

The Helstonian

March 2024

HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE



In this issue: Student of the Month • Praise Points • Sport • Forbidden Planet • Lego League Challenge

10

ASPIRATION • AMBITION • ACHIEVEMENT



LETTER FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of the College

I had the absolute pleasure of attending the final night's performance of Return to the Forbidden Planet earlier this month. A full house was treated to some outstanding singing, acting and dancing. As always, the band was phenomenal too. Followed closely by the Christmas concert, it has to be my favourite two hours of the year so far. To see so many students involved in what was simply an incredible performance made me very proud. Congratulations and thanks to Ms Spink, Mr King and Ms Richardson for their amazing direction. If you weren't able to see it, there are some photos inside to give you a flavour of the whole experience. Alongside the photos is a great article about the importance and value of studying drama at school.

Also in this edition, we celebrate success in the world of sport, technology, art and even in the court rooms. As always, individual students are recognised for their attitudes and contributions to school life. It's a great read and I hope you enjoy it.

I'm always impressed with how well so many students show such kindness to others. This is seen on many levels, from holding doors open and helping out in the classroom to comforting friends and fundraising for charities. Having a positive impact on others is such a great thing. As you'll see inside, there are a number of fundraising events that have taken place or planned for next term. If you can attend any of them or contribute in any way, the students would be grateful for your support. It's worth noting that we have issued over 17,000 praise

points to students either in class or via their consequence cards for acts of kindness and being a good citizen. Long may this continue.

Talking of praise points, because so many students have already achieved their Gold, Platinum and even Diamond Awards already, I met with our first seven Diamond Award winners earlier this term to decide on an extra award to give them something else to aim for. Between us, we decided that 500 praise points would be the next target and this would be called the Emerald Award. Looking at the praise point leaderboards, it is clear to see that that target will be smashed very soon too!

May I finish by saying a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your on-going support. We wish you a wonderful Easter.

With best wishes,

Alex Lingard

Head Teacher



HELSTON/COMMUNITY COLL

Our newly formed PTFA are planning a Summer Fayre for the community in June.



If you are interested in helping out with the planning or just on the day, please email: dbenny@helston.tpacademytrust.org

Dee Benny - Chair • Hollie Shannon - Treasurer • Ruth Styles - Vice Treasurer Sarah Shannon - Secretary

IMPORTANT NOTICES • IMPORTANT NOTICES • IMPORTANT NOTICES •

EOUIPMENT

Thank you for your support in encouraging students to have the right equipment. Please can you use the Easter break to ensure your child is stocked up ready for the Summer term with the following: a pencil case containing a black pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler, a pencil sharpener and eraser. Students in Year 7-9 need a reading book every day, and Year 11 students must have a calculator and a Maths kit.

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, but not before 8.00am.

JUMPERS, HOODIES AND SOCKS

Just a reminder that students are not allowed to wear hoodies to College. 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. Jewellery should be kept to 1 pair of stud earrings and 1 nose stud. No rings, bracelets or necklaces are allowed.

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.

HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S FUNDRAISER FOR RNLI



College are taking on a two-day challenge to travel 70 miles from Godrevy to Porthleven visiting each RNLI station on the way. Staff are completing the challenge by various modes of transport: swim, SUP, canoe, kayak, run or walk the coastal footpath, or cycle the coastal road.

We hope that students will join in the challenge by completing designated sections of the route. They are also completing an online challenge related to RNLI and living around the coast.

The challenge is planned to take place on 13 and 14 July, just before the end of term. If you would like to donate please do so via the following link:



HTTP://TINYURL.COM/HCC-CHALLENGE24



Purchase tickets by Scanning the QR Code:



or click on this link

Auction/Raffle includes:

Free MOT & Car Service
Golf Course 4 Ball Voucher
Family Leisure Vouchers, Minack Theatre Tickets
Sailing Trust Pay & Play Voucher, Food hampers
Cream Tea Vouchers at local hotels
Entry to the Cornish Seal Sanctuary, Jewellery
Travel Voucher, Fish and Chips, Lunch for 2
Hair products and many more exciting treats.

£60 per ticket For a Table of 6

Price includes, pizza, chips and a soft drink.

Any questions, please email: mmugford@helston.tpacademytrust.org or telephone 01326 572685

Take the challenge at our Quiz night, bid on our Auction, be a Raffle winner and enjoy some food with friends, family and work colleagues.

LANTERN MAKING

Five students from Year 8 had the opportunity to make lanterns for St Piran's Day with the help of local Artist Amanda Lorens.

The students were inspired by the buildings and architecture of Helston. Well done to:

Alfie Bishop Ava Booth Alex Herdman Zach Jenkinson Charlie Martin

kernow bis viken!







ART LAB 2024

A group of students from Years 8-10 took part in an extended art project. They were lucky to be able to spend 5 weeks developing their ideas and art work which cumulated in seeing their work in the metaverse.

Arts Lab is a creative wellbeing programme by and for young people in Cornwall, delivered by HeadStart Kernow, FEAST and Arts Well.

Arts Lab's main aspiration is to nurture the positive wellbeing of young people through a programme of creative activity that invites them to shape their involvement and engage with their wider communities.

Students worked on character development and literary workshop with consideration to world building. Focusing on nonsense as a genre, embracing a lateral, physical and onomatopoeic approach to creation, exploring creative boundaries.

Students exhibited their work within a virtual reality gallery space. The students had such a fantastic time, and gained so much from the experience. Many thanks to visual artist Jenny Haywood and to Mr Worthington for helping to run the sessions.





INTERACT CLUB - EASTER BINGO SUCCESS

What a brilliant night!

Our amazing Interact Club hosted an Easter Bingo Night to raise funds for The Merlin Centre.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the event. We had over 60 keen Bingo players and raised almost £500 for the charity.

