

Annual Newsletter 2026: Building our Community Together

Each year, I ask each of the leaders of our secondary schools, primary schools, nurseries and central services to choose their standout stories from across the Trust to share in this annual newsletter. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate just a few of the incredible experiences and achievements of our students, staff and governors over the past year.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on a massive thank you to all staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly on behalf of young people in our community this year. Inspiring stories are created by inspiring people who nurture the talents of others with care, compassion and belief. Thank you so much for making the vision of a truly collaborative Trust a reality and for serving the needs of the whole of the community of South East Cornwall with such energy and belief.



Dan Buckley

I'm really proud to lead a Trust that seeks to support all children in SE Cornwall regardless of which Trust they are in and on two occasions this year we hosted excellent training events with places for schools outside of our Trust. In November we welcomed the internationally renowned educationalist Mary Myatt, to speak at our annual curriculum conference. Mary provided an inspiring keynote before working with a wide variety of primary and secondary staff in smaller groups all day. Then in February ten partner organisations and local schools joined us for our 9th annual SMART day in which all our teachers, support staff and leaders came together to share ideas they believe in. Over 100 staff across all roles passionately presented their successful projects to peers. For the first time we used an app designed in-house to organise this for us and collect all the feedback. 100% of workshops had at least one audience member who found it inspiring which is truly remarkable and a testament not only to those able to present but to everyone who took part.

In March our annual pupil survey once again included over 85% of all our pupils and covered all areas of student experience inside and outside of the classroom. Across all areas surveyed we saw a remarkable 8% improvement in pupils' views about their schools including how safe they felt, how much they were listened to and how much they enjoyed school and learning. Highest scoring areas were the 94% of pupils who valued the challenges that teachers set them, the 94% who agreed their

SMART schools - working together

peers showed them respect and the 90% who recognised the impact of student leadership opportunities. Most of the half a million pounds capital investment we made in our schools this year was focussed on areas students had told us they felt least safe in, resulting in the number of concerns they reported more than halving.

As you read through the amazing stories in this newsletter it quickly becomes clear exactly why so many pupils are reporting so positively on their experiences. It is because of the genuine desire of all staff, trustees and governors to invest their own creativity and passion to benefit others. I'm looking forward to seeing the new ideas, that spark from these stories and ripple out to positively impact even more of our young people. I'm also looking forward to reading the points of view and suggestions for further development collected through our annual survey of all staff each July.

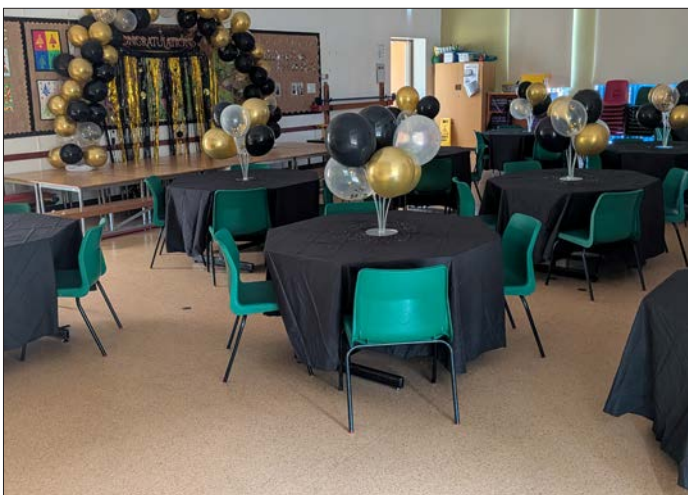
I would like to close as I started, with an enormous thank you. I feel incredibly privileged to be working with such a devoted and talented staff across all schools who work so hard to provide young people with the best possible start in life. I hope you have an extremely well-deserved summer break.

Thank you

Dan

Dan Buckley

Chief Executive Officer
SMART Schools Trust



Photos of Trewidland School Hall set up for the Student Leadership Awards

SMART schools - achieving together

Who's Who in TSS (Trust Shared Services)



Dan Buckley
Chief Executive Officer



Andrea Howard
Chief Financial Officer



Kristien Carrington
Director of Education



Anne Bull
Primary Adviser



Nigel Lacey
Head of Estates & Facilities



Neil Ellicott
Head of Finance



Anton Steinhardt
Head of IT



Ian Foy
Head of Operations



Di Saunders-Brewer
Senior HR Officer



Seth Gent
Senior Finance Officer



Sophie Hembroke
Educational Welfare Officer



Helen Priestley
Educational Welfare Officer



Tamsyn Hicks
TSS Administrator



Diane Corrigan
Web & Publicity Officer



Susan Pidgen
Assistant Governance
Professional



Andy Sanders
Trust Estates & Facilities
Officer

SMART schools - working together

Learning, Leading and Improving Together

One of the greatest privileges of working across SMART is seeing the impact that collaboration has on our pupils, and this year has provided many examples of what can be achieved when we learn, lead and improve together.

The curriculum underpins everything we do, and it has been a pleasure to resume working alongside curriculum leaders from every phase this year. Among the many highlights, the concept review with our Performing Arts colleagues stands out. Not only did they produce a shared description of a core concept, but they also went further by developing a common approach to assessing practical performance—work that could have implications well beyond Performing Arts and across other practical subjects. For me, it was a powerful example of how collaborative working can take us further than we might originally imagine, and I look forward to continuing this work next year as we develop a more consistent look and feel to the vocabulary and concept documents being produced across the Trust.



Kristien Carrington

Looking ahead to next year, it will be exciting to further develop our work in supporting teachers to embed adaptive teaching strategies into their everyday practice. By strengthening our shared understanding of how to respond effectively to pupils' differing needs within the classroom, we can ensure that all learners are appropriately supported and challenged, enabling every child to experience success and make excellent progress. As a Trust, we will continue to build on one of our greatest strengths—collaboration—by sharing expertise, learning from one another and developing effective practice together, helping every teacher to become increasingly confident and skilled in adapting learning to meet the needs of all pupils.

One of the most inspiring (and certainly one of the most enjoyable) moments of the year came at the Student Leadership Awards hosted at Trewidland Primary School just recently. Pupils from Year 3 to Year 10 came together to celebrate the difference their peers make in their schools and communities. Through thoughtful and heartfelt tributes, they recognised examples of leadership, kindness, selflessness and community spirit, reminding all of us of the values we seek to nurture across SMART. The event was a powerful demonstration of what young people can achieve when they are given opportunities to lead and serve others. My sincere thanks go to all colleagues across the Trust who make moments like these possible—not just on special occasions, but through the care, encouragement and dedication they show every day throughout the year.

Our greatest successes come when we work together, and I am confident that the collaboration, expertise and commitment that define SMART will continue to drive us forward in the year ahead.

Kristien Carrington

Director of Education - SMART Schools Trust

SMART schools - achieving together

Young Voices, Shared Purpose: Two Schools, One Summit

Students from Liskeard School and Community College and Looe Community Academy both represented their schools brilliantly at the Cornwall Council Changers Summit, held at New County Hall in Truro, working together alongside students from across the county.

Liskeard's Year 9 Prefect Monitor Team, led by Head Student Peter Yates, joined eight members of Looe's Student Council, collaborating with representatives from Cornwall Council, Parliament and other stakeholders to explore solutions to transport challenges across Cornwall.

