



Looe Community Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs H R Jenkins BSc

Our Ref: HJ/HWI

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Dear Parents/Carers

I thought it timely that I should update you on developments in the Academy.

Timetable

Students are now coming to the end of their current academic year and will move to their new timetables on Monday 20 June; current Year 7 will be known as Year 8 etc. Students in the current Year 9 will continue in blue shirts until September. The current Year 11 are now over two thirds through their GCSE examinations and we are all delighted with their approach to study and revision. Revision classes continue right through to the end of the examinations and we will hold an official last day special assembly for Year 11. We continue to wish them success with their examinations and to support them through this challenging time. We know they are well prepared! We also welcome back Michaela Breeze, Olympian, next week who will be awarding medals to Year 7 students as part of the 'Be the Best you Can Be' programme. Please remember that Friday 17 June is an INSET day and the school is closed to students except for students taking examinations.

Academy Trust Status Update

We are very proud of our school and its community and maintaining our mission statement:

'To create and sustain a caring, learning community of high quality, where everyone is valued for who they are and what they may become'.

As you know, we took the opportunity to become a converter Academy in 2012, which we were able to do because of our good Ofsted judgement and exam success record. We continue to strive to 'Be the Best We Can Be' for our staff, learners and community.

Being an Academy has given us the chance to bid for ring-fenced funding to improve our buildings and we have been awarded over £700,000 of improvements to science labs, roofs, doors and windows and the fire alarm system.

We have continued to maintain our successful results and Ofsted judged us good last summer under the new framework. We were very pleased to receive an educational outcomes award from the SSAT (Schools, Students and Teachers Network) in recognition of being in the top 20% of schools nationally for value added progress and delighted to be the top performing school in Cornwall for more able students for both 2014 and 2015. Last year we were invited by the Regional Schools Commissioner to consider becoming a sponsor of other schools who may need support to improve; we are giving this very careful consideration in order that we continue to have capacity to do what is right for the learners here.

The government remains committed to the agenda of expanding trusts, with over 1000 new Multi Academy Trusts planned. The Governors of Looe Community Academy Trust have been looking at different models and partnerships and have voted to explore the process of joining with others to form a large Multi Academy Trust, to be called South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust, which will be an expansion of the current Saltash Multi Academy Regional Trust (SMART). We have benefitted through our close collaborative work with our local secondary school partners for many years and it is a natural partnership for us to consider.

I am able to confirm that the following schools all attended a meeting on Wednesday 18 May to show their commitment to undertake the consultation process and due diligence necessary to be part of Wave 1 of the new expanded SMART:

Dobwalls Primary School
Landulph Primary School
Trewidland Primary School
Bodmin College

Liskeard School and Community College
saltash.net community school
Looe Community Academy

Students' Well-Being and Integrated Health Centre

We are proud of the pastoral care that we provide our students and have been leading other professionals on a programme to develop Emotional Resilience in young people, to ensure they are equipped for the challenges of life. We know that mental health issues can affect 1 in 10 people so it is important for young people to have the skills to manage. We are proud to have contributed to the Big Lottery Bid for £10 million to roll out this and similar projects across Cornwall and our students sit on the Cornwall Young People's Board, to help influence the change they the young people need.

Over the past two years, I have been negotiating alongside two other schools (Wadebridge and Treviglas, Newquay) and a range of Health Care Providers for an Integrated Health Centre (at no cost to the school) for the young people of Looe to be located on the Academy site. This dream is looking to becoming a reality in the Autumn Term. This will mean the co-location of other service providers on the Academy site, including the school nursing service and CAHMS (Mental Health) worker.

The students of the Academy will be invited now to form a Health and Well-Being Board together with Governors to oversee its development.

Staff Restructure Consultation

It is with regret that I have to inform parents, carers and the media that Looe Community Academy shares the financial challenges facing all publicly funded organisations, in particular, how to operate effectively within an environment of rising costs and reducing income. Despite these pressures, we will continue to meet the needs of all of our learners through an engaging curriculum whilst preserving the Academy's ethos. In order to continue this within the constraints of a balanced budget, governors have reluctantly decided to consult with staff and their Trade Unions on potential staff reductions, including the possibility of some redundancies.

This is the situation in many schools and we have been fortunate that we have only had two redundancies in the last 12 years at the school. We are following the agreed process of consultation with staff and Trade Unions and I am unable to confirm details at this stage.

However, as with all things we do, I would like to reassure you that we will do our very best to preserve what is right for our young people.

Yours faithfully



Heather Jenkins
Headteacher