Interact Club are supported by Helston Rotary Club, working together to raise funds for local charities.

















LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

The College proudly celebrated LGBT+ History Month in February in lots of colourful ways.

Over a packed week of events the students were invited to enter the Create your Drag Persona competition; the Colourful Cake competition, make fabulous badges and wear rainbow accessories to college. The winners won Amazon youchers.

All of these events were also a celebration of the College being awarded the coveted national **Rainbow Flag Award** on February 1st! This means that the College is a safe, supportive and inclusive space for our LGBT+ students.

Yummy Colourful Cake slices were sold to some very happy students, and £16 was also raised for the **Intercom Trust** charity, who support the LGBT+ Pride group at College.















Free School Meals - Information

Everyday over 8,000 students in Cornwall receive free school meals but there are definitely more students who could be eligible.

The easiest and quickest way to apply for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium is online.

Please make sure that you have checked the eligibility criteria below before applying.

If you are unable to apply online, please call the Free School Meals team on 01872 323298. A member of the team will call you back to complete the application over the phone. Please make sure your phone will accept calls from a private/withheld number.

The Free School Meals team will check your eligibility with HM Revenue and Customs, The Home Office and the Department of Work and Pensions.

They will email or write to you to let you know the outcome of your application. If you are eligible, they will give you the date your child's free school meals will start. They will also notify the College.

Telephone enquiries: 01872 323298

Email address: schoolmeals@cornwall.gov.uk

Details of the students who receive Free School Meals are always kept completely confidential by both Cornwall's Children's Service Authority and the School.

APPLY ONLINE HERE

Who qualifies?

To qualify for Free School Meals the parent or guardian of the child should be in receipt of one the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit if you apply on or after 1
 April 2018 your household income must be
 less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not
 including any benefits you get)

If you are claiming the benefits listed below you are not eligible for free school meals. This is regardless of what other benefits/credits are being claimed.

- Working Tax Credit
- Contribution-Based Job Seeker's Allowance and/or Contribution-Based Employment and Support Allowance



WISER FUTURES

On Friday 1 March 2024, Year 11 students all took part in a 'Wiser Futures' assembly. This workshop aimed to raise students' awareness of apprenticeships and provided them with an insight into how to apply for an apprenticeship. There was also an opportunity for students to ask questions. If students would like further support with applying for an apprenticeship please see Mrs Mugford for an appointment.



HELSTON DAY NURSERY

We hold a regular Science Club for the pre-schoolers attending Helston Day Nursery.

As it was British Science Week (11-15 March) the Club investigated magnets to see what properties they have. We made fish for magnetic fishing - to promote fine motor skills and fun learning together. We also did magnetic faces, sticky leaves and used some magnet putty, plus testing for magnetic metals. Lots of fun was had by all!









Helston hosted Cornwall's Inaugural Cyber Investigators Event thanks to GCHQ.

Helston took centre stage as it became the proud host of the first ever Cyber Investigators event in Cornwall. Thanks to the support of GCHQ, the event took place on the Monday 11 March, captivating students and showcasing the critical importance of cyber security in our everyday lives.

In our increasingly digital world, cyber security stands as a paramount concern, safeguarding aspects of daily life such as music streaming and online banking. The National Cyber Security Centre, a programme facilitated by GCHQ, aims to make cyber security accessible and engaging for all.

Ten Helston students from Year 8/9, alongside an equal number from the four neighbouring secondary schools, assumed the roles of cyber sleuths for the day. Working as a cohesive team, they were part of a fictitious app company, Sirius Cyberworks. Their mission was to crack codes, solve puzzles, and unravel a network breach mystery involving a leaked flagship app.

The event provided a hands-on experience, enabling students to

glean valuable insights and acquire essential cyber skills. Attendees were privileged to hear talks from industry professionals and inspiring guest speakers, further enriching their knowledge. The culmination of the day saw students form teams, competing against each other to solve a series of challenges, effectively demonstrating their newly acquired knowledge and skills.

Helston proved its mettle as its teams secured second and third places out of ten teams of five. The event proved to be a thrilling experience for all participants, fostering an understanding of cyber security and instilling a sense of responsibility in safeguarding our digital domains.

The success of Cornwall's first Cyber Investigators day marks a significant milestone in nurturing the next generation of cyber specialists. With events such as this, young minds are inspired to actively engage with and comprehend the intricacies of cyber security, ensuring a safer and more protected digital landscape for all.

Well done to the students whose conduct was exemplary throughout the day: Dylan M, Lewis W, Merryn B, Sophie T, Willow F, Austin M, Frankie K, layden D, Isabel G and Florence S.







HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Year 7 Hockey Team competed in the County Tournament at Truro School on Tuesday 5 March. The girls demonstrated excellent teamwork and fantastic sportsmanship. They all worked hard to win several matches and finished 3rd in their group.

A special mention to Tori and Megan who were voted players of the tournament by their team mates. Well Done!



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday 12 March, Helston U15 girls competed in a Football Tournament at Falmouth School. The girls played with composure and flair and managed to score twelve goals during the group stage and concede only one! Unfortunately, in the semi final they came up against the eventual tournament winners and weren't able to continue their winning streak however they did finish on a high by winning their final game 5-0, all goals coming from player of the tournament Krystal! The team finished in 3rd place overall and will wait for confirmation to continue in the next stage of the competition.





TABLE CRICKET

Last month, a squad of year 7 students took part in the Cornish Table cricket tournament against other schools from the County. Our team of 7 representing the college won in style and Mr Lingard presented the shield to the proud winners this week.

The squad are travelling to Exeter University to compete in the regional finals on the 22nd of April. We wish them good luck and hopefully they will be bringing home the regional trophy next.

