



saltash.net community school

Newsletter

October 2013

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to my September newsletter, I am writing to give you an update on some events which have taken place during the first four weeks of term, and also to advise you of some important notifications recently given to us.

Industrial Action by the NAS/UWT and NUT

Both the NAS/UWT and the NUT are planning a one day strike on **Thursday 17th October** as a result of the ongoing 'trade dispute' with the schools' minister, Michael Gove—the Secretary of State for Education. As the NAS/UWT and the NUT are the two biggest teaching unions the number of staff affected by the call for strike action will be significant at our school. We are currently trying to make arrangements, which conform to health and safety regulations, for Years 11, 12 and 13 to come into school on the 17th October. It will not, however, be possible for us to open for Years 7-10 on that day. Further information concerning the arrangements will be posted on our website and sent out via our text messaging service.

Safety of students travelling to and from saltash.net

In the interests of the safety and well being of all students at **saltash.net**, I am writing to request, once again, that parents do not drive onto our school site at the end of the school day in order to pick up your children. It is essential that buses and taxis have the space to manoeuvre in the main car park and that students' and staff safety is not compromised.

Additionally, we have received an email from PCSO Andrew Halls expressing concern about the problems the school buses and local residents are encountering at the back entrance of our school, on Broad Walk. PCSO Halls states:

"Saltash neighbourhood Police Team are asking that parents be mindful of where they park when dropping off and collecting their children from saltash.net school and to be aware that Broad Walk is a bus route. As such, even though there are not any yellow lines on the road, parking on both sides of the road can cause an obstruction to buses and other users of the highway. This is an offence under Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980. This can lead to a fine or even to the offending vehicles being removed. Police will be increasing patrols in the area in an effort to stop these obstructions occurring which are causing a nuisance to local residents and buses in particular.

We will also be looking to raise this issue with Cornwall Council and seeing if there are any steps we can take together to try and alleviate the problem.'

Please could I also seek parental support in speaking with your children about appropriateness of behaviour when travelling to and from school. **saltash.net** has a very good reputation within the local community and this brings many advantages for the school, in terms of sponsorship and the maintenance of high student numbers on roll—which, of course, guarantees a consistent level of funding.

School Uniform Suppliers

It was with sadness that we received the news earlier this term that Nick and Amanda Taylor are to cease trading at Saltash Sports from the end of October. We are indebted to them for the un-failing support they have given to our school and we will very much miss their presence in Fore Street. We believe it is essential that there continues to be a choice of two school uniform providers in Saltash. West Country Embroiders on the Saltash Industrial Estate by Waitrose will continue to provide a school uniform service. In addition 'Super Savers' on Fore Street, owned by Jan Bray, have been in discussion with us regarding taking over from Saltash Sports. We are delighted that they have shown this interest in our school and will continue to work closely with them and West Country Embroiders to give you the best possible affordable and accessible school uniform suppliers.

The Friends of School

Grateful thanks are expressed to the Friends of School for organising another very successful 'Eat my Goal' fundraiser at Kimberley Stadium last Friday evening. There was an excellent turn out and we are so pleased that the staff and parent teams were able to enjoy a great game of football—all in a good cause. Special thanks to Darren Pearce and Brendan Lee for organising the parent and staff teams, respectively. We are hoping that the funds raised will be able to go towards upgrading the quality of the sound facilities in the main school hall, further enhancing the improvements to the lighting provision which took place last year.

Future Friends of School Fundraisers

There will be another opportunity to hear the amazing 'Wurlitza' performing a live soundtrack to SUNRISE - one of the greatest silent movies ever made - at **saltash.net** on Friday 18th October at 7.30pm.

Drama and Music productions at saltash.net

Do make sure you have bought your tickets for the forthcoming production of 'An Enemy of the People' by Henrik Ibsen. This is being performed by a prestigious, national theatre company - Just Jones - in our school hall - on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th October, commencing at 7.30pm. Staff from **saltash.net** and local community representatives will be playing a part in the chorus. It is definitely a show not to be missed!

During the week of Tuesday 10th to Friday 13th of December, the whole school production of the musical 'Guys and Dolls' will be taking place. After last year's hugely accomplished production of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' it is back to the world of musical theatre.

Tickets for both events are available from the main school reception - ('Guys and Dolls' from after the half term break)

Staffing Update

Congratulations go to Mrs Silvester, whose baby, Harriet Ruby, was born last week.

