



Year 9 Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2015

Unbelievably, here we are at the end of first half term as the students fly through their final year in Key Stage 3. We were told as teenagers that school flies by really quickly and that is without doubt the case here, as the last 8 weeks seem to have passed so quickly. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break and it seems the students have, for the most part, returned to college eager and enthused to take on the challenges of Year 9. We have had a super busy half term already as we academically raise the bar in the classroom and I raise my expectations of the year group. Even working with them for just a year, I am seeing most of them grow into well rounded, open young adults, who are becoming more and more equipped to face the working world.

Huddersfield/Helston exchange 2015

A group of 6 Year 9 students have been taking part in a cultural exchange with a secondary school in Huddersfield. Last month, Helston were the hosts and the students had the opportunity to showcase Cornwall at its very best with beautiful sunny days. The group took part in a range of activities; they enjoyed a thrilling music lesson at the college in which both the home grown talent and the visitors showed off their musical skills. We visited Helston Museum where we were able to compare differences in our communities in years gone by. All the students enjoyed a walk through Penrose with a delicious pasty and an ice cream as a reward at the end! At the end of the day the students were able to fine tune their archery skills at the BBQ, which was kindly cooked by our own Mr Vallender.

The following day our visitors were able to take part in a surf lesson and find out what it is like to spend a day on the beach. The weather was kind and the water warm so once they were suited, full of excitement our visitors experienced their first dip in the sea. Later, we were able to show off our locally sourced fish, with a delicious meal at Seadrift in Porthleven and both students and staff enjoyed socialising and exchanging their experiences.

Finally it was time for our new friends to go home, but not before a quick trip to Eden to experience one of our best known tourist attractions. Tired and happy, our 6 hosts here at HCC returned on a very quiet minibus, eagerly anticipating their trip up to Huddersfield where they will be able to find out what it is like to go to a multicultural college where 24 languages are spoken. As I write, we are on the train heading north for the next part of the exchange– I will let you know how we get on.

Siobhan Barnes – Assistant Head of Progress

Charity champions Led by Tegenn Holloway

We are a group of four Year 9 girls who have got together this year to help raise money for different charitable organisations around the world. So far we are in the process of organising a range of activities such as: a sponsored 60km cycle ride and a shoebox appeal for Syrian refugees displaced by civil war, and an activity day for this year's Children In Need. We have been working on a power point presentation which we will deliver in assembly containing information about the Syrian Refugee Crisis and ways in which we can help. We are currently hoping to gather 100 shoeboxes filled with essentials that All Saints Church in Highertown, Truro have kindly agreed to deliver for us. If you are able to support us with this, please visit the link below for a list of useful items and hand your shoeboxes to Mrs Allsey after half term. We have until **21st November** to hit our target. Thank you in advance for your support. <http://www.asht.org.uk/refugee-crisis.html>

Funding towards a new build

We are still awaiting further news of the building from the government. At the moment, we have been told that they hope to provide us with an update by the end of the calendar year. I have written to the Secretary of State and have spoken to Derek Thomas MP pressing our cause. I am also discussing the matter with John Pollard (Cornwall Council) asking him to pursue the matter with Government. As soon as we hear anything further, we will let you know.

Donna Bryant, Head Teacher, Helston Community College



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Digigirlz – by Freya Tatham

Digigirlz is a diverse experience to get young girls into computer technology set up by Microsoft. Ten girls from Year 9 went on a trip to the Eden Project to take part in the workshop with several other schools from around Cornwall. The day included speeches from women at Microsoft such as the operating manager of Skype and the programme manager of Microsoft. The rest of the day involved a competition to design an app that encouraged people to go outdoors. Our app was called "Digileaf" and it was a social site recommending days out for family, friends and tourists. Unfortunately our design didn't win; however, we are all very proud of ourselves. We learnt a lot from the day and had great fun.