YEARS 7 AND 8 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Well done to the Year 8 girls football team who played at the Biggest Ever Football session at Penryn College as a celebration of International Women's Day.

Well done also to the Year 7 girls team who came 3rd in the Cornwall School Games football competition. The girls demonstrated excellent

teamwork in extremely windy conditions and had a number of great wins over the course of the day.





U13'S COUNTY NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to our Year 8 girls who took part in the U13's County Netball Tournament at Poltair School. Overall, the girls finished 12th out of 24 schools. They demonstrated excellent teamwork skills and sportsmanship across the day. They should all be very proud of their performance. Well done!





THE ARNOLD SPORTS FESTIVAL UK!

McKenzie competed in the Arnold Sports Festival in Birmingham on 15-17th March. The event was held over 3 days and its founder Arnold Schwarzenegger was there for the duration.

McKenzie competed in 4 categories, winning 3 out of the 4 and coming second in the last advanced category. McKenzie fought girls older, heavier and more experienced than her in the Open Weight Grand Slam and won which was an amazing achievement.

Her coach Andrew Dudley from Byrne Black Belt Academy has done wonders and has got McKenzie where she is. She has only been competing for 2 years and has come a long way in such a short time.

Her team came 3rd in the whole event beating competitors from all over the world. McKenzie came home with 3 Gold medals, 1 Silver medal, 2 Belts and some prize money! Well done!











For all of those who aren't dancing on Flora Day here is an opportunity to get involved by making lots of NOISE and being daft!



Join us in the WORLD FAMOUS Hal-An-Tow

As part of Flora Day 2024!

The `Hal-an-Tow` Pageant is an integral part of the Flora Day celebrations.

Starting at around 8am at St John`s, the revellers make their way around the town to designated points to perform the ritual.

From Robin Hood and Little John, St George & the Dragon, St Michael & the Devil to the Spaniards of Mousehole,

All re-enact the battles of `good defeating evil 'to `drive out the old and welcome in the new`.

See Mr Parker or Mx Marsden for more details!

We need people to play **ANY instrument** – **strings, brass, woodwind** etc. We also have **drums, bells and whistles** for those who are just enthusiastic and want to join in and **make some noise!**

There are ONLY <u>TWO rehearsals at the College</u> on <u>Tuesdays 16th and 23rd of April</u> in <u>M1</u>

And THREE rehearsals in Helston on

Mondays 15th, 22^{nd (optional)}, 29th April and 6th May – not optional ALL at 7.30pm at the Bowling Green (behind the monument) or the Methodist Chapel if it's raining.

LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE DAY





On Thursday 14 March, a group of eleven enthusiastic Years 7 and 9 students went to RNAS Culdrose for the 2nd Lego League Challenge Day. Organized by our teachers, Mr van der Lem, Mr Birkett, and Mr Worthington, this trip aimed to showcase how STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) can spark creativity and intersect with Art.

Throughout the year, our students diligently worked on constructing and coding a Lego robot to tackle various challenges. The theme of the competition emphasized the connection between STEM and Art, highlighting the innovative ways in which technology can merge with creative expression.

Despite encountering a setback when the laptop used to code our robot unexpectedly ran out of battery during a critical moment, our students demonstrated remarkable resilience. They quickly adapted, showcasing their problem-solving skills and determination to overcome obstacles, ultimately persevering through the challenge.

During the event, our students were captivated by the array of STEM exhibitions, which offered engaging insights into cutting-edge technologies and their applications. From interactive displays to handson demonstrations, the experience broadened their understanding of STEM concepts while igniting their curiosity for future exploration.

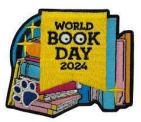
curiosity for future exploration. One of the standout aspects of the trip was witnessing the exceptional teamwork displayed by our students. effectively, Collaborating leveraged each other's strengths, communicated seamlessly, supported one another throughout the competition. This collaborative spirit not only enhanced their performance but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect among the team members. Furthermore, the trip provided a unique opportunity for our students to learn about the role of technology within the Navy. Engaging with professionals in the field, they gained valuable insights into the practical applications of STEM disciplines in real-world scenarios, inspiring them to consider future career paths in related fields.

In conclusion, the trip to RNAS Culdrose was an enriching and rewarding experience for our students. As we look forward to future





HELSTONIAN NEWS LUCIONAL DE LA CONTROL DE L



The Library celebrated World Book Day with banners, displays and most importantly handed out over 1,000 book vouchers to students; even Eeyore made an appearance! Remember the vouchers are valid until 31st March and can be exchanged for a free World Book Day book, or

reduce the cost of buying a book by £1 (one voucher per book); please see the Librarians if you haven't received one.

We also had the pleasure of inviting Helston Day Nursery to the College Library for a special story time. The children enjoyed listening and joined in to the stories, particularly 'Aliens Love Underpants'! At the end of their visit they were given a free World Book Day book, some pants and



alien masks to colour back at the Day Nursery. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and will be repeated soon.



We are pleased to announce the Library student of the month is:

Ethan W

Ethan greets the Library each morning with a smile, he is kind to anyone he meets and is helpful to anyone in need of aid. Keep it up Ethan, you are a star!

To complement our reading pods, we now have a couple of bean bags for students to relax and enjoy the Library space.

Watch out for future fundraising events to help us get some more!



Over 45 new books have landed on the Library shelves this month, as well as 20 new audio & eBooks.

Please visit the Library website where you can reserve books, borrow audio/eBooks, write reviews and get links to homework resources through our 'Dashboard' links.



Students can login using:

Login with school details

Book Club Magazine

We are showcasing monthly book magazines (available from the library)

- Find out more about the books you love.
- Enter competitions.
- Download activities and games.
- Buy books and earn free books for your school.
- The best children's books at great prices.
- Free delivery to your school.





