



Message from the Head



With the departure of Mr Yalden at the end of term I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the interim Headteacher of Looe Community Academy. My name is Kristien Carrington and I am the Director of Education for the SMART trust. Over the course of my career, I have taught all over the world in a range of schools, spending the last 17 years working in Cornwall. Before joining SMART in January, I had spent the previous 5 years as the Headteacher of the Sir James Smith's school in North Cornwall. A school with many similarities to Looe Community Academy in many respects. During this autumn term I have been working

closely with Mr Yalden and the Senior Leadership Team of the school. Looe Community Academy already feels familiar, and I am very much looking forward to helping the school prepare for the arrival of the new permanent Headteacher.

As complex as schools can be, I have always believed in the principle of keeping things simple and easy to understand. The focus of my interim Headship during the Spring term will be 'disruption free classrooms'. This will be achieved by rigorously applying consistent classroom routines, whilst at the same time making sure there is a clear, shared understanding of the purpose of those routines. Understanding why routines are in place will help all to create the welcoming environment we know children will thrive in. In order to achieve this, all need to understand exactly what to expect from each and every day so that all can enjoy positive and productive days.

It is my belief that the foundation of everything good that happens in a school comes from the relationships that exist within it and with the community it serves. Over the coming terms, whilst the new permanent appointment prepares to take up the role of Headteacher, it will be my role to support everyone at Looe Community Academy, parents, pupils, and staff alike, in building and enjoying those relationships.

At 6.30pm on Monday 6 January I will be making a presentation in the Main Hall of the school to which all members of the community are invited and at which I will be outlining what all can expect from the terms ahead. I'm very much looking forward to working with you all to provide the children of Looe with the best possible school experience. One that ensures they are equipped and brave enough to make the interesting choices we know are available to them, a rationale I look forward to sharing with you in the new year.

Kristien Carrington
Interim Headteacher

GCSE Mock Exams

Dear Students,

The invigilating team and I would like to take a moment to commend each and every one of you for your exemplary behaviour and attitude during the recent Mock GCSE exam.

It's clear that you approached the assessment with maturity, focus, and respect for both the process and your peers. Your dedication to doing your best, even in this practice setting, is a testament to your commitment to achieving your goals.

Mock exams can sometimes feel daunting, but you handled them with a level of professionalism that is truly impressive. Whether it was staying quiet and focused, managing stress effectively, or supporting each other, you demonstrated a positive attitude that will serve you well as we move forward toward the final exams.

We are so proud of all of you for making this a productive and respectful environment. Keep up the excellent work, and let's continue to build on this momentum in the weeks ahead!

Well done once again, and best of luck as we prepare for the next steps in your journey.

Warm regards,

Michaela Gordon
Exam Officer



Some of the upcoming Trips that are planned for students.....

- Cheer Team will be going to London
- Maths GCSE trip to Plymouth University
- Textiles trip for students
- Year 11 Geography Field Trip

Remembrance Day

A big thank you to all who made this year's Remembrance Day very memorable.

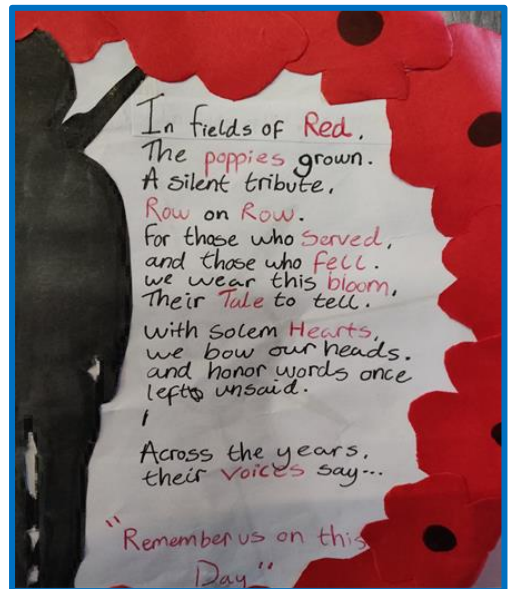
Students helped with Poppy sales and took part in a literacy incentive to decorate their Tutor classroom doors.

