



Humphry Davy School

A Community Music College

Community Matters, April 2015

Year 5 Get a Taste of HDS

Mrs Billinge has been teaching Year 5 primary school students to bake a range of tasty dishes.

“It has been really exciting to come to Humphry Davy and learn a new recipe,” said a student from Alverton. “I am really proud of my scones, I am going to make them again at the weekend,” said another from Gulval.

The finished dishes have been fantastic and the visiting staff have commented that everything has been produced to a professionally high standard. Taster days are an excellent opportunity for primary students to come and experience our school and we look forward to welcoming the students back in the near future!



Royal Marines Put Students Through Paces

Humphry Davy students in Years 7 and 8 were delighted to work with the Royal Marines Visibility Team on Friday 20th March. Students were set a series of physical and mental challenges which they tackled enthusiastically and skilfully.

The Marines were hugely complimentary about the way in which our students tackled the tasks, showing high levels of team work and excellent communication skills.

We would all like to send a massive ‘Thank You’ to the Royal Navy for giving us this brilliant experience.

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Science Week 2015

Humphry Davy School's Science Week is one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the school year amongst our students and this year's schedule did not disappoint! The 2015 programme saw a huge amount of amazing activities for everyone to get involved in.

Year 7 first enjoyed practical lessons that taught them all about Sir Humphry Davy and his many and varied discoveries. A visit from the fire brigade followed and allowed students to have a closer look at a fire engine and offered the chance to try some safety kit out.



Our Year 9 triple science groups went to Penwith College to gain experience carrying out A level science practicals and the fire Brigade came in again to teach some more advanced science to the other Year 9 groups. Local scientist Professor Parry ran 'Café Scientifique' on Tuesday lunchtime and here he enthused about 'communicating with light' over drinks and cake. Professor Parry then went on to give a brief talk to Year 8 science groups in the afternoon and was well-received by our enthusiastic students.

The student Science Ambassadors were 'science busking' on the plinth during lunchtimes all week, with the new cohort of recruits performing experiments in front of an impressed crowd. There was also a well-attended Science Cinema open on those lunchtimes showing fantastic science clips that left viewers both intrigued and enlightened.



On Friday morning we had the spectacular solar eclipse live streamed throughout the school, for safe viewing, and lunchtime saw the return of our hugely popular version of the game show Q.I. - Humphry Davy style. As usual, this finale to events took place in front of a large audience of gathered students and caused much amusement to all watching.



The week was a huge success and reinforces all of the activities our Science Ambassadors and staff provide throughout the year.

Cambiata Choir Continues To Flourish

Humphry Davy School Cambiata performed at the Regional Festival for Music for Youth in Truro on Friday 6th March. The group are an enthusiastic and vibrant young male choir and recent winners of the Rotary Music Competition.

They performed two pieces from their current and mainstream Pop and R&B repertoire that include signature musical twists that incorporate a wide variety of musical genres from classic soul to four-part choral singing! The Cambiata received glowing feedback from the adjudicator Patrick Baily and have subsequently been asked to perform with the BBC iOrchestra project and at the Cornwall Music Education Hub Concert 'Sounds from the Hub' on Friday 1st May.

St. Piran's Day Parade 2015

Students once again joined surrounding primary schools for the annual St Piran's Day Parade and celebrations. A range of instruments were performed by Humphry Davy Students to accompany the St Piran's Furry Dance and their performance was outstanding. It was a fantastic opportunity to get involved with a local event and to perform alongside our neighbouring primary cohorts.

Opportunity...

Thank You

I would like to thank all students and parents for the extra efforts that have been made with uniform over the past couple of weeks. I believe that our students look smart and show a pride in their uniform. As I have said before, the vast majority of our students have done this throughout the year, but if you are one of the parents or carers who have purchased a new school skirt of the correct length, checked that nail varnish is removed, found some black socks or purchased a pair of tailored school trousers, I would like to thank you very much.