SPONSORED BY





HELSTON

HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Saturday 20th April



START AT 10-30 - 12.30

If you wish to come along there is a £25 donation, which helps to keep the charity running. For this you will get a box filled with groceries, to include:

Tea or coffee Sugar Pasta or rice A selection of tins A large bag with a selection of crisps A bag of frozen items A bag of fresh fruit and vegetables A bag of pasties or pies





HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRODUCTION

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET!

This year's College production was 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' – a musical set in space loosely based on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' full of classic rock 'n' roll songs from the '50s and '60s.

Rehearsals started in September involving students from all year groups. The staff of the Creative Arts faculty were amazing; band and singing rehearsals, making props, photography, costumes, lighting design and operation and painting the fabulous backdrop.

Staff also helped with Front of House, the Box Office, backstage supervision and Helen Hearne arranged some super space-themed refreshments for the intervals!

We are so proud of all the students who took part. Over 50 students were involved as actors, in the band and backstage crew. Their commitment, dedication, enthusiasm, energy and talent completely blew us away. The dialogue incorporated a lot of Shakespearean lines

at times – no mean feat to deliver and complex songs both to sing and play. The Damage Control Crew had multiple dances to learn and perform too.

The students have made lots of new friends as well as building their confidence and honing excellent performance skills, not just acting but some fabulous singing and dancing too. Here are some photos of rehearsals, the dress rehearsal and backstage:



The value of drama for students in Key Stage 3

Trinity College London's UK Drama Subject Expert, Sue Clarke, explores why investing in Key Stage 3 will pay dividends; igniting students' passion for drama pre-GCSEs and bolstering longer-term commitment and engagement.

'The opportunity to study drama is a gift I wish all children could have.'

Elise Chambers, Head of Speech and Drama, Dauntsey's School

Drama has often been misunderstood and labelled as a 'soft' subject by schools and parents. This reputation has encouraged drama teachers to work diligently in demonstrating the worth of their subject to students, parents and school leadership. Without effective advocacy, many drama departments are at risk of budget and curriculum cuts or worse, being removed as a GCSE subject altogether. However, drama holds tremendous value for students, especially those in Key Stage 3 (KS3), by playing a pivotal role in shaping young minds, building essential life skills and contributing to a holistic educational experience.

'Drama is an escape from the grades-driven world. It is an opportunity to play, which is important on a human level.'

Sasha Oakley, Trinity Drama Teacher, Walthamstow Hall School

What is the value of drama for students at KS3?

At Key Stage 3, studying drama is an invaluable experience for students; it nurtures every aspect of a student's growth, including their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Through drama lessons, students are encouraged to express themselves freely and develop empathy for others.

At a time when many schools are undergoing significant transformations in their approach, with a growing emphasis on prioritising the well-being of their students and staff, it's crucial to consider how this shift can benefit younger students, including those at Key Stage 3 (KS3). Creative outlets such as drama and dance are increasingly recognised as essential tools for fostering healthy teacher-student relationships. Teachers have told us that this emphasis on well-being and creative expression is particularly important for certain groups, such as for students who may lack direct family support. Younger students may experience the positive effects of these changes more acutely, making them even more relevant in the context of KS3 education.

Drama is, of course, an academic subject. Beyond its artistic and expressive aspects, the academic value of drama is often overlooked, however analytical and reflective skills are required to examine scripts and study characters in detail, while narrative skills are honed in devising stories and plays. Drama can also enrich and strengthen other core subjects such as English and History, where it contributes to students understanding of texts. Additionally, drama graded assessments at KS3 provide a good opportunity to prepare students for GCSE study, by familiarising students with a formal examination process through a subject they find enjoyable and motivating.

Drama develops confidence that sets students up for life

The drama studio is a space where students learn to communicate clearly and collaborate effectively with others in a safe environment. Studying Drama and the wider performing arts not only cultivates valuable transferrable skills but also empowers students to be active learners, who are able to confidently vocalise their thoughts and opinions.



What is the value of drama in the 'real world'?

Drama is an essential subject for students to explore their creativity and develop crucial life skills such as leadership, taking direction and problem-solving. However, the value of prioritising the teaching of drama techniques in school extends beyond this, as it prepares students for the 'real world' in many other ways.



North Site Hall

BINGO



ALL PROCEEDS

RAISED

GOING TO

SHELTERBOX

SHELTERBOX 19th APRIL

£5 entry 18:00-19:30
Includes 3 games
and refreshments

Prizes available-Cornish tractor socks Free dog styling Gate theatre tickets £10 craft shop gift voucher £10 Tesco voucher And many more!!

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В	1	N	G	0
1	16	40	47	72
12	18		50	74
	22		46	64
8	17	32		68
6	28	37	54	61

Eyes down at 18:15

Sign up ooo

BONUS ROUND- £5
Bonus game for A One
night hotel Stay at
Watergate Bay Hotel!!!!

POST 16 ART - SPIRITUALITY THEMED UNIT

Last week the Year 12 BTEC and A level students took another trip into Helston, this time looking for inspiration for their 'Spirituality' - themed unit. They spent time drawing in the beautiful and peaceful St Michaels Church.

Here are Hattie Moss's lovely drawings:







We then walked to the brilliant Museum of Cornish Life where students drew a range of both pagan and religious artefacts, and enjoyed some free snacks!



Here are some of them deep in concentration:

Finally, we all had a screening of Grace Ndiritu's film at CAST on Penrose Road. The film explores themes of contemporary issues of ecological crisis, migration, colonialism, pandemics and deep time, and was enjoyed by all.





