



# SPOTLIGHT



Parents' Information Newsletter

Issue 8  
Spring Term 2008

## Enhancement Bus

We provide a bus after school at 4.20 pm for those pupils who are attending clubs, activities or fixtures on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is also for the small minority of pupils who have to attend a detention.

We have a new system in place to secure the safety of those pupils who catch the late 'enhancement' bus. Pupils line up inside the quad area and are directed to the bus by senior staff. Each pupil is given an orange slip by the teacher who is supervising their activity from 3.15 – 4.15 pm. Unless pupils present an orange slip to verify that they have been to an activity after school they may not be able to use this transport.

## School Meals

After much deliberation we have had to put up the price of the school meal in line with the county pricing guidelines (issued to all schools in July 2007) and in consultation with the Governors. The price of the set meal will rise from £1.70 to £1.76 as from 7th April 2008. I am sure you will agree that despite the increase this is still excellent value for money.

Seán Hewitt

On behalf of the Leadership Team - Barry Richardson, Peter Booth and Helen Holmes.

## Book Week

### Encouraging every pupil at Poltair to read for pleasure

As part of the National Book Week celebrations each Year 7 parent will receive a pack that helps them to encourage their child to keep reading. Year 7 pupils will be given the packs to bring home.

Most children have learned to read by the time they start secondary school. Some are fluent readers at this stage, while some are less confident. Secondary school presents students with new reading challenges. There's more to read, new kinds of writing and lots to take in.

Supporting your child with these demands can be tough on parents and carers. Some young readers cope well with these new demands but others need a bit of support.

The pack from the Literacy Trust gives parents practical advice about the ways they can help their child to meet those new reading challenges.

Further support and help is available from the English Faculty, if you would like advice on how to support your child to face the reading challenges that the modern world demands of them.

## World Book Day

World Book Day Ltd is a registered charity whose financing of World Book Day comes mainly from contributing publishers, the generous sponsorship of National Book Tokens Ltd, some literacy partnerships and other supporters, as well as the participating booksellers who fund the entire cost of Book Token redemption. All pupils have received their token and it can be spent as a whole or part payment of any book in participating booksellers.

The Book Token redemption period is: 03/03/08 – 30/03/08 inclusive.

Successfully launched in 2006, a new list of Quick Reads titles will be published to coincide with World Book Day in 2008; these are available for £1.99 at most major bookshops. I hope your child enjoys spending their token, happy reading!



### **Poltair Dancers Performing at The Keay Theatre!**

On Sunday 9th March at 7.00 pm some of our talented dancers are performing at The Keay Theatre for the second time this year! Every Wednesday after school Alice Walker in Year 11 has been running a hip hop dance club, and Alice and her performers have been selected to perform at The Spring Form Evening of Dance alongside other dance groups and schools in the area. This is another very exciting opportunity for Poltair to celebrate the success of the outstanding talent of our pupils at this school!

Tickets are on sale at The Keay Box Office.

### **Head Lice**

Due to the milder winter climate we seem to be experiencing, we would like to bring your attention to the presence of head lice within the community.

Please could we ask all parents/guardians to check (and treat if necessary) their children's hair during the weekend? If your children are older, please could you discuss this matter with them and encourage self-awareness.

### **Is your child Gifted and Talented?**

By law, schools have to draw up a register of pupils with Special Educational Needs and then take steps in a prescribed order as outlined in the Code of Practice. Poltair School is currently reassessing all aspects of Gifted and Talented Education, under the appointment of Miss Venn as the Gifted and Talented Lead Teacher. Poltair wishes to draw up a register of pupils who are particularly able in one or more activities or curriculum areas.

This letter is an invitation for you, as parents, to write to us with information. Members of staff will already know much of what you say. However such information will not be wasted, as it will help to confirm views held by the school.

We are not just looking for nominations of truly outstanding pupils. Research would indicate that perhaps in excess of 20% of the children in this school could justifiably be nominated in one area or another.

There are some problems associated with this process. Many parents, not surprisingly, look very favourably upon their children and this may lead to a falsely high opinion of their ability. Another factor which could inflate an estimate of ability, is that parents do not have the opportunity to compare a large number of children, unlike teachers. Despite these potential problems, we still believe it is sensible to ask for your views.

If you believe your child has a particular talent or possesses high ability could you please write to Miss Venn by **19th March**, outlining your child's area(s) of outstanding talent or ability and explaining your reasons.

Miss L Venn  
Gifted and Talented Lead Teacher