



Year 8 Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

MARCH 2015

Here we are again at the end of term! This year is flying by and there is always so much going on – even in such a short half term. Students across the College have been busy guessing staff themes for World Book Day, taking

part in Jeans for Genes day and baking up some delights for Comic Relief. This on top of all the new topics they have covered in their lessons. The summer term for Year 8 will be no different with

Mini Options, PSHE days and of course, Flora Day. It will be my first Flora Day walking with the year group and I look forward to seeing them all represent their College and their town.

Mini Options

The students by now will have handed in their options forms and narrowed down their choices for when they start Year 9 in September. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to take some ownership over their curriculum and gives them a real focus for their final year in Key Stage 3. The students have had an assembly delivered by the Heads of Faculty that outlines what each subject entails and I have been so impressed with both their enthusiasm and how organised they have been. The students were encouraged to discuss this with you before making their final choices so thank you for your support with this. You can access the options booklet at the below link should you want it for future reference: <http://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/uploads/y9-mini-options-2015.pdf>

House competitions

The students have been encouraged to take part in a range of competitions this half term to win points for their House. Two examples are the limerick competition as well as a cup stacking competition, where they had to work together to build the tallest tower. The aim of this was to develop their understanding of team work and compromise. I think this really tested their patience and perseverance and it was brilliant to see them get fully involved. I look forward to seeing the pictures!

Our next House Competition is a really exciting one where students are being challenged to capture an interesting and original photograph on Flora Day; one that represents what the day means to them. The winner will receive £10 and 1000 points for their house. Please do encourage your child to take part.

A Special visitor

On Thursday 12th March, Helston Community College received a visit from the Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan. The Secretary of State took a tour of the College and dropped in to some extra-curricular sessions. She was delighted with our students, and highly complimentary about the provision at the College. She was able to drop in to a Most Able Science session, a primary transition class and saw the Jazz Orchestra rehearsing. The College also took the opportunity to show her why the new build was so important to us.

Sporting achievements

Another term and another set of sporting victories. In recent weeks a group of girls took part in the Cornwall Netball Tournament. The feedback from the organiser was that our girls played with determination and enthusiasm, winning all but one game in the group stages. Our Year 8 girls hockey team beat Mullion 6-0 and our boys football team have managed to draw with both Richard Lander and Penryn. Thank you for your ongoing support with cheering on the teams and ferrying the students around. I feel very proud that the students want to represent us as a College and I hope their success continues.



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PSHE day

On Monday 23rd students took part in a series of workshops based on their future goals and job aspirations. The year group listened to a variety of guest speakers from Scientists and Navy Officers to Engineers and Game Designers, all sharing their experiences of education and encouraging the students to make sensible choices throughout their school life. In addition to this, students were introduced to Launchpad, a website which allows students to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses as well as understand how their subject choices support their future career aspirations.

Hwdiary.com

You will have received a letter explaining the new online homework recording system. www.hwdiary.com is an updated and far more efficient way of students being able to check their homework online. Students use their College log in details and all their homework will be displayed on their 'clipboard.' Please do sit and take a look at this website with your children as it is, in my opinion, far more user friendly than the old online equivalent.

Students are however, still expected to record all their homework in their Learning Journals. There have been many cases where students are not writing homework into their planners and therefore not meeting the deadlines we set them. Please can I ask that you discuss this with them if you feel they are not recording their homework. I can assure you that the work is being set so please do remind them of the importance of meeting deadlines, both at school and beyond. The purpose of homework is to consolidate or extend their knowledge, as well as prepare them for upcoming lessons and my expectations remain the same with regards to deadlines and quality of homework.

Uniform Reminder - from the Head Teacher

We would like to remind parents of the Uniform Policy. With the coming of the better weather, if your daughter chooses to wear a skirt it MUST be of knee length i.e. 22". If you therefore need to replace your child's skirt, you can purchase these via the college. Please contact Mrs Graham. Blazers and ties should continue to be worn throughout the summer – these of course can be removed in classrooms at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Paris-Parle French Trip

A message from Mrs Graham: Only 4 months to go now so you can start getting excited! Letters are going home this week to let you know about the Parents Information Evening on May 21st at 6.30pm in the north site hall. Many thanks to all those who have returned their parental consent and collective passport forms. If you haven't yet done so, please hand them in to me asap. Merci beaucoup!

On a personal level, as opposed to taking part in Lent and giving something up for 40 days, I decided to do 40 Acts of Generosity in an attempt to 'give' as opposed to 'give up' something. I have carried students' bags, make tea for staff, handed out chocolate and paid far more compliments than I usually would! <http://www.4oacts.org.uk/the-challenge/> Many students also joined me with this so I hope their acts of generosity continue over the holidays. This is a great excuse to encourage them to do the dishes or tidy their room!

To round up yet another term please can I wish you and the family and restful and enjoyable Easter break. Let's hope for some sunshine so we can make the most of the well earned break. I look forward to meeting many of you on May 14th for our Year 8 Parents' Evening.