TRURO MAGISTRATES COURT · MOCK TRIALS COMPETITION

On Friday 8 March, 13 students from Helston Community College, travelled to Truro Magistrates Court to take part in the annual Mock Trials Competition. Students had been preparing for over 6 months for the case. We had students who took on roles as lawyers, witnesses, magistrates, a legal advisor and an usher. All of the students performed to a brilliant standard on the day, and although they did not win, I could not be prouder of what they have achieved. We are already planning for the next event in 2025. Mrs Mugford

If anyone wants to join the team for next year, please see Mrs Mugford! The following information is what students thought about this unique experience.

OLIVIA - PROSECUTION LAWYER

I thought that this was an amazing experience. I'm sure everyone agrees that we had a great time, and I am so glad that courts can offer opportunities like this, as I believe many children, like me, who aspire to become lawyers will benefit a lot from it.

ISABELLE - MAGISTRATE

We were all a bit nervous since, for most of us, it was our first time, but all of us walked away hoping to come back again next year. I felt so intimidated when I had to share my opinions with the other magistrates . I did not know what to say. By the time we got to the second mock court case I felt more comfortable with my position as a magistrate.



AMY - DEFENCE WITNESS

After around 6 months preparing, we were all feeling the pressure and excitement on the morning of the trial. The trial felt real and the questions from both sides were very good. Even though everyone was scared, the other schools were very friendly. Although we didn't win, I walked out feeling very proud of myself and my friends.

MATILDA - MAGISTRATE

Although I felt nervous because it was my first time, I really enjoyed the experience and I would like to do it next year. I am proud of what I have done. When we walked in, we were all excited and scared, but after we got started and got into our roles we relaxed. The court experience was definitely fun, but intimidating. Although we didn't win we all tried our very best and we are very proud of ourselves.



a letter from America!.....

SUSAN COOPER

19 March 2024

Dear Amy, Darcy, Isobel, Logan, Nico and Treeve,

Thank you very much for your letters. I'm glad you're enjoying my book King of Shadows. Amy asked why! wrote it, and I think it was because inventing Nat gave me the chance to meet Shakespeare. If all always wondered what he was jim was too history really doesn't tell us much about him, and he wrote some rody amazing plays. If you ever have the chance to see one of them acted on a stage, please go, I promise you it won't be boring.

To answer your other questions:

I don't really have a favourite book, but The Wind in the Willows comes

I've been writing for a long long time, more than sixty years, and I haven't sd yet.....If you go to "About Susan" at my website thelostland.com you'll me more answers about writing.

Favourite food? Fish and chips and Christmas pudding - but not together!

And I'm not allowed to send you any American sweets, I'm afraid, but no, I don't have any favourites. The Americans don't make anything as good as Kit Kats or Maltseers.

It's really nice to hear from Helston. Til think of you all in May - I stole the Furry Dance for a book called Oper Sea, Unider Stone, and put it in a town called Trewissick (modelled on Mevagissey, where my brother and I sayed often as kids.) And I wish I knew how finger knit or to ride a dirt bike - but we do have a lot of Lego in this house, for my grandchildren!

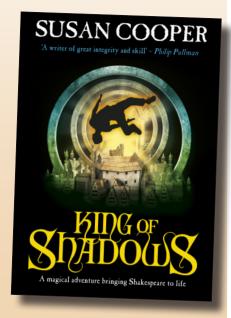
Link thanks and all best wisher,

Year 7 **Mrs Bloor's English class**

Last term we enjoyed reading 'King of Shadows' by Susan Cooper.

"Nathan Field, a talented young actor, arrives at the newly rebuilt Globe Theatre in London to play Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream. As rehearsals begin, eerie echoes of the past begin to haunt Nat, and he falls sick with a mysterious sickness."

The students enjoyed the book so much that we decided to write to the author. We posted our letter to the USA a few weeks ago and were delighted to receive a personal reply. The students were thrilled to receive this and a personalised bookmark -it has really added to our reading enjoyment this term.



Term-Time 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 you believe your circumstances are exceptional. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from College, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

At Helston Community College we consider 'Good' attendance to be 97% and above. A student with between 93% and 97% is considered to be a regular attender. The Government classifies less than 90% as 'persistently absent'.

If your child is absent from College 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

April

15 Back to College 8.45am 15 Year 8 Assessments start 29 Year 7 Assessments start 30Year 10 Parent/Teacher Consultations, 4.30pm start

May

3 .. Exams Start (Year 11 and Post 16) 6May Day Bank Holiday 8 Flora Day (College Closed) 24...Break up for half term 3.15pm

2024-25 Term Dates are available to view on the College website.

Praise Points



Leaderboard



Pear 7

Aaron I	7F	384
Theo C	7B	372
Joeli T	7C	327
Polly R	7H	321
Jude N	7D	299
Olivia E	7G	295
Callum P	7F	293
Thomas H	7C	290
Noah H	7B	281
Ollie H	7F	279



Pear 10

Miriam M	10B	212
Emma S	10A	210
Andrew D	10C	208
Emily M	10C	206
Josh B	10D	194
Reggie P	10H	186
Liv R	10D	185
Ava J	10C	176
Lacey J	10B	175
Eva W	10 G	173



Pear 8

Aimee B	8H	410
Jen F	8H	385
Lily R	8H	315
Tommy H	8H	310
Archie S	8H	308
Alex H	8F	307
Lexi H	8H	305
Freya G	8H	301
Frederick W	8E	300
Amy J	8H	288



Pear 11

Chloe C	11D	198
Luke P	11F	179
Benjamin P	11H	173
Phoebe J	11D	172
Jenna P	11G	149
Jessica G	11C	146
Emily P	11D	146
Lucy W	11E	145
Alistair S	11G	141
Katie C	11G	139



