Year 10 Newsletter

Welcome everyone to the Year 10 winter newsletter.

GCSE Evening

Thank you everyone for your attendance on the GCSE evening a couple of weeks ago. Thank you for your attention and support with all the presentations including raising the Participation Age (RPA) and online e-safety talk. I hope we can continue to work in partnership to ensure the best progress over the next 2 years. I'm sure the partnership between the year 10 students, the College and the parents will continue to flourish whether this means mentoring with their tutor, homework guidance from yourselves or time with me doing some extra revision where necessary.

Year 10 PTC Evening

Thank you for your attendance at our parents evening I hope you were able to see many of your son/daughter's teachers and they were supportive of how well they were progressing and what steps needed to be focused on next. You have also received the first term progress reports which I hope were both clear and informative and included current progress grades, target grades and your son/daughters attitude to learning (ATL) in class lessons. I would be hoping that the vast majority of ATL grades were 3 and above demonstrating a positive attitude to their own learning in the classroom.

Staying updated with Progress

You should have also received a letter informing you that we are now in a position to provide you with home access to your child's data through secure access to our 'Pupilinfo' website. Data for Year 10 parents is already live on Pupilinfo. It can be accessed via the 'Parent' section of the College website by clicking on 'Parent Portal' or directly by typing pupilinfo.helston.cornwall.sch.uk into the internet browser address bar).

Instructions:

1. Type in pupilinfo.helston.cornwall.sch.uk into your browser
2. Enter the parent username and password as indicated in the letter

The data and comments are there to support students to make progress. You can request login details and request paper copies of the data from the College Reception.

Assemblies

Recent assemblies this term have included the themes of the week from the College's co-operative values of Self–Responsibility and Honesty. The assemblies have included how people can help themselves and if not know how and where they can go to get help. As your son/daughter may have mentioned year 10 now sponsor three lions in Africa as part of the Born Free Foundation to ensure that as a pride of people we are caring for lions that have been grossly neglected and mistreated and give them a more supportive environment where they can grow and thrive.
Also, to finish the term the school we will be hosting a Christmas Jumper day on Friday 18th December. We are asking for a £1 donation to wear a Christmas jumper worn alongside normal school uniform to help raise money for another excellent Charitable cause in UNICEF.

e-Safety

All schools have a duty of care to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety and welfare of all their students. At Helston Community College we have the latest methods and procedures in place for detecting unsafe behaviour online, in accordance with the latest government guidance and legislation. An important part of this initiative is the use of software which monitors the use of college computers.

Computer monitoring
We now use specialist e-Safety monitoring software provided by Future Digital. This is currently installed and monitoring is ongoing. The software gives students the freedom to use the internet and computer programs responsibly, whilst capturing misuse and unacceptable behaviour.

How it works
The software detects potentially inappropriate content as soon as it appears on screen or is typed in by the user. A screen capture is taken of every incident detailing the time and date of capture, machine name, user name and reason for capture. A weekly headline summary is produced from the system detailing captures of particular interest to alert the person monitoring the system. These particular violations will be investigated and dealt with in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy, Behaviour Policy, e-Safety, Anti-Bullying, Safeguarding and any other relevant college policies.

What it prevents
We are alerted to students using threatening behaviour or accessing inappropriate websites for example. It also gives an early warning of potentially harmful situations, like predator grooming. The captured evidence helps staff choose the best course of action, from support for victims of bullying, or protecting a vulnerable child, to confronting a student who is acting inappropriately. The monitoring software also provides a powerful incentive for students to use all technology and devices safely and concentrate in lessons. Learning good habits at college prepares children for a continued safe digital future.

If you have any queries about this system please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.
Mr Jenkins
Deputy Headteacher

Extra- Curricular

Well done to all the year 10 students currently rehearsing in the College Bands and Choirs ready for the festive season, we were very lucky to hear some of the wind band in assembly last week which gave us all a treat. Also, well done and keep going to all students rehearsing for the College production of Peter Pan coming soon in the New Year.
Congratulations to all year 10 students who have represented the College in sport this term which have included show jumping, badminton, swimming, cross-country, gymnastics, rugby and netball teams.

As part of a whole school initiative to encourage all students to read many teachers have now got a poster outside their classroom door showing what books they are currently reading at home. We hope that this will stimulate interest and get students reading. I will let the year 10s come to my office to see what I am currently reading at home although .I will be definitely reading 'Twas the night before Christmas' over the Christmas holidays!

Hope you and your families have a peaceful Christmas,
See you in 2016.

Best wishes,
Mr T. Richardson.
(Head of Progress, Year 10)

Self Help   Self Responsibility Equity Equality Democracy Solidarity
Social Responsibility   Honesty   Openness   Caring for Others