Students from both schools impressed throughout the day, asking insightful questions, contributing confidently to discussions, and demonstrating outstanding oracy, collaboration and leadership skills. A particularly heartening moment came during a house vote, where the majority of Liskeard's students prioritised education and health over other competing priorities, a thoughtful reflection of the values of our young people. Meanwhile, representatives from Young People Cornwall and Cornwall Council praised Looe's students for being respectful, supportive and inclusive, speaking with confidence, passion and curiosity that left a lasting impression on everyone they met.

The Head of KS4 at Penryn summed up the day best, remarking on how much their own students had enjoyed working alongside Liskeard's group, calling them a real credit to the school, a sentiment echoed by everyone who worked with our Looe students too.

Both groups left excited to return to the Council Chambers in future, already sharing ideas to bring back to their own school communities. It was a brilliant example of what young people can achieve when their voices are heard, and a great moment of connection between two SMART Trust schools at an important county-wide event.



SMART schools - working together

SMART Trust Primary Arts Day: Transporting Through Time

September saw our first opportunity to get pupils from SMART Trust's three primary schools - Landulph Primary School, Trewidland Primary and Pre-School, and Dobwalls Community Primary School, together in the heart of Liskeard for a joint Arts Day built around the theme "Transporting Through Time." For one day, the Town Hall and surrounding buildings became a trust-wide classroom, with children moving between venues to take part in workshops led by specialist tutors, local artists, and colleagues from across the Trust's three secondary schools.

The morning was based across four rooms in Liskeard Town Hall, with year groups rotating through each session:

- Time Capsule in the Council Chamber, led by Fiona, a History teacher from Saltash secondary school
- Art in the Emily Hobhouse Room, led by local artist Mark Gregory
- Music in the Main Hall, led by specialist music teacher Sally Butlin
- Drama in Wheal Phoenix, led by Reverend Mark

It was fantastic to see secondary colleagues stepping in alongside primary staff and outside specialists to help deliver the programme, a real example of the Trust working as one family of schools rather than six separate sites.



SMART schools - achieving together



At lunchtime, the whole cohort gathered in the Main Hall to sing together. Every child had learned the same two songs in the run-up to the day, and hearing them performed as one voice across Landulph, Trewidland and Dobwalls was one of the highlights of the day.

The afternoon saw the programme branch out further. Back in the Town Hall, pupils took part in a Dance workshop led by Sam Day, a dance teacher from Looe secondary school, and continued their Music session with Sally Butlin. Meanwhile, smaller groups from Dobwalls spent the afternoon exploring Liskeard itself: a storytelling session at Liskeard Library led by Ed Hart, a guided tour of Liskeard Museum led by museum staff, and a hands-on train workshop at Stuart House led by Andy Greening, each one tying back into the day's transport-through-history theme.



Days like this are exactly what the Trust hopes to build on: primary pupils learning side by side, secondary staff sharing their expertise beyond their own school gates, and the wider Liskeard community, its museum, library, and local artists, opening its doors to support it. Our thanks go to everyone who made the day such a success. We look forward to more joint events like this across SMART Trust in the future.



SMART schools - working together

Leaders in the Making: Celebrating Student Leadership at the Trust Leadership Awards

On a lovely sunny day in July, Trewidland Primary & Pre-School was transformed for the Trust's Student Leadership Awards, the hall dressed in black and gold with balloons and sparkles catching the light, ready to welcome this year's student leaders.

Across the Trust's three primary and three secondary schools, each school had been asked to nominate three or four students who showed real leadership qualities. The reasons behind each nomination were as varied as the students themselves, from those representing their peers on youth and town councils, to others running lunchtime sports sessions or after-school clubs for younger pupils, to students quietly making sure everyone felt included at playtime or supported in the school library. What none of those students knew was that their own school had quietly chosen one of them as their overall winner, a decision kept under wraps until the very end of the day. In total, nineteen students made the journey to Trewidland, each with their own story of what leadership looked like for them.

Once everyone had arrived, the day kicked off with a game of Imposter to break the ice and get strangers talking. Students were then mixed into teams of three, with one team of four to make the numbers work, pairing students who hadn't met before and mixing primary and secondary ages together. From there, the main activity began: across three rounds, every student had a turn standing on stage while a teammate shared their leadership story with the room, and a turn putting a set of prepared questions to whoever was up on stage. The audience got involved too, asking their own questions at the end, which made for some unscripted moments.



SMART schools - achieving together



Between rounds, students headed outside to make the most of the sunshine, with juice and a beautifully decorated cupcake being provided. By the end of the day, scores had been added up and a winning team was announced, though it was all done in good spirits, every single student there was a winner in their own right, and the final scores were more like a bit of fun than the main point of the day.

To round things off, pupils from Trewidland Primary and Pre-School came in to watch the final presentations and this was also the moment each school's winner found out they'd been chosen as the outright winner for their school, a lovely surprise to finish off the day.

This year's event was led by Kristien Carrington, Director of Education, stepping in for Dan Buckley, who was unfortunately taken away by other commitments this year.



SMART schools - working together



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News from our Schools

Saltash Community School



Saltash Students Light Up the Community

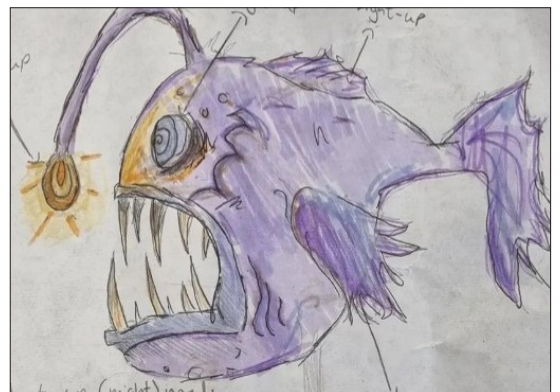
It's been a year of community spirit at Saltash Community School, with students and staff getting involved both in school and out in the local area.

In November, brave students and staff swapped their beds for the Sports Hall floor as part of the Big Sleep charity event, raising a fantastic £2,540 for St Petrocs, Cornwall's leading homelessness charity.

December brought Christmas magic to the streets of Saltash, as Year 7 student Isla's stunning angler fish design was crowned winner of the annual Design a Lantern competition. Watching artist Jill Hudson bring Isla's drawing to life — and then parading it through the town at night — was a highlight for the whole school community.

The school spirit continued into spring, with students volunteering once again at the local May Fair, proudly representing Saltash Community School while engaging with the public.

From sleeping out in the cold to lighting up the night, Saltash students have shown time and again what it means to be part of something bigger than the classroom.



News from our Schools

Saltash Community School



A Golden Year for PE at Saltash

It's been another outstanding year for PE at Saltash Community School, with students excelling across a wide range of sports while developing valuable leadership and enrichment skills along the way.

The school proudly retained the School Games Gold Mark Award for the third year running, and was recognised as a Leadership Skills Foundation Centre of Excellence for the second year in a row.



On the field and track, Saltash students shone at every level. The Year 8/9 Super 6 Athletics team finished 2nd at the Cornwall School Games Finals, with Year 10 taking 3rd place. Both the Year 8 Girls' Football Team and Year 9 Mixed Touch Rugby Team became Cornwall School Games Champions, while Ava and Lucas were crowned County Champions in the 800m at the County Athletics Championships. Megan Daniel was also honoured with the prestigious Saltash Pip Miller Award for her outstanding sporting achievements.

The U14 Girls' Football Team enjoyed a brilliant season too, finishing runners-up in the Cornwall County Cup Final and becoming East Cornwall Champions, while golfer Owen Loton qualified for both the U19 Regional Finals and U15 National Qualifiers.

