

CommunityMatters

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Man Engine Project Is Well Underway!

Students at Humphry Davy School have been involved in an exciting project with the Golden Tree Production Company celebrating our Cornish mining heritage. 'Man Engine' is a large mechanical puppet that will travel over 130 miles in two weeks. This puppet will be a large miner standing at over two double decker buses high that transforms into crawling position in order to travel the roads of Cornwall.

All Year 8 students at Humphry Davy School joined in workshops, learning and developing knowledge of mining through the medium of music, storytelling, science and technology. The students were then invited to apply to become a 'Mine Captain' which involved further training as well as working with a primary school.

The selected Mine Captains then spent the day at Kresen Kernow Library and at Holman's test mine. In the library they explored original records and mining resources from the early 1800s and in the test mine they were able to physically explore the mine and appreciate what the difficult conditions would have been like for the miners to endure. The young Mine Captains were also able to detonate an explosion (from a very safe distance!) and see how important safety in the mines was.



HDS Mine Captains explore below the surface

Our students' work with the primary schools began after the Mine Captains had finished their training; they supported professionals in delivering workshops to local primary schools on what they had learnt previously. The second visit with the primary schools involved working with an artist in residence to create ideas and designs for a wagon that will greet the large Man Engine when it arrives in Penzance on 5th August.

"This project has been so much fun to work on. It's been fantastic to learn more about one of the industries that helped shape the Cornwall of today," said Mine Captain Hollie-May. "I cannot wait to see the Man Engine when it's finished!"

Promoting Boys' Reading

Many parents will relate to the 'challenge' of encouraging teenage boys to read. We were delighted therefore to accept an offer from The Edge of The World Bookshop for our Year 8 boys to choose a title to read until the end of term.

On hand was shop owner James Howorth to lend his expert advice. Together they discussed current popular titles for young teenage boys. The list included books such as Bear Grylls' *True Grit* and recent Costa Book Award winner *The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge, but in the end the favourite was *Half a King*. This novel by Joe Abercrombie is a historical fantasy that shares themes with the hugely popular Game of Thrones series, but is suitable for younger readers.

Our Year 8 group, led by English teacher Mrs Nancholas, will meet twice a week to read and discuss over breakfast. Not a bad way to start the day!



Confidence...



The race winners pose with Pirates rugby players

Race For Life!

On Friday 6th May our female students in years 7 to 10 took part in our own '5k Race For Life' in aid of Cancer Research UK. The runners had many personal and inspirational reasons for racing and the atmosphere on the day was phenomenal. We were even joined by players from the Pirates Rugby Club who were on hand to offer support to the girls.

Everyone who participated completed the course and received their own Race For Life medal. Special mention must go to the three speedy Year 7 girls who claimed 1st, 2nd and 3rd place: Georgia, Callie and Caitlin.

Well done to all of our girls for supporting each other, and for pushing themselves so hard for such a worthy cause. So far the total raised exceeds **£3050!**



A Night At The Musicals

On Wednesday 11th May 'A Night At The Musicals' included excerpts and songs from four very famous shows interpreted by the Musical Theatre and Drama students of Humphry Davy School. The talented students took on the roles of several different characters from *Oliver!*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Bugsy Malone*, and *Grease*, in a show that was performed in front of a highly appreciative audience. The hard work, effort and enthusiasm put in by the students was evident by the energy of their performances.

Judging by the rapturous applause and cheering after the grand finale the audience clearly enjoyed themselves as much as the students did. A great time was had by all!



Kernow Youth Book Award 2016

Ten students from the school's KYBA reading group travelled to the Eden Project for the 9th annual Kernow Youth Book Award. Keen readers from Torpoint to Penzance all travelled to St Austell to meet authors, buy books and await the announcement of the 2016 winner.

After exploring the biomes, the ceremony kicked off with student presentations and talks by the attending authors. Five of the six of those shortlisted could attend; Eve Ainsworth with the horrors of bullying and *7 Days*, Lari Don with the inspiration behind *Mind Blind*, Alan Gibbons with music, murder and prejudice in *Hate*, Liz Kessler with the slowly changing views on sexuality and *Read Me Like a Book*, and Bali Rai with the terrors of the internet in *Web of Darkness* and the rebellion of reading. Juno Dawson, author of *Say Her Name*, could not attend but sent a video answering questions posed by the children.

Humphry Davy School were one of six groups to present on a chosen book, made all the more nerve-wracking as it was in front of the title's author! After a student-made film trailer and short discussion they re-enacted a scene from *Mind Blind* involving whirling scientists, dramatic monologues and a psychic explosion. Lari enjoyed the performance, later Tweeting "Humphry Davy pupils did a brilliant version of the nastiest bus journey ever at the @KYBAward ceremony! #MindBlind".

After announcing the winners for the new KYBA logo



and Best Presentation awards, Ron from the Falmouth Bookseller revealed that *Say Her Name* had won the top prize.

