



HCC Newsletter

MARCH 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of this term, we are saying goodbye to two teachers, both from the Geography department.

Mr Quilter has decided to retire from teaching after almost 33 years working in our local authority. He joined the College in September 1997 and, over the years, has taken on a number of important roles. Many students, parents, carers and staff have benefitted from his experience and support, along with his great sense of humour. We will be sorry to see him go, but know that he has earned a long and happy retirement. I know you would like to join me in thanking Mr Quilter for all that he has given to the College and the wider community. He will certainly be remembered for his dedicated hard work and commitment to the young people of Helston over a 20-year period.

We are also saying farewell to Miss Hopkins, who will be taking up a Geography teaching post near Swansea. She has been with us for less than two years, but has been a positive asset to the geography department, and a valuable member of the Year 7 tutor team. We wish her all the very best for the future.

There are two other staffing changes to report to you. A couple of weeks ago, I was informed by Mrs Allsey that she wished to step down as Head of Progress for Year 10. Mrs Allsey has done an excellent job in leading this year group, and it was a difficult decision to make, but she is keen to put more of her time and energy into her teaching role at this time. Miss Hurley-Gale, a current tutor within that year group, will take on the Head of Progress position for Year 10. Mrs Hocking will take on the Head of Progress role for Year 9, vacated by Mr Quilter. It will obviously take time for these members of staff to adapt to their new roles, particularly in terms of developing their knowledge of individuals within each year group. Initial training and handover meetings are underway, but I am sure that they would appreciate your support and understanding during this initial settling-in period.

Next term, as part of my drive towards a culture of high expectations, I will be consulting on a new positive behaviour strategy. This will be closely linked to our Attitude to Learning grading and aim to maximise learning in lessons. We are in the early stages of formulating this policy change, but hope to be able to implement it in September.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.

Mr Wayne Jenkins, Head of College

Year 7

It has been such a busy term and it has been a pleasure to see so many Year 7s volunteering for a variety of different activities, including fundraising and sport teams. I recently chose 33 students to become transition mentors, in preparation for the primary school transition visits next term. The application letters the students produced were excellent. I have also awarded 25 Community Awards this term, and given out over 100 Student of the Month certificates across all subjects, which is amazing!

It was excellent to see and meet so many parents at the Parent Teacher Consultation evening, last Wednesday. I hope you all gained a valuable insight into your child's achievements so far, at Helston Community College. You can log onto Parent Portal to view your child's most recent attainment levels at any time. This includes some comments from your child's teacher, in order to aid progression and attainment. This is particularly aimed at children who are below their target, to help them achieve their full potential. If you no longer have the letter sent to you in the Autumn term about this, please contact the College reception. If you would like to discuss your child's progress, please contact me, or speak to Amber Cann and she can make an appointment for you to discuss further.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter.

Mrs Janine Nelson, Head of Progress for Year 7



Year 8

It seems unbelievable that we are about to enter the summer term of this very busy year. It seems only weeks ago, that I was standing in front of you introducing myself as the new Head of Progress.

Students appear to be more settled into routines and are feeling more confident at achieving their targets. Generally as a whole year group, we are making progress towards where we would like them to be by July. I would like to congratulate the students and thank parents for your support with homework, behaviour and social issues. As I say to the year group in assembly, together we make an awesome team!

Can I ask that over the half-term you discuss careers with your child, as they had the opportunity to access Kudos, which is an online questionnaire, giving students ideas about potential careers? In the summer term, we will be presenting the year group with some mini-options, details of which will be forwarded to you. This will give them the opportunity to experience the options process, in which they will take part in Year 9.

Our Personal, Social and Health Education day took place this week, which for Year 8 has been based around health and feeling healthy. Students took part in Yoga, fitness sessions, volunteering, healthy eating, art and craft. They have also been planning and creating a special Year 8 outdoor area in the College. This area will be their responsibility; they will plan and create a special place for students to go to, during their breaks and lunchtimes.



Following our PSHE day, there have been fantastic developments. Numerous bird boxes, bee-friendly flowers and a new insect hotel for our smallest visitors are now in place.

If there are any keen gardeners who may have spare vegetables/fruit plants or herbs, surplus to requirements, please could you send your child in with them over the next few weeks, as we have plenty of space to put them to good use. It would be great to have a relaxing sensory area with lavenders and other calming plants.

Just like plants, your children are growing taller too. Can I ask that you check the length of skirts on the girls, as some are looking a little on the short side. I need to clarify that only black socks are part of College uniform and shoes should be black leather or polished, with no labels or markings. If you need further clarification regarding our uniform, you will be able to find details on the College website.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter.

Mrs Siobhan Barnes, Head of Progress for Year 8

Exam Certificates

We have a number of GCSE and A-Level certificates that have not been collected, some dating back to 2013. If you think that your certificates may be amongst them, please ring the exam office on 01326 575026, or email Mrs Bullock, the Examinations Manager hjbullock@helston.cornwall.sch.uk.

Year 9

It has been a busy half-term for Year 9 students, who have been fully involved in a range of extracurricular activities.



The football team have enjoyed a very successful run over recent weeks, with some big victories outweighing their few narrow defeats.

Mr Kevern, the team coach, has been impressed with their improving teamwork and resilience.

Year 9 boys playing in a close contest against Penryn.

The U14 hockey team has also enjoyed a good round of very competitive games with some hard-earned victories, gained through teamwork, perseverance and commitment.

They have been well led by Kira Barnes, who has also been selected to play for the Cornwall Girls U14 team. Kira recently played against the Devon U14 team and scored a well-deserved goal.



