



## **Looe Community Academy**

Specialising in the Performing Arts,  
Maths and Computing  
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Headteacher: Mrs H R Jenkins BSc

Reference: HJ/HWI

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Dear Parent/Carer

### **Academy Update**

#### **Spectacular results**

On behalf of the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team I am extremely proud to announce our best examination results ever. Rising for the sixth consecutive year, our five A\*-C including English and Maths (the Government's benchmark measure) rose to 67% due to the hard work of students, staff, parents and carers. This set of provisional results appears to place us 3rd in the performance tables for Cornwall's state schools. We celebrate the results of all students for all their achievements, not just the Government's measure and are delighted that so many students are able to progress to their chosen courses of study. I have challenged Year 11 to do even better.

#### **New Staff**

This term we welcome: Mr Langdon, Leader of Learning for New Technologies; Mrs Owen, Teacher of English; Mr Eastell, Teacher of Maths; Mrs Apsey, Teacher of Science; Mrs Harwood, Teacher of Science; Mr Entwistle, Teacher of Music; Mrs Smallridge, Teaching Assistant; Mrs Plane, Teaching Assistant; Mr Davies, Teaching Assistant.

Following former Deputy Headteacher, Mr Keveth's departure in the summer, I have restructured the Leadership Team. Mr Damerell is now the Curriculum Deputy Headteacher; he will also oversee the progress of Years 10 and 11. Mrs Casson is promoted to the role of Pastoral Deputy Headteacher (Acting) and is the Special Educational Needs Coordinator and the Academy's Designated Child Protection Officer; she will also oversee the progress of Years 7-9.

#### **New students**

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I am very pleased with how quickly our new Year 7 students and all of those joining us in other year groups, have settled in to their new surroundings and routines. They look fabulous in their new uniform and wear it with pride. They are already taking on challenges and setting themselves goals.

### **Be the best you can be!**

On Friday everyone at the Academy was inspired and humbled by our guest speaker, Paralympian and European sit-ski champion Talan Skeels-Piggins. His motivational speech mapped his journey to international and personal success despite a life-changing accident that threw his whole world into turmoil.

He shared with students and staff how, in an instant, his life changed from that of an athletic, rugby-playing PE teacher to a future confined to a wheelchair. In a moving presentation as part of the Academy's "Be the best you can be!" programme, his story unfolded of how he went on to achieve remarkable things since his accident because of his goal-setting, hard work, determination, self-belief and resilience to setbacks and adversity. Talan is the fifth Olympian in three years to inspire our students under this programme.

### **Press release**

Last week the SE Cornwall secondary schools released a joint press release announcing our intentions to work closely with the police and their dogs in order to continue to keep our school communities safe. The police will lead assemblies on how they use their dogs in their work to seek out drugs.

### **Looe Music Festival**

This weekend Looe plays host to an expected 8,000 visitors during this event

- Our musicians, including our talented staff choir, will be performing in the marquee in the East Looe car park at 11.00am on Sunday morning; this event is free, so please come and enjoy their performance.
- On a very serious note, in the past the festival weekend has created issues for some young people who, despite all the warnings and against everything they are taught about personal safety, ignore all the danger signs as they choose (or are pressured or enticed in to) a weekend of revelry beyond their years and often well above their emotional and physiological capacity. I therefore feel obliged to remind parents and carers to consider the very real dangers posed by the large influx of strangers to our area, the darker undertones of the gig culture and the potential peer pressure for young people to indulge to excess in adult or illegal activities. In a special assembly this week, students have been informed by the Police, whose numbers have been bolstered for this festival, that formal action will be taken for all drug, alcohol or public order related offences, with any arrests being processed via Launceston Police Station, where parents/carers will be required to attend as their responsible adult; furthermore, students were told by the Police that Social Services will be informed of all incidents.

### **Food, glorious food!**

We welcomed our new caterers, Chartwells, as students enjoyed their new range of meals and snacks in our newly refurbished dining hall; new dining furniture will arrive in the next couple of weeks to complete this project.

Following representation from the Student Council, new outdoor canopies were installed at the back of the Canteen over the holidays to provide shade in the summer and shelter in the coming months during those inevitable wet break and lunchtimes.

The next priority is to reduce queuing (another issue raised by the Student Council) and by half term we aim to install an outdoor serving kiosk and to introduce a cashless catering payment system.

