

CommunityMatters

October 2016



INSIDE:

- Cover: Year 7 Camp 2016
- Our Friends From Cuxhaven Visit
- North Cornwall Book Festival
- Macmillan Coffee Morning @ The Old Manor Care Home

North Cornwall Book Festival

On the last day of half term, a group of Year 9 boys travelled from Penzance to the North Cornwall Book Festival.

In a celebration of children's and teen literature, students took part in two inspirational workshops at the St. Endellion site.

St. Ives based author Liz Kessler gave a talk on haunted houses, music, and the importance of dog walking and tea when writing a book! The group from HDS learned how Kessler grew from a "beautifully naughty" and distracted child to the accomplished author she is today, and what she uses to inspire her story writing. We'll certainly be giving her new spooky tale 'Haunt Me' a read!

We also did a crash course in graphic novel creation with author and artist Simon Grennan. The children made mini comics in groups by each illustrating a panel, making many weird and wonderful tales. A signed copy of Grennan's book, 'Dispossession', will be available to borrow from the school library.



Author Liz Kessler talks about her latest book

Student Lennox reported that the festival was "So inspirational," with group member Ronnie adding: "Can we go again next year?"

With so many great ideas buzzing amongst the HDS boys, maybe one day one of these students will be teaching the workshops instead of attending them!

Year 7 Camp 2016

The eagerly anticipated Year 7 Camp took place with the beautiful autumn weather adding to the exciting experience of adventure with new friends!

The action-packed week included educational days at The Blue Reef Aquarium (where students experienced a hands-on presentation), Paradise Park, and the fantastic Eden Project. The students stayed at Treyarnon Bay Youth Hostel and enjoyed several team-building activities with their Head of House and peers.

"I couldn't pick the best part of camp as it was all so

good!" Said student Josh. "I made lots of new friends."

We're so pleased that Year 7 have made such a bright start to their time here at Humphry Davy School. In just a short space of time, we have seen much promise from the newest members of our community and we look forward to further encouraging them to reach their full potential.



Confidence...

Year 7 Performance Evening

Their first half term here at Humphry Davy School has flown by! It is incredible to see how much our newest students have grown in confidence in such a short space of time.

Our 16th annual Performance Evening took place in the gym in front of a maximum capacity audience and if the students were nervous they did not show it.

The first group performance was a rousing 'mash-up' of The Beatles' "Let It Be", Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours", "Where Is The Love?" by the Black Eyed Peas, and "Paparazzi" by Lady Gaga. The peripatetic teachers' band then performed an outstanding rendition of Gorillaz '19-2000'.

We were also treated to a wonderful solo clarinet performance by Year 7 musician Madeline Putnam who played us 'The Harmonious Blacksmith' by Handel. It takes a lot of courage to stand alone and play in front of a crowd; well done, Madeline!

The grand finale was a very loud tribute to Pink Floyd. The rain of paper airplanes that flew from Year 7 students into the crowd as the final beat of 'Another



'Brick In The Wall' played was swiftly returned by the audience and Mr. Marshall had to duck a few times as he stood directly in the crossfire!

Slightly dangerous audience participation aside, huge thanks must go to the parents, carers and friends of the school who came to show support to the students; see you at the Christmas Concerts and Panto, "Jack and The Technicolour Beanstalk", in December!

Our Friends From Cuxhaven Visit

Humphry Davy School was delighted to welcome teacher Rudiger and a group from Penzance's twin town of Cuxhaven to the school today. It was a pleasure to host the group and the Germans spent some time looking around the school and talking with the Cornish students.

The Humphry Davy Interact Group acted as hosts, taking our guests to their lessons and even arranging an impromptu game of netball! After much discussion about previous England vs. Germany fixtures and penalties and so on, it was declared a draw and therefore a victory for Europeans.

The students from Germany learned about our school, its history, and about its place in Penzance. Students also compared the UK and German education systems. There was an excellent discussion between the students about Brexit and the differences between being Cornish and German, whilst celebrating the fact that we are all Europeans!

After the excited swapping of social media usernames, the Interactors bade farewell to the

guests from Cuxhaven, but only after being given very strict instructions to come and visit them in Germany as soon as possible!

"A big thank you must go to John Richards of the Penzance twinning committee for making sure that visits such as this happen. I know that the Humphry Davy students will have got so much out of the visit this morning, and Rudiger tells me that it has been the highlight of their tour thus far. It is fascinating to see young people simply getting on and talking to each other irrespective of their country of origin or their first language. It was a pleasure to see the young people so comfortable in sharing ideas and experiences from their different cultures and horizons were broadened by everyone involved in the visit." - Simeon Royle, Assistant Headteacher.



Community...

Headteacher's Reflections

Well done to all our students for a very successful start to the year!

Particular congratulations to our Year 7 students who all settled in very quickly, are growing in confidence every day, and are making good progress based on the feedback from staff. My positive impressions were confirmed this week by our visiting Ofsted inspectors who observed lessons across the school and met students from all year groups. It was a real privilege to observe such high quality teaching and learning in classes across every year group and the inspection team were impressed with what they witnessed. I look forward to sharing the official outcome with all the local community once the report has gone through the Ofsted quality assurance checks which will hopefully be early next half term. In the interim, my thanks go to all for your support making Humphry Davy School the wonderful community it is.

The community spirit was clearly evident at the wonderful Year 7 Performance Evening this week and I have to say it was the perfect way to finish an Ofsted Inspection day. Building on that sense of wider community, you may well have today seen our Year 8 students out working with environmental action group, 'Surfers against Sewage' undertaking a beach

clean.

I am very proud to be Headteacher and it is a pleasure to work with our staff, students, parents, carers and governors. All of you deserve a fantastic half term break.

We return on Monday 31st October (Week B) with a huge number of events on the calendar. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that the **school closes early at 13:10 on Monday 7th November** to facilitate some additional staff training.

In addition, it is that time of year when a number of class changes take place. These are mostly linked to the 'setting' of Year 7 classes in English, Maths and Science but this year we also need to make changes in other year groups due to the increasing popularity of the school and attracting significant additional numbers of students in other year groups. To reassure you, all parents and students will be notified of changes upon their return and new timetables issued on Monday 31st for implementation from the 7th November.

Wishing you all a fabulous half term



W A Marshall, Headteacher

Year 8 Macmillan Coffee Morning at The Old Manor

A selection of Year 8 Humphry Davy School students went along to The Old Manor House Care Home to serve the residents there a homemade cream tea in aid of Macmillan Coffee Morning.

The students involved made over 288 scones in one of their Food Technology lessons in a batch production line and then changed roles to become waiters and waitresses at the care home.

The residents and students enjoyed meeting each other and it was a valuable experience for all involved!



Keep In Touch

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