We had a lot of very good and the winner was Tutor Room 011—8TRE

Well done and thank you to everyone for getting involved. Chocolates were delivered to Mr Mathias' Tutor group.

A Poem written by Jasmine from 8TRE to share with you.

Well done Jasmine. Excellent work and beautifully done.



Look out for a new literacy incentive coming soon.....

NEWS from the Drama Department



The Drama Department will be delivering workshops in the lead up to the Christmas Show to create a short performance that will feature in the December showcase. This will be a collaborative opportunity available for all year groups.

The workshops will run after school on a Monday 15:15-16:00. The showcase is an opportunity to celebrate the joy, community spirit and creativity that the arts encourages through its multiple channels. The Drama Department hopes to continue these workshops after the winter break and to organise more performance opportunities moving forward.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas in the Music Department!

Some of our students will be performing in six shows before we break up for the holidays and they have been busily preparing for them. Our performance team have worked hard in rehearsals and after school clubs to be ready for the Polperro Christmas Lights Festival. They learnt 14 songs to perform for the festive crowd and were greatly received and appreciated.

On the same day, the same students headed over to Restgarth Care Home and performed for the residents who couldn't make it to the festival. We were so proud of them, and it was lovely to see residents dancing and joining in with the singing.

The same team headed over to Hillcrest care home on the 9th December to help kick off the festivities. Last year was such a success that the residents asked for our LCA team to visit them again this year.

Our KS4 are working hard on compositions and song writing for their Eduqas course work and really displaying their creativity. We have KS4 London College of Music pop vocals exams in January and seven of our students are now ready to take Grade 6 to Grade 8.

Our rooms are full every lunch time with Christmas Concert rehearsals with over 20 acts wanting to perform this year, it is sure to be jam packed show full of variety and talent.

Some of our year 11 Music students have now been given unconditional places at the colleges of their choice to continue with KS5, level 3 courses in Music Performance and Music Production. We look forward to seeing what 2025 will bring us.



KS3 Choir Students are Superstars



A lovely selection of our KS3 choir students performed at Hillcrest Care Home on Monday 9 December. They were accompanied by Miss Ashton & Miss Welch. The students sang 13 songs on the dementia ward. The fabulous residents and staff made us feel extremely welcome with some residents joining on tambourines & dancing. The students performed very well and were a credit to the school and we have been asked to return in the summer.

One staff member commented that a number of the residents are non-verbal, but music has such power that they joined in, they even videoed one of the ladies to share with her family abroad as she doesn't interact much but was dancing with a staff member.

The students truly made a beautiful impact.

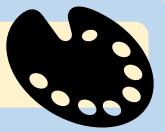
Spreading Christmas Cheer: Student Council and Lions Club Deliver Christmas Hampers to the Community

The student council teamed with the Lions Club of Looe by providing Christmas Hampers for the community's elderly and vulnerable. Each tutor group were tasked with contributions and as a collective we have been able to distribute 26 hampers for the local community.

A big thank you to the student council team for their support and thank you to all students who donated. You really have made a difference, and it is greatly appreciated!



Art Class Open Day



The Art Department invited Y7 Parents to attend an Art lesson with their children. We were delighted that 36 parents and carers took us up on the offer and participated in a year 7 key skills lesson. The Student and Parent lesson focussed on developing tonal range and how to apply tone to create the illusion of form whilst also discussing elements such as lighting, shadow, composition and shape. Miss Welch taught the lesson as a 'normal' lesson which would allow the parents and carers of our new intake to experience school as it would be every day and support their transition into the school.

