



Year 9 Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

JULY 2016

Summer is very nearly upon us, and I would like to say a big thank you to the students and parents for their support and efforts. Like in many sports and working environments, all schools rely heavily on teamwork, and the young people are the most important players. I always complain about how fast the time seems to go, but I am truly astonished that two years has passed since I was introduced to the year group!

Sports Day

We really showed resilience and determination as we battled the weather for Sports Day this year. Whilst I would love nothing more than for Helston to turn into Hogwarts during Sports Day, our top runners prove to outpace any Quidditch team! Another successful event whereby the Year 9 Gunwalloe girls absolutely smashed their track events. Well done! I cannot reveal to you the winning House as this stage, as this will be announced at

Culdrose Day—By Seth Murrells and Josh Palmer

We arrived at the base and met up with our tour guide Craig Allen (Toby Allen's dad). We saw the Merlins which are the newest helicopter, and they were huge with 50 calibre machine guns on the side, and they burnt 1 ton of fuel per hour. We then visited the Hawks, which are jets used for war simulation training exercises. These jets were over 40 years old. Next we saw the Sea Kings, and they were the older helicopters used for scanning areas. In addition, they commanded the Merlins from above; the Sea King was also known as the mk 4. The best part of the trip was firing a huge water turret on top of a fire engine with the Culdrose Fire Department. Then we went to see a drone controlled by the US Coast Guard and the US Marines; this part was fun knowing that our Navy was working with other countries. The trip was really planned well, as we could look in everything we saw, and everyone who went had a great time - apart from Sam Bennett, who kept hitting his head on everything.

Uniform

Just a reminder as you begin the mammoth task of organising uniform for next year, that our uniform policy can be found on the College website. I believe the students look smart and wear the uniform with pride. However, there are some issues with students trying to wear trainer-style shoes, very short skirts (we expect 2 cms above the knee) and skinny trousers. These items are not acceptable as uniform.

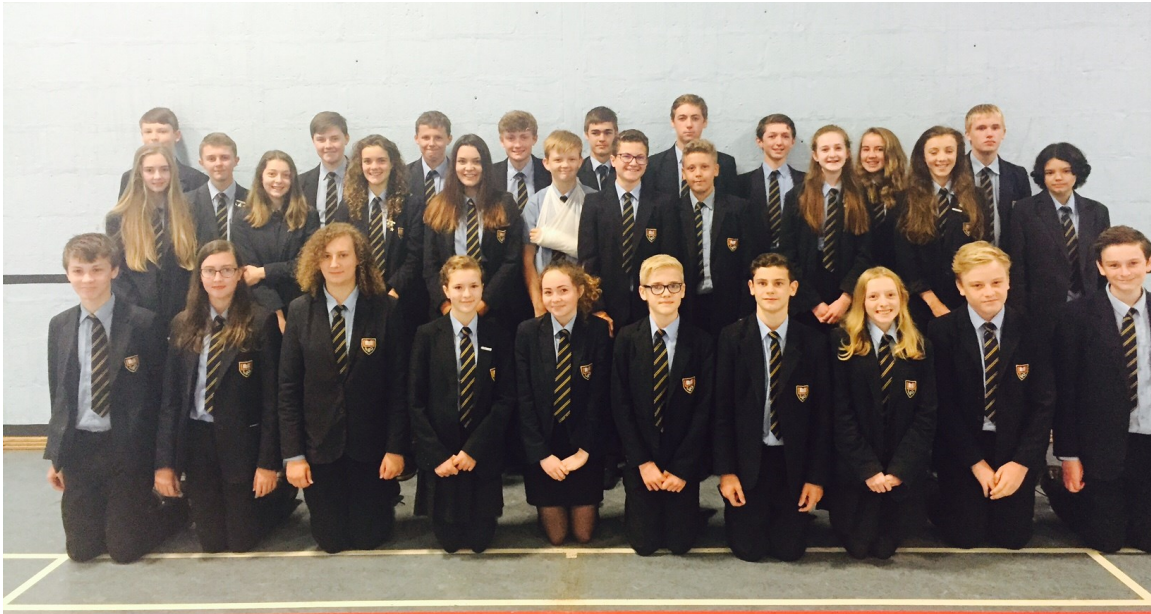
Please can I reiterate that we appreciate your support with our uniform, and buying the correct clothing will ensure money is not wasted. Please contact me if you have any queries regarding uniform

Mobile phones

We discourage students from bringing mobile phones in to College, but we understand that parents may wish for them to have a phone for their safety whilst travelling to and from College. Therefore, any student who brings a mobile phone into the College does so at their own risk, and the College will not be held responsible for any loss or damage. May we remind both students and parents that if a student is using a mobile phone in a lesson, the teacher will confiscate the phone and return the phone to the student after the lesson. For a second offence, the phone will be handed to the Pastoral Support Assistant to be collected at the end of the day. For a third offence, parents will be asked to collect the phone from the Pastoral Support Assistant. If a student refuses to hand over the phone, then sanctions will be put in place. In September, we will be publishing further information on the use of mobile phones in College, which will be available for parents to view on our website.

