



The Helstonian

December 2023

HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE



Children in Need Fun!



In this issue: Student of the Month • Praise Points • Sport • 12 Days of Christmas • Children in Need

ASPIRATION • AMBITION • ACHIEVEMENT

ISSUE





LETTER FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of the College,

Christmas is a time of year I love for many reasons. One of them, is that there always seems to be a greater emphasis on being kind. In College, we have been promoting kindness through our Kindness Golden Ticket campaign as well as collecting for the Food Bank and creating hampers to support the community. We have also welcomed in again the fabulous Devon and Cornwall Food Action team who have distributed bags and bags of food and household items to families in Helston. It really has felt like a time for giving and supporting others.

The autumn term is always a long one and with the very wet weather we have seen recently, along with the darker mornings, getting to school can be more of a challenge for some students. Our attendance, however, has increased dramatically compared to the last two years. Well done to the students for their resilience and thank you to parents for your support. Attendance in Cornwall and across the UK still remains below the pre-pandemic levels, so there is more to do to ensure students attend as often as possible. We know that the impact of good attendance on students' academic success as well as their personal development is very significant.

As always, it has been a busy term. We've had trips to Oxford University, an Art trip to London, a visit to the Theatre Royal in Plymouth as well as several local trips to CAST, Helston Museum, St Ives, Hall for Cornwall and more. Our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award winners enjoyed a lovely celebration last month and our PE teams have achieved success in a number of sports.

The Christmas concert and carol service were as wonderful as ever. We've had a careers carousel for Year 9, a mental health awareness event for Year 10, held mock job interviews for Year 11 and hosted the Royal Navy for a military skills day. 100,000 praise points have been issued (10 times more than negative points), with over 7000 Consequence Cards handed in for the prize draw! If that wasn't enough, we've also achieved the Silver Award for our support for Young Carers and raised money for Children in Need.

Sadly, this term we say farewell to Chloe Smith (Food Technology teacher) and Elizabeth Sinikas (Receptionist) who are moving on to pastures new. We also say farewell to Karen Harvey (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Brian Williams (minibus driver) who are both retiring after giving many years of service to the college. May I take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to each of them for their fabulous work and support.

Just a reminder that due to the INSET days on 4th and 5th January, students return on Monday 8th January. During the spring term, don't forget we have parents' evenings for Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and P16, with the Year 11 event the first week back on Thursday 11th January - an opportunity to discuss the mock exam grades that took place recently. We look forward to seeing you. In the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas and I wish you a happy New year.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Lingard

Head Teacher

• IMPORTANT NOTICES • IMPORTANT NOTICES • IMPORTANT NOTICES •

EQUIPMENT

We have noticed a number of students not coming to school with the necessary equipment. Please can you use the Christmas break to ensure your child has at least the following: a pencil case containing a black pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler, a pencil sharpener and an eraser.

PUNCTUALITY

Please remember that the first lesson (tutor time) starts at 8.45am, so students should arrive to College by 8.40am at the latest.

JUMPERS, HOODIES AND SOCKS

Just a reminder that students are not allowed to wear hoodies to school. Socks must be black and jumpers must be a plain blue v-neck. These jumpers can be worn under the blazer, not instead of a blazer.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child doesn't currently get FSM, but you think they may be eligible, please follow this [link](#). Not only does your child get a free meal, but the College receives additional funding.



Remembrance Day 2023



'Lest we forget'



PHYSIOTHERAPY CAREERS

Over the past four weeks the PE department have had the pleasure of welcoming Becky Duncan and her team from Physio Practice Cornwall to give our Year 10 students an introduction into a career in Physiotherapy. Becky and Mel gave the students an insight into the role of a physiotherapist, the benefits of physiotherapy and useful pathways to gain work experience and study in this area. Each visit consisted of students participating in a group discussion and in a practical session where they completed a balance test. Students had a great experience and hopefully we have inspired some future physio's!



ROSUICK FARM TRIP

On Monday 13 November a group of Year 13 Geography students visited Rosuick Farm. Students were taken on an extensive tour of the farm, discussing methods of land management and sustainable farming. Methods used by Rosuick Farm supported students critical thinking skills, specifically surrounding the evaluation of methods such as afforestation and carbon capture. This trip enabled students to put their knowledge of topics such as 'Water and Carbon cycles' and 'Population and the Environment' into a local context.

IMPROVING GENDER BALANCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is the fastest-growing STEM subject, and yet, despite its popularity, girls are consistently outnumbered by boys. In 2023, only one in five GCSE Computer Science and 15% of all A-Level Computer Science entries were female in England.

However, at Helston, we are consistently narrowing the gender gap, which has resulted in being recognised by the National Centre for Computing Education as having made significant progress in encouraging girls into Computer Science. This has been achieved through the great work put in by the Computing teachers - not only the changes that have been made to the curriculum over the last four years; including annual challenges such as Bebras, Apps for Good and Tech She Can but also the extra-curricular enrichment offer the team provide outside of lesson time each year.

Helston Community College were one of the first schools in the county to take up the Lego Challenge, in its original form of EEP Robotics Challenge, back in 2018, GCHQ's CyberFirst Girls, Cyber Explorers, Y7 Coding Success and our close working relationship with TECgirls and industry employers.



This is to confirm that
Helston Community College

has demonstrated their commitment to

Improving gender balance in computer science

by participating in
'I Belong: encouraging girls into computer science'

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HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE WINS AWARD FOR YOUNG CARER SUPPORT

Helston Community College has been given a Silver Award for their work to make sure students don't miss out on an education because they are young carers.

The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award. Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue. The 2021 Census statistics revealed that there are just over 120,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg. The true figure could be closer to 800,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in 5 secondary aged school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.

