

Annual Meeting report 2019 Saltash.net

It is difficult for my report to sum up the last year at saltash.net in a few words, so I would encourage you to look at the saltash.net website to find out more about the activities at the school in addition to the headlines I have described below:

As part of its place in the community the school made a Christmas contribution to the Saltash Food Bank, delivering six boxes of essential goods and foodstuffs. The organiser, who has helped organise school donations for the last five years, was delighted with the kindness and generosity of saltash.net staff members who contributed.

“Every year our staff at saltash.net step up to help those in need in our local community. None of us knows what the future has in store and may find ourselves falling on hard times and need to rely on the generosity of others. My thanks go out to everyone who has contributed and made a difference no matter how large or small,” she said.

Following their involvement in Truro’s City of Lights parade, saltash.net students and their Remembrance-themed lantern took to Saltash, leading the Saltash Christmas Festival parade through the town. The students represented saltash.net fantastically, showing off the lantern that they had created with a local artist, after they had been recognised for their outstanding work in art lessons. The students’ lantern depicts a grandfather who had fought in the First World War, holding the hand of his grandchild, as part of the Remembrance theme. As the students and their lantern reached the top of Fore Street, the Festival’s firework show began.

The Year 7 lantern bearers were so impressive at Truro’s City of Lights that BBC Radio Cornwall sought them out at the Saltash Christmas Festival to interview them! A clip from the broadcast can be listened to on the school’s website. Mr Oakes, Associate Leader at saltash.net, said the students were “really proud to have taken part in the Saltash Christmas Parade, which is such a brilliant thing to be involved in.

Saltash.net’s under 16 girls’ football team has been crowned County Champions for the fifth time in six years after beating Richard Lander School 2-1 in a closely fought final having beaten Liskeard School and Bodmin College on the way to the final.

Saltash.net community school was transformed into Rydell High as the school presented a week of electrifying entertainment with their production of the legendary musical, Grease, playing to packed houses every night.

Students from across all year groups stepped into the iconic roles of the T Birds, Pink Ladies and more, with all delivering fantastic performances, wowing the big crowds in attendance across four nights.

The full cast and crew included 80+ students with further students also working in behind the scenes roles or working as Community Ambassadors, assisting the school’s PTA, who provided refreshments throughout the week.

The whole staff team enjoyed working with such a talented, enthusiastic and committed cast and crew. Congratulations to all those involved!

Ofsted Short inspection

On 18 October 2018 Ofsted carried out their first short inspection since the school was judged to be good in March 2014. They identified some priorities for improvement. In light of these priorities, the school's next inspection will be a full section 5 inspection. There was no change to the school's current overall effectiveness grade of GOOD.

Ofsted commented that pupils say that they feel safe in school and speak positively of the personal, social and health education they receive. They know how to keep themselves healthy and stay safe, including when online. Pupils say that the school is a 'friendly community' and are able to reflect on their understanding of the importance of diversity and respect. Pupils know who to talk to if they have a concern and say that teachers deal with issues sensitively and effectively when they do occur.

As part of the care the school provides to achieve this outcome it has weekly Community Cafe sessions, staffed by the school's Pastoral Support Assistants, where parents can talk in a confidential and safe environment, whilst enjoying a cup of tea. The service is provided by the Early Help Hub, consisting of a team of professionals who work with children and their families in the local area. These sessions can open up direct access to all the services that the Early Help Hub can provide.

There are separate session slots for students and parents. Youth Workers are able to assist on a variety of issues, from social media safety and relationships, to parenting and housing queries.

Saltash.net community school has launched its new 'How to talk to your child about...' initiative, working with local youth groups and the Police to raise awareness about certain issues facing young people in the local community. In response to the Safer Saltash Initiative and the key objectives for the Town, they want to raise awareness of drugs and empower parents to support their children.

The first session challenged misconceptions around drugs and gave parents top tips of what to look out for if they are concerned about drug use. Parents were also advised on what to say to their child if they came across drugs within the community, or what steps to take in the case of an emergency situation.

There has been some great feedback from parents about the session.

One parent said, "Thank you for organising a really useful and informative session tackling a subject which is of real importance to young people. Whilst not directly impacted by this at present, I feel that it is critically important to inform ourselves as parents as to what is impacting young people's lives. As highlighted last night, 'knowledge is power'."

Another parent also said "A quick note to say thank you for arranging last night's discussion, it was extremely interesting. It was delivered in an informal, but highly

informative way – and was completely non-judgemental encouraging everyone to talk openly.”

This was the first in a series of sessions to support parents. The next will be around the subject of mental health but with the same format ‘How to talk to your child about...’.

Councillor David Yates