Year 11 student Avis, who has been a member of the KYBA group since Year 7, said "It was my last year and I really enjoyed it. I finally got to meet an author and have them sign my book, and they actually recognised me from our presentation of their book!"

Authors, students and staff alike had an amazing time celebrating books chosen by the young people of Cornwall. The HDS group can't wait to see what the 10 year anniversary award ceremony will have in store next year.

Headteacher's Reflections

It's been an exceptionally busy first half of the summer term and the students, whether involved in sport, music or academic events, have represented their school wonderfully.

Particular recognition must go to the girls who ran the Race For Life, raising over £3050, and to Year 11 student Sebi Schmidt for winning the Humphry Davy Prize

from Penzance Town Council; this is an outstanding achievement and the third consecutive year that a Humphry Davy student has been awarded the prestigious title.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 11 students for their excellent conduct during this busy exam time, and to remind them that their hard work will pay off in the end!

We look forward to joining you at the Leavers' Ball on 29th June at Tregenna Castle; a chance to let your hair down and celebrate the end of the exams.



Foraging Experience!

Students were recently astounded to discover the amount of flavoursome food readily growing freely around the school grounds after a day of foraging with Todd Studley (Humphry Davy's answer to Ray Mears). The Year 9 students, under the expert guidance of Todd, walked the school grounds to find edible plants growing for free on their very doorstep.

Although Todd's foraging may be likened to Ray Mears his dishes certainly are not! After walking the grounds and collecting plants such as the three cornered leek and the black mustard plant, Todd used his expert skills to cook up a wild garlic frittata with nettle mustard pesto.

"I can't believe how delicious the frittata and pesto was." said one student. "I think I will start looking at the plants growing around us very differently from now on!"

If you are feeling adventurous and fancy trying your hand at foraging then here is the recipe for nettle mustard pesto and some top tips from Todd:

- Do not forage mushrooms or berries, they can make you extremely ill
- Do your research, the internet and books are a good guide to what you can forage
- Forage above waist height, somewhere animals are less likely to roam
- Soak foraged food for 3-4 minutes to get rid of any bugs
- Do not eat anything you are unsure of - even more important if you suffer from any allergies.

Nettle Mustard Pesto

Ingredients:

- Dandelion garnish (3 cups)
- Fresh stinging nettles
- 2 cups fresh garlic mustard
- 1 garlic clove
- 1/4 cup walnuts (pieces or nearly crushed)
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Parmesan cheese, finely grated

Method:

Wearing protective gloves, or using tongs, add nettles to salted boiling water for 1 to 2 minutes, drain immediately and then place the greens in a bowl of ice water. Cool, strain and squeeze away as much moisture as possible using a clean towel.

Chop the nettles and garlic mustard to make about 2 cups. Place them in a food processor with the garlic clove and walnuts. While pulsing, slowly add the olive oil, 1 tablespoon at a time. Add a little more oil if need be to get the correct consistency. Season to taste with sea salt, pepper and Parmesan cheese.



Opportunity...

On The Up!

A huge thank you to all the students, staff, parents and carers for all their hard work. Attendance figures since Easter are on the up and we continue to reward students who maintain high levels, or are clearly improving, with our own HD\$. Remember that all HD\$ need to be spent by the end of the summer term. If you are unsure what to purchase from the School Shop, perhaps consider donating your HD\$ to one of the charities highlighted on the website. This has consistently been one of the most popular options since we introduced the reward scheme and reflects the caring and considerate nature of our students.



Caring For Our Environment

Congratulations to Year 9 who have collected a huge amount of litter from our local area! All done voluntarily and as part of our drive to give something back to our community. Dr Blair has designed a programme so that all years have the chance to do some voluntary work – Year 7 will be doing a beach clean next month and Year 8 students have had the chance to do some voluntary work as part of their Pegasus award.

Key Stage Three Graduation, Wednesday 20th July

We are delighted that this year will see the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Bolitho, as our guest speaker at our graduation evening for Year 8 students and their parents and carers. It promises to be a super evening and a chance for Year 8 families to celebrate the work done in Key Stage Three in preparation for the move into Key Stage Four. Colonel Bolitho will also be presenting the Pegasus Award to those students who have completed the course. It is also worth mentioning the rewards visit on Thursday 21st July which is open to every student who achieves the Pegasus Award.

A Reminder About The School Games

Parents and carers are reminded that Humphry Davy School is host to The Cornwall School Games on Friday 1st July and the school is closed to students who are not participating as competitors or event leaders. Details can be found in the letter sent home via ParentMail and your child has a paper copy. We are delighted to host the event and hope it encourages the hugely talented youngsters in our community to go on to the highest levels, just like former Humphry Davy student and Olympic Gold Medal Winner Helen Glover who is defending her title in Rio this summer.

Our usual Sports Day is 21st June and parents and carers are invited to join us from 12.50pm. The Queen's Birthday Celebration Fete will follow the afternoon of sports and families are very welcome to join us for this from 4pm. There will be carnival games, a BBQ, refreshments, music, a treasure hunt, and much more!

