# Fowey River Academy Newsletter

#Aspire360

1st March 2020

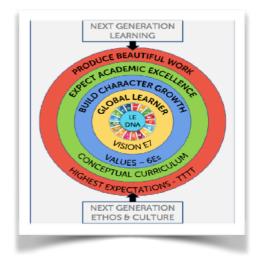
#### Dear Parents/Carers

The Leading Edge Academies Partnership has made a unwavering commitment to support Fowey River Academy since October when both the Headteacher and the Senior Assistant Headteacher found themselves with unexpected but significant health issues which have involved long term absence. The Academy has been supported by myself and Mr Harvey as the CEO and COO respectively followed by Mr Eddy who has been the Acting Headteacher since November who has a specific expertise in improving behaviour. This is a number one priority for Fowey as we develop even higher expectations for relationships, academic work and character building for future readiness. We expect news of Mr Dale and Mr McKiness soon and wish them both a speedy recovery.

As the CEO, my principal aim has been to appoint new staff to strengthen the leadership team so that rapid improvement can be obtained in response to the Ofsted Report that was published in the autumn term. This has involved adding skilled Senior Leaders in both Literacy and Numeracy to develop core skills. These staff will also provide strength in the English and Maths Faculty. In addition, we have also appointed a Senior Leader to be in charge of developing academic excellence and this week we have appointed an outstanding leader to support the work with special needs students at Fowey and across the Trust.

These new staff are essential building blocks for the Academy as we rebuild after the disappointing legacy from the previous Trust. The existing Senior Leadership Team have been hard at work developing a new educational approach which is summarised in the diagram below. At the centre of the diagram is the commitment to the future by supporting the UN Global Goals. This chimes with the Trust vision statement of a "world class education for global learners".

Visible evidence of work towards the 17 Sustainability Goals can be found in our curriculum designs, our display and the work of the support staff including the catering, admin and site teams. The blue ring of the diagram highlights the importance of the shared values we have at Fowey River Academy and they include, Excellence, Empathy, Endurance, Evolution, Equity and Ethical behaviour. These values drive all decision making and also form the shared language we use in the form of Learner Habits. Our reward system awards merits with stickers from these 6Es and our Fowev River Way is displayed on student planners and front screens of our computers. This language and behaviour will be crucial to develop for the next generation of learners because increasingly employers are asking for young people of character before they ask for academic qualifications. We want Fowey students to have both!



#### CEO Report by Sara Davey

The green ring is the newly rebooted "Conceptual Curriculum" that is being launched very soon. Every subject will plan their lessons in a nine-week block with three assessment case studies and clearly identified big ideas or concepts linked to their discipline. Each module will have a clear narrative driven by the Essential Question and every piece of work that is completed throughout the module will inform the module grade rather than a single test at the end of the unit. Each case study will allocate a mark using the mark scheme that will be available to all and an average grade will be calculated by combining the scores of the three case studies. This will allow for some much more varied and challenging types of assessment which could include essays, fieldwork reports, scientific posters, drama performances as well as the normal tests.



The red ring focuses on how we are going to ensure this is successful. Teachers will be honing their skills of TTTT or "Teaching To The Top" and this will be a focus of teacher training each week. All students will receive top grade lessons and there will be scaffolds or supports for all students to develop their thinking and study skills. The expectation will be that students will produce beautiful work by drafting and redrafting towards the goal of excellence.

However, to do this we need the support of parents by helping their child be "Ready for Learning". They need to bring pens, pencils, rulers and crayons/highlighters to school each day in a pencil case rather than a blazer pocket. They also need to bring a Student Planner and a fully charged iPad. In our recent survey of lessons, it was interesting to note that one

hundred per cent of the students who were asked said the iPads had made learning more interesting.

Finally, I hope everyone had a safe and restful weekend as we survived the latest onslaught of storms!

Best Wishes

Sara Davey

#### Community Update...

#### Aspire360



Following months of planning we are finally able to announce that our <u>Crowdfunder is LIVE</u>! At FRA we are determined to provide new and unique opportunities for our students and our partnership with the Morvargh Sailing Project is like no other. We are trying to raise £30k to take up to 40 year 9 students around Britain, providing a life-changing

experience. Although this is for Year 9, we hope to roll out further trips to other year groups and if we exceed the Crowdfunder target, the money raised will go to creating new experiences for other year groups. To ensure that <u>Aspire360</u> is open to all and not exclusive we aim to raise every penny that we need and not ask parents to individually pay for the trip...this means it's a monumental community challenge to make this trip a reality...but we are confident that with your support we can do it...just imagine seeing our students sailing out of Fowey each year on such an epic adventure!!







