



Honiton Community College

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: 15 September 2016

www.honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk

Monday, 19 September	Year 6 tours of the College (Monday to Thursday) with the Principal u.14 and u.15 Girls' Football v. St Peters @ Home
Tuesday, 20 September	
Wednesday, 21 September	u.14 and u.15 Netball v. Woodroffe @ Home Year 13 Parent Information Evening, 6 to 8pm.
Thursday, 22 September	Year 10 trip to Supacat Year 6 Open Evening, 5 to 7pm.
Friday, 23 September	

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Tuscany July 2016

In late July, I and a group of my friends flew out from Bristol International Airport to Pisa, prepared for four days trekking through the Tuscan landscape for our Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition. After a day's preparation we slept on mattresses for the last time in the better part of a week, wanting a good night's rest before the hardship we knew that followed. As we awoke at stupid o'clock in the morning to the sound of a cockerel and the smell of cheaply produced Italian croissants, we wondered what exactly was the point of the whole thing. As I grabbed my rucksack and threw it over my shoulders I was struck by the weight that I was so unaccustomed to pulling down on my back. Boots done up, insect repellent applied, time to get on with it.

For those that don't know there isn't a big walking culture in Italy, despite the abundant natural beauty, because of dangers such as several species of venomous snakes. Consequently it isn't very profitable to update maps – a problem we only discovered the scale of once we'd begun walking. From the first day we were plagued with tracks on the map that no longer existed and, perhaps worse, roads on the ground that simply weren't on

the map. Apart from making navigation tricky, it was also the cause of our main torment – the plight of the bramble bush. Let me explain; you are walking along a prominent path that is clearly marked on your map, and is the only reasonable way you can see of getting from point A to B. Suddenly, you turn a corner and the clearway narrows to a fraction of its intended width, causing you to spend an hour either smashing your way through with walking poles or retracing your steps and attempting to find another way around. This might sound like bad luck on our part, but it occurred with an increasing frequency during the trip!

I may have so far described our time in Tuscany as nothing short of miserable (and I assure you, there were times when defeat seemed inevitable and continuing seemed fruitless) but actually, I can look back on it and say it was one of the best weeks of my life. Walking in such a remote and unfamiliar environment might at first be strange, or even scary, but we soon learned to love it. Every day we came across new wildlife, new sights and new smells. Each time one of us felt low (or in my case collapsed from heat exhaustion) the others would pick up the slack. The trials and tribulations of walking were more than made up for in the views, the company and in the increasingly imaginative places we found to swim!



After four days of walking, you might think that getting to our finish was a relief. That is, in part, true. But my overwhelming feelings were ones of accomplishment, pride and companionship. We may have been pleased to finish, happy to shower and ecstatic to eat decent food again, but I know that all of us that went on that trip left a little bit of our souls in Italy, and it's a place we will always have fond memories of.

For all those who are thinking of starting Duke of Edinburgh, I have a message. It will be hard. It takes commitment. There will be times when you want to give up. But knowing that you've stuck with something to the end will truly make it worth it. The memories of blisters and aches and pains will be far outweighed by those of excitement and exploration and of friendship. In a world that can so often deprive people of those experiences, I feel privileged to know that I will always look back on this trip fondly. I know I speak for my whole team when I say that we will always remember Tuscany.

James Craig



This year's Bronze and Silver teams in training.





Parent Governor Vacancies

The College has provision for six parent governors and there will shortly be two vacancies (one commencing on the 1st October 2016 and one on the 20th October 2016).

The governing body, with the Principal, has overall responsibility for the running of the College.

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work. However, we would particularly welcome nominations from parents with the following skills – a knowledge of Careers or Science.

Training is available for all governors and this governing body has an expectation that those new to being a governor attend free induction training.

If you would like to find out more about the governing body please visit the College website (our governors) via the following link:

<http://www.honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk/index.php/about-honiton-community-college/governors>

If you would like to stand for election please complete the nomination form and return it to the school no later than 12 noon on Tuesday, 27 September 2016.

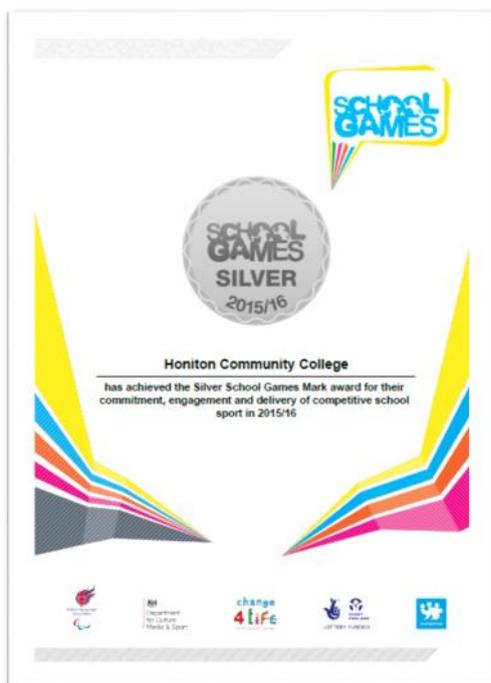
If there are more nominations than vacancies the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

Glenn Smith

Silver accreditation for School Games Mark

The PE Department have achieved Silver accreditation for the School Games Mark.

The School Games Mark is an awards scheme which rewards schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school. OfSTED use the Mark Award as part of their inspection framework and schools can use it as a development tool to aid the department.



The Award recognises our commitment to Participation and Competition including opportunities that attract less active young people to participate in physical activity and an extensive extra-curricular and fixture programme.

For more information about the award visit <https://www.yourschoolgames.com>

Mr Taylor



I would just like to wish all of our students a warm welcome back after the summer break. In particular, I would like to welcome all of our new Year 7 students, and to thank all of you who came to us having completed your Euro 2016 booklets over the summer. It was wonderful to see that so many of you had already made a great start to their French course, and we were all really impressed with your efforts.

Preparation for our Year 11 speaking controlled assessments has already begun, and can I take this opportunity to thank you all in advance for your support. As all of our Year 11 students know, we are available at any time if any extra help is needed, and we look forward to what we are sure will be an excellent performance from our students.

Mrs McConachie, Head of MFL