Key Dates For Your Diaries

15.06.2016 Year 10 Penwith College Trip
21.06.2016 Sports Day
21.06.2016 Queen's Birthday Fete (4pm)
22.06.2016 Interact Day
22.06.2016 Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

23.06.2016 Mock Referendum
25.06.2016 Mazey Day
27.06.2016 Scholars' Primary School Tour
29.06.2016 Year 11 Prom
30.06.2016 Year 6 Day

Succeed...

Sebi Receives Penzance Town Council's Prestigious Science Award

Huge congratulations to Year 11 student Sebi Schmidt for being awarded Penzance Town Council's Humphry Davy Prize jointly with a student from another local school.

"Sebi, as Humphry Davy himself believed, believes in promoting science to the wider community.

Sebi's teaching and enthusiasm can be demonstrated by his ability to turn science into films and to promote science through different media." said Dr Frost, Head of Science.

"He has worked on lots of projects to communicate

science to the wider world. He created a film that helped promote the Elite Engineers programme to the school and to engage Year 5 and 6 primary school pupils. He has also created films to promote work with the Humphry Davy Community Project and Humphry Davy's birthday."

Well done, Sebi!



Talented Romano Wins

HDS Music Scholar Romano recently competed in his fifth 'Wall Music Festival' and won the following impressive awards:

1st Place in Saxophone, Grade 5 - 6 category

2nd Place in Clarinet, Grade 7 - 8 category

2nd Place in Woodwind Duo, Grade 3-4 category with fellow HDS student Emily Tibbles.

Romano also won the trophy for 'Best Child Instrumentalist'!

The ever popular Wall Music Festival takes place annually at Wall Chapel near Reawla.



Romano has entered the competition each year since the festival first began back in 2011 and has enjoyed great success.

If you are interested in becoming a HDS Music Scholar in September please talk to Miss Bradley or Mrs Close who will be happy to talk you through the application process.

Young Enterprise Group Flourishes

'Seaco' is a Young Enterprise team from Humphry Davy School making recycled neoprene products that are both stylish and practical. The students make cushions, beanbags, hot water bottle covers, and sea-saver pouches that can be used to keep money or keys in. Being made from recycled wetsuits, all of Seaco's products are waterproof, so they can be used outdoors and on the beach without fear of them getting damaged.

Since September the young entrepreneurs have won the following accolades: 'Second Most Innovative Product', 'Best Sales Pitch' and the special award of 'Young Enterprise Board Award' in recognition of the

young team's outstanding entrepreneurial skills.

"Everybody in the team has really enjoyed the Young Enterprise experience and we have learnt a lot of practical business skills from it." said student Ruby.

To receive information on the company's progress please follow them on twitter '@seaco15' for promotional photos and daily updates of their achievements.



Ambition...

Students Meet Nelson Mandela's Prison Chaplain

Twelve Year 8 & 9 students travelled to the Pirate FM studios in Redruth to meet with retired South African prison chaplain Reverend Colin Chambers.

Reverend Chambers told the students about his colourful life in South Africa where he had started his career in the South African Navy before discovering his faith and being assigned to Robben Island as the prison chaplain. It was here that Reverend Chambers befriended the incarcerated Nelson Mandela and became his confidant for eight of Mandela's 27 years of imprisonment.

Despite the backbreaking manual labour and cruel conditions of the prison, Colin told of how Mandela's forgiving and resilient nature stood out and earned him the respect of wardens and other prisoners alike. Mandela would also treat others as equals no matter their position in life and held no grudges against his captors. Reverend Colin explained some of the remarkable ways in which Mandela had helped to heal South Africa after his release:

"He brought the flag together, bringing together the nation; bringing together the colours of the freedom fighters, the colonials, and marking their coming together. He also brought the two groups' songs together to make the national anthem - it's in five languages and has a key change in the middle."

The students were enthralled as Colin answered all of their thoughtful questions, and in awe as they examined some of the artefacts that he had brought with him.



Students meet the Reverend Colin Chambers

"It was really interesting to hear how Reverend Chambers met Nelson Mandela." said Elsa Rainbow. "The fact that such an ordinary person knew this great man through the darkest time of Mandela's life is mind blowing. It was great to see the Bible signed by Mandela and to hear some first-hand experiences. Reverend Chambers told us to remember two Mandela quotes:

"Everything seems impossible until it is done." and "Bitterness and resentment is like drinking poison and expecting your enemy to die."

These quotes were what Mandela himself believed and I will try to remember them!"

"Colin Chambers is amazing, he is so inspirational and to hear about his experiences with Nelson Mandela was really cool!" said Sadie Pascoe.

Thanks to Reverend Chambers for his engaging and thought-provoking seminar and to Pirate FM for hosting the event.

Keep In Touch

Please remember to check our website regularly and follow us on Twitter and Facebook for the latest announcements:

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