

CEO Newsletter February 2019

February has been a really busy month with lots of exciting work happening across the Trust.



Garras School have been studying Blue Planet for their topic this term. The school launched their topic at the beginning of the year with an exciting whole school trip to the Gweek Seal Sanctuary, learning about the life of local seals and the purpose of the sanctuary. The children were fascinated and wanted to find out more about how we are affecting our oceans when they arrived back at school.

Hawk Owls class also had an amazing field investigation to Kennack beach, studying the wonderful creatures you can find in rock pools!! Ben, from the Rock Pool Project, sent this message:

"Thanks to all the staff and children for making it such a great session. I have to say the kids were really amazing. Confident, respectful and very knowledgeable. They were a pleasure to work with. It was also very nice to work at Kennack Sands for the first time. We found some great stuff, all of which are our first records for the site, which are all attributed to Garras School".



Children at Crowan Primary school have been enjoying some specially arranged tag-rugby sessions with members of the Cornish Pirates training team this term. This sits within a curriculum of high quality PE provision which saw the school achieve the Gold standard in the Sainsbury awards once again this year owing to the quality of teaching and learning, offer of extra-curricular sporting opportunities and inclusive curriculum.

The school played host recently to **British Athlete, Toby Olubi**, who set the fastest speed ever recorded in a bobsleigh on route to winning World Cup silver with Dean Matthews and Ben Simons in Whistler in November 2017 and went on to make his maiden Olympic appearance in the 4-man event in Pyeong Chang in February 2018.

Toby talked to the children about his journey to become a successful athlete, impressing upon them the need to practice, practice and practice some more to achieve their goals. He talked about the need to set targets, to eat well, sleep well and to study hard.

Toby explained that he didn't actually enjoy the cold or being bumped around in the bobsleigh, and had to always address his fears at the start of each race – but that success would only come to those who worked hard for it. He encouraged the children to have belief that they could achieve their goals but to be prepared for set-backs along the way.

The school has recently provided Bikeability training to its Year 5 pupils, has a team competing in the SPCMAT small-school football league and cross-country league, successfully competed in the area gymnastics competition and has 'Get Active', 'Sports4tots', cross-country running and netball clubs on offer to its children.

Meanwhile, the staff have adopted a new PE scheme of work and completed emotional well-being and Sugar Smart training through Cornwall Healthy Schools.

They are certainly serious about healthy living over in Praze-an-Beeble!



Congratulations to Parc Eglos who won the area 'Youth Speaks' Competition for the second year running. The presentation by Charlotte O, Amelia H and Megan D on 'Homelessness' was outstanding. The girls had clearly worked very hard at home and at school. Rachael Curnow from Cober Valley Rotary Club, who ran the event, was 'most impressed' and felt they were worthy winners.

There was also a lot of excitement when Parc Eglos had a visit from the world's tallest basketball player - Paul Sturgess. Paul spent several years playing for the Harlem Globetrotters before returning to the UK to play for the Cheshire Phoenix Team. He is currently the UK's tallest man - at 7ft 7 inches tall! As well as presenting an assembly to the whole school, Paul was able to spend time in several classes running basketball workshops. The children thoroughly enjoyed their time with him and he



will have definitely left a lasting impression.

Paul was keen to highlight the importance of a healthy active lifestyle, as well as talking to the children about being different and working hard to achieve their goals.



Wendron C of E School were delighted to welcome the newly appointed Bishop of Truro, Bishop Philip. He gave a short talk to all the children. He had brought with him his 'special clothes' and explained what he would wear. They found out that the Bishop's cross which he wears around his neck is made from Cornish tin from Sancreed and has an image of Jesus on it. The children were lucky to have the Bishop join them for lunch. Afterwards he had a conversation with the Worship Warriors, a group of children who plan and deliver a worship to the rest of the school on a regular basis. It was lovely that he was able to visit the school.

Godolphin children were recently invited to RNAS Culdrose for a STEM educational visit, seeing first hand how science, technology, engineering & mathematics play such a massive part in the daily operation of this naval airbase.

After successfully passing the necessary security checks, the group got off to a flying start as they ventured into one of the secretive hangers. Once inside, the mesmerised children were awestruck as they were encouraged to get up close and personal with a fleet of Hawk jets. Expert staff from Culdrose were always on hand to provide fascinating facts and information, and to answer the children's questions. The pupils were able to sit in an ejector seat and try on some of the military helmets and clothing!



This was followed by a tour of the fire station where the pupils learnt all about its two military fire engines. Then the children visited the control tower which provided spectacular panoramic views of the whole airbase and beyond. This was again a fantastic learning opportunity, where the children were encouraged to discuss, ask questions and share their own understanding of scientific principles such as the weather.

Perhaps the biggest treat of the day was watching two Hawk jets taking off side-by-side on the runway below: an amazing sight which the children will hopefully remember for a very long time!

Who knows? Maybe one day, one of these talented children could choose a career in science or engineering themselves, possibly in the armed forces...

The school would like to say an enormous 'thank you' to all of the brilliant staff at RNAS Culdrose for being so welcoming. Special thanks must also go to Lawson, our tour guide, and Mr Craig Bryan for helping with the organisation of this unforgettable experience!

A team of Y9 students from Helston Community College are working with RIO to engage Porthleven more effectively with Young People. They were invited to a conference hosted at 15, (Jamie Oliver's restaurant in Watergate Bay) to participate with professionals from across the county to give a young person's perspective on how to improve community engagement to promote positive mental health. The professionals were really impressed by the students' confidence, ideas and articulacy.

The College is delighted to hear that many of those who have applied to study courses at University have now received offers back from the Universities. Congratulations to all of the students on their success so far with their Higher Education applications, including four students who have received offers to study at either Oxford or Cambridge. In total this year, students have received an impressive 64 offers from the prestigious Russell Group of Universities. The quality of their applications was very high reflecting the thought, time and preparation they have given the process. Many students were also able to use their Year 12 work experience to strengthen their applications. There are still some students waiting to hear back from the Universities, who have until 2nd May to reply to the students, but we would like to congratulate all those who have received their offers to date.

Governors from across the Trust have been participating in a range of training events including sessions on Understanding your School's Data and What to expect from an Ofsted Inspection. The sessions have been very well attended. I would like to thank Governors for their dedication and commitment to the schools.

There are ongoing developments in our teaching. The Early Years network group have been visiting each other's schools; discussing best practice and sharing approaches to teaching and assessment. The Maths network group have been working on a Calculation Policy for the Trust in order to bring greater consistency to our practice. The impact arising from the Strength in Numbers Project is really evident in classrooms. It is a joy to see how this is developing across the Trust. The Literacy group have met to moderate and to review our approach to teaching Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. Teachers are supporting other teachers across the Trust in order to improve the levels of expertise in our schools. The Wellbeing group have met to review draft Trust Well-Being Policies; these will be shared for further comment in the coming weeks prior to their implementation.

In addition, we have worked effectively together to undertake recruitment and redeployment of staff to ensure that all of classes have great teachers. The Safeguarding Network continue to meet termly, and visit each other's schools to ensure that we are robust in ensuring an effective safeguarding culture in our schools. Other trusts have visited us to gain from our expertise in Finance as the largest Auditing Firm in the County holds our team in high regard. The ICT strategic group have been reviewing how we strategically plan IT infrastructure across the Trust. Pioneering work has been undertaken with the Helston IT team hosting and managing IT for a small group of our schools where their servers were coming to the end of their life.



Kind regards

Donna