There are not many perks to being in Year 11, but as a gesture, we are allowing Year 11 students to wear the HDS Leavers' Hoody instead of a school jumper from the beginning of the summer term. Students who have not ordered one of these should continue to wear the school jumper – other hoodies are not permitted. This is a stressful time for Year 11 and it is crucial that time is spent effectively. If students or parents think that we can support them in any way in terms of exam support, please get in touch with us. No comment is too small or insignificant. We are keen to help and to get the best possible outcomes for our students. The only tears that I want to see on Thursday 21st August, when we give out the GCSE and BTEC results, are tears of joy!

Mr Royle, Assistant Headteacher

Connor Part of 'Remote' Cast

Congratulations to student Connor Bolan who has been cast in Kidz R Us' production of 'Remote', an exciting new play by writer Stef Smith, as part of the National Theatre's Connections programme. The production has recently been performed at Theatre Royal, Plymouth and was watched by a director from The National Theatre who is shortly to decide if the production will make it through to the prestigious final event: a July performance in London!

The Connections programme is The National Theatre's annual festival for youth theatres and schools and gives these groups access to the very best new writing for theatre.

Remote centres on the lives of seven teenagers as they make their way through a park on a seemingly normal Autumn night and is ultimately a very emotional play about protest, power and protecting yourself. A very exciting venture for all involved and great performance experience for Connor; fingers crossed you make it to London!

London Trip

40 pupils from Humphry Davy School made the long bus journey to London to spend a few days exploring the sights of our capital city.

A tour of the fabulous National Portrait Gallery was our first stop; viewing some of the most famous portraits from a variety of eras.

"The Tudors Reimagined display really stood out for me," said student Jordan, "the miniatures were very good, they were painted a long time after the Tudor period."



After an evening meal of Italian food the group then travelled to the famous Cambridge Theatre to watch the spectacular musical 'Matilda' which was reviewed by one student as being the "best show ever."

On the final day the group visited London Zoo and were able to see animals ranging from giraffes and hippos to lions and deadly snakes.

The London trip is an annual visit by the school and is always highly anticipated and enjoyed by all that take part!

Encourage...

Geevor Waterwheel Challenge Triumph - Report by Thomas, Cianan and Dana

On Tuesday the 17th March, twenty seven Year 7 pupils were invited to Geevor Tin Mine; it was a reward for showing such motivation in our Technology lessons and always having an outstanding attitude to learning. Our challenge, which we chose to accept, was to make a waterwheel out of recycled materials. The wheel needed to be powerful enough to pull a small truck up a ramp!

Before the challenge started, we were given a tour of the site; here we found lots of inspiration. The thing that inspired us the most was the knowledge that Jo, the leader of the event shared with us. She discussed how important the tin mines had been in creating the Cornwall we know today, but more importantly the engineering behind them.

There were six teams in total. After an hour of focussed team work and problem solving, all six waterwheels were put to the test! Making the waterwheel was rather difficult but working as a team allowed us to share our skills and help each other with what to do. Our hard work and creativity paid off, all waterwheels were well engineered and successfully pulled the truck to the top of the ramp. We all watched in anticipation to see who would make it in the fastest time. Team Tornado set the bar high, their wheel worked smoothly and the truck literally raced to the top of the track in what we thought was an unbeatable time of 13.4 seconds. The last team to set up their waterwheel was Team Stapel; the tension was high, sitting on the edge of their seats were a nervous Team Tornado, would they stay top of the leader board? The water flowed and the wheel started to turn, it was clear straight away this was going to challenge the top spot. It was close, but team Stapel had done it, they raced up the ramp in an incredible 12.4 seconds. All 27 pupils were on their feet cheering in celebration.

What an exciting day we had, so much fun and laughter, but it didn't end there. The competition invites all local secondary schools to take part and we had to wait until the end of the week to find out if Team Stapel would stay in the lead and win the overall competition. We were all so excited when Miss Brown made the announcement in assembly on Monday Morning - Humphry Davy had won the competition!



Jo presents the winning team their trophy, with Miss Brown

Succeed...

