

The Helstonian



December 2025

HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE



**BBC BITESIZE
AT HELSTON... Page 11**



**PODCAST
ACADEMY...
Page 20**

Post 16 Chemistry students Finn and Ethan (and the Chemistree!) enjoying a colourful pH practical!



In this issue: Student of the Month • Library News • BBC Bitesize • London Trip • Remembrance Day • D of E • Careers • School Steaks

ASPIRATION • AMBITION • ACHIEVEMENT

ISSUE

20



LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of the College

Merry Christmas to one and all!

What a fully packed half-term this has been. Students have been busy taking part in a wide range of exciting trips, events and activities. From sports tournaments in Redruth, Truro and Penryn to cultural visits in London, Oxford and even Iceland. The JET project continues to help build teamwork and confidence for selected students in Years 7 to 9, and we have held a number of great careers events, including guest speakers and a fantastic roadshow provided by the BBC. Our Creative Arts team has been busy with rehearsals and performances for the Carol Service, Christmas Concert and our traditional pantomime. Students also attended theatre trips to see Hamlet and The Bubblegum Tree, gaining inspiration for their studies.

If all that wasn't enough, assessments and mock exams have taken place for students in Years 9, 11, 12 and 13, with Year 7 and Year 10 getting ready for theirs after Christmas. Year 11 also had the opportunity to be sixth formers for a day and were welcomed to our P16 Open Evening to find out more about our very successful sixth form college.

Recently, we have been running our 12 Days of Christmas programme - thank you to all the students who have brought in donations for the foodbank and for their generosity when laughing at my terrible Christmas jokes!

Much of the above is shared in more detail within the magazine. It's a great read with some brilliant photos and short articles showing how wonderful our students are. I really hope you enjoy it.

The school continues to thrive in so many ways. Early indications about numbers for next year suggest we will be over-subscribed again. As always, many thanks for your ongoing support - working in partnership with you, really does make a difference.

Yours faithfully

Alex Lingard

Headteacher



• IMPORTANT NOTICES • IMPORTANT NOTICES • IMPORTANT NOTICES • IMPORTANT NOTICES •

iPads and Styluses

Many thanks to parents for ensuring students have a stylus to use with their iPads - it really does help in a number of ways. Please remember, we have free styluses available from the library for any student in receipt of free school meals.

Please can you also help remind your child(ren) to charge their iPads each evening so that they are at least 80% each day.

Confiscation of Banned Items

Please may we remind you that if a child brings in a banned item to school, e.g. a vape, it is Trust policy to dispose of the item rather than return it, even to the parent.

Mr Philpott Memorial...

On 11th November, we held a fitting tribute to Mr Philpott, welcoming members of his family to join staff to celebrate his life at the college. Anecdotes were shared and we paid respect to his love for Cornwall by eating pasties and scones! We also planted a young Camelia and unveiled a plaque in our memorial garden in his honour.



Assessment Dates Coming Up

- **Year 10** - assessments begin straight after Christmas (week beginning 5 January).
- **Year 7** - assessments begin on 19 January.
- **Year 8** - assessments begin 2nd February.
- **Year 11** - second round of mock exams begin on 2nd February.
- Post 16 - Mock Exams start on 9th February.
- **Revision resources** can be found here: [Helston Community College - Revision Resources \(Y7-11\)](#)

Free School Meals

We are noticing that there are a number of students not coming into the canteen despite being eligible for free school meals. Please be aware that students on free school meals can use some

of their allocation at breaktime as well as at lunch. If your child is on free school meals, please can we ask you to encourage them to take advantage of some of the great meals or snacks on offer.

Attendance

As you know, good attendance to school makes a huge difference to students' achievements. Recent data from the Department for Education shows that students with 95% attendance or higher (approximately 3 days of absence each term) are **twice as likely** to achieve a strong pass in their English and Maths GCSEs compared to those with less than 90% attendance (approximately 6 days of absence each term).

Children in Need

We have raised £1006.56 for Children in Need this year! Many thanks for all your donations.



Thank you and Farewell

Sadly, we say farewell this term to three members of staff. Firstly, Ms Pyers (teaching assistant) who, after an amazing 32 years at the school, is retiring. We wish her a well-deserved rest! The number of students she has supported during that time is incredible. Mr Thomas (geography teacher), who has been covering for Ms Hawksworth during her maternity leave, has done a sterling job in her absence, and Ms Blacknell (cover supervisor), who only joined us recently has secured a teaching job at Mullion, which is great news for her. Thank you to each of them for the brilliant work they have done during their time with us.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

- 18th Carol Concert - St Michaels Church 6.30pm
- 19th Break-up for Christmas, 12.30pm

JANUARY

- 5th Inset Day
- 6th Back to College, 8.45am
- 6th Year 10 Assessments begin
- 6th Year 11 Interviews begin
- 6th Year 11 Progress Reports
- 6th Post 16 Progress Reports
- 14th Year 11 Parent/Teacher Consultations 4.00pm start
- 19th Year 7 Assessments begin
- 26th Inset Day
- 28th Year 9 Options Evening

FEBRUARY

- 2nd Year 8 Assessments & Year 11 Assessments (Mocks) (Start on)
- 6th Year 10 Progress Report (Full)
- 9th Post 16 Assessments (Mocks) (Start on)
- 13th Year 7 Progress Report
- 13th Break-up for half term, 3.15pm
- 23rd Back to College, 8.45am
- 25th Year 7 Parent/Teacher Consultations 4.00pm start

MARCH

- 6th Year 8 Progress Reports
- 9th Year 11 Hair and Beauty Assessments (Start on)
- 12th Year 8 Parent/Teacher Consultations 4.00pm start
- 16th Year 11 Food NEAs (Practical Exams) (Start on)
- 18-20th College Production

2025-26 Term Dates are available to view on the College website.



School Streaks Success!

Our launch of School Streaks has been a real success with almost 700 students managing to complete their 5 streaks and claim a reward! Students have chosen rewards such as attending a silent disco, free stationery, shopping vouchers, prom tickets, skip the queue lunch passes and surprisingly, very popular, tea with the Head!

If you're not yet in the know about School Streaks here's the lowdown...

School Streaks is a piece of software that monitors students' attendance and behaviour to enable students to build up streaks and be rewarded for being in school and working hard. Once students have a certain number of streaks they can select their very own reward. Students will be able to monitor their streaks through an app on their iPads. Other schools who have trialed the software have reported increased motivation and consistency in students.

The school has the power to set its own streaks. For example, 1 streak could be achieved for 5 straight days of attendance with no behaviour points. And a reward could be given for all those achieving 5 streaks in a half-term. One of the great things about School Streaks is that if a streak is broken it resets the next day - it doesn't just work from Monday to Friday. Students can personalise their app on their iPad and use it to see how many days they need to complete a streak as well as using it to choose their reward.

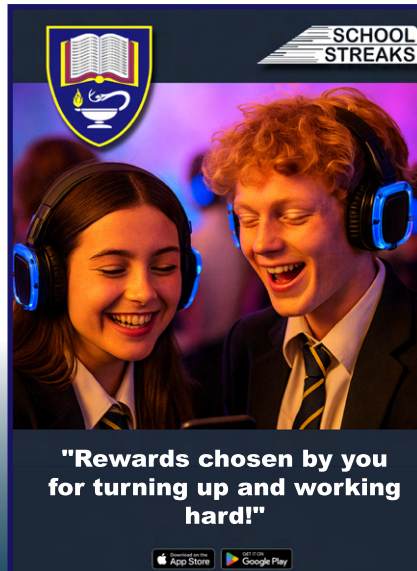


Silent Disco!



Coming soon - your next Streak Challenge...

We are really excited about the next round of streaks after Christmas and will be launching the reward options when we return in January.



Streaks Are:

- A way to reward consistency
- A way to celebrate progress
- A way to build good habits that last
- A way to motivate you every day
- A way to support your future success



Streaks Are Not:

- A punishment
- About catching you out
- About comparing you unfairly
- Another system to stress you out





Remembrance Day 2025



'Lest we forget'



Year 10 HSC & Year 12 Early Childhood Development



Learning About Parenthood: Egg & Flour Baby Projects

Over the past few weeks, our students have been taking part in creative projects designed to help them understand the challenges and responsibilities of parenthood.

Year 10 – The Egg Baby Project

Year 10 students were each given an “egg baby” to care for over the course of a week. Their task was to treat the egg as if it were a real child — keeping it safe, transporting it carefully, and ensuring it was never left unattended. The project encouraged students to think about the constant attention and responsibility that parenting requires. Many students decorated their eggs, gave them names, and even created protective carriers to keep them safe.

Year 12 – The Flour Baby Project

Meanwhile, Year 12 students took on the slightly heavier challenge of the “flour baby.” Each student was responsible for a bag of flour, treated as their baby, for a week.

This project required even more planning and commitment, as the flour babies were larger, harder to carry, and more difficult to keep intact. Students quickly realised the importance of organisation, patience, and care when balancing their studies with the responsibility of looking after their flour baby.

Lessons Learned

Both projects gave students valuable insight into the realities of parental responsibility. They learned that parenting involves constant vigilance, problem solving, and emotional investment. The activities sparked thoughtful discussions about the demands of caring for a child, the importance of support networks, and the skills needed to balance responsibilities.

These projects were not only fun and engaging but also deeply educational, helping our students to reflect on the challenges of parenthood in a safe and creative way.

Tregullas Farm Trips Autumn 2025

Once again, we have been fortunate to visit the most Southerly point Farm in the UK for forest skills and all manner of exciting outdoor learning. As you can see the students and adults had a superb time. Many thanks to Rona and Elsa at Tregullas for hosting us every Monday this term.