Pear 9

Isaac A	9D	479
Lucy A	9H	417
Harley W	9B	402
Joe C	9C	327
Tamsin M	9A	304
Amelie M	9G	303
James B	9C	300
Oscar P	9H	293
Anya E	9D	288
Abigail B	9B	278



Pear 12

•		
Liv B	12P9	78
Evie F	12P9	67
Logan H	12P9	65
Ben R	12P9	52
Daniel W	12P9	51
Jessica W	12P2	43
Georgia C	12P2	42
Hattie M	12P9	42



(Praise Points as of 22.03.24) 19



Pear 13

Charlie S	13P3	76
Millie B	13P3	53
Charlotte G	13P4	51
Tabby W	13P5	48
Charlotte B	13P3	46
Callum A	13P3	42
Megan R	13P3	38
Christopher P	13P3	33

STUDENT OF THE MONTH MANCE

Year 7

Louie M

For being so proactive in helping to organise the World Book Day door and bringing in chocolate for the whole tutor

group using his own money. Louie also took the time to create a golden ticket for 7F to find and gave the winner a huge bar of chocolate. A fantastic show of kindness. S Wilton



Year 10

Beth W-R & Miriam M

Nominated by top director, Ms Spink, for their outstanding performances in the school production of Return to the Forbidden Planet. In addition, both Beth and Miriam have an outstanding attitude towards their studies achieving almost 400 praise points between them.



Year 8

Elowenn F

For determination and commitment in the school production. Elowenn has perfect attendance and loads of praise points too! S Richardson



Year 11

Lucy W

Nominated by Ms Hocking for her brilliant attitude towards her Enterprise and Marketing coursework this term giving 100%

effort at all times! Lucy was also nominated by her science teacher, Mr Lingard, for her amazing work ethic and positive outlook.



Year 9

loe C

Always helping out in tutor and reading time, whether that's handing out/collecting books, organising the desks and tables or just generally being a kind and considerate

member of the tutor group. Joe has also recently achieved his Diamond Award and now has well over 300 praise points! L Hesdon



Post 16

Elowen H

For her exemplar politeness in Post 16 and around College, combined with her dedication to her subjects and music.
A great role model to others.





S Morbey S Morbey

A Graham

I Hesdon

S Mullins

SBarnes

E Bragg

JBryce

SGarty A Graham S Morbey A Graham S Mullins **SBarnes** For always trying his best in his Spanish lessons and completing the work to a high standard. **SBarrnes** L Davies S Morbey S Morbey L Hesdon A superb attitude and enthusiasm for English and a great result in this terms assessment. C Bloor Amazing focus and effort in her Science lessons. Demonstrating an excellent work ethic in S Mullins **SBarnes SBarnes** For maintaining his effort and improved behaviour in Spanish over the whole of this term. Excellent preparation for the English assessment & a focused effort during the assessment itself. E Bragg For thorough attention to detail in mock assessment for BTEC Creative Media Production. E Stevenson S Morbey O Jones High level contributions showing him build a schema between RE and other subjects; attending Excellent preparation for the RE assessment & a focused effort during the assessment itself. M Marshall For 100% attendance to senior choir and for being so strong at singing and leading his section. **L** Davies L Davies Excellent preparation for the RE assessment & a focused effort during the assessment itself. M Marshall Excellent preparation for the RE assessment & a focused effort during the assessment itself. M Marshall Excellent preparation for the RE assessment & a focused effort during the assessment itself. M Marshall For excellent organisation and preparation for her external assessment in Creative Media E Stevenson S Morbey O lones O Jones **JBryce SGarty** L Davies L Davies L Davies For stepping in at the last minute and learning a huge amount of dances for the school production. S Richardson LHocking Dedication and consistent work ethic to Business both in the coursework and exam unit. LHocking H Roberts 12 For being so proactive with her music making in and out of college and such a reliable member Issy G of all the ensembles. She's a great role model to all students. 12 For her conscientious approach to all her Geography lessons and work. Cassie P K Ryan 12 Jessica W For her positive attitude in Geology this half term. K Ryan Cody A 12 For his positive attitude and fantastic attendance all year in Construction, and for his success securing an apprenticeship with Howdens Joinery. K Ryan Emily S Being absolutely amazing in the most modest, unassuming way - excellent work! 13 LHocking Chris P 13 Consistent effort in IT project. LHocking Charlotte W 13 For her enthusiasm and consistent work ethic to Photography both in the coursework and exam unit. **BEllis** K Ryan 13 For her conscientious approach to her Geology work and revision. Freya S 13 For his hard work and effort put into his Geography NEA. K Ryan Sam T

MESSAGES FROM OUR DIRECTORS OF KEY STAGE

Head of Year 7

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some important events and activities planned for the upcoming weeks and hopefully some warmer/drier weather thrown into the mix.

The next term promises to be filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences for our Year 7 students. In addition to our regular curriculum, we have planned a variety of events, projects, and initiatives to engage and inspire our students. From Sports Day to Flora Day with an incredible 150 students signed up, there will be ample opportunities for our students to showcase their talents and interests.

We are excited to announce that our annual Activities Week has returned. This week-long event offers our students a range of enriching experiences both in and outside of the classroom. From educational trips to exciting workshops and team-building activities, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. If you require any help with the process, please feel free to contact me.

As we progress through the academic year, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support in ensuring that our Year 7 students are well prepared, presentable, and displaying positive behaviour at College.

Our College uniform reflects our values and plays a significant role in fostering a sense of belonging and pride within our College community. I would like to thank you for your efforts in ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform with pride and adheres to our Uniform Policy. Please continue to support us in maintaining high standards by ensuring that your child's uniform is clean, tidy, and in accordance with our guidelines.

Positive behaviour is essential for creating a conducive learning environment where all students can thrive.

I am grateful for your partnership in reinforcing the importance of respectful and responsible behaviour with your child at home. Encouraging good manners, empathy, and self-discipline will help our students develop into well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to our College community.

