



Year 9 Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

DEC 2014

As we approach the Christmas break, Year 9 students have all been extremely busy working hard this term. The positive feedback to teaching the students continues, with a variety of teachers keeping me posted on how well the students are performing in their subject areas. Earlier in the month, the students completed their second Personal, Social and Health Education Development day on the topic of 'Learning to Earn'. We look forward to the next PSHE day on a different focus next year.

Assessment Framework

As you may already know, the assessment framework within the College, nationally and within GCSE level subjects, is about to change. To give you an idea of the current changes, please refer to the College website and the assessment booklet which can be downloaded from <http://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/curriculum-overview> within the parent section of the website. Year 9 students will be the first to study GCSE Maths and English on the new 1-9 scale. We will continue to discuss with you the new GCSE targets at the first Parents Information Evening and how they will link to your child's assessment levels. The Year 9 progress grades for this term are currently being reviewed and will play a pivotal role in guiding us with the options process, and give us a realistic view on the setting process to ensure all students are set at the right level and getting the best support available.

Important Dates for your Diary

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| 22 nd January 2015 | Options Introduction Evening |
| 28 th January 2015 | Parent Teacher Consultation Evening with subject teachers |
| 11 th February 2015 | Year 9 Options Evening – Sports Hall |

Mini Option Subjects

The mini-option subjects within the Performing Arts and Technology faculties have been going well with continued positive feedback from both class teachers and students. It is now time to start thinking about the upcoming KS4 options. I hope that we can now start helping you and your son/daughter make the right subject choices to achieve success in the next 2 years of their education and beyond.

Modern Foreign Language department

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Modern Foreign Language department are delivering an extra lesson to the Year 9 students, providing a taster lesson in either French or Spanish to increase understanding of languages and give them greater opportunity to experience languages now and in the future. Evidence suggests that Mr Pearson (Head of MFL) is very happy with some year 9 progress and shared these words from work produced this term. "Year 9 Spanish pupils have created some excellent fairy tales in Spanish. A special mention must go to Hannah Goldsmith, Charlie-Jayne Green, Kian Hocking, Hannah Ralph, Lowenna Riley and Francesca Williams from ghSp1 and Amelia Reynolds from ghSp2 for their imaginative and descriptive work. Enhorabuena – Congratulations". Both Year 9 French and Spanish students have contributed to Remembrance Day activities through reading comprehensions, poetry appreciation, and creating word clouds with some excellent results.



Extra Intervention Lessons in English

There continues to be provision for extra intervention lessons in English, including students being given extra support in smaller groups. Many other areas of support are being offered in English; for example after school clubs and work cards monitoring student's progress. If you would like any further information on the additional support available in English, then please contact either myself or Miss Godzicz (Head of KS3 English) at the College.



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Homework Club

On the topic of extra support, every week myself, Miss Murray (Assistant Head of Progress for Year 9) or a member of the Year 9 tutor team will be on hand to support homework club. We will place students in homework club who are clearly struggling with the pressures of homework and deadlines, or if students would like to check their homework is up to date and of the expected standard, then they are more than welcome to come along for an hour. Please continue to check your sons/daughter's planners and PlannerLive and if there are any problems please ask them to speak to their subject teacher or a member of the Year 9 team. We will be happy to help before names are sent to me to ensure they attend homework club to further their learning.

Sporting Fixtures

We have continued to be busy with sporting fixtures on both the Netball Court and Rugby field as well as competing in Cross Country Meets, Swimming Galas and most recently a Badminton Tournament. The final Year 9 Rugby league fixture was a very hard fought draw 24-24 against Redruth on a very cold, dark and windy evening in Redruth. We then finished the season with the annual 'friendly' between the Helston squad led by their captains Matt Vincent and Will Kitto, which also ended in an entertaining and respectable draw 25-25.

Year 9 Performers

The College drama production in February will be The Snow Queen and rehearsals featuring a number of Year 9 students are now in full flow. Well done to all the Year 9 musicians as they will be kept very busy at this time of year involved in Christmas concerts and the College Carol service.

Assemblies

In assemblies, we have been continuing to follow the themes of the week which have included 'Valuing Others, Dignity and Anti-bullying'. Last week we had 'Random Act of Kindness Day' and a

Year 9 student decided that I deserved an act of kindness; they found out that I enjoyed an odd packet of Minstrels and then I found a packet on my desk! Very kind!

Christmas Jumper Day

This week we have Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for two extremely worthwhile charities; Save the Children and The Friends of Helston Hospital, of which two members made a guest appearance in our assembly last Thursday. One continuing message in all assemblies is how important it is for the students to demonstrate respectful behaviour. I hope that all Year 9 students are respectful, both within the classroom and the community, to ultimately ensure they are respectful of everyone's right to learn and progress within the College and become respectful citizens.

Student Council

The Year 9 tutor and Year Council members, led by Miss Murray and Ms Marsden, are feeding back to the year group their ideas from Student Voice meetings including giving an assembly presentation. Last Friday, some of the council members were helping out with the senior citizen's Christmas concert in the hall. I am sure they did a cracking job in representing themselves in a positive light to these esteemed guests from our community.

I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure all Year 9 students are excelling in their time at Helston Community College in 2015.

Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

With best wishes,
Mr T Richardson
Head of Progress – Year 9