Holsworthy Community College
A View from the Bridge
24th March 2016
**Principal's Comments**

Apologies, as I was unable to send my column in time last week, so this one covers the last two weeks.

Following on from last Tuesday’s Governors’ Standards and Curriculum meeting, where we were looking hard at pupil progress in our feeder primary schools, this week we had a Governors’ Resources sub-committee looking at budget monitoring, Health and Safety and Personnel.

The main national news of last week was the Budget and its implications for schools. Last Tuesday afternoon I was at a meeting of local authority schools at Sandy Park and the topic was how we could work together in the future for the benefit of children and especially “vulnerable” children. During the meeting the story broke that all schools were going to have to convert to academy status by 2022 at the latest with plans in place by the end of the Parliament in 2020. The news certainly put the cat amongst the pigeons.

On Wednesday morning last week I was interviewed on BBC Radio Devon regarding the suggested announcements in the Budget. Once the budget announcement was made there was lively debate in the educational community. The timing for once provided assistance as we had ASCL National Executive on Thursday. Friday was another meeting at the Department for Education exploring the proposals for a National Fair Funding Formula, which are out to consultation until April 17th. I was also able briefly to visit Hampstead School in Camden. Under the f40 funding proposals Devon would gain £250 per pupil, but Camden would lose £250 per pupil over time, which would obviously be detrimental to them. It was interesting witnessing a Year 11 assembly, where they were being encouraged to knuckle down in the remaining few weeks! Same all over the country I suspect!

So what are the implications for Holsworthy Area Federation pupils?

Irrespective of whether our schools are Free Schools, Church Schools, Academies or Local Authority maintained schools all of the former is irrelevant unless we have sufficient per pupil funding. This is what will make the single biggest difference to our young people. If there is insufficient funding small rural primary and secondary schools will struggle to survive. There are about 1800 schools with fewer than 100 pupils in the South West and we have already seen Broadwoodwidger, West and East Putford, Pyworthy and Sutcombe close.

As a Federation we are not large enough to operate on our own, so we will be expected to join an existing Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) or join with others to form one. We have a superb governing body now – if we become an academy, we will lose this local accountability, expertise and knowledge of our context. There is no guarantee current governors will become one of the suggested five Board members or around a dozen trustees.

The budget did have some good news e.g. 1 in 4 secondary schools will be able to fund after school activities and once I have further information I will be bidding for money for after school transport.

I do worry about how a Local Authority with only statutory duties and no relationship with its schools will be able to fulfil its duties for vulnerable children.

On Tuesday this week I was interviewing with three others for a part-time class teacher at Bridgerule.

Below and overleaf you will find the outcomes of the consultation on a change to our current school uniform, which were revealed to pupils in our final assembly of the term this afternoon. It is nice seeing the pupils in their casual clothes for Year 8’s non-uniform day for their House charities.

It has been a short, but busy term and I look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back on Monday 11th April. I wish you and your families a Happy Easter with its religious themes of sacrifice for others and renewal, which increasingly appear overshadowed by chocolate eggs! It looks as though the lovely spell of Spring weather we have had has come to an end, but I hope you can all get out and about and enjoy the glorious area in which we live.

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**New Uniform**

We had 37 responses to our request for feedback regarding the school uniform proposals. The Student Council had presented proposals to Governors earlier in the year, which were subsequently posted on the College website. I would like to thank all of the people, who responded.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Why the change?** - On several occasions staff and pupils have reported that the latter felt self-conscious and scruffy when competing with pupils from other schools e.g. in debating competitions, presentations or arriving at sporting fixtures. The drive for change has come from a significant part of the student body and parents. About 75% of secondary schools in England now have a blazer as part of the uniform.

Wearing a uniform is a life skill and helps to prepare pupils for expectations in the World of Work e.g. for those entering uniform services or retail.

I have always been reluctant to change to blazers on cost grounds, but this argument has been overcome with the availability of cheaper blazers.

**Over how long a period will the new uniform be phased in?** - We will phase the uniform in over a period of two years from September 2016. The new uniform proposals will affect current Year 6s first and foremost. Some respondents requested that the old uniform should remain in place as long as possible, until current old uniform had worn out, possibly saved from older siblings. If the uniform is phased in over 24 months from September 2016 then Year 8 will be the first year group which MUST be transferred to the new uniform.
Pupils have voted for the changes, who will not be affected by the changes.—This is why we did not have the current Year 11s vote.

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies—There was a surprising amount of support for the Year 11 Leavers Hoodies from the low number of respondents. There will be Year 11 Leavers hoodies for the current Year 10s, but those who wish to may also purchase the new uniform.

Will the new blazer be machine washable? - Yes, this is a key criterion. Also we would want them to be able to be tumble-dried.