This is an opportunity which Miss Welch has delivered many times at other schools but is new to Looe. The Art department feel that opening up lessons and giving parents the chance to share in their child's learning will help conversations about lifelong love of learning

The department is hoping to trial this in the arts this year by hosting a series of open lessons and then potentially roll this out across other subject areas. Feedback from parents who attended has been extremely positive with many suggestions how to progress the initiative. Student who attended the lesson expressed how nice it was and one child said 'I was really impressed my mum was so well behaved'

Each lesson will be shared on the school academy website and Miss Wood & Miss Welch will be presenting feedback and their experience at The Smart Schools Conference in February. Please check Parent Pay to see further dates for 'open Art Lessons'. More images can be found on the Looe Creative Instagram page. [@looeca-creative](https://www.instagram.com/looeca-creative)



Talland Bay Hotel and Cornish Hospitality

Collective Workshop

We were thrilled to welcome Rhys, Sous Chef, and Jack Ashby-Wright, Hotel Manager from the renowned Talland Bay Hotel, for an engaging two-hour workshop with our students. The session covered a wide range of valuable topics, from menu planning and seasonal considerations to employability skills and career paths. Mark Lewin from the Cornwall Hospitality Collective also joined us to share his insights on how students can develop transferable skills thrive in the hospitality industry. Rhys even prepared and cooked a live lobster, using every part of it while discussing waste reduction and sustainability, which really brought home the importance of mindful cooking.

The workshop also touched on key industry elements such as chef skills, equipment, and customer preferences, as well as the importance of understanding environmental factors when planning menus. In addition, we explored career opportunities, contracts, and life after school, helping students understand the skills needed for success in hospitality and catering. It was an inspiring visit that left everyone excited for the future and well-prepared to pursue their goals in this dynamic, sustainable industry!



Year 8 Students from Looe Community Academy take part in 'Cornish Maritime History Day'

Students from Year 8 participated in a series of workshops organised by Art Teacher Miss Welch, exploring the theme of Cornish Maritime History. Miss Welch, Mr Saberton, Year 8 Head of Year and Mr Yalden, Headteacher, all agreed a day to develop students' pride in the county, which was closely linked to the schools focus on 'a place of belonging'. Not only did the students look at Looe's community and its development through fishing (and also history of smuggling in the area!) but History teacher Mr Kevern gave a presentation about how Cornwall and its economy, community and future is shaped by the county's maritime history. The students sat respectfully whilst they watched a video about the Penlee lifeboat disaster of 1981.

During the day the students participated in several fantastic workshops hosted by practitioners who are experts in their field who kindly and generously gave up their time to work with the youngsters. One such workshop was led by Andrew Johnson, a Cornish language tutor. During the hour workshop the students learnt some basic Cornish greetings, how to decipher local place names but also to say 'I am proud to be from Cornwall' - *Gothus ov vy dhe vos Kernewek!*



Cornish Maritime History Day Continued...

The students had two incredible workshops where they learnt sea shanties. Gary Hooper, Tristan Netherton and Chris Netherton from The Stuns'ls Shanty Group, worked with Music Teacher Miss Ashton to teach the students 'Cornwall My Home'. The students discussed locations mentioned in the song as well as the importance of faith and belonging to fisherman with such a perilous job. Gideon Barrett and Chris Legg both from Barrett's Privateers, and Kevin Brinn from The Stowes worked with students to teach each group an upbeat sea shanty and explained the history and importance of sea shanties to sustain morale and as a way of storytelling and keeping history alive. Students learnt 'Drunken Sailor', 'A Sailor Ain't a Sailor', Sloop John B' and 'South Australia' with actions and drumming.

One of the Year 8 students said, 'I really enjoyed the whole day, but my favourite bit was working with Kev, Gids and Leggy, learning 'A Sailor Ain't a Sailor'. I enjoyed learning the movements as they were funny, and I got to sing with students I wouldn't normally do this with'.