Helston Community College Celebrates DofE Award Success



Helston Community College recently held a special event to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students who successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze and Silver Awards.

The evening saw many students attend with their parents to mark this significant milestone.

The ceremony began with Mrs Ford, our DofE Assistant Manager, who spoke really well about the purpose and benefits of undertaking the DofE Award, offering an insightful introduction to the evening.

Following her introduction, Head Teacher Mr Lingard presented the awards to the students with Mrs

Ford. Mr Lingard also took time to share some warm recollections of his own experiences completing the Award, highlighting its lasting value.

It was wonderful to acknowledge so many of our students who have demonstrated remarkable commitment across the various sections of the Award. We are very pleased with the growing number of students participating in the DofE at the College.

From speaking to the organisations our students worked with and reading their official assessor reports, we are consistently impressed by the positive feedback received. Our students are spoken

of highly for their efforts and their help within the community is greatly appreciated.

We could not be prouder of our students for achieving their awards. Their dedication has been exceptional. We also extend our sincere thanks to the parents for their support and for ensuring their children could complete their sections across various locations and Adam and the team from Aspens in our school canteen for providing the refreshments and the lovely cake and cookies for the evening.

Congratulations to all our students. Mr Semmons - DofE Award Manager





Helston Community College

PTFA



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this year's Christmas Fayre a remarkable success. Your generous donations and offers of assistance were invaluable. We were thrilled to have a record number of stallholders and were deeply touched by the amazing raffle prizes donated by our generous local businesses. Together, we raised £1,554.79, which will go directly towards supporting our incredible young people at Helston Community College.

Many thanks
Dee, Marie and the
PTFA Team!



Christmas Fayre



We raised an amazing £1554.79
for the College





We continue to be busy in Helston School Library! In the month of November, we had a total of 290 books borrowed and 141 from our eLibrary.



The library is decorated with snowflakes and bobble hats made by Mrs Rogers (there are hundreds) and some donated decorations. We misplaced our Christmas decorations so have had to make due this year. Any donations of Christmas decorations would be appreciated.



The end of last term, saw Jorja F, 9J, win the prize draw for completing the Halloween Library Treasure hunt. She received a £10 gift voucher from Helston Bookshop. Our current competition is a lending race for year 7 tutor groups. The first and second place tutor group will be announced on the last day of term. Here are the scores from Nov 3 until Dec 1st: We also are running a competition for the whole school for students to redesign the cover of their favourite book.

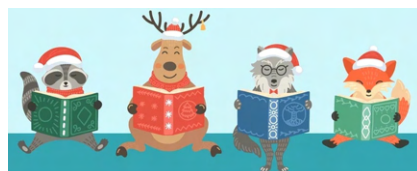
The winner will also receive a gift voucher from the Helston Bookshop.

Tutor Group	Total No. of Issues
7A	16
7B	100
7C	16
7D	16
7E	2
7F	23
7G	2
Totals	175

The Nursery came for a visit to listen to Christmas and wintry stories. They took with them colouring activities, a gingerbread recipe, and books to share with their families.

An order of new books has been placed this week, so keep a lookout for some new stock in the New Year.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2026! Happy reading, Mrs Ford and Mrs Rogers



Year 9 Trip to Parliament



25 Year 9 students visited London on the 10th and 11th November. The main purpose of the trip was to visit Parliament to gain a better understanding of the democratic process in the UK and how this fits in with British values today. Departing Helston in the early hours of the morning, we arrived at the Imperial War Museum ready for action. Highlights of this part of the trip included looking at World War Two weaponry and how Britain responded to the Blitz – students were able to see some of the consequences of when democracy fails and is replaced by a dictatorship. The group then gained a bird's eye view of London from the Eye and, despite the slightly damp weather, were able to see landmarks such as the Shard, St Paul's Cathedral and the BT Tower. We then made our way to YHA St Paul's via the Tate Modern Turbine Hall and the Millenium Bridge. In the evening the group were treated to song and dance at the Theatre Royal watching a performance of Hercules. The 11th November started with our visit to Parliament and we were able to

sit in the House of Lords and even meet a member – though there were no signs of him leaping.



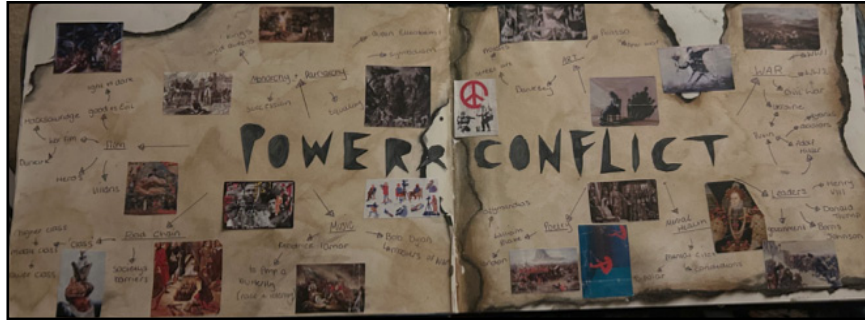
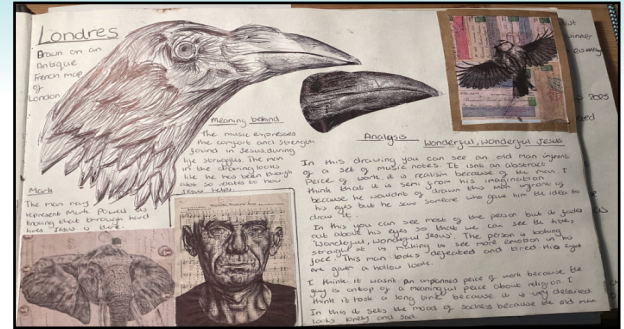
This was followed by a workshop where students developed their own draft legislation. This was definitely the highlight of the trip as the students were articulate and thoughtful and credit to themselves and the school. Our trip ended with a visit to the National Portrait Gallery and a walking tour which included the Cenotaph, bedecked with poppies for Remembrance Day; Horse Guards Parade; Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace where we were serenaded by the Band of the Welsh Guards playing 'All Through the Night.' Well done to all the students who took part and many thanks to Ms Creaser, Ms Breasley and Mr Williams.



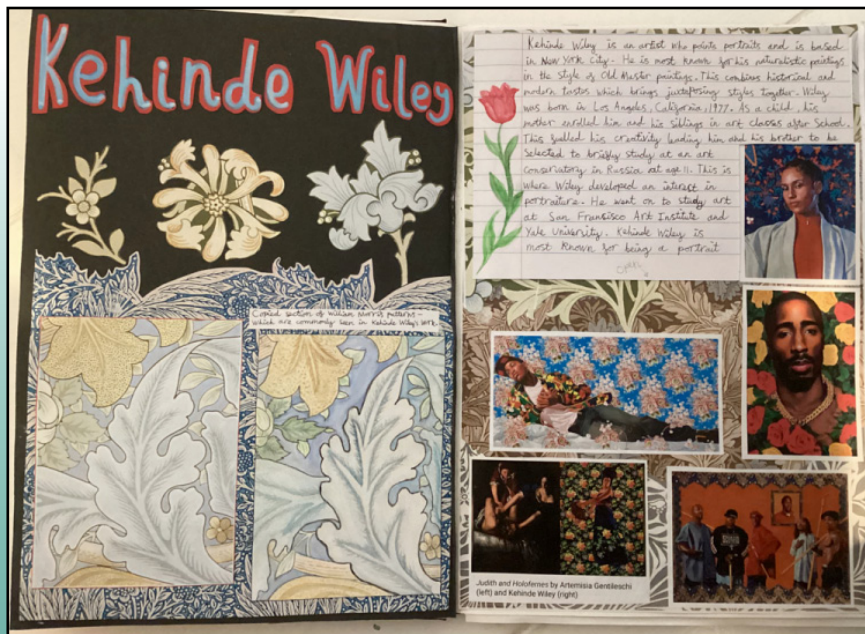
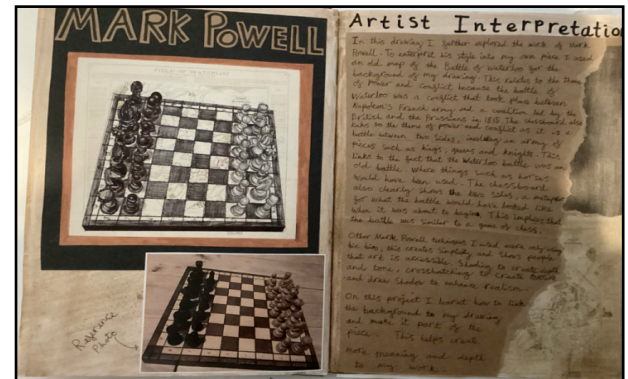
YEAR 10 GCSE ART

This term, Year 10 GCSE Art students have been exploring the theme of Power and Conflict through research and creative responses to the work of artist Mark Powell.

As part of Black History Month, students also studied the work of African American artist Kehinde Wiley. Wiley is renowned for reimagining classical portraits by "street casting" his models - often young Black men and women from urban communities worldwide - and positioning them in poses inspired by European and American historical figures.



Some students were fortunate to view original pieces by Kehinde Wiley during the recent Art London trip, providing a unique opportunity to experience his work first hand.



BBC BITE SIZE Careers Tour

Engaging and Inspirational BBC Bitesize Careers Tour visit to Helston

Helston had the honour of hosting the BBC Bitesize Careers tour on Friday 5 December. The tour aims to present to over 110,000 students in a three month period in schools across the length and breadth of the UK with Helston being one of only four Cornish colleges to be selected to take part this year.

