

SPOTLIGHT

Parents' Information Newsletter



Autumn 2007

BEST RESULTS FOR TEN YEARS, STATE OF THE ART SCIENCE ROOMS AND A NEW UNIFORM

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is fantastic to be able to share with you our fabulous news at the start of this new academic year. On results day in August we were delighted to watch Year 11 pupils open their GCSE results on what was a historic day for Poltair and our best results for over ten years. Over 50% of pupils in Year 11 achieved at least five A*- C grades in their exams. Many Year 10 pupils took GCSEs a year early and were also very successful. Three pupils in Year 8 and one Year 9 pupil achieved A grades by taking GCSE Photography.

During the summer holiday we have had builders on site who have totally transformed our Science Labs into state of the art learning areas complete with a bespoke IT centre. Congratulations must go to Mr Booth who has been co-ordinating the project. Pupils will be using the new Science rooms from Monday 17th September.

We are delighted to welcome new staff to Poltair. Mrs Jane Clark is our new Section Head for English and Mr Vince Clooney takes up his post as Section Head for Maths this term too. Other new teaching staff are Miss Louise Hockley (Science), Miss Kim Sullivan and Mrs Jenny Barratt (English), Miss Rebecca Lloyd (Dance). We also welcome our new Youth Worker Miss Claire Layden and new Teaching Assistant Mr Andrew Butler.

We have to congratulate you on the fantastic response to our new uniform and on our first day of term the impact was overwhelming. Pupils looked very smart as they came into school this week. We must maintain the high standard for the rest of the academic year though and we know we can count on your support for that. A small number of pupils were in the incorrect footwear. We stated quite clearly in previous communications that footwear should be black. I would add that pupils are not permitted to wear coloured laces. We all know that teenagers like to try and express their individuality but they can do that in the classroom by being responsive, innovative and creative without trying to test the school rules through fashion statements.

Seán Hewitt

On behalf of the school Directorate

Peter Booth
Helen Holmes
Barry Richardson



RESPECT AGENDA

This year we are having a major focus on 'respect' as a follow up to our previously successful 'Back to Basics Campaign'.

The purpose of this is to further establish and reinforce our expectations of the pupils. We have seen a vast improvement in attitude, behaviour and performance in the classroom and around school. In the next few weeks pupils in tutor time will be working on aspects of the Respect Agenda and in particular these seven major areas.

R is for RESPECT

(Our peers, our teachers and our school)

E is for ENVIRONMENT

(Working together in our environment so that everyone gets the opportunity to learn as much as they can)

S is for SPEAKING

(Learning the correct way to speak to our friends, our teachers, our helpers and our visitors)

P is for POLITENESS

(Good Morning, Please and Thank You, helping others when we can)

E is for ENTRY and EXIT

(Going to and from classrooms in an orderly and quiet way)

C is for CORRIDORS

(Good behaviour in the corridor is essential so that others are not disturbed)

T is for TIDINESS

(Our uniform, our work and our school)