



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Launceston Road, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 7DR

Tel: (01579) 383292 Fax: (01579) 383562 E-mail: enquiries@callingtoncc.net

Website: www.callingtoncc.net

Principal: Mrs Wendy Ainsworth



WA/AJU

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Dear Parents/Carers and Students

First week completed as Principal of Callington Community College and it has been a wonderful, humbling experience. I have had the pleasure of delivering assemblies to all of our young people this week, where I have voiced our core values of relentlessly high expectations for all and no ceilings being placed on potential. As educators, we have a very important role in shaping the futures of the young people in our care and ensuring that their time with us is enjoyable, nurturing and has opportunity to uncover hidden talents and potential. My own experience of school was not a good one. I was well behaved and quiet and therefore, quite often left alone to 'get on with it'. My teachers seldom engaged with me on a personal level and I was completely unaware of what I could achieve and consequently, my aspirations at school were somewhat poor. I am incredibly fortunate that my experiences at sixth form college were in stark contrast to my school days and I came into contact with people who inspired, motivated and challenged me to be my best self. It is my passionate commitment to you all that no child at our College will go un-noticed, unrewarded for the feats of academia, personal achievements and kindnesses they portray, or uninspired to smash glass ceilings and earn accomplishments of which they are proud.

I have hugely enjoyed my interactions with students this week. Their pride in being a member of our College community is evident, both in their very smart appearance and their conduct around the College. It is clear that they have high expectations of themselves and others.

We are busy with preparations for our Super Learning Day (more to follow) this September. This will afford many opportunities for students to learn more about themselves, each other and the world around them, and how they can shape it and change it for the better. I am really pleased that our Year 7 students are being given the opportunity to embrace their inner 'Bear Grylls' with their visit to the 'Adrenalin Quarry' to help further their tutor group bonds, which will be so vital in providing their network of support in the years ahead.

The introduction of 'Show My Homework' continues to be an excellent platform for parents and carers to engage with home learning and aid us in developing resilient and knowledgeable learners. If you are unsure of how to access the site please contact Mr Lane (aklane@callingtoncc.net) who will be happy to help. I was especially delighted this week, when the students in my Year 11 Science class delightedly informed me that their homework was complete, a whole 6 days before the deadline!

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Finally, you will all know that schools across the country have faced very significant funding challenges in recent years. This school, along with many other similar institutions has seen its per-pupil funding reduced *in real terms* by 20% since 2012. Schools and colleges have been desperate for a long-term funding settlement to recover this deficit and to be given an assurance of sufficient resources into the future.

As a College we are predicting an uplift of about 4% over two years. This is welcome, but less than the rate at which our costs are rising. We would want to welcome the overdue recognition that school funding is a priority; we are grateful for the extra investment, but frustrated that the headlines mask a somewhat less rosy picture. We are hopeful that this will continue to be examined and considered so that we are able to grant our students the best possible experience.

I have expressed with my colleagues and the students how fortunate I feel to be afforded the opportunity to work at this College and with its community. My door is always open, should you wish to come in, please do book an appointment. You are most welcome!

I look forwards to working with you all over the coming years and together, shaping the positive futures of all our young people

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Wendy Ainsworth'.

Mrs Wendy Ainsworth
Principal