Celebration Evening

On Monday night, we celebrated the achievements of our Year 9 students at the Key Stage 3 Celebration Evening. It was a remarkable way to acknowledge such a bright, articulate and driven year group. We had musical items from the Rock Band and Junior Choir, as well as poetry readings. A huge well done to those who were given subject awards, as well as the 8 students who have achieved 100% attendance over the past 3 years. We awarded 10 students with a Head of Progress award for outstanding achievement, excellent effort and contribution to the College. This year's winner of the Head of Progress Cup went to Harvey Wiltshire. Well done to everyone for a truly outstanding year. I am unbelievably proud of you and I feel privileged to work alongside you.



Key Stage 4 revision materials

Many parents have been asking about subject revision books to buy, so students can hit the ground running in September. With the majority of subjects starting new specifications this year, many revision resources are yet to be published.

Whilst we will have revision guides as soon as possible, and these would almost certainly be at a reduced cost, there are some generic revision guides available from the CPG website below:

https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books_gcse

Please do ensure that you buy the latest edition and they refer to grades 1-9 and not F-A*.

PSHE Day

Our most recent PSHE day was a series of workshops about healthy living and making informed choices. The students listened to a guest speaker on the impacts of recreational drugs, and looked at the dangers and consequences of making wrong choices.

Huff and Puff also came into College to run workshops on the dangers of smoking. This was quite a real and hard hitting account of the long term impacts of smoking. The volunteers shared their stories, and the students asked inquisitive and thought provoking questions.

Should you want any further information on the day, or the support we have available in College regarding the use of drugs, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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



Girls Project MABLE (Most Able)—by Bronwyn Williams and Rowan Skingley

Last Friday, the MABLE girls' group took part in a rock salt challenge with our parents. In the evening, we formed teams and competed against other families. We had to purify rock salt and sell it on a realistic market. To purify the rock salt, we had to put it into water and let the salt dissolve. After the salt had dissolved, we had to filter it to get just water and the salt. Then we evaporated the solution to leave us with the pure salt. It was then graded by the rock salt company to determine the price we got for it. The better quality it was, the more money we got. The trading conditions also changed, so you would get different amounts of money, depending on what time you sold your salt.

It was an enjoyable evening, as we got to compete against other families to win prizes. The health and safety aspects and budgeting also made you think about what you were spending your money on. The constantly changing market also made it exciting, as there was never a clear leader. In addition to the already exciting atmosphere, a few digital mistakes about money made everyone more competitive. Thank you to Mrs Barnes and the Science team for organising the challenge.

Outdoor Learning Project— Mr Floyer and Mr Williams

The Year 9 Outdoor Learning project went to Wales last week to seek out challenges on land and sea. We went to Aberdovey, which is on the coast of Wales about halfway up, near the famous mountain of Cadair Idris. We worked with Outward Bound, who run courses aimed at challenging and developing people of all ages and from all walks of life. All the students involved got to show off their kayaking, paddling and navigation skills – but they also had to dig deep and meet challenge with determination.

In the words of Kurt Hahn, founder of Outward Bound, “We are all better than we know. If only we can be brought to realise this, we may never again be prepared to settle for anything less.” Everyone from Year 9 showed this during the week: Well done.

Mrs Barnes!!!

Mrs Barnes has been our Assistant Head of Progress for the last two years, and has worked hard to support the year group. She has been running trips, taking assemblies and mentoring students, amongst a huge number of other things that have aimed to raise the students' aspirations, encourage them to be ambitious, and ensure they achieve all they are capable of. In September, Mrs Barnes will be taking on the role of Head of Progress for Year 8, and our students took it upon themselves to thank her for all her hard work in assembly on Tuesday. We wish you all the best Mrs Barnes - thank you for being so supportive!

Thank you

As I write this, I can see outside my office our standard British summer, where the fog and drizzle hides the sunshine. I hope the weather brightens over the next 6 weeks and the students have some quality time with friends and family. I feel genuinely privileged to have worked with such a dynamic, energetic and motivated year group, and I look forward to supporting them as they start their Key Stage 4 journey in September.

Thank you for your ongoing support—the relationship between College and home is important to us, as it ensures we are able to encourage the students to make the most of the opportunities they are given. I hope you have a restful summer holiday, and I look forward to seeing the students on Monday 5th September in their white shirts!! Mrs L Allsey



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