



Year 9 Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

JULY 2015

Welcome everyone to our final Year 9 newsletter of the academic year and I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and looking forward to the summer holidays.

YEAR 9 COMES TO AN END

So, as we complete the academic year I hope that you are all happy with your child's full report and that you found them informative and know where we need to go next to improve progress even further. I hope that everyone is now clear on their option choices so all students will be fully prepared and excited by the challenges that await in year 10.

SUMMER SPORTS

The year's sporting fixtures are now coming to an end with the final Cricket and Rounder's fixtures and athletic meets. The year 9 girls' Beach Volleyball team travelled to Perranporth for the Cornwall School Games and finished in third place - well done girls.

We have completed the year with the College's annual sports day with many Year 9s working tirelessly for their house over the two day, multi-discipline event. It was a great couple of days; well done to everyone that participated and congratulations to Poldhu for being the overall winners this year.



TIME TO CELEBRATE

To carry on the celebratory mood we have a celebration assembly to look forward to and the KS 3 awards evening where many of the Year 9s will be recognised for their subject excellence within KS 3. I had the pleasure of going to Mr Bloor's art class last week and help to judge his Year 9's artwork. I was very impressed with the quality of work produced with the overall winners being Henry Creed and Owen Bowden. Well done Gentlemen on a thought provoking and very dramatic piece of artwork.



I must also wish good luck to all the year 9 members of the college choirs and bands for the upcoming summer concerts.

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies this term have included the themes of the week from the College's co-operative values of Social –Responsibility and Self- Responsibility. In assembly we have been promoting the importance of students being in control and being proactive in their decision making and having a healthy and balanced lifestyle. We also had our PSHE day on Sexual Health and the dangers of smoking, which I hope delivered some very clear messages across to everyone. Monitoring the day it seemed that all Year 9 classes were attentive, interested and willing to learn about these essential subject matters.

YEAR 9 OPPORTUNITIES

I had the pleasure of escorting one of the groups of Year 9 Scientists down to Penrose this term and had a great time learning about the natural habitat in a truly stunning environment on our doorstep. The vast majority of students had a great time and I would like to thank everyone who supported Mr Williams in organising this activity including the Penrose staff, teachers and the Friends of Helston.



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Last week I went along to the University of Exeter, Tremough Campus, Penryn taking a group of Year 9 boys with an interest in the Sciences or the Arts who may be considering going to university. I found the Science day and the campus very exciting and the talks about university life interesting including university societies such as the Hide and Seek club! I think times have changed from my day! I hope the boys found the day interesting and it planted a few seeds for the future. I think Matt Murgatroyd almost came back to Helston with a new pet as a 12 inch stick insect took a liking to him during one of the practical Science lectures!

We also asked the Royal Marine Visibility Team in to College after their previous work with our sixth form, co-ordinated by Natalie Williams. The Royal Marines talked about the many facets of their work and did some entertaining team building exercises which worked the Year 9 groups very hard both mentally and physically, although it was highly amusing to watch!



As always our guests were glowing in praise for our students' which makes me as their Head of Progress very proud. I am sure there will be more guest visitors and trip opportunities next year.

PERSISTENT ABSENCE

In June we celebrated the fact that seven students achieved 100% attendance over their whole five years at the College – an amazing accomplishment and one that says a lot about the young people involved.

Average College attendance for this academic year is currently 94.7%. This is above the national average and a credit to our students.

As from September, any student whose attendance falls below 90% will be deemed to be a Persistent Absentee by the Government. We will therefore have a duty of care to notify parents and carers, and you may be invited into College and be asked to work with us to help improve your child's attendance level.

90% attendance equates to missing only 19 days of school. Please take this into consideration when planning holidays in term time – one week of holiday and a few days of sickness could result in your child being designated as a Persistent Absentee.

If you feel you need any help or support to improve your child's attendance or wish to discuss their absence, please contact Ms P Harley, Attendance and Admissions Manager on 01326 575016 or at pharley@helston.cornwall.sch.uk.

FINAL REMINDER– IN LESSONS

Please can I remind your son/daughter to ensure they arrive at school by 8.40. We appreciate there are sometimes complications with travel arrangements but there are also students who live very close to the school who continually arrive late to college and if this is the case they will be sanctioned accordingly. Also, every student should be on the school site at all times during the school day. Under no circumstances should they leave the school without permission from Mr Richardson, Mrs Harley or in a prior agreement with a parent who has notified the College.

Thank you for your continued understanding and co-operation.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all again in September ready for Year 10.

Best wishes, Mr T. Richardson.
(Head of Progress, Year 9)

