



Gemma Harries
Head of School

Dear parents and carers,

Following a rigorous interview process last week, it is with real delight that I have accepted the position of permanent Head of School at Newquay Tretherras. Serving this community, and working with our students, is a privilege that I will never underestimate. I am determined that all our students will succeed above expectation and thrive in a culture that both inspires and motivates. We all want young people of Newquay Tretherras to be excited about coming to school every day and contribute to a school they can be proud of.

This week, I've been talking to students about leadership legacy and have challenged them to think about what their legacy will be to students yet to arrive through our doors. We are all custodians of this wonderful school, and we must all play our part in ensuring that it offers the very best for all who attend.

MUCH TO CELEBRATE:

We have much to celebrate and share, starting with the publication of our OFSTED report which confirms that Newquay Tretherras continues to be a Good school.

Inspectors comment on how we are "ambitious for all pupils" and note how we are "keen to provide pupils with a voice in school life". The inspection team celebrate the wide range of "opportunities that develop pupils' talents and interests", something which we see as an important aspect of school experience.

Please read full OFSTED report attached.

This was swiftly followed by confirmation that Newquay Tretherras' Sixth Form results put us in the top 7% of schools in the country – an incredible achievement that means we are the top performing state Sixth Form in Cornwall. Well done to all involved!

And the successes have continued throughout the term, with our students really demonstrating some excellent attitudes towards their learning. In fact, 80% of all points given have been for praise. The rewards our students have received have played a huge part of school life this term:

- 1451 celebratory postcards home
- 295 Stars of the Week
- 180 Head of Year Star of the Week
- 240 students going to the cinema as a reward trip this week
- Headteacher commendations in English, Maths, Science, PE, History, Geography, REP, French, Spanish and Computing from Years 7 - 11



We've also had students involving themselves in all aspects of school with a Young Carers pizza making afternoon; Student Council representation at our Senior Leadership meetings and meetings with me as Head of School; many sporting successes and a huge array of musical opportunity already celebrated on our Social Media platforms. Student Leadership groups in LGBTQ+, the Eco Team and Cultural Empowerment group have been meeting regularly to affect positive change around the school. Finally, we'd like to acknowledge the success of our very own Gabby Ryder – elected Youth Councillor on the Cornwall Youth Council 2024-26 – such an accomplishment. Well done, Gabby! We couldn't be prouder of all our students have achieved and it's been wonderful to see them thrive and be celebrated this term.

CLEAR IMPROVEMENT:

We want to thank our students for the way they have responded to our new expectations and behaviour policy. We are seeing improvements in the culture of the school and both student voice and our collected data is evidencing improvements we can all be proud of:

- Less disruption in lessons
- Improved punctuality to lessons
- Improved consistency across school
- The need for sanctions dramatically reduced

During student voice, without exception, our students told me that behaviour in classrooms is much improved with less disruption to learning. They cited quieter transitions and improvements in the toilets as areas they were especially pleased with. We still have a way to go, but their feedback, along with our own data analysis leaves us in no doubt that improvements are having positive impact.



WE'RE LISTENING:

In the Parental Engagement evening in February, communication was identified as an area you'd like us to look at. As such, we have implemented the following:

- Heads of English, Maths, and Science, can now be emailed directly at
- headofeng@tretherras.net
 - headofmat@tretherras.net
 - headofsci@tretherras.net

We have moved all of our Parents' Evenings to face to face.

An online 'NT Talk to us' form is going to be launched after Easter for our students to let us know anything that may be on their mind, or anything they'd like to report.

There is greater access to meetings with Senior Leaders and SEND teams.



At the most recent Parental Engagement Evening, a key question was how the new behaviour policy was being implemented. As you've seen, our children are telling us that the improvements mean that the school feels more settled, is calmer and disruption to lessons is less.

We have worked hard as teachers to ensure that we reflect on our training that encourages us to support, engage and build positive relationships with our young people as we motivate them to reach our high standards.

Now we have experienced the new policy for five weeks, many students are reflecting that they'd like to be able to 'start again' and really demonstrate a renewed attitude to learning that they all know they can achieve. We recognise that change can take time to fully understand, and so we've decided to give our students a chance to 'start again'. **We will clear all negative points from their ClassCharts for the start of next term.** We know this is something that will excite and motivate our students, and we can't wait to see what they achieve next!

UNIFORM ADVANCED NOTICE:

As many families will start to be thinking of uniform for September, this is a polite reminder that all students will be expected to be in an approved black school shoe. More communication will be coming out after Easter to avoid any confusion!

We would ask that any other uniform purchases are put on hold until further information is given about what will be acceptable as we reflect on uniform policy. There will be a consultation process about this.

THANK YOU:

Finally, thank you for all of your continued support. So many of you have emailed, or taken the time to comment on the positive change you are starting to see, or hear about from your children.

School Improvement goes in phases, and we are coming out of Phase 1, often a phase that can cause feelings of unease or insecurity. Please work with us and continue to talk to us so that we can ensure your children have the best possible experience. We will always listen and even adapt where appropriate.

I'm looking forward to working on exciting things our students have asked for next term (including break and lunch arrangements). For now, I wish you all a very rested and peaceful Easter break.

Best Wishes,
Ms Harries