# Year 8 Newsletter

## Caring for others - Children in Need

This term has seen a number of fundraising activities .The annual Children in Need day saw the year group display their very generous nature. They baked cakes, took part in football competitions, guess the number of sweets in the jar, wet sponging of teachers and donated very generously to the 'Ice Bucket' challenge that Mr Dudley volunteered for. All told, along with the contributions from the non-uniform day the year group have raised in excess of £300. It was amazing to see so many people get so actively involved in raising money for the worthwhile causes. Pictured below is a very wet and cold Mr Dudley!

## PSHE day

On Friday 4th December the year group took part in the second PSHE day. During the day they learnt about the dementia cafe in Helston and made resources to display in the area. They also had the opportunity to sell the products that they have been making during several tutor times. During period 1 and 3 students sold to each other and during period 2 parents were able to visit the stalls. There was a great range of products on offer and the quality of their items was very high indeed. The proceeds raised from the marketplace are being used to provide more resources for the dementia cafe. At the final count, the year group managed to raise in excess of £350. Both Mr Dudley and Mrs Armstrong, who co-ordinated the day, are hugely impressed with the amount of money raised for this worthwhile cause.

## Year 8 Music concerts

Another significant event this term was the Music concerts held by year 8. There was a large turn out both in terms of the students taking part and the parents and other adults who came in to watch and support the concert. It is a great experience and opportunity for the students to perform in front of a large group of people and the standard of musical endeavour was particularly high. Special thanks to the music department, Mr Parker, Mrs Brown,  Mr Jeffery who helped the evening run so smoothly.

## Tutor Group parent reps

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 the College's first point of contact when it comes to collecting views and opinions through either 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.

## KS3 Girls Game Academy

Six year 8 students recently took part in a visit to the new Game Design Academy at Falmouth University. The trip was organised to raise the uptake of girls computing at GCSE and to 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 behaviour was exemplary and they all participated with enthusiasm throughout was very pleasing to watch . There are definitely some budding designers and coders amongst them! Mrs Hocking, who ran the trip would like to pass on her praise and encourage them to talk about their achievement of designing and creating the 8o's retro arcade game Frogger, within a couple of hours.

## Pupil info

## pupilinfo.helston.cornwall.sch.uk

This web-based reporting system will display students' target grades, their current grade as well as attitude to learning scores. These range from 5 – excellent to 1– poor. For students who are below target subject teachers have entered comments for students and parents to work on. Where student progress is more than one level below target then subject teachers have also identified actions which they will take to help the student improve their performance in the different subjects. All the students in year 8 have had the opportunity to view their progress data during a recent tutorial, and this information can be access at home, by entering **pupilinfo.helston.cornwall.sch.uk** into the address bar of any web browser. For any other information please contact Mr Dudley at College.

## 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