In their final workshop with Miss Welch, students learnt all about sailing iconography and its use in Sailing Tattoos. As an art teacher as well as a local artist, Miss Welch explores this theme in her own work and was keen to show the students about how sailors used symbolism to express and recognise their achievements and journeys on the sea with a strong sense of morals and pride. The students then designed their own tattoos using iconic images such as The Swallows, used to symbolise when a sailor had travelled over 5000 nautical miles and The Anchor, used to show a sailor steadfast.

The students came together in the afternoon and performed their shanties accompanied by the professionals for each other and the day was rounded off with the whole year group standing together to sing 'Cornwall my Home'

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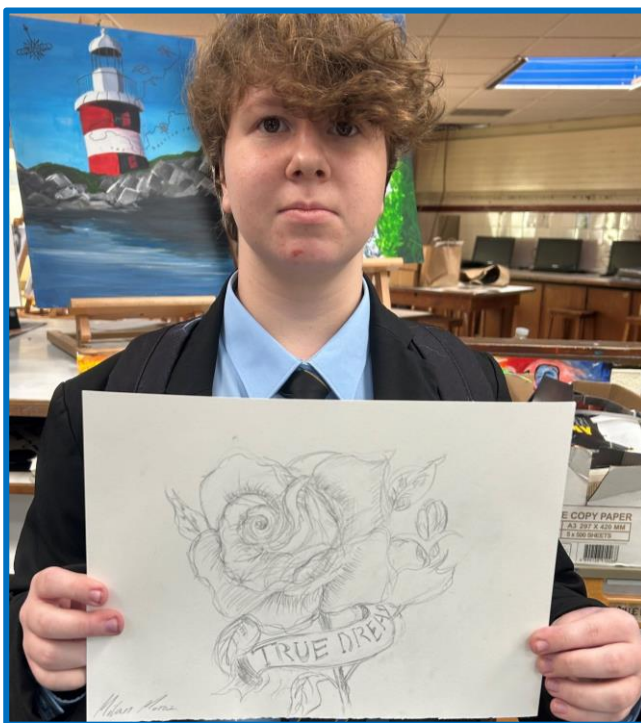
School Admin Staff: 'It was so brilliant to hear everyone singing so heartily, it really made us tap our feet'. 'So good to hear students singing local shanties. 'Really warmed our hearts – we want to hear it every day!'

Mr Saberton, Head of Y8: 'It was a wonderful day for all the students, I really enjoyed the opportunity to sing with them'.

Cornish Maritime History Day Continued...

Sharon Ashton, Music Teacher: 'The students really appreciated how music can be so energetic and were captivated by the harmonies.'

Miss Welch is hoping the day will become a regular event in the school calendar and once again would like to thank everyone who came in and all who worked with the students, helping to make it such an informative and enjoyable day. Without the kindness and generosity of spirit shown by professionals in the Cornish Community, this day could not have happened. Who best to teach how our Cornish Maritime History is alive and so important, but the experts who are living it every day? More images from the day can be seen on the school website and on the creative department's Instagram page [@looca creative](#). You can even listen to soundbites from the student's sea shanty performances.





PE Cross Country Race

Y10/11 Cross Country Team competing at Saltash School on Tuesday 26th November. Y7/8 girls and a Y8 boy also competed.

A great day was had by all, well done to everyone who took part.



A Positive Story from Dance



This term, we have continued to develop our partnership with Hall for Cornwall, which has allowed us to offer our KS4 GCSE Dance students incredible opportunities to work with three professional dance artists. These workshops have provided vital support for their GCSE coursework, focusing on set phrases and their performance pieces.

Working closely with these artists has not only their technical skills but also given the students a unique opportunity to engage directly with professionals in the field. They've had the chance to ask questions about their careers and gain valuable insight into what it's like to be part of a professional dance company.

The students have risen to these challenges with remarkable focus, commitment, and passion. We are extremely proud of their positivity and drive throughout this experience.

The culmination of their hard work will be showcased in the Christmas Show on **18 December**.