Beyond competition, students built confidence and leadership skills through sailing with Saltash Sailing Club, supporting primary school festivals, delivering disability sport sessions and leading events of their own. Enrichment highlights included Project Rugby with Exeter Chiefs, self-defence workshops, dance sessions and a visit to the Women's Rugby World Cup — all contributing to a memorable year for PE at Saltash Community School.



News from our Schools

Saltash Community School



From Tutor Time to the National Stage

Since being established in September 2025, the TEAM Saltash Choir has quickly become one of the most vibrant parts of school life. Rehearsing weekly during tutor reading time and guided by fantastic peripatetic teacher Mr Jane, students have shown real dedication and enthusiasm, growing in both confidence and musical skill.

In early 2026, the choir proudly performed at the Music for Youth Regional Festival in Truro — a performance so impressive that they've now been selected to represent the region at the prestigious Music for Youth National Festival in Birmingham this July.

A special mention also goes to the newly formed TEAM Choir band, who only came together in May but have already made a huge impact, and will proudly support the choir on stage in Birmingham.

This is a wonderful celebration of commitment and teamwork, and everyone at Saltash Community School is incredibly proud of all involved as they prepare to take on the national stage.



News from our Schools

Saltash Community School



A Magical Night Under the Sea

Saltash Community School is incredibly proud of everyone involved in this year's school production of *The Little Mermaid*. After months of rehearsals, dedication and hard work, students delivered a truly spectacular performance that wowed audiences from start to finish.

The cast worked tirelessly to bring the story to life, showing outstanding commitment, talent and resilience throughout the rehearsal process — from the principal roles to the ensemble, every student played an important part in making the show such a success.

What made this production particularly special was the incredible sense of teamwork on display, with students and staff coming together as a TEAM to support one another both on and off stage. A huge well done also goes to everyone behind the scenes, whose outstanding costumes, set and props transformed the stage into a vibrant underwater world full of colour and imagination.

The Little Mermaid was a wonderful celebration of creativity, collaboration and performance — a show to remember.



News from our Schools

Liskeard School & Community College



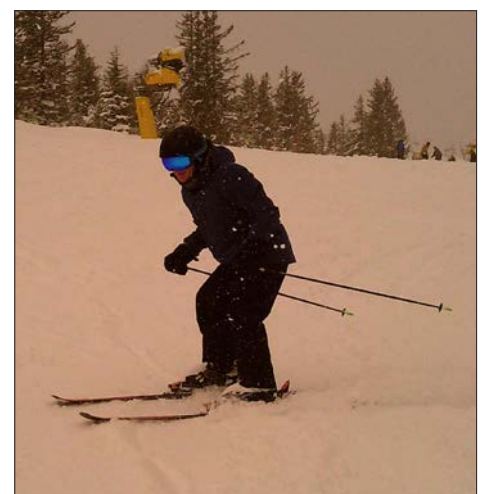
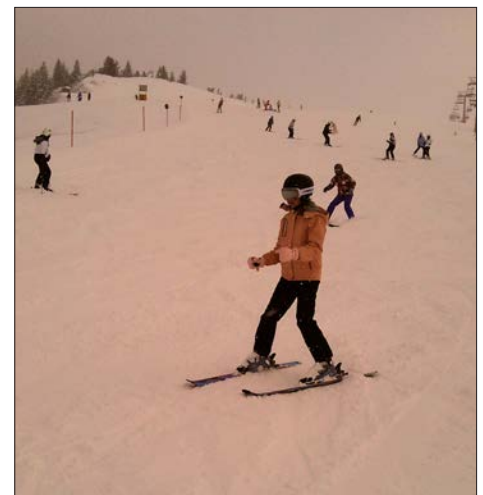
Liskeard Students Conquer the Slopes in Austria

A group of Liskeard School students embarked on an unforgettable ski trip to Austria, demonstrating remarkable determination and resilience as they learned the fundamentals of skiing.

Thanks to excellent instruction and plenty of practice, everyone showed impressive improvement throughout the week. The students' confidence and skills grew with each run, and their enthusiasm for the slopes was evident every day.

The group was fortunate to experience fresh snowfall every couple of days, making conditions ideal for both learning and fun. Beyond the skiing, the trip offered opportunities for teamwork, friendship, and memorable experiences that will stay with the students for years to come.

A fantastic time was had by all, and the school is proud of the effort and spirit shown by every participant.



News from our Schools

Liskeard School & Community College



Sixth Form History Students Bring the Past to Life in Dublin

Liskeard Sixth Form History students visited Dublin to enhance their understanding of Irish history and culture through a range of educational visits.

The trip included a visit to Kilmainham Gaol, where many leaders of Irish rebellions were imprisoned, giving students a strong insight into Ireland's struggle for independence. Students visited the National Museum of Ireland, viewing artefacts that supported their studies, as well as Dublin Castle and the 1798 Rebellion Memorial Park.

Students also experienced Irish culture by attending a live hurling match, where they witnessed the atmosphere and community pride surrounding the traditional sport.

One student said: *"I thoroughly enjoyed the Dublin trip — we explored the local areas and got a real feel for the city. We watched a hurling match, and the atmosphere in the crowd was a great display of Irish culture and pride. My favourite visits were Kilmainham Gaol, the site where many Irish rebels were held, and the National Museum of Ireland. Seeing the historical artefacts and sites in person helped my understanding of the course, really bringing the history to life."*

The trip provided students with a valuable opportunity to experience history beyond the classroom.



News from our Schools

Liskeard School & Community College



Powering the Future: Geography Meets Geothermal Energy

Our Year 9 students enjoyed an inspiring Careers in Geography workshop delivered by Geothermal Engineering Ltd. (GEL), providing a valuable opportunity to discover how Geography can lead to exciting careers in the renewable energy sector.

As part of their KS3 Natural Resources topic, students explored Cornwall's pioneering geothermal industry and learned about the UK's only operational geothermal power plant. The workshop gave students a real-world insight into how geothermal energy is harnessed and the important role it plays in supporting a more sustainable future.

Working alongside industry professionals, students developed their understanding of the science behind geothermal energy while discovering the wide range of career opportunities available within Cornwall's growing geoscience sector. The session highlighted how the knowledge and skills gained through studying Geography can open doors to careers in environmental science, engineering and renewable energy.

Students also investigated the critical minerals that are essential for renewable technologies, including solar panels and electric vehicles. They explored the global challenges surrounding the supply of these resources and considered the important role Geography plays in managing natural resources sustainably and addressing



