



Year 7 Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2015

What a busy half term it has been, the Year 7 students have made such an excellent start to the year and it's amazing to see how well they have settled in. It was lovely to see so many of you, once again, at the Parent Information Evening for the core subjects last month. Thank you to all of you that attended, I hope you found it informative. I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mrs Janine Nelson, Head of Progress for Year 7

Goodbye!

You may already be aware of the sad news that Mrs Jean Trimble is retiring on the last day of term. We will miss her but would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her a long and happy retirement. We look forward to welcoming her replacement, Miss Amber Cann who will join us in January.

Openness: Parent Portal

You should have received a letter containing log in details for the Parent Portal. This will enable you to see your child's targets for each subject and their current assessment grades. If your child is below their target there will be a comment from their teacher explaining what they need to do to raise their attainment. If they are two grades below there will be an intervention comment too.

If you have any queries or concerns about your child's progress please contact me by email: jnelson@helston.cornwall.sch.uk or come into the Friday drop-ins, I will be available until 4:30pm. If you would like a later appointment please call Amber Cann to arrange a convenient time or an alternative day.

Caring for others: Fundraising for Syrian Refugees

The year 7's raised an amazing £270 for the ShelterBox Syrian Refugee fund. The money will support the refugees in camps in Syria, Turkey and Iraq. The Year 7's will receive a talk from ShelterBox in the new year explaining how the charity is supporting the refugees.

CV points achievements

As you are aware students can achieve points in each of the Co-operative values in their lessons and in their actions around and outside of the college. These points can be redeemed in the CV shop which is now open. I wanted to celebrate the amazing start the Year 7's have had by sharing with you the top 5 students who have been awarded the most CV points this term:

1st Ted Perry, 130 points

2nd Dylan Power, 128 points

3rd Willow, 128 points

4th Oscar Wilkinson Savage, 117 points

5th Eva, 115 points

Well done!

Student of the Month

Each month the students who receive the most Student of the Month nominations will receive the 'Head of Progress, Student of the Month' award, this half term the following students were awarded this:

Head of Progress Student of the Month for October: **Freyja King 7K, Thomas Perraton 7G, Kreenan Carpenter 7K** and **Kieran 7K**.

Head of Progress Student of the Month for November: **Rosie 7E, Stanley Salkeld 7E, Mark Williams 7A** and **Eric 7K**.

Well done to all the year 7's who have received nominations this term.

Tutor group parent representatives

The College likes to sample the views and opinions of the students and regular 'student voice' meetings are held. As a result of the student voice, changes to the College's procedures have been made, with perhaps the most notable change being the recent refurbishment of the students' toilets. In addition to sampling the views of the students, we would like to build up a list of parents who would be keen to share their feelings and opinions of the College to help us to further develop the College. To that end we would like to hear from parents who would like to be tutor group parent reps. Parent reps would be the College's first point of contact when it comes to collecting views and opinions through questionnaires, coffee mornings or discussion groups. If you would like to volunteer to act in this role please contact Reception who will be forming the list of parent reps.

Game Design Academy Trip—Tremough Campus: University of Exeter

On Wednesday 9 December the Year 7 students (see below) took part in the 'Girls Games Academy' at the new Game Design Academy at Exeter (Tremough) University. The trip was organised to raise not only the uptake of girls computing at GCSE but to also encourage females into the many fields within Game Design and Computing industries. We are very fortunate to have the university's facilities on our doorstep. Their behavior was exemplary and they all participated with enthusiasm throughout. There are definitely some budding designers and coders amongst them! The girls created 80's retro arcade game named 'Frogger', within a couple of hours.

Harriet 7C
Aiste Vaitkute 7D
Francesca Raybould 7F
Emily Watson 7H
Eve Reynolds 7J
Jadene Hichens 7K
Freyja King 7K



Openness – My day, by Freyja King 7K

I went on the trip to the university, and it was fun. It was a seemingly long trip to the uni, but actually it wasn't that long. When we arrived we walked up the stairs and the pathway to the uni doors. Mr Welsh was leading and we walked past a man. Miss Hocking then ran up and told us we'd walked past the tour guide, and that he was coming to meet us! When we finally got inside, we had a tour. The man showed both the rooms in which the game design undergraduates worked. In the second one, he told us to take a seat. We sat down and he gave us a tutorial on how to get onto a website, which when we got onto, showed us a video tutorial on how to make an 80's Frogger game. We drew everything ourselves, and made a road so it was basically Crossy Road. We had a break after a while, in which the grownups got drinks from the cafe, and we sat on the benches outside. We had time to have a snack and go to the loo, before we needed to go back. We didn't have much more time on the computers to finish our game and we had to go back to school. I only just managed to finish part two of my game, before we grabbed our bags and went back to the minibus. The journey home felt much shorter than the journey there, as a couple of girls sang and the year sevens at the back played games. We arrived back at school and sat in the north site canteen for 10 minutes to eat our packed lunch. We arrived at our lessons with people asking where we had been and how was it. I really enjoyed this day and hope there is something similar going on next term. I'd recommend it for anyone who enjoys computing and gaming. I enjoyed this experience and am glad I went.

By
Freyja King 7K

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



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