Ruby Livingstone recently won the Graham Vallender Key Stage 3 Vocal Award. She took part in the Vocal Recital, which was held in the music department on the 20th March, along with twelve other soloists. Ruby sang “Cherry Wine” by Hozier and accompanied herself on the piano.

Adjudicators Angela Renshaw, Graham Vallender and Sarah Bayes were impressed with her singing tone and stage presence.

Ruby receiving her award from Donna Bryant

With best wishes to you all.

Mr Mark Quilter, Head of Progress for Year 9

RNAS Cudrose Blood Hound Hub Competition

A number of our Year 9 students entered the RNAS Cudrose Blood Hound Hub competition and won the secondary school category with a 44.2970 mph rocket car, named Pink Storm MH. This result means they have been entered into the County Final. Winners of the Cornwall final will go through to the National competition, with a £1000 prize and a trip to South Africa for the overall winners, so they can witness the record-breaking attempt. Each team that makes the final, will have their team name placed on the tail fin of their Blood Hound car.

The students were a credit to the College and were commended by officers from Cudrose, for their engagement and conduct throughout.



Year 10

I am pleased to see the days are getting longer and am hopeful that the Easter holidays bring some sunshine. I have been very impressed with the commitment and motivation that the students have shown towards their mock exams and I hope they reap the rewards from their hard work. The mock exams are an excellent way of not only giving staff an insight into where the students are with their learning, but also gives them a taste of what is to come next year with busy exam timetables. A huge well done to the students for their efforts!

This half-term has been as busy as always with several sporting achievements. I am particularly proud of the girls who were involved in the rugby tournament, as many had never played before and it takes a huge amount of courage and teamwork. Well done to you ladies!

The students have taken part in a series of workshops for PSHE Day on sexual relationships, drugs and alcohol. Brooke Advisory, who delivered some of the sessions, complimented the College on how polite and mature the students were in discussing difficult topics. Trudi Bendall who led the session emailed to say that 'They were a group that you were incredibly proud of today and rightly so – they were absolutely superb!'

As the Summer Term approaches, we look forward to starting the Prefect application process, alongside more extracurricular activities, that aim to ensure we are providing our students with not only the best academic opportunities, but also encouraging them to develop skills that will ensure they are successful in adult life.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of some changes that will take place after the holidays. Due to personal reasons and with mixed feeling, I have made the very difficult decision to step down as Head of Progress. I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of working with this group of remarkable young people and I am certain that they will be hugely successful in their GCSE exams next year. I cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support over the last three years, as those parent-teacher relationships are important to us. The students will be in good hands, as Miss Chloe Hurley-Gale takes on the role.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter.

Mrs Laura Allsey, Head of Progress for Year 10



Teachers faced wet sponges last week, to raise funds for Comic Relief

Year 11

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parents' Information Evening last week, it was great to see you all again. The presentation is available on the College website under Parents/Useful Downloads. Key topics included exam preparation, where we looked at the importance of students testing each other, chunking information and sharing knowledge and understanding. This should be balanced with students getting enough sleep, rest and time to relax. Mr Jenkins concluded the evening by reinforcing that every mark will count in the exams, and how proud he is of our Year 11 students and our hopes for them in the future.

If you have any questions regarding Year 11 progress, please email me trichardson@helston.cornwall.sch.uk. If you have any queries about the College Sixth Form provision and next steps, please contact Mrs Laban plaban@helston.cornwall.sch.uk and for any examination queries, such as exam timetables and exam policy, including the importance of exams being a mobile phone free zone, please contact our Examinations Manager, Mrs Bullock hjbullock@helston.cornwall.sch.uk.

Recent themes of the week at College have included Self-Responsibility and Social-Responsibility, which the Year 11s will need during the next three months. We hope they will support each other, and know where to seek support themselves, at this important time. They will also need to ensure they are well organised and fully prepared to make the most of the coming months.

This week's final PSHE day included Record of Achievement writing, formatting a CV, improving interview techniques, as well as speaking to support agencies and the Post 16 team, to help students with their next step decisions. Year 11s are currently being asked to submit subject coursework due to approaching deadlines, complete extra mock exams, attend study support and complete past exam papers. Please continue to reinforce the importance of this work with your sons/daughters, as we are trying to give them as much coursework support and exam practice as possible, so they understand the significance of this work and are fully prepared for the summer.

The College raised over £1200 for Comic Relief, which included student donations for wearing non-uniform, cake sales and sponging the teachers...and yes, I got soaked as a result!

A few dates for your diaries include the public GCSE exams starting on the 15th May. Completion of exams and the End of Key Stage 4 day will be on Wednesday 21st June and the Year 11 Prom will be held at The Tregenna Castle Hotel, St Ives, on the 22nd June.

Happy Easter and maybe the Year 11s can be treated to an egg or two, especially if they are spending quality time on their revision!

Best wishes to you all.

Mr Terry Richardson, Head of Progress for Year 11

Finally

We hope you all have a good Easter, and look forward to welcoming students back for the first half of the Summer term, on Tuesday 18th April.

Diary Dates:

Year 9 Meningitis and Diptheria/Tetanus/Polio Immunisations - Wednesday 19th April 2017

Gold DofE Practice Expedition - Thursday 20th April - Saturday 22nd April 2017

Flora Day - Saturday 6th May 2017

Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening - Wednesday 10th May 2017

Year 9 Exams in lessons - Monday 15th May - Friday 26th May 2017

Year 7 & 8 Exams in lessons - Monday 22nd May - Friday 26th May 2017 (and first week back from half-term)

Half-term - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June 2017