To our students participating in

Ramadan, observing Ramadan requires dedication, discipline, and sacrifice, and it is commendable to see our students embracing these values as they engage in fasting, prayer, and acts of charity during this sacred time. Their commitment to their faith reflects maturity and resilience, and I am proud of each student for their devotion.

I hope that the Easter break provides you and your family with a well-deserved opportunity to rest, relax, and enjoy quality time together. Whether you are traveling or staying close to home, I encourage our students to make the most of this time to recharge and prepare for the busy term ahead

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming events or any other aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

jdudley@helston.tpacademytrust.org

Wishing you a joyful Easter break and looking forward to an exciting term ahead!

Warm regards,

Jack Dudley - Head of Year 7 and Transition

Head of Year 8

I hope this message finds you well. We are almost there that's two out of the three terms completed. As we strive towards our final chapter of Year 8, I thought I'd update you on the wonderful things our students have achieved at the start of 2024.

This term has been an overall resounding success for a lot of our students. Your young people continue to show themselves off to their best each and every day. I continue to be impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm shown in lessons and enjoy hearing the discussions around their work. I hope the feedback from our teaching staff at the Parent Teacher Consultation evening in the first spring term was helpful in supporting your child move forward into this half term with a greater understanding of how they can better themselves and continue to achieve well. Another brilliant success this half term is that I have almost ran out of Silver Reward post cards. This highlights the fact that almost the whole year group have achieved over 100 praise points. I know from handing out Award Badges that the vast majority have also completed their Gold Reward challenge and are moving forward towards their Platinum Award. I want to further congratulate the 6 of our year group who currently sit above 300 points - 6 out of the 14 students at the whole College (at the time of writing this)! As a College, we set high expectations and I can only reinforce how well Year 8 are working to meet and maintain these expectations – we are currently 2nd in the College for total points!

The final success story I would like to share is around attendance. As we know, attendance plays a vital role in

being successful at college and into the wider world. A very wise man once said, "Those who attend well, attain well." This half term, Year 8 have simply smashed it. I can't be prouder of the young people in our year group for getting themselves in each and every day. I want to thank the support from home as without you this would be a much harder task. This half term has seen Year 8



as the top attending year group almost each week. Not only have we reduced our persistently absent statistic, but we have also narrowed the gap between our attendance and the current Year 7's. As you may remember, I set the year group the momentous task of 'out attending' Year 7 by the end of the year. At Christmas we were 1.8% away. At the time of writing this, we now sit 0.9% away - we've halved the deficit! 8G nearly brought a tear to the eye of Mr Carpenter, our Attendance Lead, when we found out that they had achieved a perfect week. This means that every member of the tutor group was in every day for every session for a whole week. In the middle of cold and flu season, darker mornings and generally miserable Cornish weather this is simply incredible. Keep it up into the Summer term, where I will be looking for another Tutor Group to achieve this feat.

I hope you all have a restful, safe and enjoyable Easter holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back in a couple weeks.

Jamie Lovelock - Head of Year 8



MESSAGES FROM OUR DIRECTORS OF KEY STAGE

Head of Year 9

The Spring term has passed in what felt like a blink of an eye. I can't believe we have arrived at the Easter holidays already! For our Year 9 students, it has been another busy few weeks full of achievements and success.

The majority of students have now reached their Silver and Gold Praise Point Award milestones, with more Platinum and Diamond Awards being handed out each week. These Awards are something for the students to celebrate and be proud of; to achieve this amount of Praise Points before the Summer term begins is a testament to their hard work, enthusiasm and determination to succeed.

This half term has also seen more trips and visits, including an afternoon at the Hall for Cornwall watching a Royal Shakespeare Company production of Romeo & Juliet, as well as more successes in sporting fixtures. I was lucky enough to be invited to the Interact Club's Easter Bingo night towards the end of term - what a fantastic event, organised entirely by the students, raising approximately £500 for charity!

With GCSE options submitted, we thank you for your patience as we process the students' choices. Options will be confirmed in due course. In the meantime, if you have

any concerns or queries, please get in touch.



The students of Year 9 continue to make me feel immensely proud; they are a wonderful group of young people, and I cannot wait to enter the third and final term with them. Wishing all the students and their families a well-deserved and restful Easter break.

Ellis Hawkey - Head of Year 9



Head of Year 10

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the Easter break along with a spell of drier weather!

There has been a lot going on over the last week with the College Interact Club running a successful Bingo night, Flora Day preparations officially starting and Comic Relief day activities where the College was helping to raise money for so many worthwhile causes. If you would still like to donate please see Comic Relief 2024 (parentpay.com)

In recent assemblies we have highlighted the importance of our human rights, treating everyone as equals and the times when we have to show resilience. We have asked and hope that all Year 10 students treat everyone as equals, so they can overcome hurdles and demonstrate perseverance when needed as we move forward together at the College. I hope you managed to see how fantastic the College Drama and Music Departments' production of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' was. It was a very entertaining show with some outstanding performances by many students. Well done to all students that have contributed to the extracurricular opportunities offered at the College so far this year and I hope many Year 10s will commit to joining their favourite club in the Summer term.

Please could you continue to support your young person in securing a Work Experience place for w/c 15 July. Well done for those who have already had a placement confirmed and returned the appropriate paperwork.

You should have all the necessary 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! This is especially the case now as the Year 10 students are settled and putting in the hard work to reap the rewards in 13 months' time.

Please can you continue to remind your child of our basic expectations (as we do) to attend every lesson, on time, with the right equipment, correct uniform and ready to learn. This sounds quite straight forward for Year 10 students but there are still a small number that choose not to be fully prepared to learn. It gives me great pleasure to help celebrate the increasing number of Year 10 students who are achieving their Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards by reaching a significant number of Praise Points and getting nominated for the students' of the week/month awards. Congratulations to all the recent award winners.