Students in Years 7-10 were treated to interactive sessions which were hosted by the engaging and enthusiastic BBC Radio One and CBBC presenter Kathryn B. Wilson. The sessions featured the following guest panellists: Emily Cunningham MBE, a Marine Biologist from Falmouth; Victoria Gould, a Senior Content Producer from BBC Radio Cornwall; and Alex Bunn, a Cyber Security Technician from north Devon who works for Lineal. Each session featured questions posed by Kathryn to the panellists regarding their career pathways, their school life and training routes, the importance of 'soft skills' such as speaking and listening, and advice they had for students with regards managing stress and pursuing their goals. There were also opportunities for students to get involved, for example in each session a selected student was able to take part in a technician jobs survey, which can be found on the BBC Bitesize website, in front of the audience. In addition, students had the chance to ask the panellists questions through a soft microphone shaped like a rugby ball which the students were able to pass around the hall. Many stayed back after the sessions had finished to ask additional questions to our guests.

It was a wonderful, positive experience for Helston students, which enabled them to take away valuable pieces of information that could help shape their outlook on their future studies and career pathways.



Ask the Experts events at Helston Community College

A new series of careers events have been launched this year which provide students in Years 10-13 the chance to take part in short, focused, question and answer sessions with guests from within specific industry sectors. The Ask the Experts programme enables students to get answers and tips towards achieving their goals. These sessions feature small groups of students which ensures those present are keen and with a particular interest in the information being shared. The Ask the Experts events take place in our Post 16 Centre between 1.45pm and 2.15pm.

In November, Commander Turrell from Culdrose came to the college and met with students with a keen interest in finding out information towards careers in the Royal Navy. This was followed in early December by Cpl Alex Simpson from the recruitment office in Redruth who shared his knowledge with students regarding pathways towards careers in the British Army.

Welcome to Xello!

All students in Years 7-11 have been introduced to Xello; a careers platform for students to explore future career options/opportunities. Xello features a series of surveys for students to complete to help them to see which careers suit their skills, interests, characteristics and learning styles. Careers lessons which are taught through the PSHE programme also use Xello, and students can use it to search for further and higher education courses and training routes across the country. Xello can also be used to help create a CV, which builds upon all the careers related experiences which feature across a student's life spent at Helston Community College. Parents and carers are encouraged to speak to the students about Xello. Later this year it is likely that parents/carers will also be able to view the Xello profiles of their students.

xello

Careers Assemblies this term

Students in Years 7-11 have attended a variety of careers assemblies during the term. These included Commander Turrell from Culdrose, representing Royal Navy, who helped inspire students by discussing his career and ensuring all students were made aware of the option available to gain entry into Royal Navy. In late November, Rebecca Langston from Sealife Trust (Seal Sanctuary) presented an insight into careers in animal care and tourism and also made students aware of the popularity of work placements at the Sealife Trust. Steve Hancock from Pendennis Shipyard recently delivered assemblies to students in Years 10 & 11 sharing knowledge about apprenticeships and the career pathways that apprentice's usually follow within the company. There are more careers assemblies scheduled for Easter term, including guests from Falmouth University speaking to all year groups.

Year 10 Work Experience: 20th-24th July 2026

Students in Years 10 & 12 have been tasked with sourcing their own work experience placement for 20th-24th July 2026. Students were encouraged to get a placement confirmed by Friday 5 December. Whilst the first deadline has passed, it is hoped that remaining students will get their paperwork completed as soon as possible.



WORK EXPERIENCE



FUTURE CAREERS EVENT DATES:

Friday 9 January 1.45pm-2.15pm approx - 'Ask the Experts: University'

This will be a great opportunity for students in Years 10-13 to find out about life as a university student from Helston alumni Josh Thomas. Josh is an ex-Helstonian who is currently studying in London. He is keen to give any tips and advice towards students considering university as part of their careers path.

Monday 12 January - NHS

Stacey Woodruff from NHS is attending Helston Community College to deliver a series of careers talks about Diagnostic Radiography & Pathology and organising work experience within the local imaging service. These talks will be aimed at Year 11 and Post 16 students.

Tuesday 13 January - Careers Carousel.

Students in Year 9 will take part in a careers carousel during period 3 or period 4 which will involve the chance to ask questions and write down answers about how their interests, skills and characteristics would be best suited in a range of workplaces and training providers. This is aimed at helping the students with providing guidance ahead of selecting their option subjects for their KS4 GCSE studies. Between 4.00pm and 5.45pm students in Years 9-11 will be able to attend the careers fair to ask questions of all training providers and businesses regarding their future careers ideas.

Monday 19 January - 'Ask the Experts: Hospitality'.

An opportunity for students in Years 10-13 to find out about Hospitality-related careers from guest speaker, Terri Felton-Munday. This will take place in the Post 16 Centre starting at 1.45pm.

Thursday 29 January - Apprenticeship Expo event for Year 11 and Post 16 students.

This will be hosted in the Post 16 Building with Year 11 students able to meet the apprenticeship providers during their period 4 lesson. After college Year 11s and Post 16 students can attend with parents/carers. 1.45pm - 5.00pm

Monday 2 February - 'Ask the Experts: Law'.

An opportunity for students in Years 10-13 to find out about Law-related careers from guest speaker, Chris Morse of Stephens Scown. This will take place in the Post 16 Centre starting at 1.45pm.

Helston Alumni? Businesses looking to link with the college?

The college is looking to link up with ex-Helston Community College students who are keen to support our current group of students.

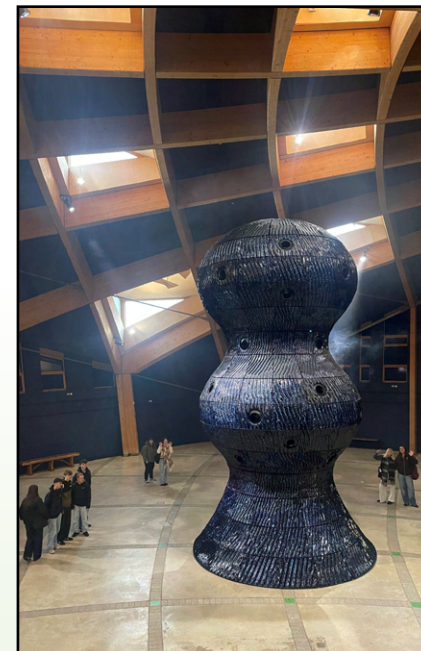
This could be as mentors, local business owners who can offer work experience places, people who are keen to offer Ask the Experts opportunities, present in assemblies, attend careers events, or contribute in any other ways towards our careers provision.

If interested, please contact: mwoolcock@helston.tpacademytrust.org

Travel & Tourism at the Eden Project

On Friday 5 December students currently studying on the Level 3 Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism had a one hour talk from the Eden Projects Lead for Education on the Business of Eden. The students were given the opportunity to ask questions relating to their most recent coursework unit, Visitor Attractions. This proved to be incredibly valuable.

As part of their workshop they were also given complete access to the site including the two incredible biomes at Eden. This was very much appreciated as you can see on Mr Dudley's face!



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Maya and Piran did it!!

On Saturday 18 October 2025 some of the incredible youth members of Hayle Surf Life Saving Club, including Maya and Piran, took on a unique challenge — paddling two Inshore Rescue Boats (IRBs) without engines from The Sloop Inn, St Ives to Gilbert's, Hayle.

This event is part of HSLSC's "Fuel the Future" campaign, raising vital funds for a new Inshore Rescue Boat to support their rapidly growing youth membership. With over 200 children and adults training year-round to become Cornwall's next generation of lifeguards, this new IRB will help the club continue providing safe, high-quality lifesaving training and flood rescue support for our community.

Every donation helps keep our beaches safe, our young people inspired, and our community rescue-ready.

May & Piran battled 22mph winds and I have never seen such determination!

We are so proud of them!

WUMA National Championships

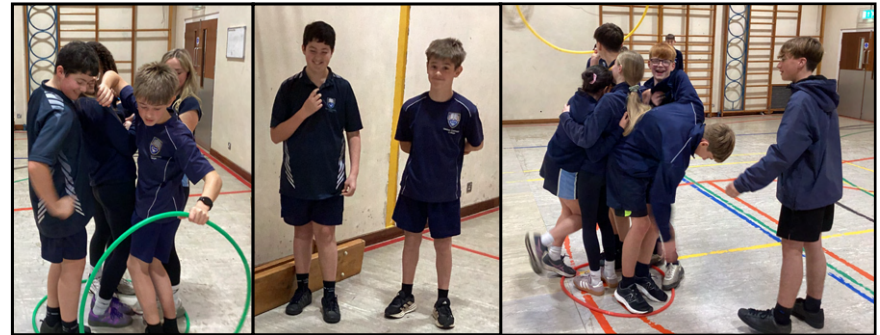
On Sunday 16 November, McKenzie competed in the WUMA Championships. She entered three categories receiving Gold in all of them! Two of the categories were both a level up in both height and age. Well Done Kenzie!



South West Indoor Athletics Championships

Emily H competed in the South West Indoor Athletics Championships in Cardiff on 6/7 December.

This was her first indoor competition and she got three medals: silver in the long jump, bronze in the 300m and bronze in the triple jump with personal bests in all three events. Well Done Emily!



TPAT Secondary Leadership Conference - Winter '25

On Tuesday 9 December members of the Helston Community College student leadership team participated in the 2nd TPAT Leadership Conference held at St Ives School.