"To achieve their Silver Award Helston Community College has demonstrated that it supports young carers in many ways, including awareness raising with pupils and staff, and by building links within the local community. Young carers are consulted with, and vital information is made available to pupils and families, letting them know where to go for help."



Congratulations

Helston Community College, Cornwall

has successfully gained a silver **Young Carers in Schools Award**

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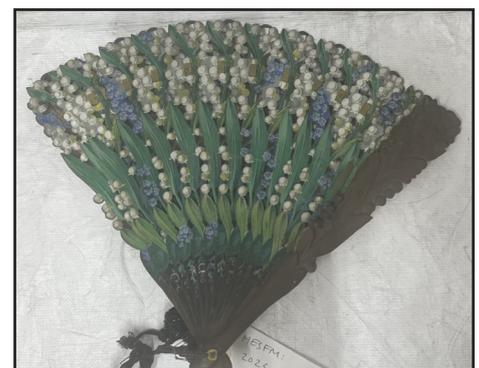
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ART & DESIGN



The BTEC Art & Design and A Level Year 12 students are working hard on their Sense of Place unit, where they must produce drawings, paintings, prints and textiles inspired by the local and surrounding area of Helston. To support their research we have taken the students on field trips to sketch and take photographs and they have enjoyed the architecture of Helston Town, the landscape of Penrose Woods and the many wonderful objects at the brilliant Museum of Country Life. One of the marvellous museum curators showed the students some of the vast historical garment and accessory collection. The students enjoyed learning about the fancy dress costumes created for a local artist to dress his models in and examined interesting objects such as very early hair straighteners, shown here, which you heated up in the fire!





BBC

Children in Need





SUCCESS STORIES

SCHOOLS SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION

On Sunday 12 November Helston Community College entered three teams in the Schools Show Jumping Competition which was held at Pendarvis Equestrian Centre. All students (and their horses) did exceptionally well. Helston Flyer's came 4th overall and 4th in tack and turnout. Well done to all those that took

part and to the parents/carers for all their efforts towards the preparation for the competition.

GYMNASTICS SUCCESS



Daniel W (7B) qualified back in September as part of a 5 man team to represent the South West Region at the Men's Artistic Gymnastics National Grades Finals in Telford. During the October half term Daniel's team not only attended but WON the competition!

The team completed some outstandingly executed routines across seven different pieces of apparatus including floor, vault, pommel, high bar, parallel bars, rings and PPP (physical preparation programme).

They managed to beat teams from all over the UK, returning home as National gold medallists, with Scotland in 2nd place and The South in 3rd. Well done, Daniel! Your family and Coaches at Swallows of Helston are all super proud of you!



GOLD MEDAL SUCCESS



McKenzie had a competition on 18/19th November in Wales for the Welsh Open Championship. She competed in 9 consecutive fights, with no break in between, and came home with 2 Gold medals, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze. McKenzie also featured on the leaderboard for one of the top fighters of the event. Congratulations McKenzie!

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

As part of the Post 16 construction building maintenance course the Year 12 students have been busy building a mud kitchen out of recycled timber for Nansloe reception class, the project was used as part of their Sustainability Unit. Also, they have just constructed a new office in the Post 16 centre for the careers adviser which involved studwork, plaster boarding, plastering and painting and decorating.



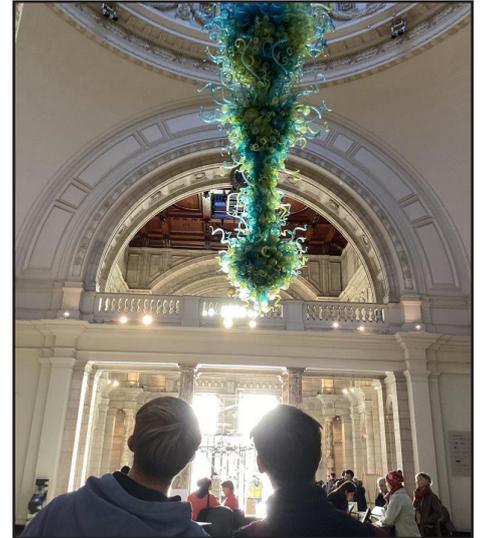
YEAR 7 NETBALL TEAM

After an extremely competitive match versus Penair School recently the girls demonstrated a positive attitude and determination throughout the match.



ART TRIP TO LONDON

On Friday 8 December a group of KS4 and KS5 Art students spent the day in London, where they visited the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Gallery and finished the day with some late afternoon shopping at Camden Market. Besides the fantastic exhibitions, it was lovely to get a flavour of London in the festive season, seeing the lights and the Christmas market in Trafalgar Square.



MILITARY SKILLS DAY

A group of Post 16 students from Year 12 and 13 took part in a Military Skills Day recently that was delivered by the Royal Navy. Most of the students that participated aspire for a career in the armed forces and a few are unsure but wanted to take part in order to enhance their knowledge of the opportunities that the Navy can offer. The day was action packed and required the students to work in teams and complete tasks that needed lots of pragmatic thinking. The students demonstrated outstanding teamwork, integrity and leadership skills. There were some young people that started the day relatively reserved and then ended up confident and determined, skills that will carry them forward in any career.

The students learnt that their extra-curricular hobbies and passions can be put to great use in the armed forces and may also be an added bonus when they apply. One of our students, who is a competent sailor, was very excited to learn that she might be able to continue with her passion and be able to represent the armed forces should she decide to follow a military career.

The visitors were very complimentary about our Post 16 students and commented on their positive attitude to the tasks and their excellent manners. They said that they would be very keen to come back to Helston Community College in the future as their two days here had been excellent.



'SURFER'S AGAINST SEWAGE' MILLION MILE CLEAN

INTERACT CLUB

Interact have taken part in the 'Surfer's Against Sewage' Million Mile Clean.