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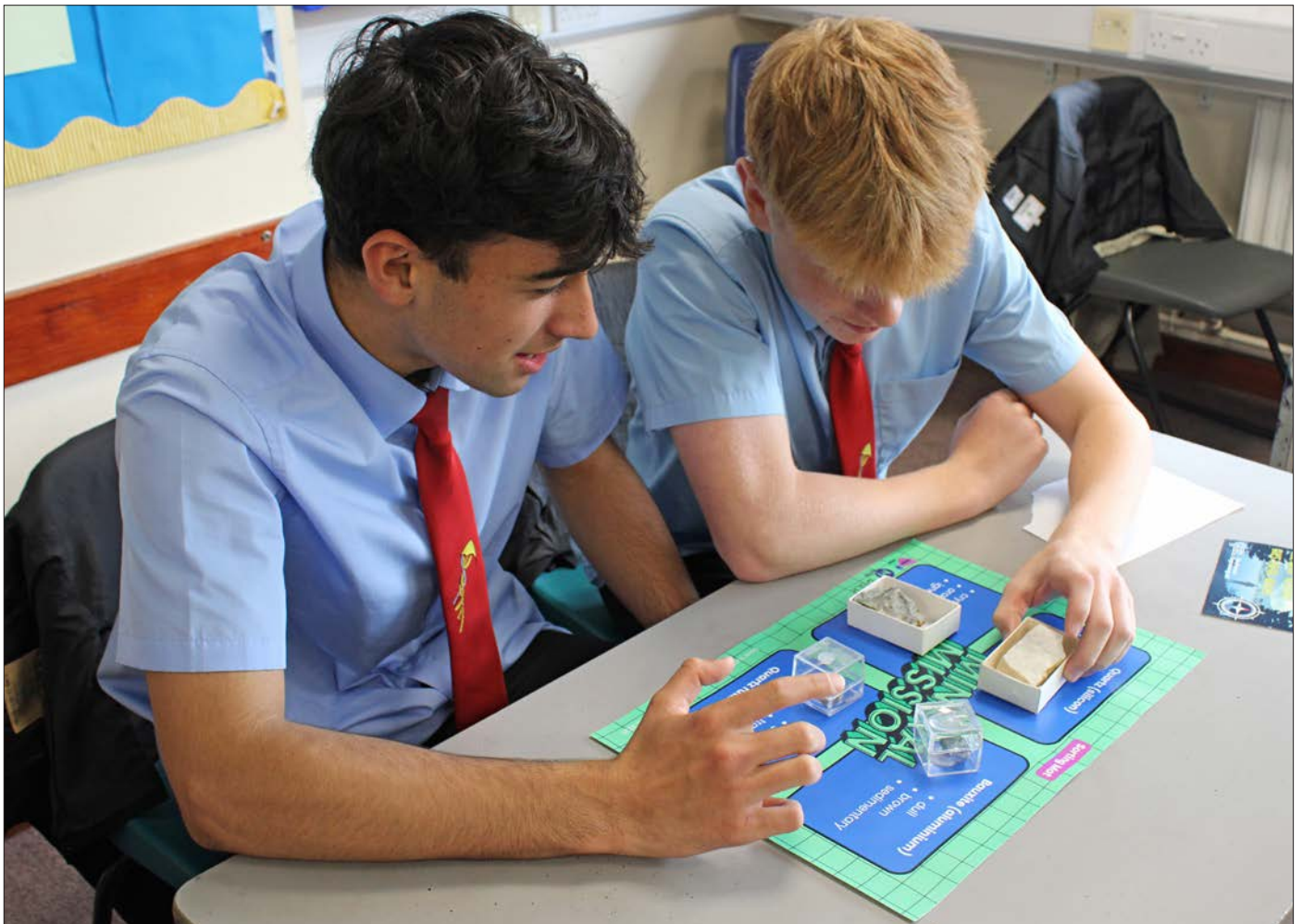
Liskeard School & Community College



environmental issues.

The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect their classroom learning with real-world applications, broadening their understanding of future career pathways while reinforcing the importance of sustainable resource management.

We would like to thank Geothermal Engineering Ltd. for delivering such an engaging and informative workshop and for inspiring our students to consider the exciting opportunities available within the geoscience and renewable energy industries.



News from our Schools

Liskeard School & Community College



A Day of Creativity, Curiosity and Career Inspiration

We were delighted to welcome a representative from Falmouth University to our school for an inspiring day of creativity, exploration, and career-focused learning.

The visit began with an engaging assembly for our Year 10 students, highlighting the exciting opportunities available through higher education and careers within the creative industries. Students then took part in a series of interactive, hands-on workshops, giving Years 8–10 the chance to explore new ideas, develop practical skills, and gain valuable insight into a range of creative pathways.

The workshops encouraged students to think creatively, collaborate with their peers, and consider the many opportunities available to them beyond school. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, curiosity, and engagement throughout the day.



News from our Schools

Liskeard School & Community College



A huge thank you to Falmouth University for delivering such an inspiring and memorable experience. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future as we continue to support our students in exploring their aspirations and preparing for their next steps.



Key Stage 3 Stars Shine in Computing Challenge

Our Key Stage 3 students participated in the BEBRAS Computing Challenge, with every student ranked according to their points and awarded a certificate recognising their achievement.

We are especially proud of the students pictured here, who scored in the top 10% nationally and were awarded a Gold certificate. Well done to all students who took part in this exciting challenge!



Looe Community Academy



850 Fish and Counting: A Community Art Project Takes Shape in Looe

In early February 2025, the art department decided to collaborate on a project with new community group Creative Looe. The initiative idea was to create a mural in Looe which brought together the community and school, with a focus on heritage and culture, following published research about the links between community development and culture, in particular public art. A few possibilities were discussed, but ensuring the project was achievable, made the greatest impact, and involved as many students as possible was key. The final idea of creating a shoal of clay fish to be placed in the harbour as a symbol of the strength of community and recognition of the importance of fishing to the town was decided upon.

Initially the idea was to carry out a few workshops for KS3 only at Looe Community Academy, but the response from students, community helpers, parents and the Headteacher saw the project grow and grow. So a new, ambitious target was set to try to get every child in Looe to make a clay fish. Looe Community Academy art department would be delivering a series of workshops which would involve students from the secondary school, Polperro Primary, Looe Primary and Trenode.



News from our Schools

Looe Community Academy



To get the all-important funding and support, an introduction workshop was delivered with key members of the community, such as the Mayor, representatives from the Harbour Trust and RNLI, and the school headteachers attended to get an insight into what the project was about. Miss Welch felt that if she was able to teach the adults of Looe, then teaching the students should be great fun. Then it was all hands on deck to achieve this, with dates allocated on the school 2025–2026 calendar where students were given 2 hours to produce their piece.



The students have greatly enjoyed attending their workshops, where they learnt about embossing and relief techniques and were encouraged to create a fish that is unique and characterful to represent themselves. Creative Looe director Peter Heywood has delivered a few lessons at the primary schools to Year 1s and 2s to ensure that they could also be involved.



This mammoth project has produced 850 ceramic fish to date, with Lesa Welch, Lead Teacher of Art, delivering 28 workshops. Creative Looe director Lorna Dickinson, as well as other members of Creative Looe, have met numerous times with Town Council officials and harbour officials, and it has been confirmed that this community project will be displayed in the harbour area (exact location to be confirmed). It is hoped that these beautiful fish will be up for many years and become an icon of the town and the spur for future creative public art projects.



As you can imagine, a project of this magnitude is rather costly, and funding has been sought by Creative Looe from: Carew Pole Fund, Cornwall Community Foundation, Red Planet (Beyond Paradise), Arts Council of Great Britain – FEAST Fund, to name just a few.

The project has appeared in The Cornish Times twice throughout the year, and the school's collaborative work appears on the 'United by the Sea' Instagram.

Looe Community Academy



A Gift to the Community: The Looe GCSE Art Cookbook Story

Year 10 art students at Looe Community Academy started their course positively with the year's theme of "seaside." An exciting scheme of work was planned with varied artists and themes. However, things soon changed following an honest conversation in December with a few students about how some families in Looe find the winter difficult due to fewer tourists, seasonal jobs and less demand for fish, with one student mentioning using the food bank amid family struggles.

During a lesson, we worked out that 80% of the GCSE students' families relied on tourism — either through the fishing industry or hospitality — for jobs, and a discussion took place about how art has power and how we could do something about this.