Why not a navy blue jumper instead of a blazer? - This was re-considered by governors but the vast majority of pupils in Years 7 to 10 voted for one of the proposed options with blazers. Navy Jumpers and cardigans will be available as an option for extra warmth as required.

Additional expense.—We are extremely mindful that the new uniform should not be more expensive than the current uniform requirements. The possible increased costs of blazers will be offset by the cost of cheaper shirts compared to the embroidered polo-shirts. There was a comment about the amount of ironing we may be creating, but non-iron white collar shirts are available.

Enforcement: - Whilst the vast majority of pupils are in acceptable school uniform – 85% at least when we have undertaken whole school spot checks, we have a minority, who stubbornly refuse to comply, sadly with parental support at times. The vast majority of parents clearly wish us to enforce the uniform policy and to have a smarter uniform.

Real ties or clip on ties? - There was some preference for a clip on tie, although this is avoiding a life skill of learning how to tie one quickly and both may be available, but initially clip on ties will only be available.

Won’t the Year 7s feel even more anxious on transition? - All Year 7s will be in the new school uniform and some older pupils and their parents have already indicated that they will be moving to the new uniform and are holding off from buying larger versions of the current uniform.

The Process Summarised
The more formal option of a blazer and tie was well supported by parents and was the favoured option by the Governors. There were, however, some parents who expressed a preference for the uniform to remain as it is with key concerns being cost, practicality and warmth.

Whilst meeting with the 8 different suppliers our primary message has been that we wish to make the uniform available to parents at the best possible price. Although common practice in other schools across the country, we do not wish to profit from the sales; either by ‘marking up’ prices or being paid a commission for sales by the supplier or retailer.

The most competitive means of supply is internet based, with us holding a stock of each style and size to enable students to try on garments prior to ordering. Immediately we involve a shop retailer to hold a stock too, the prices inevitably increase. However, extended discount periods can bring the prices back into line and we know having a shop that they can visit would be popular with parents.

We were pleased to learn that more contemporary, washable, business style jackets are available at the same cost as a blazer from several companies as this was an aspiration of the College Council and would also allow for the lapel sited college logo. Jumpers and cardigans (again with college logo) were to be added as optional items to satisfy concerns regarding warmth for the winter months. Also offered are matching slim, regular and fuller fit trousers. Matching pleated skirts in plain fabric would also complete the look. The costs of these latter garments are comparable with the current uniform.

- The cost of a good quality washable blazer/jacket is about £8 more than a sweatshirt of equivalent size; considerably cheaper than the two sweatshirts most parents buy per child.
- Two long sleeved white non-iron shirts/blouses can be bought from as little as half the price of one of our current branded polo shirts.

There is a tie to factor in for less than £4.00

The Governors have decided that we will adopt the new formal uniform from September 2016 with a 2 year transition period for current students.

We have decided to use Thomas Moore, Exeter, to supply the new college uniform as they provide best value and service (internet and retail outlet).

Uniform Comparison Price List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Uniform</th>
<th>New Uniform</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweatshirts - £14.00 each</td>
<td>Blazer - £25.99 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polo Shirts - £9.00 each</td>
<td>Shirt / Blouse – £9.99 – twin pack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trousers - £14.00 each</td>
<td>Trousers - £13.99 each</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total = £74.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total = £68.95</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This is for 2 of each item.</td>
<td>This is for 1 of each and 2 x trousers.</td>
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This is based on a year 7 student.
**Netball Winners**

On Sunday 20th March Sophie Powell and Hester Presswell went to Park School, Barnstaple, to play for Bude team in a netball tournament. They were in different teams and both played really well. Sophie’s team came second out of the whole U14 tournament and 3rd in Division 2. Hester’s team came 7th in the U14 tournament and first in Division 3. Well done, girls!

**Thank you from The Prom Committee**

We would like to thank everyone who took part in our fundraising last week. Various activities were held throughout the week including a cake sale, pie in the face, netball-a-thon and leg waxing with some brave male teachers – their screams could be heard for miles! A grand total of £253 was raised to go towards our Prom, which will be held at The Falcon Hotel, Bude on Friday 1st July. We hope that you all enjoyed the activities and thank you for your support.

