



Year 8 Newsletter

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A New Start

Thank you for your ongoing support with what has been an exciting start to the new academic year. The Year 8 students have seen some real changes since last term, with a new Head Teacher, new tutors, as well as a new Head of Progress. The students have really stepped up to the mark and are rising to the ongoing challenges I have been setting them. I can honestly say that whilst the first half term has flown by, I am getting to know the students quirks and personalities, and they are a real pleasure to work with. I feel very lucky to be taking them through the next four years of their education at Helston Community College. I am already proud of their many achievements, the way in which most of them are approaching their studies, and the goals and aspirations they have.

Uniform

Your support with reinforcing our uniform policy has been outstanding and the students are looking dapper! Whilst we fully accept that students want to be individual in their style, a consistent approach to the uniform policy has allowed us to encourage the students to be creative with their individuality in other ways as part of their lessons. Year 8 is undoubtedly the best dressed year group, but the biggest challenge we have at the moment is with girls wearing skinny trousers. This is very difficult as many shops are selling these as school trousers. If you are unsure as to what is or is not acceptable in terms of our uniform policy, then please see the link on the College website - <http://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/uniform>

Lessons and homework

The students have had a really engaging start to the year, from cooking up a storm in food technology (I have recently sampled some amazing chilli from one class), to making weather instruments in geography. In order for us to reinforce the learning that takes place in the classroom, students are expected to complete homework that either consolidates the learning from the previous lesson or prepares them for upcoming lessons. Thank you to those who are working with the students to ensure homework is completed on time. This has been a real focus this half term and the students are getting back into the habit of handing in good quality homework on time; thank you for your efforts and support with this. Please remember that all homework is posted on PlannerLive so you can check

what homework your child has been set at any time.

Enrichment

A huge number of our students are taking part in a range of different activities during and after College; it is wonderful to see them so fully engaged in College life. A record number have signed up for the Year 8 boys rugby team and they are really starting to come together. Despite several losses, they won their first game last week. They were super proud, as were we, and I think we can only improve with time and practice. Alongside this, the Year 8 Netball teams have seen a huge turnout for training and the girls are improving each week. Outside of sporting activities, we have a large number of students taking part in music and drama, stained glass club and our fashion academy. Thank you so much for your ongoing support with our enrichment programme; we feel it is a real asset to the College and the staff enjoy leading the activities. You can view our after school activities on the College website if your son or daughter would like to get involved.

Achievements and Thank Yous

1. Thank you to 8C who have been the only tutor group to have no detentions at all this half term. They celebrated last week with a huge box of chocolates from me.
2. Well done to Charlie Preece who is the student with the most number of TRICs this half term – a huge 51! Well Done Charlie!
3. 8D won the award for being the best dressed tutor group a few weeks ago. Their uniform has been excellent since the start of term and they are really looking super!
4. In terms of our house competitions, Kynance are currently in the lead, very closely followed by Hendra.... it is going to be a close call this year I think!

Upcoming events

1. Four of our Year 8 students are taking on a huge challenge to raise money for an orphanage in Kenya - Lowenna Wearne, Freya Tatham, Beth Davies and Pepper Robertson will be running the Camel Trail at the end of the month in order to support some of Kenya's poorest children. I personally wish the girls the best of luck and if you would like to support them, then please go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/runningthecameltrail>.
2. Anti-Bullying Week is the week beginning the 17th November and Year 8 students will be taking part in a range of activities and assemblies to raise awareness, and help us tackle bullying.
3. The Year 8 Music Concert takes place on 10th-12th November – please join us if you can.

Best Wishes,
Mrs L Allsey
Head of Progress - Year 8