

Newsletter May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been lovely this half term, watching the green shoots of recovery growing in our school community. Many students have participated in workshops, trips, sporting activities and enrichment opportunities. The days of 'Bubbles' and social distancing seem to be being left behind at last.

I'd like to congratulate the whole school community on working so hard to catch up, not just subject content, but also by embracing the wider curriculum offer.

Now it's time to look forward to our school production, Enrichment Week and Sports Day!

Enjoy the half term break and the Jubilee celebrations.

With all good wishes,

Kate Littledyke



Below are some dates for your diary when we return:

Monday 6th June: Friday 1st July: Friday 1st July: Wednesday 13th July – Friday 15th July: Monday 18th July - Friday 22nd July: Friday 22nd July: First day of term School closed – Inset Day Year 11 Prom School Production - Matilda Work Experience/Curriculum Enrichment Week Last day of term

Presentation matters

In our continued efforts to ensure all students engage in purposeful learning, we have introduced 'Presentation Matters', which shows how to lay work out in exercise books. We want all students' work to be completed to the best of their ability, as this is an important life skill and shows that students are taking pride in their learning. We've already seen a marked improvement in the quality of the work students are producing; they have really risen to the challenge. Well done!



The exam season has begun. Congratulations and well done to those sitting the exams for their impeccable behaviour and preparation. A big thank you to the rest of the school community for respecting the signs and systems in place. The following links provide advice and support for parents and young people around exam stress. The strategies can also be applied for any form of stress.

- Place2Be free resources for students, parents and carers
- YoungMinds tips and advice for pupils on coping with exam stress
- Mind 14 ways to beat exam stress
- Samaritans a coping planner, slides and classroom activities
- <u>Children and Families Policy Research Unit at UCL How I cope: a young person's guide,</u> <u>available as a PDF poster and as nine short animated films</u>

Pre-loved uniform

Wednesday 4th May saw the opening of our first pre-loved uniform shop.

We recognise that the current financial pressures on families can be hard and want to do what we can as a school to help support our families. We expect to be able to distribute all parts of our uniform (from blazers to PE kits; from shirts to football boots). **Items will be free of charge.**

The pre-loved uniform shop cannot survive without uniform donations. If you have any good, clean uniform that you would be happy to donate, please drop this into Main Reception. Please ensure all clothing items are laundered and try to remove name labels prior to donating.

Lost Property: School does not have the space to keep lost property for long periods of time so towards the end of each term, any un-named, uncollected lost property will be removed, washed, ironed and added to the Prel-oved Uniform stock.

Our Pre- Loved uniform shop will be open on the following dates.

8th June 3.15- 4.30

29th June 3.15 -4.30

Alternatively, If you have a specific request for uniform please email: dking@saltashcloud.net

Planning a holiday in school time? Here's what you need to know:

The law does not grant parents an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time. Any absence from school will disrupt your child's learning. You may consider that a holiday will be educational but your child will miss out on the teaching that their classmates will receive during your holiday. Attendance is vital to academic success and lost education poses a potential risk of underachievement. This is something we all have a responsibility to avoid.

The Department for Education no longer allows Headteachers to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you consider that your request for absence is exceptional you will need to complete an Absence Request Form. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence. In cases where parents subsequently report their child as ill during this period, medical evidence may be requested to support this.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

'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.

All absence requests must be completed by the parent/carer which whom the child normally resides. The relevant form can be obtained from reception or in Key Documents on the school's website. Letters and emails will not be accepted. This form should be returned to the Attendance Office at least 14 days before the start of the absence.

If you have any queries in this regard, please contact Mrs Moss, the Attendance Manager by phone (01752 843715) or by email <u>smoss@saltashcloud.net</u>.

National Careers Week

We have had a super busy week within school celebrating National Careers week. We have embraced it by focusing our registration time on Careers as well as doing Careers lessons within each subject area to understand how their school subjects are utilized in a range of different jobs. On top of what we have been doing in our registration time and lessons we have hosted a wide range of events, and are looking forward to more events and opportunities in the up and coming months.