The Headteacher of St Ives welcomed us and outlined the theme of the day which was the importance of teamwork and how we could embed teamwork into our tasks for the day.

We got together in mixed teams with students from Hayle, Cape Cornwall and St Ives to brainstorm and answer questions on the importance of an effective team and how to be an effective team member.

We then shared and compared our answers and voted on the top responses from the different groups.

We then went to the school gym to participate in some practical team building activities which included tower building with spaghetti, marshmallows and sellotape and some team relays involving toilet roll!

We worked cooperatively as a team with members from different schools. All the challenges were good fun that focused on us all working together to succeed.

Not forgetting we had some target

practice throwing Brussel sprouts into the bucket...apparently a festive St Ives tradition!

We then had a break to mix with the other leaders and enjoyed some delicious snacks. We then proceeded to have a tour of St Ives School which we found an interesting and a worthwhile experience as it is a good school but we felt lucky to have our newer facilities!

We finished off the day with a summary of our achievements and each school presented what they have been working on as part of their Student Voice and Leadership groups. When we spoke we prioritised talking about our Charity work as part of the College including our RNLI run and the refurbished Quad.

We would like to thank Mrs Kelly and St Ives School for hosting us and we will look forward to our next conference!

Mr Richardson, Ashley M and Jacob S.



Sports Update

Fixtures vs Redruth School - A big well done to all our teams who played!

Year 7 – Narrow 7-5 loss

Year 8 – 19-8 defeat

Year 9 – Impressive 11-6 win!

Year 9 – 11-5 defeat

Year 10/11 Football – 4-2 loss



Rugby Success Across the Board!

A huge day for our teams — fantastic performances all round!

- Year 9s: Dominant display with a 59-12 win!
- Year 8s: Mixed up the teams and played some great rugby – 6-5 final score!
- Year 7s: Another tight battle, coming out on top 5-4!

Proud of the effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship shown by everyone.



U16 Girls Football

Battled hard in the Cornwall Cup. Despite the results, everyone showed great effort and team spirit. Proud of you all!



U13 County Hockey Tournament

The year 8 squad put on a fantastic display at this year's County Hockey Tournament, showing determination, teamwork, and real progress throughout the day. Against strong opposition, the team recorded one win and two hard-fought draws, demonstrating resilience and growing confidence in every match. From the first whistle, the players worked tirelessly for one another, with excellent communication and solid defensive play forming the foundation of their performances. As the tournament went on, their skills and tactical awareness noticeably improved, with some excellent passing moves and creative attacking play on display.

Every player contributed to the team's success, showing great spirit and sportsmanship both on and off the pitch. Mrs Palmer was particularly proud of how the team adapted to challenges, kept their focus, and supported one another in every game.

Teachers' player of the Tournament was awarded to Eloyse, whose consistency, effort, and technical ability stood out throughout the day. The Players' Player was Imogen H, recognised by her teammates for her commitment, positive attitude, and teamwork. Overall, it was a brilliant tournament for the U13's — a day full of learning, improvement, and pride in their performance.



U15 Girls Shine at County Cricket Tournament!

A huge well done to our U15 Girls' Cricket Team, who played brilliantly in the County Cricket Tournament at Truro College! The team showed fantastic skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day — representing our school with pride.



Swimming Gala

Helston's Sports Leaders excelled recently in leading a Swim Gala for 9 local primary schools. The Gala was extremely busy with pupils across years 3,4,5 & 6 all competing. The leaders martialled the start line, started the races, managed the lanes and the finishers, recorded the finishing positions, wrote out each races results, recorded the results on the computer and handed out the medals. The Leaders were excellent ambassadors for HCC and have really impressed Mr Studd. A big thank you to: Hal J, Archie L, Olivia E, Arron I, Mia B, Jenifer S, Sienna P, Matilda T, June N, Sway M, Emily H and Katelyn E.



U13's SQUAD

Huge congratulations to Oscar S on his selection for the West Cornwall Schools U13s squad! All the hard work between the posts is paying off - well deserved, keeper!

U12's SQUAD

Also Joe and George have been chosen for the U12's West Cornwall School football team! Huge achievement - congratulations boys!



Year 7 Rugby

The year 7 Rugby team travelled to Richard Lander School to play in a Rugby Festival on the Truro College Rugby Astroturf. We were one of 7 teams who participated and played against all other teams throughout day.

We started slowly, adapting to weather conditions and the early morning start! We had to wake up and re-focus ready for our next games.

We then found our stride, starting to communicate better, make better decisions and our tackling improved significantly. Game highlights included scoring 5 tries in one game (not bad in 10 minutes) and a last minute try in our final game to earn a well-deserved draw against St Ives. As we completed the day with a record of winning 2, losing 2 and drawing 2 all games played were really close and competitive. The team showed good sportsmanship, a positive attitude and a brilliant day was had by all. A big Thank You goes to Richard Lander for hosting the tournament which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Written by Mr Richardson, Vinny and Alfie (Year 7 Captains)

U13's Football

Our U13s battled through wind, hail, snow and rain in one of the toughest weather days we've seen this year. Despite a 2-0 loss to Penryn, the scoreline doesn't reflect the performance at all. The team played brilliantly from start to finish — full of effort, energy, and determination. Proud of every single player who stepped on the pitch. We also want to give a massive thank you to @ [whirlwindsports](#) for our new football kit!





Table Cricket

WOW! What a performance by our Table Cricket Team who took part in a South West County tournament today, winning all 3 games and securing a place in the County Championship Finals next month! Despite only having two practice sessions, they worked extremely well together and showed some exceptional skills! Well done!



YEAR 7 PANTO TRIP

On Friday 12 December, the Drama department took a group of year 7 students to see Aladdin at The Hall for Cornwall. Oh yes we did! The students and staff who came, had a great time and there were lots of hoarse voices the day after I expect! The students were brilliant and a great audience.

Iceland Trip

In October half term 26 KS4 and Post 16 students took part on the Iceland trip. Despite a once in 100-year snowfall event the day before we arrived, followed by two Atlantic storms, we still managed to have an amazing trip and still managed to complete the itinerary along with many more new stops. The students experienced a lava show, crossed tectonic boundaries, glacier adventure walk, visited the iceberg lagoon and diamond beach, in addition to witnessing geysirs and dramatic waterfalls. If there are Year 10, 11 or 12 students who would like to sign up to the 2026 trip details can be found here: <https://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/iceland-trip-2026> or email kryan@helston.tpacademytrust.org



National Youth Choir

Congratulations to Ava for being selected to join the National Youth Choir. This is an amazing achievement and we look forward to hearing about her experiences.



Christmas Hampers

HCC are proud to have again worked with local community members Glennie McKinley and Mick Cade to support local families at Christmas time. Some years ago, when a local charity was unable to continue providing Christmas Hampers for families in need, Glennie and Mick took this upon themselves. We are also especially proud that HCC Yr. 10 student, Elsie Etherington, has also played a key role in helping prepare hampers and to involving the college in distributing them. Well done Elsie – a great example of our College value of kindness!

Every year, with the support of donations from the community, they put together and wrap hampers for those who need them most. These hampers include a wide range of food and Christmas treats – in tough economic climate and at an expensive time of the year, these hampers provide lifelines to those struggling to make ends meet. This year, HCC helped to distribute 33 hampers to members of our school community. We know what a difference these make – thank you Glennie and Mick!



Charlene Price (Deputy Safeguarding Lead, HCC) and Mick Cade

Devon and Cornwall Food Action

We are delighted to have had another successful year, working with Devon and Cornwall Food Action, to support the community of Helston and the Lizard. DCFA have attended the college every month and on 13th December, helped over 60 local families. This month's event included some Christmas items!

For £30, families receive a minimum of:

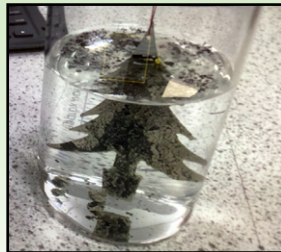
- Tea or coffee
- Pasta or rice
- Selection of tins and cereal
- Box of pasties or pies
- Bag of frozen items
- Bag of fresh fruit and veg
- Bag of household toiletries
- Bread/rolls/cakes
- Pet food
- Often more!

If you have not yet visited a DCFA event, please come along to one next year. The dates are:

- January 24th
- February 21st (tbc)
- March 21st
- April 18th (tbc)
- May 23rd (tbc)
- July 4th
- September 19th
- October 24th (tbc)
- December 5th



To book, please contact Debbie on 07880 835331



SCIENCE CLUB

This half term has seen the KS3 Science Club establish its first members! We have been having some fun with some festive activities and some Autumnal firework chemistry. Students have made some indoor fireworks (Sugar Snakes), identified chemicals by their flame colours and seen sparkling iron filings (like sparklers).

We have also carried out some fabulous displacement reactions to make sparkling Christmas trees (Zinc metal and Silver nitrate solution), made some chromatography Christmas decorations, and constructed a science Christmas tree!

In the New Year, we will be starting a CREST award project. The Science Club members are keen to construct a giant marble run and investigate the speed of marbles of varying shapes and sizes, down the marble run. If they spend 10 hours (attend the club for 10 sessions) and carry out a full scientific investigation, they will be entered for a Nationally acclaimed Science (Bronze Award) certificate. This will be awarded by the British Science Association. Students can then progress onto a silver or gold award.

It would be great to see some more science enthusiasts at Science Club on Tuesdays 3.15pm - 4.15pm. If we have enough students attending, we could also investigate some 'Big Bang Fair' projects. This could involve a trip to the Big Bang Fair. We look forward to seeing some new faces join us in January 2026! Wishing you all a Happy 'Science' Christmas! From the Science Club!