Following a conversation with Mr Boyes, who allowed Art to deviate from the planned projects, Miss Welch decided that a community-illustrated recipes mini project would be a good idea, turning students' paintings into recipe cards or a digital download accompanied by fishing facts and heritage.

It became clear immediately that something special was happening, so in January Miss Welch approached John Featherstone, a professional graphic designer, and Lorna Dickinson, creative director, and pitched the project of a cookbook to them, utilising John's skills for layout and design and Lorna's skills in creating campaigns and



News from our Schools

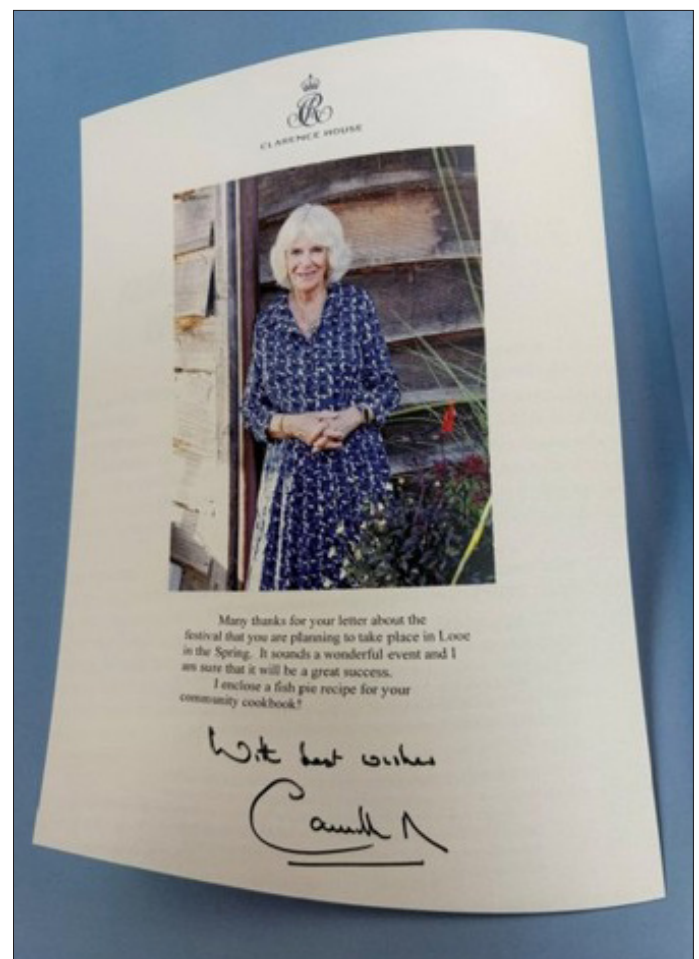
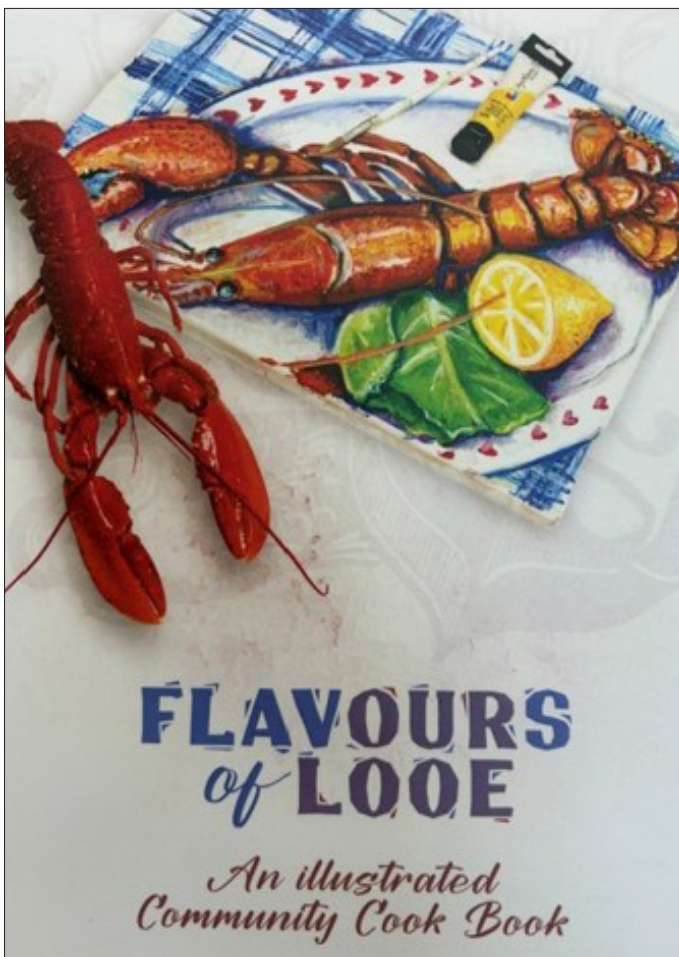
Looe Community Academy



sourcing funding.

The following few months were a whirlwind of excitement which students embraced wholeheartedly. Students not only purchased fish and all the ingredients for their recipes — many of which were sourced from family cookbooks and family favourites — but they then cooked them and learnt how to photograph food by studying professional photographers. The students researched heritage facts and Cornish produce. Ten hours of lessons and one workshop day were spent producing their finished canvases for the book. Local videographer Remi Cribb from 96 Studio filmed several of the lessons, and students were all interviewed about their paintings, their community and their love of art.

Once all the work was collated, John worked his magic using the students' words and images — he made them come alive. Lorna approached five restaurants in Looe and secured sponsorship for the book. The students' work sits alongside professional chefs' and has the Royal seal of approval — the Queen sent her fish pie recipe and a message of support to the students. A whole host of members from Creative Looe supported the project and helped secure its development.



News from our Schools

Looe Community Academy



So much work and dedication has gone into this project, and the result is something truly special — it is a gift to the whole community from the GCSE art students of Looe, and they should be very proud. To date, over 400 copies of the book have been sold.

The book is available to purchase from the sponsoring restaurants and the Co-op in Looe.

With thanks to: The Fish Market, Chennai, Yamas, Ocean and Earth, Pengelly's Fish Market, The Peking Garden, Sardine Factory.

To view the students' interviews and the book launch video, please visit @unitedbythesea on Instagram.



News from our Schools

Looe Community Academy

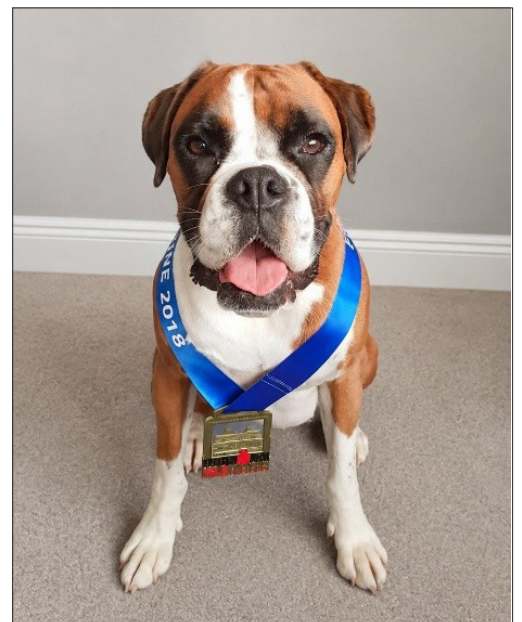


A Warm Welcome to Sadie, Our School Therapy Dog

We are thrilled to introduce a very special new member of our school community: Sadie, our official school therapy dog! Sadie is owned by our very own staff member Mr Mark Deacon.

