National Cup this term by knocking out last year's country champions and unfortunately coming up just short in the next round against a team from Devon, despite coming down from 2-0 - they never gave up and all of the coaching team are very proud. Boys, over to you in the spring term!

As we prepare for the festive season, it's a great time to reflect on the importance of kindness, gratitude, and community. With gratitude in mind, I want to thank Mr Parker and the school Concert Band who put on a brilliant performance for one school across assemblies in the penultimate week. The Christmas holidays are a chance to recharge, spend time with family and friends, and think about the goals we want to set for the New Year. Let's continue to support one another and strive to make the next part of the school year even more successful.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you for a wonderful term Year 9. We wish you a joyful and restful holiday season and look forward to seeing you in January, ready for more exciting adventures!

Warm regards and Merry Christmas,
Jamie Lovelock - Head of Year 9



Head of Year 10

As the first term of the academic year comes to a close, I want to share my gratitude towards the Year 10 students for making my job such an enjoyable one. The dark evenings and inclement weather have made it harder to feel motivated, but this group of young people greet me with such enthusiasm and positivity, it really is a joy to come to work every morning. This term has seen the launch of work experience alongside the first set of assessments, including an RE mock exam.

We have continued to celebrate successes since the half term break. Many students have now achieved their Bronze Praise Point Award, with some nearing Silver already. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to our students' mature and diligent approach to their studies.

Assemblies have continued to discuss themes that are central to the College values, but also ones that I believe to be essential to the students' personal development. We continue to reinforce an ethos that encourages students to aim high, believe in themselves and be the best version of themselves every single day. An example of this is demonstrating acts of kindness and solidarity by donating items to the foodbank to help support our local community. I would like to thank everybody who donated items to this worthy cause during the '12 Days of Christmas' event.

The launch of work experience has caused a buzz of excitement amongst the students - something to look forward to at the end of the summer term and a chance for students to experience life in the 'real world'. Thank you to parents/carers for your support in finding and securing placements for our students, as well as completing paperwork before the deadline. If your child has not yet returned the paperwork to us, please find a placement and return the completed paperwork as soon as possible.

Year 10 students also completed their first set of GCSE assessments in November; a challenge they met with maturity and resilience. It was great to hear the buzz of students leaving the exam hall discussing their answers and witnessing the pride on their faces when they received their results. Progress reports have since been shared with parents/carers, alongside a chance for students to reflect on their current and target grades, as well as Attitude to Learning scores, during tutorial sessions. Overall, I am extremely impressed with how our students have taken to Key Stage 4 and their GCSE studies.

If you have any queries about work experience or progress reports, please get in touch: ehawkey@helston.tpacademytrust.org

I feel immensely proud to be working with such a wonderful group of young people and wish you all a well-deserved Christmas break.

Ellis Hawkey - Head of Year 10





Head of Year 11

Dear All

Hope you are all well, staying warm and safe and as with the Year 11s I'm sure you are looking forward to the Christmas holidays.

As we build up to Christmas we are currently celebrating the '12 Days of Christmas

Kindness' at the College with the students encouraged to partake in daily acts of kindness, donations to the foodbank and a Christmas activity.

We will look forward to our celebration and rewards assembly to finish off this term. The themes this term have included an ex-student and a practising Chiropractor speaking on opportunities and aspiration and we have been promoting the good work at Kooth [Home - Kooth](#) to remind us of the importance of our emotional well-being and positive mind set. We have also had a leadership consultant who presented on the values and characteristics of a good leader to help the Year 11s and Prefects shape the College moving forward.

I know the last month has been a tough one with the students putting in the hard yards, doing good work in the shadows which I'm sure will pay dividends as we move towards the summer. We are hoping to see the result of the hard work with the Mock results in January. I hope the Mock exams proved a useful rehearsal to get into the routine of exam procedures, having the correct uniform, no jewellery, being punctual and not being able to communicate for 2 hours!

I hope the revision process went well and the I pads are proving to aid learning and be a useful tool in exam preparation. As you will know intervention study support has started in a number of subjects and a lot of practical and vocational subjects' coursework will need to be completed to the highest standard before Christmas. Therefore, every lesson counts and attendance is going to be vital to achieve the grades that are possible. As the Headteacher e-mailed last week there will be greater learning intervention and support within the extended days after February half-term. If you have any queries regarding these plans please respond to the Headteachers e-mail link and complete the form.

To finish off the term we held the Year 11 Post 16 Open evening and a taster day on Tuesday 17 December. This gave the students an opportunity to sample lessons and experience Helston Sixth Form and alternative sixth form providers.

I am sure the students are looking forward to the Christmas break and I hope everyone has a special time with family and friends.

Thank you as always for your support.

With glad tidings and festive cheer to you all over the Christmas period.

We look forward to 2025 and all it brings.

With best wishes,

Terry Richardson - Head of Year 11





Time2Move Holiday Programme Goes Swimming!

This Christmas the Time2Move Holiday Programme, in partnership with pool providers in Cornwall, is offering fully funded swimming sessions.

This is for children eligible for benefits related free school meals along with their parent/guardian and siblings!



Scan here for more information and to find out which centres are included!



For more information:

W: www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme/

E: Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk

T: 01872 324287