Online Safety Session at Helston Community College

Godolphin Primary students from Years 4, 5, and 6 enjoyed an engaging morning at Helston Community School, where they took part in an Online Safety session led by our Online Safety Lead. The session focused on practical ways to stay safe during their online activities, covering topics such as protecting personal information, recognising potential risks, and making responsible choices online. The pupils were enthusiastic and contributed thoughtfully throughout, leaving with valuable tips to help them navigate the digital world safely.



Enrichment Timetable Spring 2026

The Library is open everyday after school until 3.30pm.

To sign-up to a club, students simply register their interest with the teacher leading it.

MONDAY				
Activity	Year/KS	Time	Venue	Staff
Board Games Club	KS3	1.00 - 1.35pm	A22 (A24 or A27 from 01/10)	
College Choir	All Years	1.00 - 1.35pm	M1	Mrs Parker
Girls Sports Club	Y7-11	1.00 - 1.35pm	Sports Hall	Mrs Pryor
Guitar Ensemble	All Years	1.15 - 2.00pm	M2	See Mr Martin
Lego Club	Y7-9	1.00 - 1.35pm	CO2	Mr Burke
Duke of Edinburgh	Bronze Y9	3.15 - 4.30pm	SS Hall	Mr Semmons
Girls Football Club WEEK A	Y9	3.15 - 4.30pm	3G	Mrs Pryor
Girls Football Club WEEK B	Y7-8	3.15 - 4.30pm	3G	Mrs Palmer & Miss Bragg
Hall for Cornwall Showcase Rehearsals - In January Only	Y7-11	3.15 - 4.30pm	A2	Mrs Richardson
Hockey Club - A WEEK	Y7-8	3.15 - 4.30pm	MUGA	Mrs Palmer & Miss Bragg
Hockey Club - B WEEK	Y9	3.15 - 4.30pm	MUGA	Mrs Pryor
Homework Club	All Years	3.15 - 4.00pm	South Site Hub	Mrs Bloor
Melomaniacs	KS3	3.15 - 4.15pm	M1	Mr Parker
TUESDAY				
Activity	Year/KS	Time	Venue	Staff
Acapella Singers	All Years	1.15 - 2.00pm	M2	Mr Parker
Board Games Club	KS3	1.00 - 1.35pm	A22 (A24 or A27 from 01/10)	
CyberCenturions	All Years	1.00 - 1.35pm	Co3	Mr Birkett
Jazz 2	All Years	1.15 - 2.00pm	M1	Mr King
Military Club	All Years	1.00 - 1.35pm	South Site Hub	Mrs Groseley
Pride Club	All Years	1.00 - 1.35pm	MA7	
Boys Football Club	Y7-10	3.15 - 4.30pm	3G/Fied	Mr Richardson, Mr Woolcock, Mr Hattam & Mr Lovelock
Duke of Edinburgh	Silver Y10	3.15 - 4.30pm	SS Hall	Mr Semmons
GCSE Art classes	Y10 & Y11	3.25 - 4.30pm	B10	
Hall for Cornwall Showcase Rehearsals - In January Only	Y7-11	3.15 - 4.30pm	A2	Mrs Richardson
Hockey Club	Y10-11	3.15 - 4.30pm	MUGA	Miss Bragg
Homework Club	All Years	3.15 - 4.00pm	South Site Hub	Mrs Bloor
Languages Homework Club	Y7-9	3.30 - 4.15pm	L3	Miss Cristea
Podcasting Club (After half term)	All Years	3.15 - 4.30pm	A28	Ms Stevenson / Dse
Production Rehearsals (Annie)	Y7-11	3.15 - 4.30pm	A29	Mrs Crawshaw
Science Club (Crest awards)	Y7-9	3.15 - 4.15pm	Lab 12	Miss Charlesworth
WEDNESDAY				
Activity	Year/KS	Time	Venue	Staff
Board Games Club	Y7-9	1.00 - 1.35pm	A22 (A24 or A27 from 01/10)	
History Catch Up "Revision Drop-in"	Y10-11	1.00 - 1.35pm	A23	Mrs Creaser
Sports Club	Y8	1.00 - 1.35pm	Sports Hall	Mr Woolcock
Concert Band	All Years	3.15 - 4.30pm	M1	
Fitness Club	Y8-9	3.15 - 4.30pm	Fitness Suite	Miss Cristea
GCSE Art classes	Y10 & Y11	3.15 - 4.30pm	B10	
Homework Club	All Years	3.15 - 4.00pm	South Site Hub	Mrs Bloor
Production Rehearsals	Y7 - 10	3.15 - 4.30pm	A2 or A29	Mrs Crawshaw
Post 16 Maths Workshop	Y12-13	3.15 - 4.30pm	MA4	Dr Godwin & Mrs Hart
Running Club	Y7-11	3.15 - 4.30pm	Field	Mrs Weir
THURSDAY				
Activity	Year/KS	Time	Venue	Staff
Board Games Club	Y7-9	1.00 - 1.35pm	A22 (A24 or A27 from 01/10)	
Brass Ensemble	Brass players	1.15 - 2.00pm	M4	Mr King
History Film Club	Y7-11	1.10 - 1.35pm	A24	Ms Creaser
Sports Club	Y7	1.00 - 1.35	Sports Hall	Mr Richardson
Annie Rehearsals	Y7-11	3.15 - 4.15pm	A29	Mrs Crawshaw
Boys & Girls Football Fixtures	Y7-11	3.15 - 4.30pm	Varies - Check w/PE Staff	PE Staff
DT Club	Y7-11	3.15 - 4.15pm	DT2	Miss Ford
GCSE Art classes	Y10 & Y11	3.25 - 4.30pm	B10	
Hockey Fixtures	Y7-11	3.15 - 4.30pm	Varies - Check w/PE Staff	PE Staff
Homework Club	All Years	3.15 - 4.00pm	South Site Hub	Mrs Bloor
HSIO	Invitation Only	3.15 - 4.30pm	M1	Mr King
Science Support	KS4	3.15 - 4.30pm	Lab 2 & 3	Science Staff
FRIDAY				
Activity	Year/Key Stage	Time	Venue	Staff
Board Games Club	Y7-9	1.00 - 1.35pm	A22 (A24 or A27 from 01/10)	
Creative History Club	Y7-9	1.00 - 1.35pm	A24	Mrs Oates
Young Carers Club	All Years	1.00 - 1.35pm	L2	Mrs Martin
Sax Ensemble	All Years	1.00 - 2.00pm	M1	Mrs McDonagh

Launching this half term...

The Helstonian Podcast

The Podcast Academy, who meet on irregular Tuesdays to eat biscuits, have been putting together a little festive special for you to listen to.

To listen, click the link below:

https://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/college_magazine_-_the_helstonian

Shownotes:

A small group of pioneering podcasters from Years 7-10 have been putting together their first recording and would love for you to give it a listen.

This episode:

- Year 7, how is it going so far?
- Some really bad Christmas jokes
- Staff tell you which are their favourite Christmas films, and why

...all brought to you by our OG hosts with their unique dynamic style, Charlie and India from Year 9.

Next term we are expanding our membership to a bigger production team, and are looking to recruit aspiring researchers, presenters, writers and composers to help create our content. Commitment can be every session, or even just for a half a term producing a particular segment. Also, launching soon, a competition to write our jingle for 2026. The jingle should be written in Garageband and submitted to the classroom as a Garageband file to the assignment by 31st January and is open to all Year groups – see the Showbie classroom for the brief and if you're looking for something to fill the long winter nights this could be it!

Eventually we are hoping experienced podcasters will be able to sit an RSL qualification in Podcasting for their efforts, because it can't all be about the glory and the biscuits!

Any students wanting to join should look for the dates on the Showbie Creative Arts Classroom, EYMPDA and look in the Media folder under Helstonian Podcast. You can also email Ms Stevenson to find out more about how to get involved – estevenson@helston.tpacademytrust.org



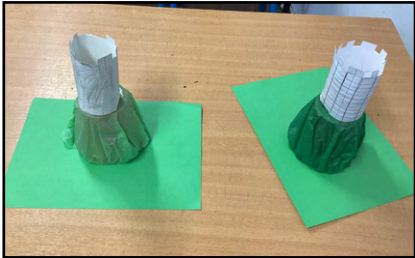
History Club Builds Mini Medieval Castles

The History Club took a trip back in time this term without leaving the classroom! Members built their own motte-and-bailey castles, the early medieval forts famous for their tall hills and sturdy wooden walls. A motte is a big mound of earth with a tower on top, and the bailey is the courtyard below where people lived, worked, and kept animals. These castles were quick to build and great for defence, which is why the Normans used them all over England after 1066.

Students used plant pots, tissue paper, and carefully constructed paper mottes to bring their castles to life, turning simple materials into impressive medieval models. The finished castles are now on display and proves that history is always fun but maybe slightly more fun when you can build it yourself.

Next term, the club has even more hands on history planned!

Mrs Oates



Student President

Earlier in the autumn term Lucy Wheeler, year 13, was appointed student president. The president role involves representing the College at community events, chairing student council meetings, liaising with KS3 and KS4 student leaders, and organising social events for Post 16.

Supporting Lucy in her role is Charlie Bayliss, student vice-president. So far this term they have been involved in the Post 16 recruitment events, organised charity fundraising events, and met with senior leaders regarding College issues.



Oxbridge - P16 Pathway

The newly restructured high achiever's pathway started this term and now includes Year 10 students. The pathway has been running with year 11, 12 and 13 students for a number of years with the students meeting weekly with Dr Ryan (KS4 students) and Ms Doolin (KS5 students).

