

... working together... inspiring excellence ...

## Raising Aspirations with Falmouth University

Y6 pupil premium children from St Uny C of E Academy and Connor Downs Academy visited Falmouth University this term. The children were not only introduced to a wealth of future study and/or career options, right on their doorstep; but were hopefully inspired to smash any imaginary glass ceiling preventing them achieve what they believe they can. It is never too early to foster a sense of self-motivation and to aim high about the future.



## Aspire Charter of Excellence

This term saw the first marques being awarded to schools as part of the new *Aspire Charter of Excellence*, a framework designed to transform outcomes for children and redefine what is truly outstanding across a breadth of subjects and focus areas. This term, nine schools gained their Bronze marque for their Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) provision and two —Mount Hawke Academy and Summercourt Academy—scooped Silver. For the Pupil Premium charter, seven schools can now proudly display their Bronze marque. Thank you for the effort and commitment shown by all involved.

## Biscovey Academy are the Aspire Tag Rugby Winners 2017!

## Aspire Training

Learning is never the preserve of children as this term witnessed a lot of learning for the grown ups in the Trust! Our first Aspire Maths Leads Day took place in October which offered the chance to explore Early Years maths and how it should look in the classroom. Excellent sessions were led by Sandy Hill Academy's Helen Bingham and Dr Helen Williams, an independent educational consultant who specialises in developing effective, playful opportunities for Early Years & KS1 mathematics learning. The same month, the first Nursery Leads Network meeting sprung into action, hosted by St Stephen Churchtown Academy, with pre-school practitioners coming together to showcase examples of best practice from across the Trust.



## Aspire INSET Day



Internationally renowned speaker Marc Woods, joined the Aspire Celebration shared INSET day on Friday 20th October, and gave an inspiring keynote address on the theme of 'Personal Best' from St Minver School. For academies not able to be there in person, a live video link streamed Marc's talk to all Aspire corners of Cornwall and staff joined in with a lively Q&A. Thanks of course to Marc for taking time out of a very busy schedule to inspire and motivate us all, but huge thanks too to the Aspire IT team for ensuring the morning went off glitch-free! Staff returned to their hub schools in the afternoon for an array of activities focussing on personal best, resilience and leadership. Children may get a day off on INSET day but it's most definitely nose to the grindstone for teachers!

## Premises Update

The Premises team has been working around the clock this year, overseeing a number of big building projects across the Trust. Whitemoor Academy now has a fabulous new classroom block, Connor Downs is the proud owner of a smart meeting room and front office and Sandy Hill Academy will offer 60 Reception Class places from 2018-19 with a transformative 8-classroom block, currently under construction. The continuous upgrade of buildings and ongoing maintenance programme is vital not only to the wellbeing of our staff and children, but to successful teaching and learning outcomes for all.



**Welcome to...** Cusgarne Primary School who joined the Aspire family of academies on 1st October and to Delabole Primary and Tintagel Primary who joined the Trust on 1st December. Good to have you on board!

## Focus on ... Forest Schools

Wendy Malham is the Outdoor Learning Lead and qualified Forest School leader at Penryn Primary. She is passionate about the outdoors and believes that it's vital for all children to gain an appreciation and connection with nature. Penryn has its own woodland Forest School site where Wendy works with over 200 children a week, from Reception through to Year 6. Young people can learn valuable skills such as recognising tree and plant life, conservation, fire safety, campfire cooking and working with tools. Learners are allowed the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences, which they would not access in the everyday classroom. Giving children the freedom and independence to learn outdoors allows them to choose achievable tasks, which helps build self-esteem and self-confidence, ultimately enriching every area of their lives.



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

