**CLASS DALATHORYON – BEGINNERS CLASS**

**ASTELL WYDN – WHITEBOARD**

**De Lun an êtegves mis Hedra**

Monday the eighteenth of October

***Cornish was still vigorous until 1450. It only went into serious decline after 1500. And even so, it it went on for 250 years after that. But here are the critical 100 years that determined its ultimate fate.***

**FOR EUROPEAN HISTORY, MIDDLE AGES END 1453**

(fall of Constantinople to the Turks)

This happened during the reign of English king

**Henry VI**: backward-looking, Francophile

Then, **Edward IV**: forward-looking, strong English roots

Then, **Richard III**: Shared brother’s ideas, unwilling to see another weak monarchy, so ‘dispensed with’ Edward V (whom many claimed was illegitimate)

**FOR ENGLISH HISTORY, MIDDLE AGES END 1485** (Battle of Bosworth Field)

Then, **HENRY VII**: forward-looking, keen to heal divisions, ‘BUILD BACK BETTER’, his own first language was French, and he had Celtic roots too, but felt let down by the particularism of the Cornish people (Michael Joseph / Thomas Flamank march to London – executed)

Then, **Henry VIII**: beginning of strong recognizably ‘modern’ central government (Thomas Cromwell), Wales fully absorbed administratively into England, many ties with continental Europe cut, but much immigrant expertise from the continent as domestic economy develops

Then, **Edward VI**: boy king, hardline protestant advisors, violently put down rebellion in Cornwall / Devon (5,000 people killed)

Then, **Mary I**: restored Roman Catholicism

Then, **Elizabeth I**: strong queen, restored Protestantism, but less extreme version, by end of her reign Cornish has retreated west as far as Truro

**BUT REMEMBER IT’S NOT PRIMARILY A MATTER OF POLITICS. EVEN MORE IT’S ABOUT ECONOMICS. PARTICULARLY THE GROWTH OF INDUSTRY. CORNWALL BEGAN ITS OWN ‘INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION’ TWO HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD OF EVERYWHERE ELSE. THIS PRECIPITATED RAPID AND DRASTIC SOCIAL (INCLUDING LANGUAGE) CHANGE.**