We asked for sponsorship, and have so far raised over £150.

The weather was very kind to us, and we managed to collect an incredible 16.3 kg of plastic from Halzephron Beach.

Sadly, most of that was single use plastic that can't be recycled.

We were helped by the Rotary Organisation and by Matt from One Blue Eye.

The students worked incredibly hard.

They have asked if we could do a beach clean every week!



DofE Celebration Evening

On Wednesday 22 November we were proud to invite our award achievers and their parents/carers to a celebration evening for their Bronze and Silver

Award. I would like to say congratulations to all our award holders this year and to our Helston Town Mayor who kindly accepted our invitation to come along and present the awards to our students. Thank you to Mr Lingard, for presenting the evening and to our parents/carers for the support they have given us and their children throughout the award.

This year we have had students complete over 1200 hours volunteering in the local community and over 1000 hours on each of the physical and skill sections collectively across the Award.

We have had students volunteer in local primary and secondary schools helping support children with sports and arts clubs and at local nurseries including our Helston Day Nursery at the College, Town libraries, Museum of Cornish Life, charity shops, Park Run race marshals, martial art clubs, swimming clubs, dance organisations, Scouts, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Guides, Rainbows, Air

Cadets and Sea Cadets as young leaders, litter picking for Surfers Against Sewage and local town committees and the Helston railway.

What is really nice and heart-warming to hear in the 15 years I have been running the Award at the College most of these organisations have reported back to me that the students have then gone on and stayed helping them, even though their award had been completed with us.

A massive thank you to Mrs Greig and Miss Marshall and our volunteer leaders outside the College who have given up their time this year to support our students with their training and the expeditions. Thank you to Helen and her team for the lovely cakes and refreshments put on for the evening and thank you to Mrs Mugford for supporting me with the award and to Anna for helping organise the evening. I am immensely proud of all our students and the team at the College. Mr Semmons DofE Award Manager.



Term-Time Holidays

We are seeing an increased number of students being absent during term-time because of holidays. The Department for Education does not allow Headteachers to grant any leave of absence for children during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please complete the form available on the College website. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

This half term 38 students have been on a holiday during school time equating to 345 sessions or 172.5 days of lost learning.

Students who have had a holiday this half term have an average attendance of 82.2% which places many of them into the Government's Persistently Absent category (students with below 90% attendance). It is a well-known fact that students with poor attendance struggle to reach their potential both socially and academically.

At Helston Community College we consider 'Good' attendance to be 97% and above. A student with between 90% and 97% is considered to be a regular attender.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act.

Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court. If found guilty, the parent(s) will receive a criminal conviction.

ABSENCE – Important Notices for Parents and Carers

If your child is absent from College, please can you call the College every day of their absence before 8.30am. Please leave a message with specific detail as to why they are unable to attend. Please can we also ask you to let us know of any medical/orthodontist appointments in advance. This helps unnecessary phone calls being made.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

End of termTuesday 19 December 12.30pm finish

January

Back to School.....8 January

Year 11 Mock Results8 January

Year 7 and Year 8 AssessmentsStart on 8 January

Year 11 Parent/Teacher Consultations11 January – 4.30pm start

UCAS Deadline19 January

Year 9 Parent/Teacher Consultations24 January – 4.30pm start

Post 16 Apprenticeship Fair25 January

2023-24 Term Dates are available to view on the College website.

¡Buen viaje! Spanish students return to Spain

This term we have been lucky to have 2 Spanish students join us to experience life in an English school and to work on their English language skills. We have really valued having them here and are sad to now be saying Goodbye as they return to their schools in Spain.

I spoke to Maria and Martina and their host partners about their experience here at Helston Community College and this is what they said:

Why did you decide to come and study in England?

Maria: My parents wanted me to learn English and they thought it was a good idea that I came to England. The decision wasn't mine, but now I am really grateful for the opportunity.

Martina: My parents asked me several times if I wanted to participate in the experience and in the end I asked them if I could do it this year. I thought it would be a new experience and a chance to learn lots of new things.

What similarities and differences have you noticed between our school and your schools in Spain?

Maria: My school in Spain is smaller. We don't change room for every lesson unlike here! In Spain, we use our teachers name to talk to them unlike here where you say Sir and Miss. In Spain, all students in my school use iPads in lessons rather than books. In general, our schools are very different!

Martina: My school in Spain also has several buildings although I stay in my one classroom; it is the teachers who move! Another difference is you can bring your own lunch to school which we don't do in my school.

What have you enjoyed the most about the experience?

Maria: Meeting new people and making good friendships. Making plans, which I couldn't do in Spain.

Martina: Yes, for me too, I have enjoyed meeting new people and visiting new places.

Has anything surprised you about Cornwall?

Maria: What has surprised me the most is the meals! The meal times are very different and so is the food.

Martina: The meal times and routines have surprised me too. I have also been surprised by some of the different expressions used when people speak.

What do you think you have learned from your term here?

Maria: I think I have learnt more English and also how to be without my family and friends for so much time and what it is like to start from scratch in a new country.

Martina: I have learnt many things that I didn't know about English, things that have



helped me improve my ability to speak English.

Would you recommend doing an exchange trip?

Maria: Yes, I would recommend an exchange. In the beginning, it was challenging to adapt, but all of a sudden, you find yourself getting used to things and enjoying the experience.

Martina: Yes definitely. Although at the start, you miss your family and friends, by the end you have a great time and get to know lots of new people and share different experiences with them.

I then asked our host students Poppy Grosely and Hannah Thomson some questions about their experience:

What has it been like being a host family?

Poppy: It has been a good experience and an opportunity to make new friends.