Sadie is a friendly, energetic Boxer who absolutely loves people. She is a fully qualified therapy dog who has undergone extensive training to ensure she is ready to support, comfort and bring joy to our students.

As a trained therapy dog, Sadie will be working alongside our staff to help students in lots of ways.



News from our Schools

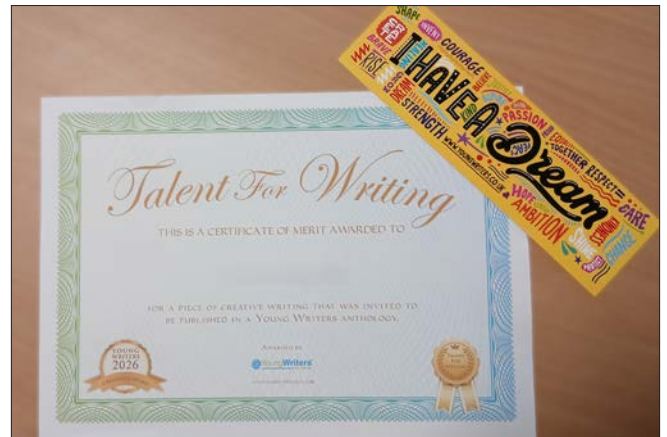
Looe Community Academy



Young Writers competition

The English team are delighted that 20 year 7 students have been invited to have poems published in a book called: 'I Have A Dream'.

This is following a competition run by the Young Writers company. Each of the 20 writers will now go into a final draw and they could win £1,000 for our school and £250 for themselves. Second prize is a pair of Apple AirPods and 3rd a cinema gift card. Good luck to all of our 20 published poets!



Once parents and carers have given permission for the poems to be published, the book will go into print and should be available from late August or early September (something exciting to look forward to on their return to school at the start of Year 8).

We are also linking up with the Looe Festival Words again this year and Miss Jarman's Year 7 have been working on poems that might be presented during the festival. So lots of things to look forward from our amazing writers at Looe Community Academy!

Keep up the great work everyone.

Horror English Teacher

I walked into the classroom,
She walked in after me.
Black teeth.
Black hair.
Black glasses.
Black clothes.
Really long black nails,
Longer than the classroom door!
Shouting!

Something Is Wrong

Something is wrong with this Earth.
People not being able to go to school in some regions.
They have dreams.
They want their voice heard.
Don't worry about your looks,
It doesn't matter what people think,
It's about what you think.
Nobody controls you.
Do what you think is right.
We need to make this Earth better.

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Looe Community Academy



Cheer Teams Wrap Up a Fantastic Year at LCA

It's been another busy academic year for the cheer teams at Looe Community Academy! The squads have taken to the floor at a fantastic range of events across the community, with standout performances at the Christmas show, the Looe 10 Miler, Polperro Festival, the Easter show, Plymouth Gladiators Speedway, and the Looe Primary Academy Summer Fayre.

A huge well done to all the students who have performed so brilliantly throughout the year — their hard work, dedication, and team spirit have shone through at every event.

We can't wait to see what the 2026–27 year brings for our cheer teams!



News from our Schools



Trewidland Primary & Pre-School

How Trewidland Grew a Community Alongside a Garden



Trewidland Primary & Pre-School has been celebrating the completion of an ambitious biodiversity project that has transformed its grounds into thriving wildlife habitats, while bringing together pupils, families, local businesses and volunteers in a true community effort.

The project began after the school secured £5,000 through the National Education Nature Park programme, linked to the Royal Horticultural Society and the Department for Education. What started as funding to boost biodiversity on the school grounds became something far bigger, completed in just eight weeks with support from across the village.



One of the biggest transformations has been the restoration of the school pond, with resident newts carefully rescued and relocated while the habitat was rebuilt using reclaimed materials. A new polytunnel, vegetable-growing area and water harvesting system will help pupils keep developing the site for years to come.



Across the school field, donated boats and wildlife-friendly planting now support pollinators, while sheep's wool is used as a natural weed suppressant. The Pre-School playground has also been revitalised with handcrafted planters. Strawberry planters made from repurposed pallets, a potting station and a children-built bug hotel, alongside bird boxes made from wood donated by Jewson's — including one fitted with a camera so pupils can watch nesting activity

News from our Schools



Trewidland Primary & Pre-School



live from the classroom have been added to the waiting area.

Pupils have been at the heart of it all, helping design, plant and care for the new spaces, and proudly naming themselves the “Trewidland Transformers”.

The project relied on remarkable generosity from the local community, with donations of everything from driftwood and fishing nets to wildflower seeds and a 1,000-litre water harvester, plus plants from Brown’s Nurseries, Tamar Valley Garden Nursery and generous local gardeners.

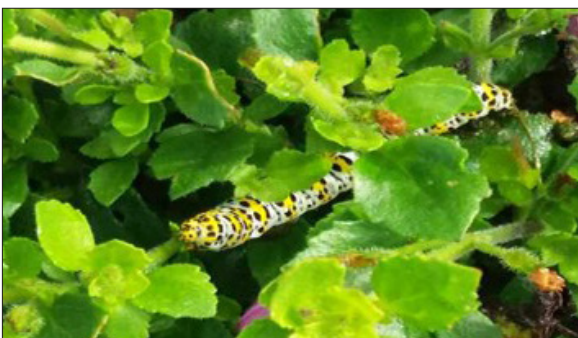


To mark the project’s completion, the school hosted a Thank You Afternoon for the volunteers, donors and businesses who made it possible, along with Richard Irvine of the RHS National Education Nature Park. Anne Sherrington, the school’s secretary and driving force behind the project, reflected: “Every donation, every hour of volunteering and every helping hand has contributed to creating something that our children will enjoy, care for and learn from for many years to come.”



The school’s achievements have also been recognised beyond the village, with Trewidland receiving a congratulatory letter from Anna Gelderd MP, who praised the project as a wonderful example of environmental stewardship and community collaboration.

For a small village school, it’s a proud reflection of just how much can be achieved when a whole community pulls together.



News from our Schools



Trewidland Primary & Pre-School

Sunshine and Smiles at Trewidland Sports Day

Trewidland's Sports Day was a huge success, with perfect weather setting the scene for a fun-filled afternoon of activity. Children took part in a range of PE activities involving throwing, skipping and jumping, before moving on to individual races and a long-distance run that showed off their stamina.

The session culminated in a whole-school tug of war, bringing everyone together for a brilliant finish to the day. Fun was had by all!



Biomes, Adaptations and Rare Discoveries

Trewidland pupils visited the Eden Project to learn all about biomes and different climate zones. Children enjoyed discovering the remarkable adaptations plants have made to survive in their environments, and even got to see some rare plants along the way.

Pupils also took part in a Rainforest Ranger workshop, learning about the important work being done to preserve our natural environments.



News from our Schools



Trewidland Primary & Pre-School

Trewidland's Gardening Club Blooms at Solstice Market

Trewidland runs a weekly gardening club with Looe Valley Plants, giving pupils the chance to learn about lots of different types of plants and how best to look after them.

Children have had a go at planting seeds and creating plant displays as part of the club.

Their recent efforts were entered into a competition at the local Solstice Market, where they received excellent recognition for their hard work.