#### Science update...

**Year 7:** 'Science@Home' launched with (a really topical) an explanation of how lightening was caused and students were delighted with the effects of static electricity form the Van Der Graaf.

**Year 8:** Spring semester started with a few queasy faces during the pluck. We discussed how the respiratory system in joined together and looked at the structure of the lungs, heart and liver. Pupils we're surprised at how spongey the lungs are in comparison to the the heart which is a dense muscle. These pupils have continued to look at their lung volume and will be analysing the data from the practical next week.

**Year 9:** Spring semester started with a bang for the pupils with modelling the digestive system. It seems to put a few off food for a few minutes! From the digestive system we went back to look at what different foods are comprised of in terms of the food groups. They tested these foods to see positive results. Next week, we are moving onto looking at the enzymes used at different stages of the digestive system.

**Year 10:** 'Change or the same' launched with a fun lesson on electroplating and alloying copper coins. This was much enjoyed by students and stalk alike. Students - 'this is like magic!'



















#### Art update

**Year 7 REAL launch:** Year 7 were exploring the cost of art in lessons this week. We discussed the controversial sale of artist Jeff Koons sculpture of a Rabbit which sold for  $\pounds$ 71 million last year. Jeff Koons is famous for his culptures that look like balloon animals. We tried to recreate his sculptures by making some of our own balloon animals! The students really got to grips with the work and enjoyed it.

**Year 10 Textiles:** As part of the textiles course we are exploring textures and techniques. This week students have learnt about felt-making and how to create their own fabrics. From these fabrics we will create our own fabric flower sculptures.



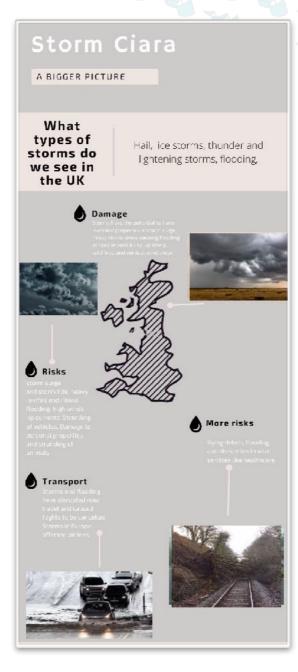
#### **Treat Friday**

Pictured below are just some of the students in year 9 who have received 7 or more credits for following the FRA values. Each student has been a part of the treat Friday experience having hot chocolate, cookies and doughnuts.

Congratulations to this weeks winners Maggi, 2 tickets to the cinema and Ben, £10 love to shop voucher. Each student with 7 or more credits are entered into the weekly draw for fantastic prizes.



#### Outdoor Ed...storm Ciara by Robyn Burt



#### Year 11 Maths

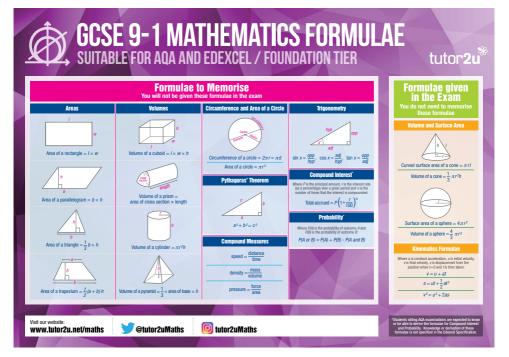
As you are aware, Year 11 are completing their second set of Mock Exams. This is a practise towards their real exams, so a further opportunity for them (and us!) to identify gaps in their learning early enough to make a difference.

After the Mocks are over, students should be following their revision timetable to make sure they are covering any individual area's they need to.

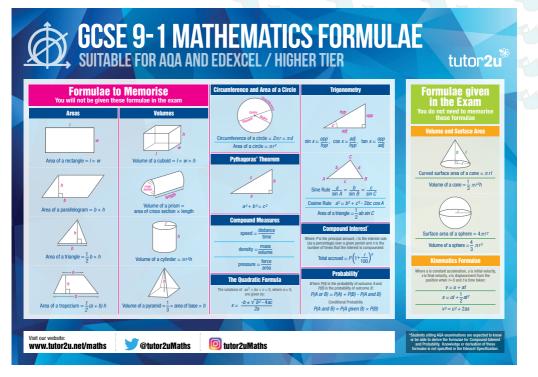
If they have not created one yet, please help them to do so or ask them to speak to their form tutor, who will be glad to support them.