Hannah: It has been challenging but it has been the most enjoyable experience ever! At the beginning, it was strange and difficult because we struggled to communicate very well and I didn't know what she would be like. We are very different people and like different things, especially food and music! However, just getting to know Maria and her Spanish culture has been amazing. Over the course of the 3 months we have clicked so well and she'll be 'mi hermana española' (my Spanish sister) forever.

What do you think you have learned from the experience?

Hannah: I have learned to go for things even if you aren't 100% sure because when I first signed up for this my family and I felt cautious about having an exchange student living with us. Now everyone loves her and we consider her to be part of the family. We have had ups and downs and developed our own friendship groups, but we have

developed a strong friendship between us and made lots of good memories during her time here. We have learnt so much Spanish as a family, especially my dad and me. It has been amazing!

Poppy: I have learned more Spanish and been able to see lots of cultural differences. During half term, I spent time with the group of Spanish students who are in the region and I also met some of Martina's family. I was in the position where I was the only English speaker, at times and it was challenging but a great experience! It made me realise more about what the Spanish students have been through staying with us.

Do you plan to visit Spain in the future?

Poppy: One day hopefully I will!

Hannah: Yes, 100% I am going to go and stay with Maria, meet her friends and family and take in all the lovely warm weather I have heard so much about!

We have really enjoyed having Maria and Martina with us this term and they can be so proud of everything they have achieved in their time here. We are also very grateful to our host families for the warm welcome and support they have given the students. We are hoping to host more Spanish students in the future so will be looking for more host families in the future.

Participating in an exchange is an amazing thing to do, it does take courage, but the opportunities it brings and the confidence it can build, along with language learning opportunities make it all worthwhile. We will be launching our 5 day exchange programme with our partner school IES Fernando de Rojas in Salamanca in May next year for students in Year 9 through to 6th Form. We will be hosting students in October 2024 and our return visit will take place in February 2025. Look out for information coming your way!

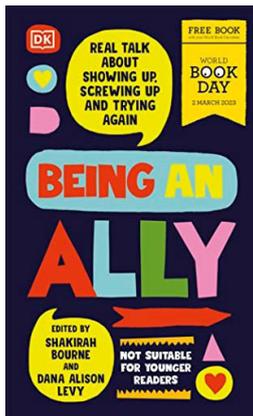
LIBRARY NEWS

It has been an energetic few months here in the Library!

In September, we greeted the students return by supporting Blue Peter's Book Badge Award, where students had to write about their favourite book and draw a character or scene from it. We had the following students apply:

Poppy C - 7B, India P - 7C, Lily- Mae N - 7D, Tyler B - 7G, and Evan C - 8H. Wishing all the applicants the best of luck!

Also in Sept, we gave all students in Year 7 a free book. We have a few spare if your child is new to the school and in Year 7 have them pop by the Library for their copy.



In October, we had all Year 7s tour the library during their morning tutor session and we had a competition for the best Halloween story or scary book review. The following students entered:

Ailla D - 7D, Lily-Mae N - 7D, Rose S - 7G, Harry B - 7G, Brooke B - 7G, Belle J - 9G, Matilda S - 10B

The winner was a combined effort from Sophia B and Betsy R - 7G



The Library has had a new software computer system in addition to everything else. We are appreciative of the patience the students have shown us while we are figuring out how it all works and ironing out the issues that comes with new technology. Students should now have their logins and be able to see what books we have on our shelves, reserve a book, and make a reading list and many more activities, with links to topics and research. Students and Tutors will receive automated emails telling them of students overdue books. The parent email for overdue books has yet to be sorted out but we have our fingers crossed that will be working soon.



In December, we have had Year 8 Tutor Groups tour the Library and our competition for this month is the best book review on our new computer system. This goes from the 1 December to the 15 December with the winner receiving a holiday read!

The Library have started a weekly competition for the 'Most Active Tutor Group'. That week's winner can have Beatrice, the Library Chick, in their tutor room for the following week. The first winner, week ending, Dec 1st is 7G! The winner for week ending Dec 8th is 7D! Congratulations!!



We are also having a book fair of half price books from Scholastic from the 11 to 15 December. A portion of the money raised will come back to the Library for new books.

After the Christmas holidays, the Library is looking for a student in year 12 to join us as a student Librarian. Anyone interested, please speak to Mrs Ford.

We hope your Christmas is incredible, and you are surrounded by those you love.

All the Best in the New Year!
Mrs Ford & Mrs Rogers

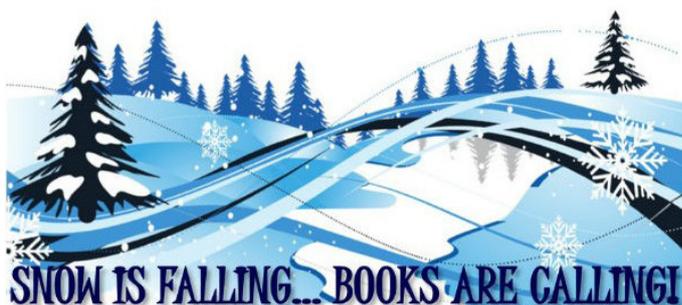
December Library Competition

Best Book Review WINS

Begins Fri Dec 1st and closes Fri Dec 15th
Announced on Mon Dec 18th

1. Sign on to the new library web page
2. Review any book you have read that we have in the library.
3. Best review wins a book

* Each and every review gets a praise point



CORNWALL CHRISTMAS BOX APPEAL



On Wednesday 13 December Mrs O'Hare and Elsie Etherington collected 18 Christmas hampers from Glennie Mckinley, who is a member of the local community. Glennie started to help the Cornwall Christmas Box appeal in December 2020, but this year

took on the challenge herself when they could no longer carry on collecting and distributing the hampers. Glennie puts together hampers for families in need at this festive time of year.