The Year 11 Prom Committee.
### Forthcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Monday 11th April</th>
<th>First day of Summer Term</th>
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<td>Careers talk P4 and P5 for Year 10 and 11 by Angela Stubbington, Exeter College</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12th April</td>
<td>Staff meeting— Faculty Strategic</td>
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<td>Wednesday 13th April</td>
<td>Year 11 Art Exam—KU group in D4/D5</td>
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<td>Reports issued for Year 7,8 and 11</td>
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<td>Nettlecombe Court trip departs at 9am—37 Year 10 students</td>
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<td>U14 rugby tournament in Bideford 3.10pm—7pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 14th April</td>
<td>Year 11 Art Exam—LT group in D4/D5</td>
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<td>Friday 15th April</td>
<td>Nettlecombe Court trip returns at 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18th April</td>
<td>U14 and U16 girls’ football v Bude—at home—3.30pm—4.30pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 19th April</td>
<td>Year 10 Plymouth University Raising Aspiration visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th April</td>
<td>Booking opens for Year 7 Parents’ Evening on 4th May</td>
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<td>Tempest Photography in with Years 8, 9 and 10</td>
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<td>Thursday 21st April</td>
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<td>Friday 22nd April</td>
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### News from the Learning Community

**Bradford School**

On Sunday 20th March Bradford School had 12 children competing at the North Devon Schools Gymnastics Competition. For most of the children it was their first ever gymnastics competition. It was an early start for the U7s who competed in the first round of the day. They were all excited to get started and competed really well. The U9 team all had a great competition, as did the U11 team.

Miss Southam was extremely proud of all the children who took part. They had all worked extremely hard during the after school club and represented the school really well.
Inter-House Competitions

Quiz Results

1st Zeus 198
Highest group CC 18

2nd Poseidon 189
Highest groups AWA, KC 17

3rd Thor 184
Highest group JNS 18

4th Apollo 177
Highest group CW, JMS SDW 177

Question 17 of 20:
True or false, the Queen has publicly stated that she would like to see the United Kingdom exit the European Union?

Answer:
False - Buckingham Palace has insisted the Queen is "politically neutral" over the EU referendum, following a newspaper claim that she "backs Brexit".

Netball Round Up

Year 10
On Tuesday 22nd March we played Torrington at home in the final game of the season. We were missing our captain Georgie Moores, who unfortunately sprained her ankle playing netball the night before, so Shannon Richards stepped up in Goal Attack and Ellie Martyn, who missed most of the season due to injury, did a great job as Goal Shoot. Torrington started strong and within a few minutes it was 3-1 to them. Fired up, we got the ball down to our attacking end and levelled the game 4-4. The second quarter was just as evenly matched and ended 8-8. During the break Miss Goldsworthy moved some of the players into different positions, which gave Holsworthy the edge. Soon the goals were rolling in and Torrington were struggling to score due to some excellent defending from Georgia Edworthy, who played superbly. The game slipped away from Torrington and we were now in our element. The game ended 18-12 to Holsworthy. Shannon Richards was player of the match. Well done girls, another fab season!

Year 9
The Year 9 netball team played Torrington in the final game of the season. After waiting nearly an hour for them to arrive (they got lost on the way here!) the match finally got underway. Torrington got off the score sheet first and after a very close first quarter it was 1-0 to Torrington. In the second quarter Torrington came back strong and extended their lead to 10-1. We were determined not to let them beat us and in the 3rd quarter we found our form and the goals were flying in from Ellie Burnard, Kirsty Godfrey and Tilly Daniel. We won that quarter 5-1 but, due to the late start, we had to end the game there. The final score was 11-6 to Torrington. Player of the match was Sophie Powell due to her excellent defending skills. We are now looking forward to rounders season starting after Easter and hopefully some nicer weather!
YOU CAN BE THE MISSING PIECE

One of the biggest barriers to reporting child abuse is people's fear of the consequences of being wrong – and potentially breaking up a family.

The reality is that information is usually gathered from many sources, so any report made by a member of the public would simply form one part of a bigger picture. A small piece of information could be the missing piece needed though, so it is just as important.

Each of us has a role to play. If you're worried about a child, visit gov.uk/reportchildabuse
Seeing Higher Education from a different perspective: 'I bet you'd never thought of this career before!'

To challenge the rigidity of career pathways as school teachers, careers advisors and students themselves perceive them, Petroc College, in partnership with the Devon Collaborative Outreach Network, is offering Y10 and Y11 students the opportunity of a fully paid day trip to Warner Brother’s Studio. A guided tour around the Making of Harry Potter exhibition will be led by an architecture student to demonstrate how a university level course could lead into the film industry.

In the making of the Harry Potter films the producers ONLY hired architects for the set design and students will get the opportunity to see the manual drafts, the computer drawings, the models and final results of the work and how an architectural degree could open more doors than expected. Students interested in carpentry and plastering can explore how studying them to a Higher National level could lead to set design.

The trip for 15 lucky winners will be on May 4th 2016 leaving Barnstaple at 9am and returning by 9pm. All costs, including transport and entrance to the Warner Brothers Studio, are included. Winners will need to bring a packed lunch or money for food. Petroc students will guide the students around the exhibition, pointing out the technical skills that have been used to produce the sets. Students will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions about different career paths, learn about general employability skills and see the flexibility of moving from one career to another, returning to school motivated to achieve new goals for themselves.