The programme is supported by Oxford University and each year the students attend workshops in Oxford about critical thinking and applying to university.

The Year 12 trip to Oxford in November included insightful workshops about writing personal statements, whilst the year 10 residential visit last week focussed on critical thinking skills and applying the skills to physics, law, geography, and English.

Each trip also includes visits to the world-famous Bodleian library or the natural history museum in Oxford. The year 11 students will have their Oxford trip in January, and one of the benefits of continuing at Helston Post 16 is the students will continue the pathway into Year 12 and 13.



Celebrating and thanking Barry Drew who has just completed his 40th year as a Helston Governor!!

We interviewed him to find out what has motivated him to support the College for so long...

1. What made you decide to become a Governor in the first place?

I was approached when the College had lost a Governor with a financial background. As a chartered accountant I felt that I could make a positive contribution to the College.

2. Can you tell us exactly what a Governor does?

The role of a Governor has changed substantially in the forty years during which I have been a Governor. When I first became a Governor the Governing Body had a substantial part to play in the operation of the College.

There were two sub-committees, one being "Teaching and Learning" and the other "Finance". For obvious reasons I was chairman of the Finance Sub-committee. Our role has gradually changed over the ensuing years and now, although we are described as a critical friend, our involvement in the operation of the College is reduced.

We've even had a name change and we are now called the Local Monitoring Committee.

3. What about the College are you most proud of?

The thing which makes me most proud of the College is the care for the wellbeing of all students. While academic excellence is a goal of the College, they do not lose sight of the fact that each student is a human being with differing needs.

4. How much has the College changed in 40 years?

The College today is almost unrecognisable from the College when I became a Governor. Firstly, the north site building of forty

years ago has been demolished and replaced by a new build. Secondly, the technology involved in teaching has been totally transformed; whiteboards, tablets and computer rooms were unheard of in 1985.

However, one thing which has changed very little is the south site, the main building of which has changed very little since I was at what was then known as the grammar school in the 1960's.

5. Do you have any funny stories about your time as a Governor?

I attended the school Sports Day earlier this year as a Governor wearing my lanyard. Because parents and guardians don't attend there were very few adults not known to the students. I noticed a group of children looking at me and having a discussion. Eventually one was delegated to approach me and asked "Excuse me but who are you?" My explanation appeared to satisfy them that I was not a random stranger and a threat to their safety!!



Congratulations!

Praise Points



Leaderboard

Year 7



Reuben W	7E	177
Elowen I	7D	161
Matthew B	7F	140
George W	7E	140
Mollie C	7E	137
Sienna L	7G	136
Olivia H	7D	131
Charlie B	7B	130
Lottie C	7G	130
Hettie W	7D	125

Year 8



Jessica B	8E	182
Harley T	8D	179
Olivia C	8D	141
Ana-Maria C	8G	123
Elana-Brooke R	8D	114
Anna H	8F	112
Raya P	8G	112
Maisie B	8E	107
Alice G	8D	106
Ava H-E	8D	104

Year 9



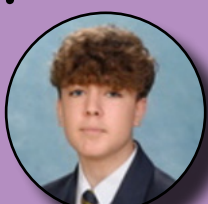
Aaron I	9F	177
Archie R	9B	161
Amelia B	9F	134
Noah H	9B	132
Tori K	9C	132
Daniel W	9B	128
Theo C	9B	124
Jesse H	9F	122
Isobel P	9E	117
Polly R	9G	109

Year 10



Tyler W	10E	127
Jacob C	10C	122
Frederick W	10E	118
Jen F	10H	116
Lily R	10H	113
Hayden B	10A	112
Finley W-H	10E	104
Jacob E	10B	97
Poppy F	10B	96
Jowan W	10C	93

Year 11



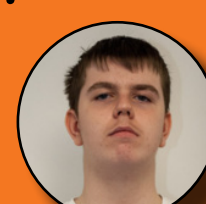
Hugh K	11D	114
Thomas H	11D	112
David S	11A	108
Jay H	11D	107
Aiden M	11B	104
Lewis W	11E	103
Gabbi R	11D	102
Dylan P	11H	97
Chase R	11E	95
Olly L	11C	94
Maisy M	11B	94
Jowan S	11G	94

Year 12



Elias B	12A	24
Maya C	12B	23
Andrew D	12C	22
Summer R	12A	21
Finley S	12C	20
Zenna W	12C	20
Alfie C	12B	19
Emma S	12A	18
Chloe S	12E	17
Jacob C	12C	15

Year 13



Jacob S	13A	24
Alistair S	13D	18
Kieran S	13C	17
Rhys W	13D	15
Tom M	13C	14
Samuel T	13A	13
Lilly P	13A	12
Emma T	13A	12
William B	13A	11
Lilly-Mai T	13D	11
Isabella T	13B	11
Kaitlyn W	13B	11

Well Done!

(Praise Points as of 11/12/25)

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

November-December

Year 7

Reuben W

Nominated by Ms Richardson for his fantastic effort in all aspects of Drama lessons, Reuben is also top in the year for Praise Points and has a perfect attendance record too. What a start to Year 7!



Year 8

Harley T

Harley was nominated by Mx Cowen for for being 'faultlessly polite and motivated to always do the right thing - a credit to the school'. High praise indeed! He has also already achieved his Gold Award as well as having excellent attendance.



Year 9

Noah H

Nominated by Ms Harrison for always being focused and on task in maths and being prepared to share ideas and his methods with the class. Ms Harrison also wanted to recognise his politeness and respect. With a massive amount of Praise Points and a perfect attendance he is flying high in Year 9.



Year 10

Florence K

Florence is an incredibly polite and committed student. She goes about her business with no fuss and was nominated by Ms Watson for always volunteering to help others in chemistry lessons. She is a top performer and has high aspirations. We know she has a great future ahead!



Year 11

Oliver W

Oliver is a great student and role model, and he has been nominated this month by Ms Bloor. He gives his time generously performing in all the school concerts, but in addition, has been the Chairman of Interact, our fundraising club. All of this, whilst also revising for his mock exams. Well done Oliver!



Post 16

Lucy W & Charlie B

For succeeding in becoming our new Student President and Vice President! Both gave up their time to support the Post 16 Open Evening so well. We look forward to what they will achieve throughout the year ahead.



Well Done

TH Nominations

Isla P	7	or her determination to go above and beyond on her Sparx Science homework each week and complete the independent study each week.	S Mullins
Nellie P	7	For an excellent start to year 7 science, Nellie always does her best and is an excellent practical scientist.	D Long
Isabella C	7	Really putting in the effort in RWI	S Ford
Lottie C	7	Excellent effort in RE.	G Parekh
Isaac D-F	7	Excellent effort in RE.	G Parekh
Dacey T-G	7	You are a delight to have in tutor. You are always happy, smiling and willing to do any jobs!	K Harrison
Nellie H	7	For showing so much commitment to extra-curricular drama.	K Crawshaw
Edward E	7	For showing so much commitment to extra-curricular drama.	K Crawshaw
George W	7	For unfailing enthusiasm and engagement with Maths, always trying to understand everything and asking the best questions!	M Cowen
Ewan A	7	Always pushing to finish all the work in Maths, and asking for extension work in order to extend practice and understanding.	M Cowen
Kerenza E	7	Consistently fantastic engagement in Maths classes, always trying to use perfect mathematical vocabulary and reasoning.	M Cowen
Jude T	8	Amazing young scientist who is 100% focused every lesson and gives his all to every task given to him.	S Mullins
Matthew M	8	For always being creative and imaginative in Drama lessons and being an excellent leader during group work.	S Richardson
Alice G	8	For being a great director during group work in Drama and speaking with confidence.	S Richardson
Jessica B	8	For all her help in the classroom every single lesson and for spreading kindness!	H Westaway
Jessica B	8	Always put 100% into lessons and learning in science.	C Charlesworth
Edward M	8	100% attendance this year. Keep it up!	A Weir
Anna H	8	For outstanding engagement in PE lessons and commitment in extra-curricular clubs.	E Bragg
Lilly C	8	For outstanding engagement in PE lessons and commitment in extra-curricular clubs.	E Bragg
Freya M	8	For outstanding engagement in PE lessons and commitment in extra-curricular clubs.	E Bragg
Elana-B R	8	For showing so much commitment to extra-curricular drama.	K Crawshaw
Ava H-E	8	For showing so much commitment to extra-curricular drama.	K Crawshaw
Skye W	8	Great progress in creative writing this term.	C Bloor
Wasfiya J	8	Always pushing to finish all the work in Maths, and asking for extension work in order to extend practice and understanding, delightfully kind and polite.	M Cowen
Joshua H	8	Quietly getting on with maths work and engaging even when it's hard, a delight to teach!	M Cowen

