



Year 8 Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6 JULY 2015

I can't quite believe we are at the end of the summer term already – the year has really flown by. And what a super year it has been across the College. The tutors and I have thoroughly enjoyed working to support the Year 8 students and look forward to the new challenges of Year 9. Given this is a newsletter for parents to keep up to date with what is happening around the College, I thought it fit to ask the students to write our final Year 8 Newsletter. Those involved have taken on the task with maturity and enthusiasm. So before I hand over to our wonderful students may I wish you the most enjoyable and relaxing summer and I hope the students and yourselves have the opportunity to unwind and refresh ready for September. Thank you again for all your support and encouragement throughout the year.

Classroom Activities

This year has been and gone very quickly. As the main part of our school education is put into practice whilst within the walls of a classroom, it is fit for this newsletter to contain something about the time we have spent in such an environment. The classroom is the route to an education – not only in the taught subjects, but also in life – that our year group has followed for 2 years now at Helston Community College.

For all subjects, there is a range of activities that we participate in regularly whilst in the classroom. For example, we often write what are known as 'P.E.E. paragraphs' in our subjects. These are analytical paragraphs that comprise of a 'Point' about a text or piece of work; an 'Example' that demonstrates the proposed point and an 'Explanation' of the point and the example. P.E.E. paragraphs allow us to access the true concepts behind a text. This is the format for day to day work in many subjects, but also for most of our assessments.

Assessments and test are completed after a specific stage of our learning draws to a close for each subject. The time between the assessed tasks depends on how regularly we change the topic we are studying. For example, because we have to get through Chemistry, Biology and Physics in our Science lessons throughout the year, we have had more Science assessments than in most other subjects. In some subject, such as history we do a task that is similar to an assessment, just to give us practice for the real one. The grades and the feedback we receive from these do not go towards our final grade of the year, but are just as already said, practice

assessments.

Peer marking is a scheme of marking that some teachers adopt for marking minor homeworks or even some practice assessments. Peer marking is a great skill to be able to do as it allows you to compare your own work with that of your peers and to understand how to improve your own learning.

D.I.T. – which stands for Dedicated Improvement Time – often follows the feedback written by the teacher on a piece of marked work. It is the time that we receive to amend the faults in our tasks and make it even better. This allows us to learn from the mistakes we made and, hopefully, prevent ourselves from doing the same thing next time.

Practicals in Science and Technology are widely enjoyed by most students. We often get the opportunity in these subjects to express ourselves and discover the theories behind everyday life through hands on activities. In science we regularly partake in experiments that stretch our knowledge and abilities to create models of scientific processes or even to carry out the process ourselves with guidance from the teachers. In Technology, for instance Engineering and Resistant Materials, each student makes a personalised candle holder and a clock that they have to design and make themselves after the teacher demonstrates to the class the key skills relevant to the project.

Thomas Fogg 8D

School Council

During School Council this year, some major issues have been raised and with the general election this year, Mrs Allsey and the Student representatives felt really motivated to push our student voice forwards. We have been discussing the new school build, and how it will affect us both academically and emotionally. We have been talking about the system called "rally robin", something which we have in all used in lessons or tutor. Rally robin is when you sit in a four table and one person stands up and talks about the given subject. We all feel that it has improved our confidence and helped us with our speaking.



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During our meetings with Mrs Allsey each half term we discuss both positive aspects of College life and areas we would like to see changes in, such as the canteen, classroom resources and extra curricular after school clubs. We got the waffles back in the canteen – something we raised numerous amount of times in the past and the students are super pleased about! We have also talked about the state of the toilets and what we can do to improve them, something which we feel very strongly about as we need better facilities to work in a suitable environment. The college are doing all they can with this and are renovating some of them over the summer.

Finally we have discussed the uniform; something which will not be changed in the near future, yet somehow always comes up for discussion in our regular meetings. We would all like to thank Mrs Allsey for giving us the time out of her schedule for our School Council meetings and as a former Student Council Representative at school, college and then university it is clear she really believes we can make a difference. We would also like to thank her for giving us a great year as Year 8.

Charlotte King 8F on behalf of the Student Council Representatives

Uniform

Over the course of the academic year, the expectations for our uniform have been made clear since the beginning of the year, with thanks to our new Head Teacher and Mrs Allsey. We are proud of our uniform and we like to look smart so skinny trousers and short skirts are no longer a common theme amongst Year 8 students, despite a few who consistently have to be chased. Year 8 students are proud to be part of Helston Community College and we would like our uniform to represent us as young adults who are striving to be successful. We would advise all parents to ensure they look at the College website before buying school uniform as the expectations for skirts, trousers and shoes are all online.

Lizzy Austin 8D

Sporting Events

A huge congratulations to everyone involved in the sporting efforts of Year 8 – What a year is has been! We've seen amazing determination and skill that has paid off and achieved some fantastic results. The talent displayed has been of high quality and brilliant to watch. Not only this, but everyone's attitude has been positive, encouraging and shown real sportsmanship. The girls have worked hard and came 4th in the county hockey tournament, 2nd in the Cornwall School games for cricket, 3rd at Carn Brea Athletics Qualifiers and won numerous other matches and tournaments. Similarly, the boys have achieved brilliantly, including reaching the semi finals in cricket and coming 4th in the Super 8's Athletics.

To think more within our college, Sports Day was a great success and we enjoyed taking part and cheering on our friends. We would like to congratulate all the competitors and thank the PE staff for all their time.

The college offers a huge range of different sporting opportunities and we would encourage everyone to take part in something. It is a real confidence booster and allows us to showcase our College Cooperative Values, being self responsible and working as a team.



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

