



Newsletter



Autumn 2023

Welcome to the Looe Community Academy Newsletter

As we start back from the weeks holiday I am writing to share some reflections on the autumn term and some of the exciting activities the students have experienced. My hope is to send home this style of publication more regularly so that you can have a stronger sense of what the students have been doing here at the academy. As you will know we are using the Satchel One app much more extensively this year and many parents and carers have shared how useful they have found this change. I am delighted that the proportion of parents and carers using this system has risen from 29% at the start of term to 61% in 7 weeks. Should you need any support with accessing and using the app please do contact us so we can address any issues you are having. Emails and the app are our main methods of sharing information about any student at the academy and for sending out letters so please let us know if you decide to change your email address or indeed any other contact details.

On 12 October, Year 11 participated in a revision day ahead of our mock examinations which commence on Monday 13 November. This included workshops from our staff as well as external experts. Support will continue in the coming months through mentoring, revision sessions and targeted intervention. This year we saw one of the largest increases in progress as an academy in comparison with the rest of Cornwall from 2022 to 2023 and this is something we are seeking to achieve again for the benefit of our Year 11.

As we enter the latter part of the year, there is likely to be a rise in the number of respiratory infections circulating. We continue to ensure that measures to reduce the impact of these infections are in place such as hand sanitisers, high standards of cleaning and encouraging the students to make the most of the fresh air when the weather is favourable. The NHS has recently brought out a guide for a range of scenarios in the event you need any clarification about whether to send your



child into school and how much absence is appropriate. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please do contact us for support as the longer some issues remain unresolved the harder it can be for a child to return to school following absence.

With respect to requests for term time holidays these will only be approved in exceptional circumstances. The Cornwall Council Code of Conduct applies and states: If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Year 11 parent and carers' evening on Tuesday 12 December.

Mr Yalden, Headteacher

If you have any enquires please email or give us a call:

enquiries@looea.net

01503 262625

Or visit our website:

<https://www.looea.net/>

Dates for your Diary:

- **24 November** - Academy closed for staff training
- **12 December** - Year 11 Parents'/Carers' evening 4pm to 7pm
- **19 December** - Last day of term



Exciting Day of 3D Game Design

We were thrilled to host a group of enthusiastic Year 6 students from Looe Primary Academy for a day of interactive learning and fun. Guided by Mr. Dourass, these young minds delved into the fascinating world of 3D game design. They immersed themselves in the process of creating characters, designing environments, and developing gameplay mechanics.

The day was an absolute success, evident from the happy faces as the students departed, clearly having a great time during their visit.

We would like to extend our thanks to Looe Primary Academy for entrusting us with their Year 6 students. We look forward to more exciting learning adventures in the future and are committed to nurturing the curiosity and talents of young minds in our community.



Strengthening Student Success through Family Collaboration

At Looe Community Academy, we believe in the power of partnerships between parents, carers, and educators for student success. We recently hosted "Key to Success Workshops" for Year 7 and 8 student families. These workshops aimed to foster collaboration, provide solutions for challenges teenagers face, and enhance student progress.

Parents and carers engaged in discussions with key educators, gaining insights into effective learning strategies. These workshops strengthen the connection between our academy and families, boosting attendance and empowering parents to contribute to their child's academic growth.

Our goal is to improve each student's progress by 4 to 6 months through this collaboration, nurturing a lifelong love for learning. The "Key to Success Workshops" exemplify our commitment to preparing well-rounded, successful individuals ready for life's opportunities. Together, we can help our students achieve their best chances in life.

At Looe Community Academy, we believe in the power of partnerships between parents, carers, and educators to unlock each student's full potential and create lifelong learners.





Looe Academy Cheer Team Shines with Spectacular Summer Performances

The Looe Academy Cheer Team added a burst of energy and excitement to the Plymouth Gladiators vs. Glasgow Tigers Speedway encounter. The event drew a near-capacity crowd, who were treated to a dazzling display of 10 unique routines that ignited the night with enthusiasm.

The evening offered fantastic entertainment for all in attendance, as the team's infectious spirit and energy created a lively atmosphere that heightened the excitement of the event.

This remarkable group of young athletes continually impresses with their talent, teamwork, and commitment.

A big round of applause to all the team members for their outstanding efforts. The Looe Academy Cheer Team stands as a shining example of dedication and enthusiasm, making a lasting impact wherever they go.

Exploring TV Production with Beyond Paradise

Our drama and dance Tech award students recently had the opportunity to peek behind the scenes of TV production. When Abi Cousins, the Production Coordinator for Beyond Paradise Series 2, visited the school shared her insights into the industry.

During the visit, students gained a perspective on the highs and lows of working in TV production. They discovered the excitement of meeting the cast and witnessing the final product, but also the industry's demanding nature with long hours and high-stress moments.

Abi offered practical insights into salaries, local opportunities, and strategies for breaking into the competitive field. Students also grasped the importance of gaining work experience and developing essential skills such as communication and problem-solving. This was a valuable experience for our students, which provided a real-world understanding of TV production.



The Looe Academy Cheer Team ignites excitement and spreads positivity wherever they go.





Important Information & Updates

- **SEND**

Monday afternoon SEND drop in cafe for parents/guardians with any SEND queries, the SEND team will be available for appointments between 2:30 - 4:40pm starting after half term. To book click on the link: [Booking system](#)

- **Free Parents/Carers Mindset Works Resources**

Free resources for parents / carers to support children in developing resilience and strong mindsets for learning: <https://www.mindsetworks.com/parents/growth-mindset-parenting>

- **Teaching and Learning Update**

This term we have focused on developing purposeful learning environments and enhancing our clarity of instruction in the classroom.

Students have taken to our new ways of starting lessons with our warm meet and greets at the door to ensure good punctuality and the roll out of silent 'Do Now' tasks.

Students are enjoying the 'Do Now' retrieval tasks at the start of lessons and this is improving concentration levels. Students are clearly understanding the reasons for having to revisit learning to deepen their understanding of new concepts and knowledge learnt in lessons.

Please keep an eye on any homework assigned to your child and encourage them to revisit this content. We encourage students to read at least three times a week for twenty minutes at home for KS3 students to become familiar with their Need to Knows found here ([knowledge organisers](#)) as new parts of their curriculum unfold. Becoming familiar with learning content has a big positive impact on a child's progress. We know through research parents and guardians who work with us advantage their child's progress by 4-6 months. Over time this equates to raising progress by one or two grades at GCSE. We thank the majority of you for working hard with your children at home and taking such interest in their learning.

Together we can help them Be the Best they Can Be.

Mrs Jackman