In the maths exams, there are certain formulae that pupils must learn off by heart. You can help them to learn and retain these by putting post-it notes up in often-visited places (the fridge, the bathroom mirror, the bedroom door, the edge of a computer screen). You can also help by quizzing them on each formula. If your child needs any help with tips for memorising these, or if they are unsure which they need to remember, please make sure they speak to their classroom teacher.

Please remind your child that revising maths is all about practising! Little and often is best. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or me at <u>omiller@fracademy.org.uk</u>



#### Year 11 Maths



#### iPads Revolutionising Learning

Since the introduction of iPads last term, teachers have been working hard to embed the use of digital technology in lessons to support learning.

As the recent Y7 student survey results show 100% of students surveyed think that lessons are better with iPads.

How Are Teachers Using Digital Technology to Improve Learning?

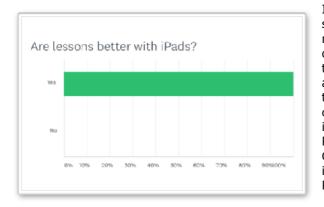
As the recent Y7 and Y10 student survey results show, all departments are uploading lessons to Firefly for students to access in class and at home. The development of this cutting-edge digital curriculum is improving teaching and learning through:



-Allowing teachers to use multimedia approaches to aid understanding such as instructional videos created by staff, video clips, imagery and text. -Allowing students to learn at their own rate, as one Y10 student summarised; "iPads help you learn because you can go through the lesson at your own speed."

-Aiding the metacognition process through the material always being available for students to revisit and revise at a later date.

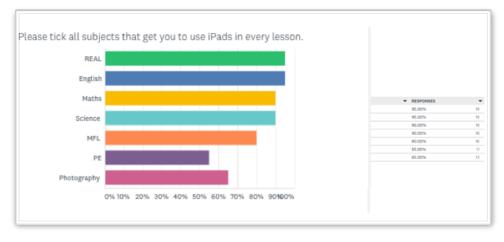
-Breaking down some of the barriers for SEN learners thanks to students being able to easily enlarge content, alter colours and use spelling tools. -Developing digital literacy.



In addition, to prepare our students for the demands of a multimedia driven world and to develop flexible creative thinking skills, students are also being set challenging tasks on iPads such as creating; short films using iMovie, magazines using Photoshop, compositions using GarageBand, animations, illustrations, stop motions and PowerPoints. In terms of assessment for learning and homework, along with traditional methods, many subjects are now also developing online quizzes and utilising revision APPs such as Seneca. Students have enjoyed this method commenting; "Quizzes are a fun way of learning," 'Doing Kahoot is much better for revision," and "Nutty Tiles in languages really helps me to learn." The Science department have also been using SeeSaw to deliver digital feedback in video, audio and text form which has proven a hit with students who have commented, "I really like SeeSaw, it makes the feedback easier to understand."

Students are not just benefitting academically, as one Year 7 commented; "Using iPads is also teaching me how to use the internet safely."





#### Sports update...

#### Argyle on tour!

"After a very long drive to Oxford, then to Cambridge it was worth it with 3 games and 3 wins!!!

We played against Norwich, West Brom and Ipswich!

Then yesterday we travelled down from Cambridge to Somerset to play some more football but unfortunately it wasn't so successful."

Well done Maddie...we are all very proud of your efforts.

#### Stand up to cancer...

On Monday 10th February the year 11 football team took on the year 10 team in a charity football match. The boys demonstrated excellence and professionalism and the event enabled them to raise £80 for a great cause. The money has been donated to a local student named Ellie who is close to a number of students in the school and who is currently battling cancer. Thank you to everyone involved in the planning and running of the event!





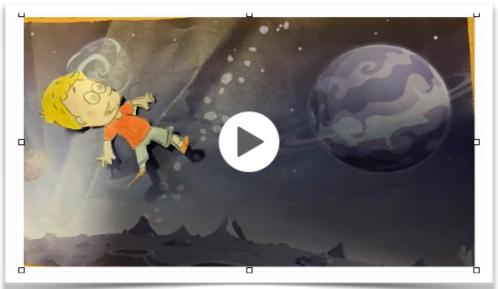
#### Arts Hub Update...