Fires, Habitats and Learning Outdoors

Wild Tribe sessions take place at Trewidland at least once a month, giving children the chance to learn all about the outdoors.

Pupils learn how to make fires safely and explore the habitats of insects and wildlife around the school grounds.

Being outdoors allows children to engage with and learn from nature, and is a wonderful way to develop the SECRET skill of "get involved."



News from our Schools



Dobwalls Community Primary School



Dobwalls Awarded Silver Rights Respecting School Status

We're delighted to share that Dobwalls has been awarded Silver Rights Respecting School status, following an accreditation visit from Martin Russell of UNICEF.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award puts children's rights at the heart of school life, helping to create safe, inspiring places to learn where children are respected, their talents nurtured, and they're supported to thrive. Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as its guide, the Award is built on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation.

Achieving Silver status reflects how these values are embedded in daily life at Dobwalls, giving our children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and grow into responsible, active citizens.



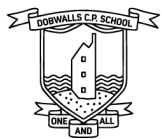
Proud Moments for Our Bronze Go Cornish School

At Dobwalls, we continue to develop our children's understanding of local heritage and the Cornish language. Mrs Pipe, Chair of Governors Antony Sayers, and a group of children recently attended an award ceremony to collect a whole-school commendation for promoting the Cornish language, a proud moment for our Bronze Go Cornish school.

This followed a brilliant day at the Lys Kernow Go Cornish event at County Hall in Truro, where Year 3 celebrated all things Cornwall. Before the



News from our Schools



Dobwalls Community Primary School



event, children created colourful leaflets showcasing their favourite parts of Cornwall and England as part of their curriculum learning, proudly putting their growing Cornish language skills, creative writing and artwork on show.

During the day, pupils also took part in a Cornwall celebration in the County Hall discussion room, an amazing experience for everyone, including time in the council chamber itself. The day was rounded off with a picnic lunch in the shade and some well-earned ice lollies.

It was a fantastic day, full of learning, celebration and Cornish pride. Ober da!



News from our Schools



Dobwalls Community Primary School



A Magical Night of Carols at Carnglaze

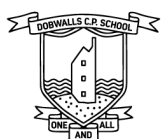
What a fantastic festive evening! Our Juniors performed excellently, with beautiful singing full of enthusiasm and joy at this year's Carnglaze Christmas Concert. Thank you so much to everyone who came along to support us and help make the evening so special, and to all our amazing staff at Dobwalls, as well as Steve and Laura-Beth from Liskeard Town Band, who led our brass band.

Carnglaze is a truly magical place to perform, with its beautiful acoustics and dazzling Christmas lights — we're so fortunate to have this venue just down the road from our school.

The evening's programme included a wonderful mix of festive favourites and Christmas classics performed by each year group, brass band and our Christmas Singing Club, bringing the whole school together for a joyful celebration of the season.



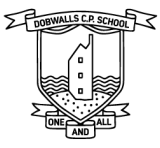
News from our Schools



Dobwalls Community Primary School



News from our Schools



Dobwalls Community Primary School



Dobwalls Goes Green for a Day of Environmental Action



Dobwalls Community Primary School came together for a fantastic whole-school Green Day, with every year group exploring a different aspect of protecting our planet.

Reception and Year 1 pupils enjoyed storytelling and songs from the Cornwall Plastic Pollution Coalition, went on barefoot Earth Walks, and even built their own water butts with South West Water.

Year 2 became beach detectives, guided blindfolded partners on a rainy Earth walk, and learned about recycling with Biffa.

Year 3 sifted sand for plastic pollution and built their own water butts too.

Year 4 welcomed visitors from South West Water, Beach Guardian and Biffa, alongside a sensory Earth Walk exploring the sounds of the Borneo Rainforest.

Year 5 researched and wrote about protecting Cornwall's environment and wildlife.

Year 6 combined a session on the impact of plastic pollution with quiet time to appreciate the sights and sounds of the British countryside.

From beach pollution to sustainable living, Dobwalls pupils spent the day thinking, questioning and taking action for the planet — a brilliant example of environmental learning in practice.



News from our Schools



Dobwalls Community Primary School



Dobwalls Raises a Hoot for The Screech Owl Sanctuary

This year, Dobwalls Community Primary School's children voted through the School Council to support The Screech Owl Sanctuary as their chosen charity for the year, and fundraising has been in full swing ever since.

A highlight so far was a brilliant owl-themed baking competition, where pupils' baking skills truly impressed the judges. The event was made even more special by a visit from the sanctuary team, who brought along an owl named Trelawney and a polecat named Steve to meet the children and share how the fundraising supports their conservation work, including projects to protect Cornish wildlife. Together with the bake sale, the year's fundraising has already raised several hundred pounds for the cause.



News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

Bringing the Curriculum Alive

Whilst exploring our enquiry question – What is the Tamar used for? Class 2 had the BEST time visiting the Tamar Bridge. They walked across the bridge, learned about animals that live in and around the river and had time to investigate the museum.

What an absolutely fantastic day our Year 3 and 4 had at the Farm & Country Day in Wadebridge! The children enjoyed a wide range of hands-on activities, including juicing apples, making flour, planting vegetables, meeting newborn lambs, and even seeing a bull bigger than any of the adults had ever seen! The day provided a wonderful opportunity to link our learning to the farming community that plays such an important role in our local area. Through these real-life experiences, the children gained a greater understanding of where our food comes from, the importance of agriculture, and the hard work of our farming families.

Class 3 enjoyed a day out at The Box in Plymouth to help answer our enquiry question: 'Could the Romans have hunted a mammoth?' Our wonderful guide ensured we stayed interested and involved all day. From discovering answers about woolly mammoths to marvelling at £50 million paintings, there was so much to see and learn about.

Class 1's visit to Portwrinkle beach linked perfectly to our learning about Grace Darling, helping the children to think



News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

about the importance of the sea and those who help to keep people safe along our coastline. We also explored what a trip to the seaside might have been like in the olden days, comparing past and present beach experiences. The children enjoyed some very productive rock pooling, a sandcastle competition and even a cheeky splash in the waves. A brilliant time was had by all!

With both Class 2 and 3 studying the Victorians, it was an opportunity to step back in time and live like Victorians for a day at Morwellham Quay. During their visit, they experienced life in a Victorian schoolhouse, dressed in traditional Victorian clothing, explored the old copper mine, and discovered the fascinating Victorian village. It was a memorable day full of hands-on learning and historical experiences.

When our children are out and about, they are credit to our school and community, always promoting our school values of Friendship, Honesty, Loyalty and Respect.



News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

Keeping Active

We have thoroughly enjoyed our cross-country opportunities at Landulph this year. Children from Years 3–6 have represented the school at five events across East Cornwall, where they have competed with determination, shown excellent sportsmanship and, most importantly, had great fun. Around 20 children also joined our weekly cross-country club, exploring the local lanes and fields and running alongside the River Tamar.

Years 5 and 6 had an unforgettable three-day residential at OA Surf Club in Bude. The children threw themselves into every challenge, including surfing, canoeing, bodyboarding and hiking, showing courage, teamwork and plenty of determination along the way. There were lots of laughs, new experiences and proud moments, making it a fantastic few days that the children will remember for a long time.



We always enjoy having the opportunity to work alongside the other primary schools in the Trust. Class 3's fitness was certainly put to the test at Liskeard School and Community College, together with children from Dobwalls and Trewidland. Their challenge was to do enough combined steps between them all to reach the summit of Everest...which they did...an incredible 10 times!