Please see the next page for the competition details.

Ex-Pupil to Study for Fine Art Degree

Congratulations to ex-pupil, Daisy Morey, who has been offered a place at Central St Martins in London to study for a Fine Art Degree; a truly fantastic achievement. Alumni have included world famous artists and designers such as: Alexander McQueen, John Galliano, Stella McCartney and Louise Wilson among many others! Good luck to Daisy from all in the Art department

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Davisons
Chartered Accountants

AAT Trainee – Holsworthy Office

We have a vacancy in our growing Holsworthy office for a full time AAT trainee to join our team.

Applicants will be expected to be educated to 3 A levels (or equivalent). The position will include accounts preparation and occasional reception cover.

Support for completion of AAT qualification is offered and opportunities for further study are available.

Davisons run intensive internal training programmes in addition to external courses to enable everyone to develop to their full potential.

Applications in writing, enclosing your current CV should be sent to:

Mrs Liz Smith - HR Director
Davisons Limited
1 Fry Street
Holsworthy
Devon
EX22 6DY

Email: lsmith@davisons-uk.com

Closing date: 15 April 2016
Warner Brother’s Studio ‘The Making of Harry Potter’ Competition

Did you know that a degree in architecture could lead you to Hogwarts?

Did you know that a university degree in construction could lead to managing a team building sets to make plaster and wood look like old stone?

Enter this competition, which is open to all Y10 and Y11 students, and come with us to Warner Brother’s Studio to explore some of these surprising career paths.

PRIZE: a fully paid day trip to Warner Brother’s Studio with a guided tour around the Making of Harry Potter exhibition led by an architecture student. See how a university level course could lead you into the film industry – a love of the Harry Potter films an advantage but not essential!

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To enter answer the following questions:

1. There are very few real stone buildings in the Harry Potter films – what do you think the ‘stone–like’ buildings are actually made from?

2. If you wanted to work on set design in the film industry what university degrees do you need?

3. Which construction trades would be useful in set design?

4. In the film we see the common room for Griffindor, Slitherin and Ravenclaw, but never Hufflepuff: We would like you to describe what you think the Hufflepuff Common room looks like – using either labelled sketches and drawings or a written description (use the back of this sheet for your answer).

Post your entries to: Mrs Annemarie O’Brien, Room BM108, Petroc College, Oakwood Close, Roundswell Business Park, Barnstaple EX31 3NJ

Closing Date: 15th April 2016
Wednesday 15th June 2016 at 6.30pm
A 1 mile race for all aged 15 and under, around cycleway, canal towpath and playing fields
Includes Senior 6 Mile Race at 7.15pm for age 15 and above
Entry forms and information from www.buderats.co.uk

www.facebook.com/budelifeboatrun

Location:
Start and Finish from Bude Rugby Club, Bencoolen Meadow, Bude EX23 8QG
Fully marshalled by RNLI supporters
Changing, Showers, Bag storage, BBQ
Numbers to be collected from Race HQ on Race Day
Race limited to 250 runners, enter early to avoid disappointment

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 6.00pm Monday 13th June 2016
NO ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE

Car Parking
No Parking at Rugby Club. Parking provided at the Crescent car park by Bude TIC

Race Awards
First 3 Male and First 3 Female finishers:
School Years: 2&Under
School Years: 3&4
School Years: 5&6
School Years: 7&Above

Schools Trophy to be awarded to the School with the most entries

Finishers
Medal to all finishers

Entries
FEES: £4.00 Cheques payable to RNLI
Completed entry form and £4 fee before 6.00pm 13th June 2016 to:
Race Director, 18A Stapleaton Road, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8TS Tel 01288 352884
For all enquiries please email: budelifeboatrun@yahoo.co.uk

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BUDE LIFEBOAT JUNIOR RUN 2016 - Entry form

First Name ___________________________ Surname ___________________________ Male / Female

Address ___________________________ Post Code ___________________________

School ___________________________ School Year ________ Date of Birth ________

E-mail Address ___________________________ Telephone ___________________________

If you would like a RNLI sponsor form please tick here ☐

DATA PROTECTION: The information you supply will be used solely for the purpose of race results, information and identification for health and safety reasons. The information will only be available to the members of the results team and appropriate race officials and will not be passed to any other persons or agencies.

DECLARATION: I declare that the above entrant is medically fit to run this event, will abide by England Athletic Rules and will in no way hold the organisers responsible for injury, accident or loss of property resulting from participation in this event.

Signed (Parent/Guardian) ___________________________ Date ____________

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