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2nd February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

In advance of this term's edition of Community News, I am writing to bring you up to date with some of the things that have been happening at **saltash.net** and to remind you of some key events on the calendar.

First of all, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all of you who have responded so positively to the letter which was sent out a couple of weeks ago requesting your support with upholding our high standards of uniform. There has been a significant improvement across all year groups in Years 7-11 which is extremely pleasing to see. Thanks go to everyone within our school community for their cooperation with this matter.

Although as parents and carers you obviously play a key part too in helping to ensure your children arrive on time at **saltash.net**, it is very much down to the students themselves to uphold our expectations in terms of punctuality. It is excellent to also be able to report that there are now hardly any students arriving after the 8.40am bell, again showing that the vast majority of our young people do understand why it is so important to be here on time for registration and the start of school.

With both uniform and punctuality, it is our ongoing intention to help prepare the students at **saltash.net** for the demands of the 'world of work' as best we possibly can. Employers will, of course, want students who are literate and numerate but they will also want individuals who are reliable and cooperative and proud to be associated with a particular place of work or employment.

Safeguarding reminders:

- All students in years 7 to 11 will have had two separate assemblies this half term on the theme of e-safety – next week's, led by Mr Buckley, deputy head, is scheduled to tie in with Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9th February. Last week's assemblies were led by Mr Bond, Assistant Headteacher, and PC David Thompson, our Youth Intervention Officer for South East Cornwall. Please do speak with your children about the key messages contained in these assemblies, particularly with regard to keeping safe on-line when using social media. If you have any queries at all with regard to e-safety, please do contact Mr Buckley on dbuckley@saltashcloud.net



- Road safety – another reminder to please speak with your children about staying safe when walking to and from school. Unfortunately, despite regular reminders to our school community, we still have reports of students stepping out into the road without looking and not being aware of what's happening around them, often as a result of wearing headphones and listening to music.

Review Day:

Thank you very much for making your Review Day appointments for Monday 8th February. I know that attendance at this day often means the need to rearrange work schedules, so a special thank you to those of you who have had to do this. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at what I know will be a very positive day. Please be advised that our World Challenge 2017 Team will be providing refreshments throughout the day to help raise money for their fundraising initiative. Thanks go to Mrs Griffin, deputy head, and Mrs Foot, administrator, for all of their organisation of Review Day.

Year 11 Mocks:

These commenced last Thursday and are continuing this week. Year 11 have conducted themselves in an exemplary manner; we wish them well with the outcomes (which will be made known at the Mock results day on Monday 29th February) and with the 'real thing' in May and June.

(Please be advised that ongoing 'mocks' for years 12 and 13 are taking place during the normal timetabled day.)

Post 16 Pathways Evening:

Thanks go to everyone who supported this Careers event last Thursday and to Mrs Wadsworth and Mrs Boulton who organised it. We had much positive feedback following this event and I am pleased to be able to include a particularly complimentary response from the Ministry of Defence in this newsletter:

'As an employer, attending the Post 16 Pathway evening last night was a delight. We have been to a few of these events over the last few weeks but we were really impressed by the quality of the questions the young people asked, and the way they conducted themselves. Normally the parents are the ones who approach us, but the students at **saltash.net** took the lead in this. They were really confident, polite and very articulate – a clear reflection of the school's 'believe and achieve' ethos.'

Well done to our excellent students who always do us proud on occasions such as this.

Appointments with staff at saltash.net:

A polite reminder that with 1400 students at our school, it is not possible for parents to arrive at school to meet with a member of the teaching or support staff without an appointment having been made. Diaries and timetables are always extremely full and it is not our intention to cause anyone upset if the request to meet with someone is declined. Clearly, if there is an emergency situation, then we will do our very best to meet with parents as soon as is practically possible, but for all other matters please either phone or email in advance.

Dates for the Diary:

Monday 8 th February	Academic Review Day
Wednesday 10 th February	Community Action Through Sport (CATS) presentation evening, St Mellion
Friday 12 th February	Non uniform day to help raise funds for Gables Cats and Dogs home
Friday 12 th February	Ski trip departs for Austria
Monday 15 th to Friday 19 th February	Half term holiday
Monday 22 nd February	SMART training day for saltash.net & Landulph. School closed for all students
Wednesday 23 rd March	Spring Term Theme Day
Thursday 24 th March	Early closure at 1.20pm. Easter holidays commence
Monday 11 th April	Summer Term begins

Staffing update:

We have appointed two new caretakers, Mr David Brandenburg and Mr Howard Rapley, to replace Mr Hyde and Mr Palmer who left at the end of the Autumn Term. We have been very pleased to welcome them to our school community.

We will also be saying farewell to teacher of English, Mrs Cassie Langmead, at February half term (although she will be continuing with her Year 13 A Level group up until their exams). Mrs Langmead has made an outstanding contribution to the life of our school and we will all miss her expertise and passion for English enormously. We wish her well with all future plans. Please be assured that appropriate arrangements have been put into place to cover her classes and thanks go to Miss Owen (Head of English) and Miss Littledyke (Assistant Headteacher) for helping out with the timetable until the end of the summer term. We were delighted to be able to appoint a new teacher of English last week, Mr Thomas Ward, who will take up his post from September.

We also have two maternities within the Music department. Congratulations go to both Mrs Venner and Mrs Silvester. Again, appropriate arrangements are being put in place to cover these maternities and Music interviews for both posts are taking place this week. (Mrs Venner will be leaving at Easter and Mrs Silvester after the summer term half term break.)

Student successes:

There have been a huge number to celebrate this half term and all details will be covered in Community News. In the meantime, do keep following our news on the website, which includes the @praisesaltash Twitter Feed.

Thank you, once again, for your ongoing help and support. It is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs I Bryce
Headteacher