



# Year 9 Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2015

Here we are folks at the end of what has been a super busy term. It doesn't feel like 15 weeks have passed since the Year 9's returned from their summer break and I am amazed that we are already knocking on the door of Christmas celebrations.

## Year 9 Charity Champions

A group of Year 9 students created a charity fundraising group just before half term and have already achieved some remarkable things as a result of their hard work and commitment. Led by **Tegenn 9H**, the girls organised for over 50 Shoeboxes to be delivered to All Saints Church in Truro who were taking them on to Calais the following week. Thank you so much for your efforts and support in bringing in shoeboxes filled with treats and essentials and I am certain your efforts are hugely appreciated by the young people who received the boxes.

In addition to this, **Tegenn, Ellie, Phoebe and Ella** raised over £350 for World Vision, who are supporting young people in Syria. The girls, accompanied my Ellie's dad Kevin, cycled over 60kms on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December, spending the entire day on bikes. This was an incredible achievement and I am super proud of them. They took it upon themselves to liaise with Bissoe Cycle Hire and World Vision to get sponsorship and trained regularly for the event. A huge well done to the ladies and a huge thanks to Mr Mitchell!

## Huddersfield Exchange – by the Huddersfield Team

The Helston staff and students embarked on the second leg of the exchange: visiting Huddersfield. The journey took the group via London, where some of our students travelled on the Underground for the very first time.

Pupils and staff visited the Science Museum in Manchester, where the two groups of students explored a range of cooperative values, whilst collaborating with each other to solve a range of science problems. The Helston staff and students hosted our Huddersfield friends at our accommodation, where the traditional Yorkshire tea of fish and chips was consumed. What

followed, as the sun set, was the chance to show solidarity by making a range of dens in the woodland, constructing and testing pea shooters, lighting and maintaining a bonfire and toasting marshmallows.

The following day, pupils and staff visited our host schools in Huddersfield. The secondary students participated in Drama, ICT and Art lessons, learnt how vertical options groups functioned (Y9, Yr10 and Yr11 students take part in lessons together). We spent a fascinating afternoon being guests at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara. Our students discovered lots about the Sikh faith, experienced some fabulous hospitality and sampled a range of amazing Indian food. We were thoroughly impressed with the level of hospitality and caring for others we were privileged to receive. The students were able to watch some of the temple's women preparing the food for an upcoming celebration and listen to them singing whilst carrying out their cooking.

Our final evening involved the cooperative trust treating all the students and staff involved in the exchange to another Yorkshire tradition: a pie and peas supper! The evening marked the culmination of the exchange and celebrated all the wonderful experiences and memories we shared over the two legs of the exchange. We were able to meet families, teachers and school governors from our partner schools, discussing, sharing and reflecting on our time together. A strong link has been established, one which hopefully will remain and be built upon in the future.

## **e-Safety**

All schools have a duty of care to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety and welfare of all their students. At Helston Community College we have the latest methods and procedures in place for detecting unsafe behaviour online, in accordance with the latest government guidance and legislation. An important part of this initiative is the use of software which monitors the use of college computers.

### **Computer monitoring**

We now use specialist e-Safety monitoring software provided by Future Digital. This is currently installed and monitoring is ongoing. The software gives students the freedom to use the internet and computer programs responsibly, whilst capturing misuse and unacceptable behaviour.

### **How it works**

The software detects potentially inappropriate content as soon as it appears on screen or is typed in by the user. A screen capture is taken of every incident detailing the time and date of capture, machine name, user name and reason for capture. A weekly headline summary is produced from the system detailing captures of particular interest to alert the person monitoring the system. These particular violations will be investigated and dealt with in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy, Behaviour Policy, e-Safety, Anti-Bullying, Safeguarding and any other relevant college policies.

### **What it prevents**

We are alerted to students using threatening behaviour or accessing inappropriate websites for example. It also gives an early warning of potentially harmful situations, like predator grooming. The captured evidence helps staff choose the best course of action, from support for victims of bullying, or protecting a vulnerable child, to confronting a student who is acting inappropriately. The monitoring software also provides a powerful incentive for students to use all technology and devices safely and concentrate in lessons. Learning good habits at college prepares children for a continued safe digital future.

If you have any queries about this system please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

Mr Jenkins  
Deputy Headteacher

## **Report for Girls Computer Gaming Academy by Lucy Treloar 9G**

A selection of girls from years 7,8 and 9 were given the opportunity to visit the computing area of Falmouth University on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. Accompanied by Mr K Welsh and Mrs L Hocking, the group firstly had a tour of the site and computer suites where current students would work to create their game designs and further their programs. The students were then led to a teaching room, full of computers, to start to program "Frogger", a game that can be easily created on the software provided. Along with the instructions and tutorial, most of the girls completed their version of "Frogger" at a working level, where the character of a frog would have to reach a block without being hit by a truck. This activity was followed by a short break to the cafe located just outside of the main building site.

When the students returned to the teaching suite, a new program was introduced, which allowed the girls to create their own music. Many of the girls were able to create a simple beat before the group had to come back to college. The girls learnt a lot from the experience and now understand the world of computing and the competitive industry that it has.

Many thanks go to the computing experts that the university provided, as well as Mr Welsh and Mrs Hocking for organising the trip.

## **Christmas Concert and Carol Service by Freya 9G**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, the school put on the annual Christmas concert. As per usual it was a huge success. The acts included a range of students, teachers and sixth formers, who all performed enthusiastically and with confidence. The New Year sevens really enjoyed their first experience of being involved in this opportunity. Some of the highlights of the evening were "Bohemian Rhapsody" performed by the senior choir, and the very entertaining "The Troonies" which is a staff performance. The evening ran very smoothly, with great drinks and refreshments, apart from the accidental fire alarm, which was very humorous! To round of the evening, there was a spectacular finale and thanks from the head teacher Mrs Donna Bryant. It was a great show, many thanks to the music department with all their efforts.

Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup>, in St Michael's church, was the Helston Community College Carol Service. With a great turn out from the audience, the students were feeling very excited and festive. Both senior and junior choir performed; accompanied with several carols in between that everyone could sing (and this year was sung very loudly and enthusiastically). There were also several readings, organised by Mrs P Renyard, which were very enjoyable. During the year seven music lessons there was a competition to compose a Christmas song. The winners performed and were thoroughly appreciated and admired by the audience. It was a very enjoyable evening and many thanks to the organisers. The evening was finished by refreshments being served in the Andrew Hall.

## **Key Stage 4 GCSE Options**

At the very start of the Spring term we begin the Key Stage 4 GCSE Options process. Thanks to the Year 9 Mini Options, we are expecting this to run fairly smoothly. The students will have assemblies, tutorial sessions and you will be invited to Parent Information Evenings prior to them making their final choices. In addition to this, students are given the opportunity to speak with teachers from each subject at our Options Fair, as this means they are able to make informed, and suitable choices. Please see below a few important dates for your diaries, although I will be writing to you with more information closer to the time:

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Parent Information evening in the North Site Main Hall. Parents will be issued with the Options Booklet

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Year 9 Options Fair – Sports Hall

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

Final Options forms handed in via tutors

As you are aware, these students will be starting the new GCSE's so I would strongly advise you attend the sessions, even if you have older children at the College as there will be key differences in the way the content is assessed and delivered. It is essential that we make this process as efficient as possible so please contact me if you have any queries.

To close, may I wish you a restful and enjoyable Christmas break, filled will family, good friends and festive treats.

Best wishes  
Laura Allsey



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