Return To The Battlefields

Less than three months after the school's WW1 battlefields visit, staff and students from Humphry Davy School were once again in Belgium and Northern France investigating life in the trenches. As part of the government's First World War Centenary Battlefields Tours Programme two students; Alistair and Avis together with History teacher Mr Gourley took part in a busy four days of activities to deepen their understanding of the issues faced by the British and Commonwealth soldiers of the Great War.

Both staff and students appreciated the opportunity to get to know and work with staff and students from fifteen other schools from the South West region. A particular highlight for Alistair was a visit arranged especially to Pozieres Cemetery where his relation is commemorated on a panel.

It is hoped the school will become involved with the Legacy 110 post tour project. This is an initiative to encourage students to undertake a project that creates a legacy from their visit. Legacy 110 is a carefully chosen title with a specific aim: if all 8,800 participating students from all the organised visits deliver a project to 110 people outside of their school, then at least 888,246 people have been communicated with; the same number of British and Commonwealth soldiers who gave their lives in the First World War.



Young Enterprise Success

Congratulations to our Young Enterprise group H'Art & Soles who ran a very successful stand at the Young Enterprise Spring Trade Fair in Falmouth recently.

The talented group of entrepreneurs were delighted to be awarded the title of 'Best Overall Business', 'Most Innovative Product' and the 'Mystery Shopper Award'. Further awards included second place for 'Best Trade Fair Stand' and also for 'Best Marketing and Promotion'. Well done to the team and their project supervisor Mrs Atter!

For those readers who are not yet familiar with this exciting business, H'Art & Soles is a contemporary fashion company, set up and managed by a group of determined HDS students. They specialise in footwear based around product design with art at the centre of the business.

The team have recently negotiated business deals with local vendors who have agreed to stock their unique footwear. To get your own pair of H'Art & Soles flip flops or 'sole wraps' please head to Fishboy Pz in Chapel Street or visit the Roundhouse Gallery in Sennen. Orders can also be placed via the school.

To find out more or to keep up to date with the company's trading schedule, please visit: www.humphry-davy.cornwall.sch.uk/hartandsoles or follow the group on twitter  @hartandsoles



Develop...



The HDS LitFest!

Students from Humphry Davy and visiting primaries have been getting literary master classes as part of our 2015 LitFest.

On Monday Trythall, Gulval, Newlyn and St Maddern's joined local author Chris Higgins for a character development session and to talk about her Secrets Club series. Students created their own profiles for characters that could fit into Chris's books, each with their own secret. The hidden parts of their lives went from sad to scary to shocking, and each would be a great protagonist as part of the Secrets Club.

Writer and artist Alice Maddicott visited on Tuesday to lead students from Gulval and Humphry Davy School in some literary experiments inspired by Humphry Davy. They created amazing stories about multisensory overlapping worlds, and explored how sound and smell can change any setting - who knew you could bottle the scent of a thunderstorm? The children made tiny books to be hidden around the school, so the site will be filled with secret stories for anyone to find.

Students were invited to create their own superheroes (or villains!) on Wednesday with former Marvel illustrator Steph Richards. Gulval, Heamoor and Newlyn primaries all learned how to draw some of their favourite characters as well as developing their own, creating brilliant back stories for how they came to be, and deciding whether their powers would be used for good or for evil. Several children also left the workshop with signed illustrations by Steph, and everyone left with a smile.

Things took a spookier turn on Thursday when Sandra Greaves, author of *A Skull in the Wood*, led creative writing workshops to help students write stories to send a shiver down the spine of the reader. St Maddern's, St Mary's RC and Humphry Davy School all created tales of terror with a helping hand from Sandra's prop box, containing rusted tins and a collection of real animal skulls!

Thank you to the fantastic workshop leaders and brilliant students involved with LitFest 2015. We can't wait for next year!



Create...

Year 10 Experience College Life

Recently, Mr Royle and Mrs Bullock took all of Year 10 to experience a day at college. 150 students went to Cornwall College in Camborne and were treated to a series of workshops given by lecturers at the college. In addition to the sport, science, hair and beauty, games programming and plumbing workshops at Camborne, there were also groups working with the animals at Duchy College and then a further group studying marine biology at Falmouth Marine School.