The week started with Mike Steventon, from the Creative College coming in and talking to our Y10 and Y11 about jobs and opportunities in the Creative Industry; sharing the local labour market information around the jobs available in the local area in the Creative sector, as well as the routes that students can take to get into this growing sector. Some of our Year 7 classes who had Personal Development were visited by some local employers from Plymouth Argyle and South West Highways and had great fun playing guess the job of the employers. The students demonstrated excellent teamwork skills in questioning our employers as well as building confidence in addressing employers and presenting themselves positively. Both employers and students thoroughly enjoyed the interactions they had with each other.

Our busy week finished with visits from Natasha Forsyth from the British Transport Police, educating students on rail safety as well as touching on her career path which has led to her working in the British Transport Police. In addition, the army came in to talk to interested students about routes into the army and the different roles they can work in. As always in all sessions our students were a credit to our school demonstrating our TEAM values.







TEAM Reader

Tutor groups in Year 7 – 10 have been reading three mornings each week with their tutors. They have read a wide range of books covering many different, interesting topics. Some of the books are classics, some address important issues and some are simply great reads. All tutor books count towards the students' Accelerated Reader word count and can help them earn their reading badges.

This is a highly motivational programme and encourages our pupils to read a variety of different authors and genres which enables them to learn and use different reading skills. These skills will enhance their ability to understand different levels of text in other subject areas.



Saltash Road Consultation

We have been working really hard with Cornwall Council over the last twelve months to improve the surrounding road infrastructure to ensure the safety of our young people as they travel to and from school.

The local authority have presented their final designs and we are pleased that this has now been launched for public consultation.

Changes in infrastructure are planned, including:

- making a 20mph school zone to protect pedestrians and reduce air pollution
- closing a section of the street to traffic while students leave at the end of the school day
- improving pedestrian crossings

Please participate in the public consultation and lend your support to help the school to achieve these changes by 15th June: tinyurl.com/SaltashSchoolTraffic

However, we need your help

The relevant hyperlinks are:

- Specific consultation page: <u>https://www.engagespace.co.uk/cornwall/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=2094&status=2&cri</u> <u>teria=I</u> or <u>tinyurl.com/SaltashSchoolTraffic</u> The attached QR code also takes you through to the specific consultation.
- Map (St Stephen's Road and Wearde Road)
 https://www.engagespace.co.uk/cornwall/uploaddocs/Consult2094/EDG1845_01B.pdf
- Map (Broad Walk)
 <u>https://www.engagespace.co.uk/cornwall/uploaddocs/Consult2094/EDG1845_01C.pdf</u>

The consultation runs from 25th May until 15th June.

Cornwall Schools U14 Boys Football County Cup Semi-Final

I am delighted to report that our u14 boys are County finalists after beating Treviglas 3-2 in the East Cornwall final.

It was a tense and well contested match sealed with a hat trick from Billy.

We were pegged back twice so showed real tenacity to go on and find a winner. A fantastic performance and the boys are a real credit to the school.

Cornwall Schools U12 Rugby 7s Tournament



The Year 7 rugby team attended the County Rugby Sevens tournament at Pool Academy. This was the first time the year 7 team had played together in competitive matches. Playing against some tough opposition they acquitted themselves very well. It was a fantastic effort from all the team, but the standout performer of the day was Omar, who scored six tries and was magnificent in defence.

The boys really enjoyed the day and were a credit to Saltash school, finishing 12th out of 16 teams. A great day, well done boys!



World Pilot Gig Championships

Mr Pomfret relaxes by gig racing. He recently participated in the **World Pilot Gig Championships** rowing in Govenek ("hope" in Cornish) for Cotehele Quay. His team finished 9th in Billy's final, coming 21st overall.

He has also shared some student successes from this event:

Sophie (11AXH) and Billy (13RDG) both row for Caradon Gig Club in Saltash and competed in the World Pilot Gig Championships at the Isles of Scilly for the first time over the Bank Holiday weekend. They performed superbly; Sophie's crew, rowing in Amazon, included ex-pupil Libby and reached the ladies' open B final, finishing 24th overall.

Billy's crew included more ex-pupils; Sophie's brother Dan, Tom, Connor and Ryan. Rowing in Ann Glanville, they reached the men's open B final, winning that (which got them on the podium) and finishing 13th overall. Given the tenacity and motivation required, and the fact that they were competing in a field of 120 boats, these are great achievements.



