

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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St Helena Community College Awards Ceremony

In March, the St Helena Community College's (SHCC) Lifelong Learning Awards Ceremony was celebrated.

Awards were presented for achievements in IGCSE English, GCSE Mathematics, Level 2 Enterprise & Marketing, Functional Skills Levels 1 & 2 in English, and Maths, and CAIE First Language English, Enterprise & Marketing OCR, CAIE Travel & Tourism and FCSE Spanish. There were also awards for ILM Level 3 Certificate in Leadership & Management.

City & Guilds NVQs were presented for achievements in Customer Service, Business & Administration, Professional Cookery, Hospitality & Catering, Health & Social Care, and Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care.

Certificates were also presented to 12 individuals on the completion of their apprenticeships. Of the 12 individuals, nine have secured employment within the organisation in which they were trained in, one individual has engaged in offshore employment in the field of work in which he was trained in and two have secured full-time employment on the Island.

Director of Education & Employment, Wendy Benjamin, commented on how much the College has grown since its launch in 2017. The College is able to offer over 196 courses. To date, 532 students are registered with the College and there are 868 course registrations.

She commented:

"This is encouraging for us in Education. It is showing



that people are keen to develop and improve and are taking advantage of the opportunities that the College has to offer."

Wendy thanked the staff of the SHCC, service providers, assessors, tutors, work-based training providers and students for their support in making the College a success. She then congratulated the awardees:

"All of you have shown that you have a desire to reach your potential. I encourage you to keep this desire, continue your learning journey, aim to achieve more and build on your successes. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, 'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.' I would like to extend my congratulations to all awardees. Well done to you all. Be proud of what you have achieved."



MV Crystal Serenity and MV Saga Pearl Visit St Helena

Photo by St Helena Tourism



It's cruise ship season and as such St Helena became a lively hub on both Thursday, 21, and Thursday, 28 March, when the Island welcomed passengers and crew from the MV Crystal Serenity and the MV Saga Pearl for day visits.

MV Crystal Serenity

The MV Crystal Serenity arrived at 7am on Thursday, 21 March, and departed at 3pm the same day.

There were 616 passengers and 715 crew on board the vessel, with the majority of passengers being American, British, Canadian and Australian.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc's Shipping & Travel Agency confirmed that 327 visitors were booked on pre-arranged Island tours which started from the landing steps at 8am. Two Historical Town Walks took place at 9am and 11.30am, with Plantation House tours being

conducted at 8.30am and 10am. There was also demand for freelance tours from the other visitors.

MV Saga Pearl

The MV Saga Pearl arrived at 7am on Thursday, 28 March, and departed at 6pm that evening.

There were 375 passengers on board this vessel, with the majority of passengers being British.

157 visitors booked pre-arranged Island tours for this visit. Tours on the day included the Historical Town Walk at 9.30am, Wirebird tours with Magma Way Tours at 8.30am and 12.30pm and Plantation House tours at 9.30am and 2pm.

St Helena Tourism informed that the majority of feedback received from both visits was very positive.

Photo by St Helena Tourism



MV Crystal Serenity



MV Saga Pearl





During the month of March, St Paul's Primary School based their subjects around marine life and awareness, with the theme 'A Love for the Ocean'. Here are some of the fun things they did during the term.

Nursery pupils had immense fun celebrating their love for the ocean by creating their turtle and fish puppets out of different materials. The highlight was children decorating sponge biscuits and making their own delicious ocean snack sea creature.

Reception class were excited to find a message in a bottle in their classroom. The message was a letter from a mermaid asking if they could tell her anything about life on St Helena. They all wrote their own letters about what they like about St Helena, particularly the marine life, and put them into a bottle to return to the mermaid. They are eagerly awaiting a reply.

Year One class celebrated their love for the ocean by creating a beautiful rainbow fish with different coloured scales. On the scales each student wrote their feelings about the ocean and the Island's marine life. Their Literacy, Numeracy, and Art lessons all shared the marine life theme. The class also enjoyed singing along and doing the actions to the song 'Octopus's Garden'.

In Year Two, the pupils had to imagine that they were their favourite sea creature. They were then tasked with writing a play script about living under the sea along with their other sea creature friends. They also had the opportunity to go swimming at the Jamestown Swimming Pool where they pretended to be their characters in the deep blue ocean.

Year Three got to pull on some Ocean Crackers with each revealing special facts about the ocean. They then made sea creature shaped poems using a range of adjectives, similes, and lots of alliteration. The class also got to learn about famous Ocean Explorer, Christopher Columbus,

and had to imagine they were stuck in America for a year and needed to get word back home by writing messages in a bottle. As Columbus would have done, they also took turns to plot ocean coordinates on a grid.

Year Four demonstrated their love for the ocean with each student writing a sea adventure in a rhyming style, with some fantastic stories being written by the class. In helping to keep our oceans clean from pollution, the class then made use of recyclable goods, such as broken CDs, to create their own beautiful sea creatures.

As part of their Literacy on Persuasive Writing, Year Five focused their love for the ocean around the issue of marine pollution. The students did research and created posters persuading people not to pollute the ocean, particularly looking at the effect pollution has on the ocean's wildlife. The lesson made pupil's aware that pollution is not just a problem overseas but also here on St Helena.

In Year Six, the class held a discussion about all the things they love about the ocean. The class recognised that living on an Island like St Helena means the ocean is an even bigger influence on the lives of Islanders and is more special to them. They brought up all the things they love to do such as swimming, fishing, snorkeling, whale/dolphin watching and just spending days near the sea with family and friends. They were then tasked with writing a love letter to the ocean, expressing their appreciation towards it and thanking it for the wonderful experiences it allows them to enjoy. The class hopes that if people realise how special the ocean is to them then they will be more inclined to help look after it.



WMS Reconstructs Mobile Aerial Netting System

The Mobile Aerial Netting System at Horse Point Landfill Site has been fully reconstructed by the Waste Management Services (WMS) team of the Environment, Natural Resources & Planning Directorate.

The reconstruction took place following a period of servicing and maintenance which included procurement and airfreight of critical components to support the net rigging and maintenance and repainting of the masts in their original grey colour. This maintenance was essential to support operational integrity and longevity of the system. The mast bases will also be repainted in grey but this will be done onsite with no impact on the system.

Landfill Manager, Patrick Crowie, along with other members of the WMS team worked diligently, including over two weekends, to have the system reinstated in the



quickest possible timeframe following identification of issues that led to its deconstruction.

Achievements in Corporate Support



L-R: Linda, Cecily, and Karen with their certificates

Three staff members of Corporate Support were recently awarded their certificates of achievement for passing various courses studied via the St Helena Community College (SHCC).

Custodian of Records, Karen Henry, and Information & Research Support Officer, Linda Benjamin, both received a pass in the Functional Skills Level 2 Maths course. Karen said she was 'very pleased with her achievement' and found the course not to be too difficult. Linda said that despite needing to familiarise herself with a new way of learning she also did not find the course too difficult.

Linda said:

"I feel very happy with my achievement, because what I have learnt from that course has helped me with my recent studies in Records and Information Management."

Administration and Accounts Support Officer, Cecily Bateman, achieved a City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Business Administration. This was a two-year course which Cecily managed to complete in just a year. Cecily found the course 'quite difficult, but interesting' and said: "I really feel good in myself having been able to study and achieve my goal and gain my diploma."

Well done Linda, Cecily, and Karen!