Our strong preference for cashless payments is for the finger-image recognition system, as this is the quickest and most reliable option. I recognise that there will be lots of questions and have published supporting information on our website and will be writing separately to seek your consent. To dispel any myths, the finger-image recognition software recognises unique patterns from each person's finger/thumb and assigns a code to each unique pattern; the code is generated every time the finger-image is read by the equipment, which then triggers the authorisation of the payment. Finger prints are not required and are not taken or stored.

This sophisticated system will provide parents, carers and students with a record of exactly what has been purchased so that student eating habits can be reviewed. The system will enable certain products to be blocked at the checkout for specific students to control diets or prevent allergy sufferers from making the wrong choices.

### **Parent governor vacancies**

Due to transition of their children to higher education, the Governing Body now has two vacancies for parent governors and invites applications from parents and carers of current students. Our governance skills audit indicates that the Board would be further enhanced by people with expertise in the health, primary education and legal professions. Whether you have these skills or other attributes and you are interested in shaping the strategic direction of the Academy, then please contact the Clerk to the Governors for an application pack ([LSutcliffe@looe.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:LSutcliffe@looe.cornwall.sch.uk)) or download the forms from our website or collect a pack from Reception.

### **Integrated Health Centre**

The Academy will soon be hosting a brand new building to serve the young people in our area by integrating health care and social services on our educational site. In early October we will be holding an Information Evening in partnership with the NHS so that students, parent, carers and community members can find out more. Our Student Council is engaged in developing the service provision and design of the building and the project is set to be operational from January 2015.

### **Uniform**

The new PE kit, compulsory for Year 7, looks fabulous and has been adopted by many older students. The Academy uniform is worn properly by the vast majority and I ask for your help in maintaining our standards by purchasing only those garments described in the uniform section of the Planner, which is replicated on our website.

### **Christmas concert**

Our public performance will take place in the Main Hall on the evening of Wednesday 17 December 2014. Tickets will be on sale nearer the time.

### **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

Many students will be giving up their free time this term to attend rehearsals in the lead up to our spectacular performance in February 2015; please join our visit to Narnia in what promises to be another amazing performance.

### **How to keep in touch**

It is important that communication between home, students and the Academy flows in all directions, so here are some tips on how parents and carers can stay informed or get in touch:


- Your first point of contact is normally the student's form tutor, as tutors have daily interaction with the individuals in their tutor group. Learning Leaders for each year oversee the pastoral work of tutors and can be contacted if the tutor is unavailable.
- Student progress reports are sent out termly to inform you of achievements and areas for development against targets.
- Parent/carer information evenings provide an opportunity for you to visit the Academy to discuss progress with tutors and teachers. Governors also attend and value your feedback.
- The Student Planner contains the student's timetable and all the Academy rules and is a place where homework is recorded by students. It can also be used by parents and carers to communicate with tutors and teachers.
- Show My Homework is an online system where teachers upload the homework as it is set so that students, parents and carers can log in to view what needs to be done and by when.
- Our website is great source of information and contains all the policies, news articles, celebrations and up to the minute status of any emerging situation such as adverse weather. All letters to parents and carers are uploaded, including general updates and those for specific events.
- Each week I publish my Headteacher's Bulletin in which I provide an update on what we have been doing and what is coming up. This also contains times and locations for the extra-curricular activities available to students at lunchtime and after school. Additionally, the community diary shows the numerous clubs, groups and activities on offer in the evenings and at weekends; there is certainly something for everyone. This is uploaded to our website every Monday morning.
- Student Services should be contacted for student absences and payments for trips, events and visits.
- For general enquiries please contact Reception.

#### **Forthcoming events for your diary**

Year 6 Open Evening	Thursday 25 September, 6-8pm, and by appointment during the school day on Monday 29 September and Tuesday 30 September. Please telephone the school reception to make an appointment.
Friday 3 October	INSET day - school closed to students
Tuesday 7 October	Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Information Evening, 6pm
Thursday 9 October	Year 7 settling-in evening with Tutors, 4-7pm
Thursday 16 October	Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Information Evening, 6pm
Thursday 23 October	Years 8 and 9 Parents'/Carers' Information Evening, 6pm
Thursday 20 November	Year 10 and 11 Tutors meet Parents'/Carers' Evening, 4-7pm and Year 11 Future Pathways Evening, 5-7.30pm.
Thursday 4 December	Year 7 Parents'/Carers' Information Evening, 6pm

As you can see there is much to celebrate and much to look forward to as this academic year unfolds.

Yours faithfully



**Heather Jenkins**  
Headteacher