Riley S	9	For being a hard working scientist who is improving every day. His effort and dedication are excellent.	D Long
Orla P	9	Orla is a mature scientist and she has an exceptional eye for detail.	D Long
Maddie C	9	Exceptional work and attitude in History.	P Martin
Harry C	9	Exceptional work and attitude in History.	P Martin
Saffron B	9	Excellent effort and attitude in science lessons.	C Charlesworth
Alfie M	9	Most improved effort and attitude in Science lessons.	C Charlesworth
Gracie B	9	100% attendance this year. Fantastic!	A Weir
Tristan P	9	100% attendance this year. Well done!	A Weir
Maddie C	9	For showing so much commitment to extra-curricular drama.	K Crawshaw
Thomas H	9	For showing so much commitment to extra-curricular drama.	K Crawshaw
Tamzyn B	9	For her fantastic effort in maths and for being wonderful person to have in the classroom.	H Westaway
Jess Y	9	For her quiet but confident effort and attitude in English this term.	C Bloor
Tom M	9	Superb effort in crafting considerate and thoughtful responses in English this term.	C Bloor
Hal J	9	First pupil I've ever given 100% in an RE assessment. Really remarkable writing and deployment of knowledge!	A Olsen
Lily S	9	Incredibly focused and hard-working, a positive influence on those around her, and always pushing to improve even when it's hard.	M Cowen
Ethan H	9	Motivated to complete all questions, and extend understanding. Helping others in the class with their work.	M Cowen
John C	10	Brilliant focus in Triple Physics with such determination to answer all questions, even an A level Thermal Physics one!	S Mullins
Stefano D	10	Brilliant focus in Triple Physics, constantly asking question to improve his understanding of key topics and completing A level Physics questions!	S Mullins
Darcy M	10	For commitment and involvement in Drama lesson, the Panto and production. It is great to see you being so much more confident!	S Richardson
Jake W	10	For excellent effort and attitude in all things Drama and consistent sunny outlook!	S Richardson
Bella H	10	For excellent progress in science and quality of written answers is fantastic.	D Long
Viv P	10	Hard working, 100% effort and a positive attitude leading to excellent results.	D Long
Chloe W	10	Excellent result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Cayden A	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Anna B	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Reuben B	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
John C	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Stefano D	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh

TH Nominations

Darcy F	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Emily G	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Isabel G	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Emma K	10	Excellent result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Florence K	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Jacob L	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Charlie M	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Connor S	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Maya S	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
James W	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Bella C	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Thea G	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Kayna G	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Charlie R	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Izzy S	10	Good result in the RE mock exam.	G Parekh
Jowan W	10	For consistent hard work and enthusiasm in science lessons.	C Charlesworth
Erin W	10	100% attendance this year and a big improvement on last year. Well done!	A Weir
Sophie O	10	Outstanding effort in drama lessons and commitment to extra-curricular activities.	K Crawshaw
Jake W	10	Outstanding effort in drama lessons and commitment to extra-curricular activities.	K Crawshaw
Finley W-H	10	Outstanding effort in drama lessons and commitment to extra-curricular activities.	K Crawshaw
Emma K	10	For her dedication and commitment in maths - you have been an absolute delight to teach this term!	H Westaway
John C	10	For your effort and enthusiasm in chemistry lessons.	K Watson
Lily R	10	Fantastic attitude to all aspect of learning in Health and Social Care!	J Robertson
Zennor S	10	Focused and attentive consistently in lessons, always asking for help when needed to pro-actively work on development areas.	M Cowen
Maisy M	11	For her hard work and determination in preparation for the mock exams.	E Hawkey
Mia R	11	The determination and effort she has shown since the start of Year 11 has been outstanding - keep going Mia :)	
Aulay M	11	For consistent effort and commitment to extra curricular drama and learning lots of lines as well as having mocks!	S Richardson
Roxy H	11	For such fantastic support with pantomime. Amazing backstage - organised and unflappable!	S Richardson
Lewis W	11	For being a fantastic backstage crew member. Always quick thinking and super organised.	S Richardson
Sam T	11	For being quick thinking and on the ball backstage for the Pantomime.	S Richardson
Belle J-R	11	For being so helpful with many aspects of the pantomime and always being so cheerful!	S Richardson
Sophie T	11	For showing maturity and excellence at all times.	D Long

Lilia P	11	For hard work and dedication to achieving the best at all times.	D Long
Lewis W	11	Fantastic effort throughout the term, rewarded with by his mock result.	L Hocking
Kateryna K	11	Fantastic effort throughout the term, rewarded with by her mock result.	L Hocking
Abigail B	11	Fantastic effort throughout the term, rewarded with by her mock result.	L Hocking
Stanley F	11	Fantastic effort throughout the term, rewarded with by his mock result.	L Hocking
Jago G	11	Quiet and consistent effort throughout the term, rewarded with good mock result.	L Hocking
Hugh K	11	Good result in the Science mock exams and hard work throughout the term.	C Charlesworth
Jade W	11	Good result in the Science mock exams.	C Charlesworth
Maisy S	11	100% attendance this year. Great effort!	A Weir
Maisy M	11	Wow Maisy you have worked so hard both in lessons and outside of lessons to make such fantastic progress in maths!	K Harrison
Bryher E	11	You work so hard throughout our maths lessons and, as a result, you are making great progress - well done!	J Varker
Harry P	11	Excellent attitude and effort in final coursework unit in Sport Science.	E Bragg
Aulay M	11	For showing so much commitment to extra-curricular drama and his lessons!	K Crawshaw
Sam T	11	For showing so much commitment to extra-curricular drama and his lessons!	K Crawshaw
Karenza P	11	Fantastic effort with the mock exam!	K Crawshaw
Amelie M	11	Fantastic effort with the mock exam!	K Crawshaw
Harry L	11	Outstanding effort in Media Studies.	E Stevenson
Poppy S	11	Outstanding effort in Media Studies.	E Stevenson
Freya H	11	Fantastic attitude to all aspect of learning in Health and Social Care!	J Robertson
Joel K	12	For his excellent effort in Geology lessons and effective revision.	K Ryan
Jess C	12	For always going the extra mile with her study and Geology revision.	K Ryan
Sophie J	12	Her excellent work ethic in Post 16 study periods.	K Ryan
Evie B	12	Focus and determination in History leading to excellence ion written work.	P Martin
Alfie C	12	For being an amazing ambassador for the College during P16 open evening for Physics.	S Mullins
Chloe A	12	Fantastic attitude to all aspect of learning in Health and Social Care!	J Robertson
Alfie P	13	For being an excellent ambassador for Geology on Open Evening.	K Ryan
Kieran S	13	For consistent effort and positive attitude in History and being a thoroughly lovely human.	P Martin
Jessica G	13	Fantastic attitude to all aspect of learning in Health and Social Care!	J Robertson

Head of Year 7

Dear all,
I hope you are all well, coping with the wintry conditions and getting ready for Christmas with all the festive cheer this brings.

In the last few assemblies we have presented on the themes of selflessness and opportunities. Alongside the theme of opportunities, I would like to thank all the students that have done a little bit more this term in joining a club, being a year 7 Student Leader or supporting our extra-curricular programme. This includes the sports teams that have had to put up with some very testing weather conditions to complete their fixtures this term. Leading on from this Mr Dudley has launched our plan for Activities week which sounds like an exciting week with a range of activities organised to look forward to at the end of the Summer Term.

In this final week of term we have had our celebration assembly where we reward students for their hard work, dedication and attitude. This also includes a Christmas sing-a-long and prize giving to help us all celebrate Christmas together. Well done to all of those students that have maintained 100% attendance, been racking up those Praise points and completing their positive consequence cards. Students are also being rewarded this week with their 5-week streaks for 100% attendance or even receive a Golden ticket for extra acts of kindness to enter the Christmas raffle for a surprise gift.

The students have been completing the 12 days of Christmas programme donating Christmas food stuffs, completing an act of kindness and participating in Christmas activities and challenges at lunchtimes. The Christmas meal, concerts, pantomime and Christmas Jumper Day have rounded off 2025 really well!

Well done to the Year 7s that attended the PTFA School Disco and thank you to the team of organisers...there is no doubt the Year 7s have some moves! The students also did a good job in the BBC Bitesize Careers

assembly where the BBC crew commented how impressed they were with how the Year 7s interacted during the show and the interesting questions they had for the guest speakers.

I hope the students have a great last few days at College and continue to make the most of the opportunities offered and finish a successful first term off in style. I look forward to hearing all about their Christmases in the New Year.

Enjoy your break, hopefully making the most of the quality time with family and friends

Festive wishes and all the very best for 2026!

Terry Richardson - Head of Year 7 and Transition



Head of Year 8

I hope you are well and ready for whatever the festive season may bring. As you will have seen from our recent College messages, this term in Year 8 we have spent a lot of time working with students on the importance of kindness, gratitude, and social responsibility.

The idea that we can all do a little something to support each other, the College community, and our environment remains central to our ethos. We are also promoting the importance of being thankful and appreciating what may seem like the 'small things' in life—especially in these challenging times when we are fortunate to live in such a supportive, caring community in a beautiful part of the world.

This term has also shown us the incredible resilience of our students, who have faced poor weather conditions with determination and positivity. Their ability to adapt and continue learning, while showing kindness to one another and to staff, has been truly inspiring and reflects the strength of our College community.

Students who regularly demonstrate social responsibility and gratitude include those representing the College in Music, Sports, and Drama, attending clubs, and taking part in extraordinary activities such as being members of local organisations, serving as anti-bullying ambassadors, College leaders, or contributing to community projects that make Helston an even better place to live and learn.

I hope that you have been following the College's 12 Days of Christmas Kindness campaign, which highlights good deeds and events happening over the next two weeks. This includes simple acts of kindness—such as opening doors for others or donating to the Helston Foodbank—to help make Christmas a little easier for some in our local community.

As we move toward the festive period, our message has been that if we are struggling to give material gifts, why not gift time—spending moments with loved ones or doing something that might brighten someone else's day, whether checking in with a friend or relative or helping parents with chores?

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas break.