One of our Year 8 students Elsie Etherington found out about the Cornwall Christmas Box appeal in Dec 2020 she decided she wanted to donate a box herself. She sold some of her own toys and books to raise the money to put a hamper together.

Since then she has wanted to collect more and more so does little jobs to earn money. She wrote to a few sections at Culdrose and the local brownies group to ask if they would donate a hamper or a few items

to help make up a hamper.

Since she's started she has collected over 70 hampers for vulnerable individuals and families in need. Elsie's even been involved with the big drop offs at the Salvation Army in St Ives.

We are very proud of Elsie and the hard work she has put in to create these boxes! A massive well done from Helston Community College!

A massive thank you also goes out to Glennie McKinley who has organised and collected a total of 243 hampers this year for local families in and around Helston.



YEAR 11 ART & DESIGN

Tim Burton inspired characters

The Year 11 Art and Design GCSE students have been busy creating fantastic and strange characters inspired by the film director Tim Burton. The project involved students utilising a multitude of skills including clay work, wire armature making and the use of textiles to create outfits.



Jago P



Ruby P



Amy F

THANK YOU

We would like to thank local business for their generosity.

The following local businesses have donated vouchers to be given to the students at the end of term assembly to celebrate Praise Points.

- Whirlwind Sports
- Trevassack Lake
- Nauti But Ice
- St Erth Pitch and Putt
- Merlin Cinemas
- Inn & Still
- Vertical Blue Adventures, Porthleven

CYBERFIRST GIRLS COMPETITION 2023

The 2023/24 CyberFirst Girls Competition, run by GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre, saw the largest number of girls taking part since its inception.

3608 teams from over 750 schools participated this . The competition aims to encourage girls aged 12-13 to consider pursuing an interest in technology and introduce them the idea of a career in cyber.

In this year's competition, girls across the country tested their cyber skills in cracking codes, decrypting messages, and solving coding puzzles.

The contest is designed to encourage girls to explore the world of cyber and technology, helping to address the lack of diversity in the UK cyber workforce, where women currently make up just 17%. Chris Ensor, NCSC Deputy Director for Cyber Growth, said: "Congratulations to all the teams who took part in this year's CyberFirst Girls Competition, they've shown some incredible talent, teamwork and dedication. A special mention to the respective winners, whose success is not just a triumph in the competition but a great demonstration of breaking barriers and addressing the need for greater female representation in the cyber security industry. I'd like to thank all the teachers, for the incredible effort they put in to inspire their students and our industry partners for their efforts in making the competition so successful."

The winning teams from each region have been invited to a grand prize winning dinner and celebration day taking place early next year. Although Helston were not regional winners the determination and resilience demonstrated throughout the challenge by all teams were amazing.



The top four teams at Helston were:

- 1st place with an amazing 2118 points Hedy Lemarr: Elsie E, Emily B, Darcy F, Emma K
- 2nd place Kath Johnson: Millie H, Merryn P, Olivia B, Emma W
- 3rd place Susan Wojicki: Beibhinn D, Jen F, Millie W-B, Eva W
- 4th place Grace Hopper: Angel M, Sophie O, Isabel G

Well done to all the students who took part.

The CyberFirst Girls Competition is the NCSC's flagship cyber security contest for schools, which opens annually to girls in Year 8 in England and Wales, S2 in Scotland, and Year 9 in Northern Ireland. Since it launched in 2017, around 70,000 girls have taken part.

The CyberFirst programme offers a range of free opportunities aimed at offering young people the skills, opportunities and exposure they need to thrive in cyber security. This is aimed at boosting pupils' learning journey as well as supporting the wider drive to close the digital skills gap. More information about CyberFirst opportunities can be found on the NCSC website.



CYBERFIRST GIRLS COMPETITION

Praise Points



Leaderboard



Year 7

Theo C	7B	226
Aaron I	7F	209
Joeli T	7C	177
Jude N	7D	172
Polly R	7H	165
Olivia E	7G	163
Callum P	7F	160
Thomas H	7C	159
Noah H	7B	157
Thomas D	7B	152



Year 10

Miriam M	10B	140
Emily M	10C	130
Josh B	10D	129
James P	10G	126
Emma S	10A	123
Andrew D	10C	121
Liv R	10D	121
Skye A	10B	110
Daisy F	10E	109
Ava J	10C	109



Year 8

Jen F	8H	228
Aimee B	8H	219
Lily R	8H	191
Alex H	8F	187
Ruan W	8H	180
Archie S	8H	178
Freya G	8H	173
Lexi H	8H	170
Tommy H	8H	169
Dylan R-R	8D	167



Year 11

Chloe C	11D	119
Luke P	11F	108
Phoebe J	11D	101
Benjamin P	11H	96
Lucy W	11E	95
Fern K	11H	92
Jenna P	11G	92
Lucas F	11F	90
Emily P	11D	89
Alistair S	11G	88



Year 9

Isaac A	9D	244
Harley W	9B	227
Joe C	9C	173
Anya E	9D	171
Temera-Jane O'S	9D	164
Amelie M	9E	160
Willow F	9A	156
Tamsin M	9A	155
Abigail B	9B	154
Jess A	9G	152



Year 12

Liv B	12P9	62
Evie F	12P9	54
Ben R	12P9	43
Daniel W	12P9	41
Logan H	12P9	38
Hattie M	12P9	36
Tom W	12P9	32
James R	12P9	31



Year 13

Charlotte G	13P4	37
Charlie S	13P3	33
Charlotte B	13P3	26
Millie B	13P3	26
Christopher P	13P3	24
Tabby W	13P5	24
Sadie S	13P3	23
Clara M	13P5	21

Well Done!