We were sorry to say farewell to teaching assistant, Cheryl Stachel, who left us at the start of term to return to Poland to be with her family. We wish her well and thank her for all she did to support the students at **saltash.net**, especially within the Trematon Area Resource Base.

School 'supply' dogs!

With Mrs Bovey and school dog Max's absence for Mrs Bovey's maternity leave, we have arranged with **saltash.net's** livestock technician, Ann Chapman, for her two dogs—Jamie and Oliver - to come into school to substitute for Max! Both dogs have been given a full health check by local veterinary practice, Albert Cottage, and we look forward to them joining our school community very soon.

Exam results update

We were all thrilled to receive notification of a number of upgrades to examination results—both at A Level and GCSE - following a request for remarks. The upgrades at GCSE mean that we are now on 70% 5A*-C including English and Maths. At A Level, well done to Fred Lucken who moved from an A to an A* for Business Studies and to Craig Hammock and Callum Barnes whose B grades for ICT were both upgraded to A grades.

In addition, I would like to congratulate ex Year 13 student, Humphrey Shotton, whose outstanding results of A* in Maths and As in ICT and Physics, were, regrettably, missed off the A Level press release contained in the last newsletter. Humphrey is now studying Computer Science at the University of Exeter and we are certain he will excel in this area!

Charity Fundraising Update

On Friday 27th September **saltash.net** took part in the 'world's biggest coffee morning' in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care. The grand total of £125.61 was raised after a busy cake sale at morning breaktime. This coming Friday we have a non uniform day in aid of 'Blood Bikers' and 'Breast Cancer Care'. Tickets 50 pence.

Open Evenings

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd October. Thank you to all parents who will be assisting with our open evening arrangements by providing transport for students acting as guides and helpers. We very much appreciate your support.

Community Event - Marking World Mental Health Day

Dr Mary Welford of Psychology Associates, who is one of our team of school counsellors, will be giving a 60 minute talk on simple ways to improve your mental health and wellbeing on Thursday 10th October from 10am to 11.30am at Saltash Guildhall. Admission is free, but numbers are limited. To book a place please contact Psychology Associates on 0845 026 7260 or email sam.morley@psychologyassociates.org.uk

Theme Day - Wednesday 23rd October (Overall Theme - Health & Wellbeing)

Mr Romain and Mrs Feldwick have been busy planning our next whole school Theme Day. Arrangements are as follows:

Year 7	Dragons' Den - would you eat it?
Year 8	What is Compassion? Led by Dr Mary Welford
Year 9	What does HEALTHY mean?
Year 10	Your health and wellbeing matters!
Year 11	Raising Aspirations - Study skills day at St Mellion International
Year 12	'You're Hired'
Year 13	Year Book - how will we be remembered?

An 'Enemy of the People' - Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th October @ 7.30pm

Tickets are still available for 'An Enemy of the People', a touring production of an adaptation of Ibsen's play by Just Jones & Theatre Company. The company are touring the country and it was offered to only three schools in Cornwall as part of the tour - of which we are one! Tickets are £8 and £5 from reception at school or the Just Jones website: justjonestheatre.org.uk

Please come and take this opportunity to watch professional theatre at its best in our own school hall Tuesday 8th October and Wednesday 9th October, 7.30pm.

The latest review of the show says:

'This is an entertaining and imaginatively experimental adaptation. There is little wonder that it is the first UK production of Ibsen to win the prestigious *Ibsen Scholarship*.'

Please join us and be part of this exciting evening.

Diary Dates

Wed 2nd & Thurs 3rd Oct	Year 6 Open Evenings: Early closure at 1.20pm on Wednesday 2nd October
Tues 8th & Wed 9th Oct	'An Enemy of the People' - Just Jones & Theatre Company
Wed 16th Oct	Bring Your Grown Up To School morning for Year 7
Wed 23rd Oct	Theme Day
Mon 28th—Fri 1st Nov	Half Term
Thurs 7th Nov	6th Form Open Evening
Tues 12th Nov	Year 7 Tutors Parents' Surgery
Thurs 21st Nov	Year 10 Parents Information Evening
Thurs 5th Dec	Year 11 Presentation Evening
Tues 10th to Fri 13th Dec	Production: 'Guys & Dolls'
Tues 17th Dec	Y12/13 Parents' Surgery
Wed 18th Dec	6th Form Presentation Evening
Thurs 19th Dec	End of Autumn Term - Early Closure at 1.20pm on Thursday 19th - not Friday 20th as stated in Planners
Mon 6th Jan 2013	Whole School returns for Spring Term

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs I Bryce
Headteacher