Best wishes,

Jack Dudley - Head of Year 8



Head of Year 9

This term has been a busy one for Year 9. Starting with the first set of exams right from coming back from half term. Students were advised by teachers how to revise, booklets with revision methods were sent home and placed in the Year 9 virtual tutor room. They were primed to treat these exams seriously, and to prepare for them diligently. The process is an important one in preparation for Key Stage 4 which is only just around the corner. I am so proud to see that they took on the challenge admirably and I am sure parents will have had some very positive conversations with the teachers last week at the parents' evening. The concept of regular revision of knowledge is key to success at GCSE, the sooner the students get into this habit the more prepared they will be for their GCSE courses. It has also been a busy half term for visitors into assemblies.

We have had Devon and Cornwall Police come in to advise on a range of issues that affect students and how to keep themselves safe. There was the BBC Bitesize event highlighting the importance of careers and showcasing their website for ideas. With options choices around the corner, this is an excellent resource for you to discuss potential careers and suitable options.

We also had the Seal Sanctuary in, a particular favourite of mine for two reasons: it was amazing to see the work of the organisation but more importantly the young person delivering the assembly were an inspiration to all the students. We were also really impressed with the Anti-bullying champions who came in and did their assembly.

My congratulations go to them all.

So what is to come? As mentioned, the option process is going to be starting in the New Year. Any information that goes out to parents will also be backed up on the Virtual tutor room. There will be the Year 9 Options Evening which gives parents another chance to discuss potential choices with teachers. My biggest advice to the students is to make their own decisions, ask the teachers if they feel they would do well and avoid getting dragged along by what their friends would like to do.

I wish you all a very merry and restful Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Warm regards,

Siobhan Barnes - Head of Year 9



Head of Year 10

As we reach the end of this first term, I want to take a moment to express my admiration for all our students as they have embarked on their KS4 journey. The transition into this stage of education is a significant milestone, and it has been inspiring to see the determination, resilience and enthusiasm shown across the year group. The next year and a half will be crucial and I cannot stress enough the importance of maintaining focus both inside and outside the classroom. Success will come not only from working hard in lessons but also from consolidating knowledge through homework and independent revision - building these habits now will lay the foundation for strong outcomes later.

This half term, we placed a particular emphasis on work experience. We were fortunate to welcome several visitors who provided valuable insights into different industries and career paths. Exploring new opportunities and gaining an understanding of the workplace is an essential part of preparing for life beyond school. I would like to congratulate all those who have already secured placements for the summer and remind those yet to do so that it is not too late to arrange one. Should you encounter any difficulties, please contact Mr Woolcock who will be happy to support you.

Attendance and behaviour have been overall positive this term and I commend the majority of students for their commitment. That said, there is always room for improvement and I encourage everyone to reflect on how they can raise their standards further. I will continue to highlight success throughout the year group in our weekly assemblies, be that exemplary individual achievements or that of tutor groups working together. The new year offers a fresh start—a chance to reset, refocus, and continue striving for excellence in every aspect of school life.

I would like to wish all families a safe, restful, and enjoyable Christmas and I look forward to welcoming all of our wonderful Year 10's back in the new year.

Jamie Lovelock - Head of Year 10



Head of Year 11

As we approach the end of a busy and rewarding half term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of our fantastic Year 11 students. It has been a period filled with hard work, personal growth, and moments that have truly highlighted the spirit of our year group.



Perhaps the most significant milestone has been the preparation for, and completion of, our GCSE mock examinations. In the weeks beforehand, students demonstrated real maturity: attending period 5 revision sessions, balancing their workloads, and supporting each other through what can be a challenging time. Their dedication was evident throughout the exam period, and I couldn't be prouder of the focus and resilience they showed.

We also held our Mock Results Day on 17th December. This event is always an important step in helping students understand their progress so far and motivating them ahead of the final push towards the summer exams. Whatever results they receive, I know they will use the experience positively and continue striving for their very best. Full progress reports will be shared with parents at the start of next term.


This half-term also included our Post-16 Taster Day on Tuesday 9th December, where students had the opportunity to explore potential pathways for next year. Whether they tried out A-Level subjects, vocational courses, or alternative options, it was inspiring to see them engaging so thoughtfully with their future ambitions. The feedback from staff was overwhelmingly positive: Year 11 approached the day with curiosity, enthusiasm, and maturity.

Beyond academics, our students have once again demonstrated that they are not only hardworking but also kind, generous, and community-minded young people. Our Christmas concerts have showcased the incredible creative talent within the year group - beautiful music, confident performances, and teamwork that reflects months of dedication.

Just as heartening has been the effort students have put into donating to the local foodbank, helping support families in our local community during what can be a difficult time of year. The generosity shown has been truly moving and reflects the values we strive to nurture in all our young people.

So, to the students of Year 11, I want to end with a simple message: thank you. Thank you for your determination, your positivity, and the way you continue to make our school proud. This half-term has proven once again what wonderful students you are, and I am excited to see what you will achieve in the new year. Have a restful break, and I look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

Ellis Hawkey - Head of Year 11



SAVE THE DATE CAREERS EVENING

An evening for students in
Years 9, 10 & 11 and their parents/carers.

Discuss careers ideas with up to
30 businesses/training providers.

Tuesday 13th January 2026
(Further details to follow in January.)
4pm - 5.45pm
North Site Hall





Ask the Experts 3: University



An event for students interested in going to university after their Post 16 courses. Former Helston Community College student Josh Thomas will be visiting to answer any questions related to applying to university, tips for students, and information about his BSc Politics, Philosophy and Economics degree which he is studying at the London School of Economics.



Friday 9th January 2025



1.45pm – 2.15pm



Post 16 Building



Open to students in Years 10 - 13

Places are limited. Scan the QR code to add your name and secure a place at this event.

Speak to Mr Woolcock for more details.

Ask the Experts: University. Friday 9th January 1.45-2.15pm, Post 16 Centre.



Ask the Experts 4: Hospitality



An event for students interested in learning more about careers in the hospitality sector Terri Felton-Munday will be visiting to answer your questions.

Places are limited. Scan the QR code to add your name and secure a place at this event. Speak to Mr Woolcock for more details.



Monday 19th January 2025



1.45pm – 2.15pm



Post 16 Building



Open to students in Years 10 - 13

Hospitality Careers could include the following options:

Baker, Bar person, Butcher, Chef, DJ, Events Manager, Hotel Manager, Restaurant Manager, Tour Guide, Wedding Planner, Cruise Ship Entertainer (and much more!)

Ask the Experts: Hospitality. Monday 19th January 1.45-2.15pm, Post 16 Centre.




THE BASEMENT

CHRISTMAS

SILENT DISCO

Friday 19 December

YEAR GROUP 7-9		YEAR GROUP 10-13	
	6:00 - 7:30pm		8:00 - 9:30pm

CALLING ALL YOUNG CARERS!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD?

NHS ENGLAND, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF YOUNG CARERS.

LED BY YOUNG CARERS!

WE ARE HOSTING A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS TO HEAR YOUNG CARER VOICES ON THESE DATES:

16TH DECEMBER 4-5PM & 6-7PM
17TH DECEMBER 6-7PM
6TH JANUARY 4-5PM & 6-7PM

THE INFORMATION WE HEAR WILL HELP MAKE REAL CHANGES TO THE LIVES OF YOUNG CARERS ACROSS ENGLAND.

WE CAN ONLY MAKE CHANGES BY HEARING FROM YOU ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES OF BEING A YOUNG CARER, AND RIGHT NOW WE DON'T KNOW WHO ALL OF THE YOUNG CARERS IN ENGLAND ARE, AND SO NOT EVERYONE IS BEING SUPPORTED.

GET INVOLVED, AND BOOK YOUR SPACE IN A WORKSHOP BY CONTACTING THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

ENGLAND.NHSTHINKCARER@NHS.NET

Do I look like I care?
#NHSThinkCarer

M2

NOT NEW YEAR'S PARTY

SAT 3 JAN

THE BASEMENT

Plus special guests
Under 18's Only > Doors 6pm > Tickets £5

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM COLLEGE

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 £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.

If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further 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 for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period.

Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting

order or prosecution will be considered.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend Court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also 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. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the Government.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines

parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

The Department for Education does not allow Headteachers to grant any leave of absence for children during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you consider that your request for absence is exceptional, please complete the form on the College website.

<https://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/web/attendance/672277>

A response from the school will be sent to you as soon as possible. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

ATTENDANCE

I know you have had a number of messages about the importance of attendance over the academic year. However, we just want to reiterate what the impact of being in school every day has on students. The data is really clear - students with high attendance (95%+) on average achieve more than those with low attendance. This is not just the case with assessments and exams, but also in respect of the wider aspects of school life, such as developing social skills and friendships; being involved in leadership roles or extra-curricular activities.

We do, of course, understand that everyone gets ill at times, but when illness is minor, we do expect students to be resilient and make every effort to come in. If they are too unwell to remain in school, they can be sent home. Being resilient is an important part of growing up and an important part of life generally. Please do support us in trying to develop this in the students.

As you know, we are unable to authorise term-time holidays. We can do so in exceptional circumstances; however these really are very rare. The direction and guidance from the government is very clear so please be prepared to receive a penalty notice should you choose to take your child out of school during term.

We run a tiered approach to supporting students' attendance. If attendance starts to become a concern, the student will be placed at tier 1 and you will be notified in writing. This is a supportive measure to see if there is anything we can do to improve the situation. However, should the attendance continue to decline, then a student will be placed on tier 2, where a Pupil Support Plan will be drawn up in collaboration with parents/carers. If all support options have been exhausted and are not successful, then the Education Welfare Officer will take on the case.

We know that every situation is different and there are genuine reasons for absence. We really do want to work with families to help when attendance declines. Please take this as it is meant - we simply want to work together with you to ensure the students in our care get the best out of school, by being in as much as possible.

