



Year 9 Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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Welcome to the Year 9 half termly newsletter which I will be writing at the end of each half term to keep you informed on all the progress of the Year 9 students at Helston Community College.

The new term has started very positively with a variety of teachers keeping me posted on how well the Year 9's are performing in their subject areas. As I am finalising the newsletter, the Year 9's are taking part in their first Personal, Social and Health Education development day with the title of 'Learning to Earn' which is being delivered by Young Enterprise UK. You will be glad to hear that one of the tasks was to work out how much money they would need to earn a year to live their chosen lifestyle; it looks like you could all retire early and live off your children's huge wealth!

The mini-option choices have started well with some excellent feedback from both the Visual and Performing Arts Faculty and the Technology Faculty. There have also been some very alluring smells and creative dishes on display in the food technology department. I hope you have enjoyed sampling the result as not too much has come my way! I hope these options will help the Year 9 students with their future decisions in choosing their GCSE option subjects early in the New Year.

Year 9's have made a bright start to their Computing studies so far, with all students completing a baseline test. If you would like to support your child at home, they are currently studying binary numbers, networks and operating systems. There is some great free software out there that your children might like to access, search for SCRATCH, KODU, AUDACITY and SKETCHUP.

This year, the Modern Foreign Language's department are delivering an extra lesson to the Year 9's; providing a taster lesson in either French or Spanish. We hope that this will be both beneficial to the students understanding of languages, and give them a greater opportunity to experience languages now and in the future.

There is currently provision for extra intervention lessons in English and Maths in which certain students are given extra support in smaller groups to tackle some of the trickier aspects of English and Maths, and to ensure they are given the support required to help them progress as much as possible. If you would like any further information on the additional support available in English and Maths, then please contact either myself, Mr Stivey (Head of KS3 Maths) or Miss Godzic (Head of KS3 English) at the College.

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 offer support at homework club. We will place students in homework club if they are clearly struggling with the pressures of homework and deadlines, or if students would like check their homework is up to date and of the expected standard, then they are more than welcome to come along for an hour.

Already this term, we have had many sporting fixtures on the netball court and rugby field, as well as a regional swimming gala. Most recently the year 9 boys won 24-0 against Penair in rugby, and the girl's performed admirably in a 20-20 draw against Falmouth School in netball. Well done to all participants, you continue to make the College Proud! The College drama production this year will be The Snow Queen and rehearsals are well underway with a number of Year 9 students taking part in the production.

In assemblies, we have been following the themes of the week which have included Truth, Motivation and Aspiration, Ambition and Achievement. One continuing message in all assemblies is how important it is for the students to feel proud of themselves and show pride in being a part of Helston Community College. I hope that all Year 9's are proud of their smart appearance, their behaviour and their efforts to ultimately ensure they are proud of their progress and performance within the College.

Well done to the Year 9 tutor and year council members, I am sure you will value the opportunity of being the student voices of Year 9 and I look forward to hearing about some of your ideas.

I wish you all a good half term and look forward to working with you to ensure all Year 9 students are excelling in their time at Helston Community College.

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