An Impressive Victory

Rocco Lozynski achieved a standout victory in his debut amateur boxing match in Wales last week, with the referee stopping the bout in the second round due to his dominant performance.

From the opening bell, it was clear that Rocco was not only prepared, but eager to make an impression in the ring. His precision and power were immediately evident as he controlled the pace of the bout.

With this impressive win, Rocco Lozynski has proven himself as a serious contender in the amateur boxing world, and his supporters are excited to see where this incredible journey will take him next.

Well done, Rocco!



A Wonderful Story Shared with Us



Chloe won the National British Show jumping Junior 60cm Club Championship which took place at Stoneleigh, Kenilworth on 12th August this year. Chloe was also this year's winner of the 70cm Junior SouthWest league, having won the same title last year. All of these wins were with her pony 'Hightops Satellite' (stable name Buzz)- Buzz can be a Rodeo pony at times!



An Amazing Achievement



Year 11 student Jared Rendle, at just 15 years old, has earned a two-year scholarship with Plymouth Argyle Football Club.

Currently playing in the U18 squad, Jared has been with the academy since age 6, showcasing his talent, resilience, and dedication. His hard work has been recognized throughout his journey, when he was selected for the U14 England trials.

With great sacrifice and determination, Jared has achieved one of his football milestones as a scholar and we wish him the best of luck as he continues to strive to be a professional footballer!



We would love to hear from you as parents and carers with any stories or achievements or positive messages that you may have, If you would like to share this in the termly Newsletter, please email the details to:

enquiries@looecca.net

Thank you

Polite uniform reminder:

“We’re in the team, we wear the kit.”



Looe Community Academy School blazer



Light Blue shirt KS3



White shirt KS4



Looe Community Academy tie



Black, full length tailored trousers or shorts (no leggings, jeans or skater trousers)



Black pleated skirt

We do not allow:

- Piercings (including clear piercings)
- Jewellery (except one pair of studs in the earlobes and one watch.)
- Acrylic or painted nails
- Excessive make-up, false eyelashes or unnatural hair colours
- Large logos or slogans on outdoor clothing- must be discreet



Black, flat- heeled, fully polishable (no canvas or material elements) school shoes
Plain black socks (no logos)

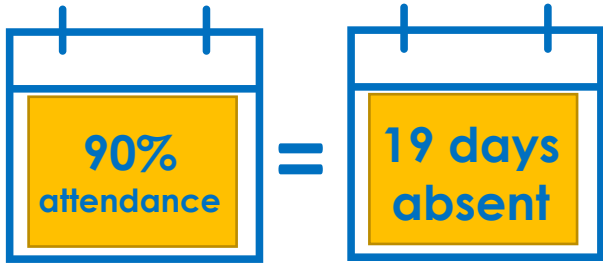


Black V necked jumper
(optional and always to be worn alongside, and not instead of, a blazer)

Attendance

Matters

Every student.
On time. Every day.



Did you know?



5 minutes

late

to every lesson = 2 hours

missed learning a

week, which is 15 ½
school days per year!



For help & support

Please contact your child's
tutor, head of year or the
school attendance team:
attendance@looeca.net

Days off cost good grades!



The DfE published research showing that pupils attending school with 95%+ attendance are more than twice as likely to achieve 5 GCSEs at grade 5+ than those with 90% attendance.

What can families do?

- ☑ Be firm. **Send your child to school every day**, all day, unless they are severely ill;
- ☑ Schedule **appointments** and extra-curricular activities **outside of school time**;
- ☑ **Avoid taking holidays** during term-time;
- ☑ **Encourage your child** to have good sleep, morning and punctuality routines;
- ☑ **Seek help** from us before your concerns become serious. We are always here to support.

Each day missed...

- Puts your child behind and makes it more difficult to catch up;
- Can lead to gaps in learning and lost connections with friends;
- Makes the transition into the workforce or further education less likely to be successful.