During Heathy Week, we made the most of opportunities to keep active! There was a very competitive competition between the house in kickball and netball as well as the Billie Jean jumping challenge! It was such a great week of unity and teamwork, and the children enjoyed it thoroughly. It was interesting to reflect at the end of the week as staff,

News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

that although the week had been very much off timetable, there were plenty of learning challenges. It was great for the children to have the opportunity to come together as teams and encourage and support each other every day.



News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

Learning in the Outdoors (Wild Tribe)

Our Wild Tribe sessions have been a huge success again: a firm favourite with the children. Throughout the year, the children have embraced challenges and enjoyed a wide range of activities that have encouraged creativity, teamwork, and resilience. We are incredibly proud of all that has been achieved. Here are just a few of the activities we have explored...

Class 3 were learning playground games from the 1940's linked to their history topic. They played 'pick up sticks' and 'hopscotch.' They all tried hard to hula hoop and to keep a hula hoop rolling by tapping with a stick.

Continuing the theme of 'WWII make do and mend.' They experimented with tie-dyeing with natural colours. They used



News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

turmeric, curry powder and paprika. Needless to say it was a VERY sensory afternoon! The results were quite effective, if not smelly!

They have also had the opportunity to develop their engineering skills. The brief was to design and construct an Anderson shelter for a Lego figure.

Class 2 went 'wassailing' to ensure a good harvest of apples. Following traditions, they sang songs, danced, and made A LOT of noise with pots and pans. They all made green crowns and used mud to paint their faces! After all the singing and noise, we blessed the trees with apple juice to ward off bad spirits and wake up the tree spirits.

Class 1 had a great time making their own medallions using hand drills. They also enjoyed exploring our very muddy sensory path and woodland.



News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

Our Wonderful Community

Whilst exploring their enquiry question – What's great about where I live? Class 1 went on a walk around the village looking for examples of physical and human geography. They also discovered the village bus shelter that has been meticulously painted by a local artist, showcasing the beautiful countryside that surrounds us.

Haye Farm is an organic farm not far from us in St. Dominic. We are regular visitors throughout the year; we can see how things vary from season to season. When Class 3 visited, they learned all about and received practical experience of how to harvest leeks, how to safely cross a field of suckling cows and how to cuddle a chicken! We even found a four-leaf clover! The children all had a fantastic time and were proud to bring home self-harvested fruit and veg!

Duchess Green and Duchess Orchard are wonderful green spaces that have been developed by the local Parish Council. Class 3 used the outdoor performance space for a workshop based on Midsummer Night's Dream, with Holly, the artistic director of the Inn Theatre Company.

More recently, we enjoyed an afternoon being citizen scientists. The challenges included finding our trees we planted in the



News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

Miyawaki forest and measuring how much they had grown, following instructions using a compass, taking photos for the village photography competition, exploring habitats, and discovering what is in the pond.

One of the highlights of the year is when our Grandparents come and join us for lunch, many of whom once came to our school. It is always a joy to see them sharing lunch with their grandchildren and spending time looking through their books together. The children are always incredibly proud to show them their learning.

It was great to celebrate all things Cornish on St Piran's day. Gideon, a member of our local community, came and shared the story of St Piran and led us in song, singing some traditional Cornish songs.



News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School

Celebrating Our School

As part of our latest project, we were challenged to create a promotional video celebrating our school. It was important to ensure that every aspect of school life was represented, from learning and achievement to the strong sense of community that makes our school special.

Despite the tight schedule, we successfully captured the spirit, values, and opportunities that our school offers. The experience highlighted not only the strengths of our school but also the dedication and teamwork involved in showcasing it so proudly.



As scientists we observe, ask questions and use evidence to understand what happens around us



We are musicians



Develop resilience through sport



Learning extends far beyond the core curriculum



**We are passionate readers
We are storytellers and thinkers**

News from our Schools



Landulph Primary School



We build strong foundations that enable every child to succeed



A wonderful team of school councillors who help and support us by listening to our ideas and representing our views



Maths is about thinking carefully, finding different ways to solve problems and understanding numbers. It helps us to reason and calculate



Staying fit is important for your mental and physical health and we have lots of opportunities to take advantage of our brilliant resources



We love working together and helping one another



Every child is valued, supported and encouraged to be the very best version of themselves.

Together In Adventure and Discovery

(If you would like to see the final product why not visit our school website or Facebook page)

News from our Nurseries



Dobwalls School Nursery

Healthy Cornwall Visit Brings Rainbow of Flavours to SMART Nurseries

Children at both Dobwalls School Nursery and Liskeard School Nursery recently enjoyed special visits from Tanya and Nina of Healthy Cornwall, who brought a fun and interactive healthy eating session to each setting.

Across both nurseries, children got hands-on with a rainbow selection of fruits and vegetables, exploring different smells, textures and tastes. For many, it was a chance to rediscover favourite foods, while others were introduced to something completely new, with plenty of encouragement to taste with confidence, even when a flavour wasn't quite to their liking!

The children also enjoyed a colouring activity and a lively "Foods of the Rainbow" game, adding an extra dose of fun to the learning.

Both settings extended their thanks to Tanya and Nina for such an engaging and informative visit, with Liskeard already looking forward to a return trip soon.



News from our Nurseries



Dobwalls School Nursery



News from our Nurseries



Dobwalls School Nursery

World Book Day 2026: Celebrating Our Love of Books

Dobwalls School Nursery marked World Book Day 2026 with a celebration of all things books and stories.

Books are a cornerstone of the early years, laying the foundations for literacy, language and cognitive development while nurturing emotional wellbeing. Regular, engaging story time accelerates vocabulary growth, sparks imagination and builds vital brain connections, all while helping children develop empathy and a deeper understanding of the world around them.



News from our Nurseries



Liskeard School Nursery

SMART Day: A Rare Opportunity for Nursery Staff to Come Together as a Team

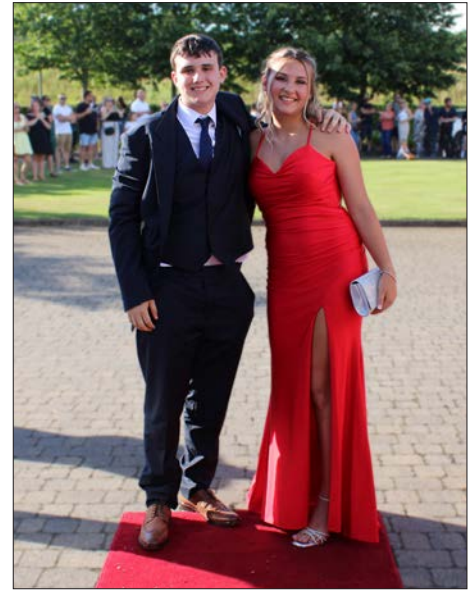
SMART Day gave staff from across both SMART Nurseries settings a rare opportunity to come together for a fantastic day of workshops and professional development.

The team attended a range of sessions designed to extend current knowledge, interests and skills, all led by experienced and inspirational leaders from within the trust. The day then continued with in-house training, giving staff the chance to explore changes within the curriculum and build on current practice and provision, with a few fantastic team-building moments thrown in along the way too!

Everyone was looking forward to being back with the children the following day, ready to put their new learning into practice.



SMART Students



Celebrating in Style



Exceptional Creativity &



Talent of SMART Students



Exceptional Creativity &



Talent of SMART Students





More Amazing Talent from across the Trust