(Praise Points as of 8/12/23)

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

November & December

Year 7

Polly R

Polly was nominated for being such a support to her classmates in their time of need. She has also started Year 7 brilliantly with great attendance and a huge amount of Praise Points, achieving her Gold Award a few weeks ago.



Year 10

Elsie R

Elsie was nominated by Ms Morbey for her exceptional work in French. She is only one of a few students in Year 10 to achieve the Silver Award and also has perfect attendance - well done Elsie!



Year 8

Logan E

Logan was nominated by Mr Bispham for having a fantastic attitude in every lesson and for being exceptionally kind and polite. Logan has perfect attendance and has racked up almost 150 Praise Points and zero behaviour points!



Year 11

Lucas F

Nominated by Ms Allsey for his fantastic attitude to learning. Lucas's verbal contribution to class discussion is excellent and often sparks ideas for others. He has perfect attendance and is leading the way with Praise Points in Year 11.



Year 9

Isaac A

Isaac received two nominations for Student of the Month. He is a polite, enthusiastic and well mannered young man. He always goes out of his way to be courteous and has brought in an item for the food bank every day. He is the first person ever to achieve the Diamond Award in one term - a remarkable effort.



Post 16

Amy S

Amy has been nominated by Dr Ryan for her positive, mature and polite approach to all aspects of Post 16 life. What a great role model!



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Nominations

YEAR 7

YEAR 8

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

YEAR 11

POST 16

Joby	J	7	What a wonderful geographer! Always engaged and willing to rise to a challenge! Well done!	LAL
Ethan	W	7	For always having fantastic manners in the Library.	SFa
Connie	I	7	For consistent effort and motivation in Drama and for learning lines for the production already!	SRi
Jack	W	7	Always polite and eager to help. Don't change!	HRo
Stanley	H	7	For being a great leader and inspiration to other students, and for being exceptionally kind and considerate.	NBi
Isobel	P	7	For a sunny attitude and brightening up our English lessons.	CBI
Jack	W	7	Hard work in Spanish.	SMo
Ollie	H	7	Hard work in Spanish.	SMo
Thomas	H	7	Hard work in French.	SMo
Ethan	W	7	For being such a joy to see every day. Always polite and caring for others.	
Jonah	F	8	Always kind and wants to lend a hand.	KTR
Isabelle	G	8	For having a fantastic attitude in every lesson and for being exceptionally kind and polite.	NBi
Dylan	R-R	8	Having a great attitude to learning in Science and making fantastic progress.	NBi
Jake	W	8	Excellent effort in French.	SMo
Erin	W-R	8	Hard work and application in English.	
Olivia	W	8	Always being helpful without being asked.	
Jacob	E	8	Fantastic contributions in his Science lessons	LDa
Dylan	R-R	8	For always having a fantastic attitude in English lessons, working hard and being such a kind and thoughtful student.	
Amelie	M	9	The most positive, enthusiastic and hard-working student in Y9.	SWI
Harrison	R	9	Fantastic result in his maths assessment.	KTR
Jasmine	K	9	For always saying hello, giving out reading books and keeping me supplied with Mentos.	HRo
Lucy	R-M	9	For her cheery nature, big smile and helpfulness in Drama.	HRo
Adam	H	9	For her cheery nature, big smile and helpfulness in Drama.	SRi
James	B	9	Great exam result and always looking to be helpful and improve.	HRo
Dylan	M	9	James is a considerate and kind student who always tells brilliant jokes in tutor time.	LHe
Hannah	K	9	Dylan always helps to set up the classroom without being asked.	LHe
Joseph	D	9	Hannah has made brilliant progress in science the last month and achieved a really good score on her test.	LHe
Harley	W	9	Jo's work effort is par excellence for his class and he always shows up with a good attitude.	LHe
Roxy	H-P	9	For contributing to the food bank and being constantly polite and hard-working.	EHw
Joe	C	9	Outstanding effort in Spanish.	SMo
Aston	M	9	Excellent effort in French.	SMo
Tamsin	M	9	Great art work & being such a polite, helpful, lovely person.	EFr
Kenzie	B	9	For being so kind and for great art work.	EFr
Lewis	W	9	For being so kind and for great art work.	
Jess	F	9	An excellent term in Drama, lots of effort and focus	MSP
Elias	B	10	For being such a kind and lovely person.	DHa
Jacob	T	10	For showing such strong commitment to all aspects of his BTEC Creative Media Production.	EST
Chloe	J	10	A great sense of humour on Friday afternoons.	HRo
Matthew	B	10	Top marks in her assessment.	HRo
Rosie	H	10	Fantastic effort & great art work & for being such a pleasure to teach!	EFr
Hannah	B	10	Brilliant practical, staying focused in lessons and being a pure delight to teach.	CSM
Lidia	L	10	Positive approach to her Science lessons	LDa
Chloe	S	10	Amazing effort and focus in her Science lessons	LDa
Amelia	C	10	Fantastic effort and focus in her Biology lessons	LDa
Skye	A	10	For excellent focus in lessons and detailed work	HPa
Evan	S	10	For being focused and dedicated to completing PSA assessment	HPa
Blake	R	11	Being so kind and helpful during his recuperation in the Library.	SFo
Fern	K	11	Great mock exam result.	KTR
Alistair	S	11	For her resilience and ambition in re-sitting her first component in Creative Media Production.	EST
Jos	H	11	The most positive, enthusiastic and hard-working student in Y11.	ABi
Will	T	11	Good result in Maths mock.	HRo
Kaitlyn	W	11	Good result in Maths mock.	HRo
Jake	A	11	Good result in Maths mock.	HRo
Imogen	S	11	Good result in Maths mock.	HRo
Emma	T	11	Outstanding effort in preparing for mocks.	SMo
Noah	T	11	Incredible mock exam results and NEA1 full marks, well done Emma!	CSM
Stewart	K	11	For always being polite and showing focus in all his Biology lessons	LDa
Liv	B	11	For persistently working away at his NEA and theory work.	BQu
Toby	A	12	For all her help with Wizard of Oz preparations!	SRi
Ned	P	12	For being absolutely awesome at Physics!	NBi
Willem	L	12	For brilliant aptitude in Physics and making excellent progress.	NBi
George	B	12	For his polite and positive nature in Post 16	KRN
Liv	G	12	For his insightful contributions in Geography	KRN
Cody	W	12	Well done for a fantastic first term of A level Biology	LDa
Henry	P	12	For being a focused and enthusiastic student in a new subject	HPa
Owen	L	13	For a brilliant attitude to learning and always attending after school Physics sessions.	NBi
Chris	P	13	For his great effort in geography over the past term	KRN
Sophia	H	13	For his excellent effort and attitude in Geology	KRN
Katie	C	13	For her conscientious approach to her geography studies	KRN
		13	For amazing attendance, work and helpfulness	HPa