Uniform

Thank you for your ongoing support with the uniform policy. I would say 95% of the year group are looking incredibly smart and are proud of their appearance. I feel an overwhelming sense of pride when they walk into assembly and of course I would say that Year 9 win the award for being the best dressed year group! This is important to me as a Head of Progress and important to us as a college. Our biggest issue at the moment is with girls rolling their skirts up at the waistband, often by several inches! We are on the case with this and sanctions are being imposed on repeat offenders. If you have any queries about what is acceptable in terms of skirt length, trouser style or footwear please visit the link below. <http://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/uniform>

Voulez-vous parler français?

Would you like to improve your French whilst doing fun activities such as aeroball, assault course, bread-making, canoeing, climbing, archery, fencing and circus skills? Then come to Normandy this summer (17th – 24th July 2016). We will stay in a beautiful old chateau with large grounds that include a lake, tennis court, wood, mini-farm, orchard and lots of rabbits. All of the staff there speak fluent French and they will conduct every activity in

French – you will be amazed at how much you will learn and how muddy you will get (check out the 2014 photos displayed in L6)! All students in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 are welcome and don't worry if you are not confident in French, as long as you're keen to have a go at speaking, you'll be fine. The trip costs £450 for 7 nights. Please see Mrs A Graham (L4) or your language teacher for further details as soon as possible.

Mini Options

The mini options have kicked off with great success and students seem to enjoy having some ownership over their curriculum. I have seen the gents over in construction building brick walls and the food technology students cooking a huge variety of healthy, family meals. The benefits of giving students such a wonderful choice of subjects in Year 9 means not only can they deepen their knowledge in areas of interest, but also the process will prepare them for choosing their GCSE options in the spring term. I will be in touch nearer the time to discuss this with you but it is always worth students considering what their next steps might be early on.

Anniversary Celebrations


HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASPIRATION · AMBITION · ACHIEVEMENT

Helston Day Nursery
25 Years
Anniversary Celebrations
Saturday 14th November
Open House - 10.00am - 12.00pm
 previous children and families
 welcome - coffee and cakes

Evening Celebration
7.30pm - 11.30pm
 in the main North Site Hall at Helston
 Community College, for past and previous parents
Tickets £5 available from Helston Day Nursery
 (01326) 575010 and Helston Community College
 Reception (01326)572685

- Pasties • Music by Elementary Penguins
- Bring your own alcohol

**Tickets need to be purchased
 by Monday 2nd November**



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Access to Pupilinfo

We are in the process of redesigning Pupilinfo, the online Parent Portal, where students parents and carers can access subject targets and grades. We aim to get the new system up and running during November so it will be ready when teachers enter their first set of subject specific feedback comments in December. This online feedback process will happen once per term in order to provide students with timely advice and guidance throughout the year, to help them make progress. We will issue new usernames and passwords in the next half term to enable parents and carers to access this part of the College website.

Targets and grades for students in Key Stage 3 are based on our new Key Stage 3 assessment system; there is a booklet available on the College website which explains the language used and the ideas that underpin this new grading system. To find out more please go to the 'Parents' section of the website where the 'KS3 Assessment Booklet' can be found under 'Useful Downloads'.

If at any stage you require a paper copy of any of the online information please contact the College Reception.

Enrichment Programme

Thank you to all those parents who have paid the £5 termly fee for participation in our enrichment programme. If you have not yet paid, please could we give you a gentle reminder to pay as soon as possible, via your ParentPay Account. If you do not have an account, please contact our Accounts team on 01326 575028, who will be able to set this up or make alternative arrangements if necessary. Please note that the charge is per student, but your child can participate in as many clubs as they wish for that £5 charge.

Lois Horne – Business Manager

To close, enjoy the half term break and I hope for more of the glorious weather we have had throughout October. As always, if you feel there is anything we can do to support your child please contact their tutor or myself at the college.

Kind regards
Mrs L Allsey



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