#### Year 9 Dance

Pictured below is Year 9 student Leo who has been selected by studio4/4FSYouthDance to represent Cornwall at a National Street Dance Competition. This is a prestige event where Leo had to go through a tough selection process. Leo will be performing at Alton Towers where the countries finest dance talents will be on show.



#### Ella O'Brien Music Assessment



#### Values...



To inspire lifelong global learners who have a desire and belief that they can achieve.

Teaching student's, the vital knowledge, skills, attributes to be successful. Providing every student with the experiences that shape and develop their character and the support and guidance to nurture their talents

#### This week was National Empathy week

The programme is run by the Youth Sports Trust and Times Educational Supplement

The world needs more Empathy

Empathy Week 2020 is an invitation for 200,000 young people to put empathy into action and create a better world. Together, we are building the #EmpathyGeneration.

During the 5 days of Empathy Week, students watched real life <u>cinematic-stories</u> and we helde active-discussions that connect you to very different lives from your own during tutor time and lessons.

This years, theme was 'Sporting Change' - which delved into the captivating stories of <u>Slum</u> Soccer India and explores how empathy has the power to change lives

Empathy Week took our students on a personal journey with the aim of equipping them with the tools and mindsets they need to understand and solve complex challenges that shape a better world.

#### Young change maker award

Following on from empathy week we will be launching the Young Change Maker award

The award encourages, challenges and provides all students with the opportunity to really make a difference to our school, community, country or world and make it a better place for future generation

TACKLE CHALLENGE

FORM YOUR TEAM TAKE ACTION MAKE CHANGE

Students will be asked to form teams of 2-5 people to discover and define a local or global issue and work together to develop and deliver an innovative solution. The most successful Academy projects will be submitted for prestigious national award

There are young people around the world making a choice and taking action to change the world for the better. Please read these articles

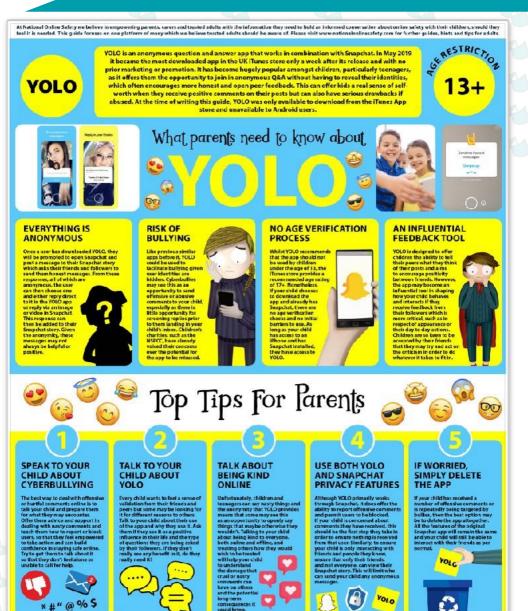
to find out about 5 teens who have changed the world.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctbree/acticle/De9e80de-62cb-4782-a26f-1cd480d28f26

https://www.one.org/international/blog/if-you-could-change-one-thing-in-the-world-what-would-it-be/

Why not you next?

#### Online Safety





#### Meet our expert

Fete Radh is a writer with over 1D+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist arcs for West Yenkishire Police, Fete has contributed work which has been pivotal in seccessfully winning high profile cases in courtas well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES; https://onyolo.com/terms https://onyolo.com/terivscy https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-48214413

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#### Notices ...

#### Year 11 Careers information



#### DUCHY COLLEGE COURSES & CAREERS ADVICE EVENT ROSEWARNE & STOKE CLIMSLAND

www.duchy.ac.uk

MARCHIE

SAT 28 MAR

10AM - 12PM

Tour the campus
Meet expert lecturers
Explore career pathways

SAT 21 MAR 10AM - 12PM

Andy But

### FALMOUTH MARINE SCHOOL COURSES & CAREERS ADVICE EVENT

www.falmouthmarineschool.ac.uk

#### - Tour the campus - Meet expert lecturers - Explore career pathways





#### Coming up...

5th March LIVE Screening of RCS's Macbeth For Yr 8's

16th March World Book Day

Year 7 Parents' Consultation **Evening 12th** March 16.00-19.00pm

16th March Year

11 Easter

Revision

Programme

Bookings Open

# We Are



## The Leading Edge Academy Partnership