Head of Year 7

What a term this has been for our Year 7's! As I write here, I am reflecting on all the fantastic achievements our youngest students have made since arriving at our College. So far in this academic year, your children have achieved a whopping 24,000 + Praise Points between them. I have also sent home well over 100 Silver Award post cards and Mr Lingard has personally congratulated a number of students in assembly and they have received their Gold Award badges.

November has always been a challenging month for me personally. I find that the dreamy weather of September has come and gone and the warm days and nights feel like a distant memory. Driving to and from work in the dark can often be disheartening and we racked up a good 24 days of rainfall in that month. These feelings are also felt by our students. I have however been so impressed by the resilience of our Year 7 students, who at times unlike me have been brilliant at just "cracking on". Getting a warm smile in the bus park at 8:30 or a fist bump at lunchtimes is sometimes all you need to get through the day.

In our assemblies and tutorial sessions we have been working on our rhetoric of being kind and working hard. I even managed to slot in an assembly on "Heroes" of which there were lots of photos of my Dad which is always a bonus. The students have had sessions on caring for others, being a good digital citizen and we have continued to focus

on reading and literacy. The reading sessions in the afternoon are always a highlight of my day and I must take my hat off to my wonderful tutor team who have engaged with this so positively.

We have lots of things to look forward to in the New Year. In January our Student Leaders are planning a Year 7 disco and I am hoping to get some information out to you and the children very soon. Although it seems like a long way off, we can also look forward to the return of Activities Week in July.

There are of course many challenges that come with being a young person nowadays but can I finally finish with saying a big thank you to you all for your ongoing support. The positivity I have felt so far with leading this cohort of Year 7s is certainly unprecedented for me on a personal level. If you are ever concerned about anything or if there is anything that I can do to help from a pastoral perspective, then please feel free to email me at jdudley@helston.tpacademytrust.org.

I wish you and your family a well-deserved Christmas break and a healthy and happy New Year.

Jack Dudley - Head of Year 7 and Transition



Head of Year 8

Christmas is often a time of reflection. Over the past few days, I have had a chance to look back upon the first term of Year 8 and each time it puts a smile on my face. I have been impressed, surprised and sometimes shocked at how well the vast majority of our year group have taken the challenge of a new academic year on. It has been a pleasure to work alongside the students as they tackle the challenges of new classes, new routines and new topics for each subject. As the term has moved on, I have been able to talk to more and more students and really get to know what makes them tick. I really admire their ambition, their drive and their determination to succeed this year and love hearing about all the positive contributions to our College. Already this year, Year 8 have accumulated 21995 praise

points which puts them second in the whole College - well done! Not only are they excelling in this area, they are attending College more than this time last year. Year 8 have an overall attendance of 94% currently compared to this time last year when attendance was 92.8%. They've really taken the challenge I set at the beginning which was to catch and surpass our Year 7s attendance and they are closing in, day by day. I hope each and every student has a safe, restful and festive Christmas and gets to spend quality time with those they care about most. I look forward to seeing them again in the New Year. Merry Christmas Year 8!

Jamie Lovelock - Head of Year 8



Head of Year 9

As the first term of the academic year comes to an end, I want to share my gratitude to the Year 9 students for making my job such an enjoyable one. The dark evenings and inclement weather have made it harder to feel motivated, but this group of young people greet me with such enthusiasm and positivity that it is a joy to work with them.

We have continued to celebrate successes since the half-term break. There has been a significant increase in the number of students achieving their Praise Point Awards - Bronze, Silver, Gold and we already have some Platinum! There have been more trips and visits, including a successful beach clean organised by the Interact Club, as well as successes in sporting fixtures. The launch of Activities Week has caused a buzz of excitement amongst the students - something to look forward to at the end of the summer term.

Assemblies have continued to discuss themes that are central to the College values, but also ones that I believe to be essential to the students' personal development. We have adopted an ethos which encourages the students to aim high, believe in themselves and be the best version of themselves every single day. An example of this is demonstrating acts of kindness and solidarity such as donating items to the local foodbank to help support our local community. I would like to thank everybody who donated items to this worthy cause.

I still feel immensely proud to be working with such a wonderful group of young people and cannot wait to see you all back again in the new year. Wishing all the students and their families a well-deserved Christmas break.

Ellis Hawkey - Head of Year 9



Head of Year 10

I hope you are all well and getting fully prepared for the festive period. The College is warming up for Christmas with our 12 days of Christmas kindness. This has included encouraging kind gestures, participating in Christmas quizzes and challenges including the opportunity to beat the teachers in a number of activities. Please could I also encourage foodbank donations for the Helston Foodbank to support local families. Students can bring any essential long life food and drink items to English Room 1. Thank you for all those who have already donated.