The students had a wonderful day and were a credit to themselves and to the school. Lecturers commented on our students' mature and positive attitude and are certain that they will continue to excel as they approach the next stage of their education.



Sports Summary - Spring Term 2015

All years have had an incredibly busy term on the sports fields and courts. The boys' and girls' football teams have taken part in fixtures against our local rival schools. A notable performance was made by the Year 7 boys' football team at Cape Cornwall as well as the Year 10 team against Hayle.

The Year 8 and Year 10 indoor boys' cricket teams have also been in action in the area qualifiers at Penwith College. The Year 10 successfully qualifying for the final, the Year 8 team narrowly missing out on qualification.



Year 7 Boys' Football Team

The Year 9 basketball team have also been in action, taking part in the annual Penwith tournament. Although we did not do as well as we had hoped, there was some encouraging play by all involved, particularly those Year 8 players in the team who will get another chance next year.

Mr White's Marathon Mission - Report by Jess Clements, Interact Group

Mr White, head of maths, is renowned for arriving at school in his luminous cycling gear and, like Clark Kent himself, having the ability to change swiftly into a suit and tie.

However, this year this mathematician is taking his fitness to a whole new level. Mr White is running the London marathon! Mr White has selflessly decided to donate all of his collected sponsor money to the HDS interact team.

The HDS Interact Group is a small group of students who meet regularly to discuss and organise ways of raising money for our chosen charities, 'Penhaligon's Friends' and 'Literacy in a Box'.

Penhaligon's Friends is a Cornish charity that supports bereaved families throughout the county and Literacy in a Box is a Rotary Club-run charity that supplies school resources to children in countries such as Zambia, the Philippines and others in need.

On behalf of the Interact Group I would like to say a massive 'thank you' in advance to Mr White and we'll give an update on our work as soon as possible.

Headteacher's Reflections

The students of Humphry Davy continue to do us proud on so many levels. From 'Engineering' to 'Enterprise'; 'performances' to 'poetry', students step up to meet the huge range of challenges presented to them and perform at the highest level. Parents and carers have every right to be proud of their achievements!

No doubt many of you will have seen the recently published 'school performance tables' which highlighted the fantastic academic achievements of students in the 2014 exams and the current Year 11 are now heading into the Easter break with revision plans and 'past papers' in preparation for the 2015 exams. Expectations are high and both parents and students are very welcome to contact any of the staff here at Humphry Davy if we can help in any way. Your input and support is always greatly appreciated; those of you that personally know me are aware of the strength of my belief that parental partnership is essential for the young people in our care, both now and in the future, to succeed. Our Parental Survey, every two years, is your opportunity to help us shape our offer and identify priorities for improvement and I will be asking all parents to complete one next term. My thanks in advance for your support.

It feels recently like Spring has finally 'sprung' and I wish all students and their families a fantastic Easter break.

Mat Mclvor Nominated For WOCA 2015 Award

Local artist and former HDS Teaching Assistant Mat Mclvor has been nominated for 'Best Artist' in this year's What's On Cornwall Awards. Mat interpreted our students' designs and led the painting of the wonderful mural panels on our Citizenship building. To vote for Mat, please visit: www.cornishman.co.uk



Parents' Evening Bookings Go Online

Parents and carers who are registered on Parent Mail can now enjoy the benefits and flexibility of booking appointments with their child's subject teacher online. Parents of current Year 7 pupils are encouraged to book appointments now, once they have registered for the new system, in time for Parents' Evening on Tuesday 14th April.

This online booking is a feature of the new Parent Mail X system which all parents will need to register on by the start of the new academic year in September. Emails have been sent out to all registered users of Parent Mail and we would appreciate if all parents and carers could please check their registered details to ensure that information is delivered to the intended recipients.

We hope that this new system will allow parents the freedom to make bookings at their convenience and ensure that they have purposeful conversations with the staff at Humphry Davy School.

Key Dates

13.04.2015 Summer Term Begins (Week B)

14.04.2015 Year 7 Parents' Evening

21.04.2015 Spanish Exchange Students Visit From Ejea

28.05.2015 Half Term Holiday Begins