Terry Richardson - Head of Year 10

Enjoy your Easter break.



MESSAGES FROM OUR DIRECTORS OF KEY STAGE

Head of Year 11

With just a short few weeks to go, the students are starting to gear up for exam preparation again. They did a brilliant job for the second mock exams, hopefully benefitting from feedback from the first mocks and also the effort of regularly attending the after school coaching sessions. When the rest of the College has gone home and it is really quiet, there are a good number of committed and hard-working Year 11 students with their subject teachers, aiming to improve their chances of getting a better grade in the Summer exams. I would like to congratulate them for their efforts. Well done also to those students who have already submitted internal assessments, NEA's and other coursework. For them a large proportion of their final grade has been achieved. A plea for Year 11 parents/carers: please can you ensure that your child has their exam pack (this can be purchased on Parent Pay). Students need a calculator and Maths kit too. One of our exams was delayed by a staggering 12 minutes just handing out equipment. Let's get them in to exams prepared, stress free and ready to do their best. Many thanks in advance.

Students need to rest over the break and build themselves up ready for the final GCSE exams. However, they still need to revise. I would be looking for them to be doing so every day. Quality is better than quantity and students should be mindful to have regular rests. We are running some Easter revision sessions. You will find the link on the College website under latest news. These sessions will help guide them as to where to place

their attention and will provide some structure to the break.

On Red Nose Day the Year Group engaged in some additional fundraising partly for the Charity and partly for their Summer ball. We will use this money to add some nice little extras to the evening. They managed to raise £64.79 for Comic Relief.

In addition, we have lots of lovely vintage dresses and suits at a bargain £20. Most of the suits have matching ties and shirts. They need to see me if they are interested. Students need to book their Ball food choices on the form provided by Mrs Mullins, this is an on-line form. The Year Book is in production and will cost £17. I will add that to Parent Pay



after the Easter break. There will be lots of fond memories within. I am a bit short on Flora Day photos from the past. If you have any from their time at Helston, would you be able to send them to me on the following email: **sbarnes@helston.tpacademytrust.org**

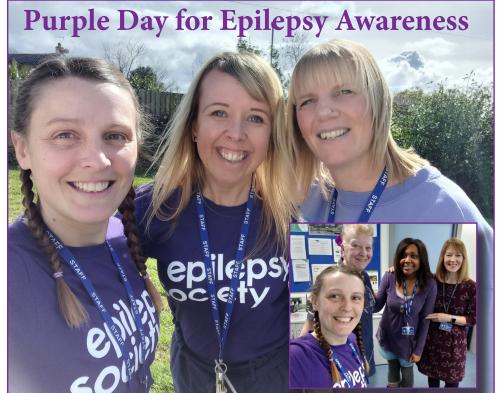
It would be particularly lovely to have photos of couples or groups who have danced together for some time. I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter. I look forward to this final time with the Year Group. There is lots to enjoy. If you have any concerns at all, please let me know. My email is above.

Siobhan Barnes - Head of Year 11













Seb's Fundraiser: Plymouth Half Marathon 2024 Raising funds for Ezrah's

Legacy

Date: April 28 2024 Location: Plymouth

I'm running the Plymouth Half Marathon in April for Ezrah Pollard's Legacy. It's a 13.1 mile circular route around the city of Plymouth and its famous coastline, funds raised will go to Bristol Children's Hospital.



All proceeds of the run go toward the PICU (intensive care) where ventilators are urgently needed to help treat and save children requiring life saving treatment. Funds raised are in memory of HCC English Teacher Sarah Doolin's son, Ezrah Pollard.

If you would like to donate, please us the QR code to access the fundraising page:



Plymouth's

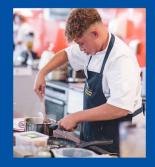
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South West Junior Chef of the Year 2024













Your chance to win the Junior Chef title in your county and compete for the overall South West Junior Chef of the Year 2024

Entries are open to cooks aged 11-16. Simply send us your recipe for a main course dish to serve two, using principally locally grown and produced ingredients.

Selected entrants will be invited to prepare their dish in 90 minutes for our judges in their own county initially and each of the county winners will then compete at the South West final in October. To help finalists to prepare for the South West final, they will receive advice and mentoring from one of our judges, enabling them to learn new skills and experience life in a working kitchen.

You will find further details and the entry form at www.southwestchef.co.uk/the-competition/junior-chef

County finals

Wiltshire

Monday 17th June, Wilsthire College, Trowbridge

Monday 24th June, Weymouth College

Somerset

Tuesday 25th June, Bridgwater & Taunton College, Taunton

Wednesday 26th June, Exeter College

Friday 28th June, Cornwall College, Camborne

Gloucestershire

Wednesday 3rd July, Gloucestershire College, Cheltenham

Entry closing date: Tuesday 21st May 2024

The South West Junior Chef final will be held at Exeter College, Devon, on Saturday 5th October 2024 Competitors must be aged 11-16 and still at school in year 11 or below on the date of the South West final

Thanks to our partnership with Springboard FutureChef, our South West finalists will be invited to take part in the FutureChef regional final to compete for a place in the national final



For more information and to submit your entry visit: www.southwestchef.co.uk

Email: info@southwestchef.co.uk Tel: 07970 518756











CLOTHED LIFE DRAWING FOR 11-16 YEAR OLDS

Time: 5 - 6pm

Date: from Thursday 18 April

Every Thursday during term-time

Generously funded by

Taylor Money. Wealth Management Book your place online or call the team on the number below! 01736 797 180

schoolofpainting.co.uk/young-artists



