



Year 8 Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

MAY 2015

Yet another busy half term with so many academic and extracurricular successes crammed in. It is amazing to think how fast the year is flying by. For the most part the students are as ever rising to the challenges I set them and working hard in their lessons to reach their potential.

Achievements and thank yous

During the build up to the General Election, Year 8 students took part in a tutor election whereby students were divided into teams and created manifestos that they shared with their class. Students elected a party leader and were given a budget that they could spend on the NHS, education, welfare and other elements of modern day politics. On the morning of 7th May, all students voted using our in house polling cards for the party of their choice and the tutor rooms were abuzz with enthusiasm. With the majority of this year group voting in the next general election, this gave them a real insight into the process and the importance of doing their research. It was a huge success and prizes were given to the party leaders who won the most votes.

Whilst the Mini Election was good, nothing in the academic calendar can compare to Flora Day. I was unbelievably proud to accompany the students on the day and it is a truly wonderful thing to be part of. Not being from Helston, the Year 8 students really showed me how much it means to them and it was amazing to hear that many students think Flora Day is better than Christmas Day! Thank you for your support in cheering them on and despite the drizzle; the students danced with maturity and pride. The goal for me next year is to encourage even more Year 8 students to join us!

Parent Information Evening was a busy but successful night and I hope you found the feedback from staff useful. Nearly 80% of parents came to visit classroom teachers so a huge thank you for your support. With changes to the way we assess the students in preparation for the new GCSEs, it is vital that students know where they are and then act on the advice given to them. The final half term brings about the end of year assessments for many subjects and this is the chance for the students to really shine prior to us reviewing setting arrangements for next year. Alongside this, the options process for next year is in full swing as we collate the information and produce individual timetables for the students. Thank you again for your support with this; it was wonderful to hear how many students sat and discussed their choices with their parents.

Expectations

With the end of the year approaching and the warmer weather coming in (hopefully) some of the girls' skirts appear to be getting significantly shorter. For the most part, these are rolled up several times at the waist but please can I remind parents of our uniform policy which can be found below. <http://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/uniform> The girls are expected to wear knee length skirts or trousers and students will be lent uniform as per our college handbook if they fail to attend in appropriate uniform. This also applies to the boys if they are not wearing appropriate footwear.

Please can I also ask for your support with hair colour and piercings. I love that students want to express their individuality and style; however nose or other piercings are not permitted in college. Students will be asked to remove them and they will be confiscated. Likewise it is expected that students have hair colour that is natural looking. These rules aren't specific to Helston Community College and you will find these expectations in most schools in the country.



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Parking at the College

We would like to draw to your attention that the gates to the North Site car park will be closed from 3.00-3.30, starting from Monday 1st June. The reason for this is to ensure the safety of students who are currently having to walk in front of moving cars. If you are already parked in the car park prior to 3.00 you will need to remain there until the gates are opened at 3.30.

Thank you for your support.

Upcoming events

On Wednesday 3rd June Year 8 will be involved in a fundraiser in response to the devastating earthquakes in Nepal. All Key Stage 3 Geography students have had lessons based on the tragic events and we are now looking to raise some funds to donate to Unicef.

On this day, Year 8 tutors and other members of staff will be running for the entire college day. We will be embarking on the challenge of keeping a treadmill going from 7:30am – 4:30pm. Students are welcome to come in (have a chuckle) and donate to the cause as well as being able to purchase some funky things created by 8E and some others. Your support in this would be wonderful and for every £50 we raise, five families would be given water kits so that they can access regular drinking water. As the situation worsens in Nepal and the impact really comes to light, Year 8 are showing their solidarity and charitable nature.

Sports Day is scheduled for 2nd July (weather permitting) and Sports Captains will soon be rallying the troops to represent their house. Please can I ask that you encourage your child to take part in any way they can. Not all have to run the 1800m but there are such a variety of events each year that there should be something to everyone's taste.

The summer concert and college Fashion Show is calendared for 9th July where we will be celebrating this year's success. I will give you more information closer to the time but please do join us if you can.

To close, have a super and enjoyable bank holiday break and I look forward to what the next half term brings. As always, if you have any concerns or queries please contact me on lallsey@helston.cornwall.sch.uk or your child's classroom teacher.

Best wishes
Mrs L Allsey
Head of Progress – Year 8



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