The College Drama and Music departments have been busy rehearsing for the College pantomime of 'The Wizard of Oz' and the College production of the 'Return to the Forbidden Planet.' We also have had the annual special community performances of the College Christmas Concerts and Carol Service. Can I thank all the students and staff that work so hard and bring such joy to others in performing in these special occasions.

In recent assemblies we have highlighted the importance of education and learning on our future opportunities and understanding the importance of putting in the hard work now so as to reap the benefits in the months and years to come. We have also presented on the importance health and mental well-being especially when we are in the mid-winter when we don't see the sun and miss getting out and about and interacting with nature as much. Kooth the young persons, mental well-being charity offered us some sound advice including achieving balance in our

daily activities and checking in on each other. Prioritising this theme further Year 10 also have a health and well-being afternoon with guest presenters planned before the end of term.

Please could you continue to support your young person in securing a 'Work Experience' place for July. You should have the appropriate work experience paperwork to be able to sign up with a local employer of interest. Please contact us if you need any further support to secure a placement.

As we start the next term please could I remind you of the importance of your child's attendance especially as they are working hard towards their GCSE subjects. We need all students to attend College as much as possible even if this means making it in to start the day and giving it a go! The first Year 10 progress reports should now have been sent home and I hope they make encouraging reading and you know where the students currently are and what are the next steps in their courses.

A reminder that the College will finish for Christmas on Tuesday 19 December at 12.30pm so please ensure your child can make plans for a safe journey home.

We wish you and your family a safe and special festive season.

With best wishes,

Terry Richardson - Head of Year 10



Head of Year 11

I must start this piece today by congratulating the year group on their positive attitude to the November Mocks. They behaved in a responsible and polite manner throughout. This is also the time to remind them that the real GCSE timetable will not look like the Mocks one did. Having two exams in a day is really challenging, yet most just got stuck in and did so without complaint. When the Summer exams happen in around 5 months time, it will not be so intense, although there will be other feelings I am sure. The season is split with a half term, which allows batteries to be recharged and revision caught up on. In January we will be having a Mock Results day when the students will find out their mock grades. The inevitable nerves on opening the envelopes, celebrations and realisations is an important part of preparing ourselves for what is to come. I am so proud of the year group, as I write this I have sent them off to explore next year's courses all dressed up in their coolest clothes.

I can see the adults they are very soon to be and look forward to the next 5 months getting them ready for the exams.

My main message is: enjoy the Christmas holidays, catch up on things that have been neglected due to the Mocks. Prepare to come back refreshed and ready to put in the maximum effort. Time is short, so we need to stay productive. Start planning revision schedules, consider where priorities need to be if Mocks did not go to plan. There is no time to be despondent, listen to teachers, follow feedback advice and when unsure ask questions.

I would like to congratulate the students who went over to visit Camborne College for the Year 11 taster sessions. I have had so many positive comments about their behaviour, engagement and attitude to the event. Well done! I am really proud of you.

I would like to wish Year 11 and their families a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Siobhan Barnes - Head of Year 11



Post 16 News

It has been another busy half term for Post-16 students, with many events going on besides the daily tasks of attending lessons and completing assignments. Year 13s have really got to grips with their university applications, with several students already having received offers. Year 12s are taking the first steps on their journeys towards higher education with a trip to a Higher Education Fair at Truro College, where they had the opportunity to talk to staff at universities and colleges to find out about the courses they offer and the entry requirements. This event should help students to plan and research their options for future direction, with many exciting options and choices.

We also took some Year 12 students on a residential trip to Exeter College, Oxford, where they were able to experience life as a student for two days, including subject lectures, staying overnight in student accommodation, and eating in the college canteen.

The students embraced the opportunity in a very positive way, and many have said they are now giving serious consideration to applying to Oxford University.



We have had the Year 11 taster day, with the year group having the chance to be a Post-16 student for the day. They were able to choose four lessons to try out, and spend break and lunchtime in the Post-16 centre. They were enthusiastic and eager, enjoying the break from their normal routine, wearing their own clothes, and enjoying a free pasty for lunch! They will now be able to make their Post-16 subject choices in a more informed way.

Danny Gillman - Director of Key Stage 5.

Student Leader Charity event

To raise money for a local charity, the Student Leader Team has organised a Jazz band and bake sale.

Proceeds from the cake sale will go to the Cornwall Air Ambulance! WOO-HOO!

- **Date:** 14th of March 2024
- **Venue:** South Site canteen
- **Times:** 5:30-6:30
- **Cakes will be on sale throughout**

♪♪ We hope to see you there. ♪♪



If you have had any sporting successes that you would like to share with us, please email your articles to:
enquiries@helston.tpacademytrust.org



LOST PROPERTY

Have you lost any items of school uniform - coats, boots, PE kit, watches, jewellery etc?

Friday 5 January
1.00pm - 3.00pm

All lost property will be displayed at the North Site for parents/carers and students to retrieve their belongings!

Please be aware, any unclaimed items will be kept for 6 weeks, after which time they will be recycled/donated to charity.

TAKE ACTION - NAME YOUR UNIFORM NOW!



CAST

CHRISTMAS PRINT SHOP

PRINT YOUR OWN FESTIVE
SCANDINAVIAN-STYLE TAGS,
CARDS OR WRAP

THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER

FREE DROP-IN WORKSHOP
FAMILIES 10 AM-4 PM, OPEN TO ALL 5-7PM

CAST CAFÉ WILL BE OPEN FOR MINCE PIES AND MULLED
WINE FROM 4 TO 9PM AND HELSTON TOWN BAND WILL
PLAY CAROLS IN THE CAFÉ FROM 7PM

CAST
3 PENROSE ROAD
HELSTON, TR13 8TP
W: C-A-S-T.ORG.UK
FB: CASTCORNWALL