



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 2
Autumn Term 2008

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

BEING PREPARED

You will have noticed in last week's Spotlight that I made a big play on the importance of pupils, staff and parents all being focused on getting some basics right, especially at the start of the school year with the details of this summed up in the '5 Ps'. Next week we begin our monitoring and the focus will be on '**being PREPARED**'. We are looking for pupils being ready for their learning and having the correct books and equipment with them. Our focus will be on praising those pupils who get it right and we will be sending out congratulatory letters as a follow up. If parents and carers can help us out in ensuring pupils succeed in this challenge, it would be much appreciated. A quick question to your son / daughter in the morning is probably all it takes.

Do have a good weekend, the weather actually looks set fair.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stephen Tong'.

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

The 'Five Ps' – Poltair Students must be:-

- Punctual** arrive on time and meet deadlines
- Prepared** bring the correct equipment and organise yourself and know what level you are working at and how to improve (focus for week beginning 22nd September)
- Positive** try your hardest and contribute where you can
- Polite** have respect and consideration for others
- Proud** wear the correct uniform and look after our school

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Wednesday - 24th Sept** Open Evening (5.00 – 8.15 pm) ALL WELCOME
- Tuesday - 23rd Sept** Meeting for Year 7 pupils and parents (6.00 – 8.00 pm) in the Science Block regarding the 'Step into Numeracy Course' to be run in partnership with Family Learning in Cornwall. *(If you have been invited please meet Mrs Walker in reception)*
- Thursday - 2nd Oct** Parents' Information Evening
GCSE Maths, Science & English (6.30 – 8.30 pm) in the Dining Hall

Accelerated Reader Programme in Years 7 and 8

Years 7 and 8 have now all taken their Star Reading tests and know their reading ages and have already been assigned reading books in the school's Accelerated Reader Programme. This programme aims to:

- Make essential reading practice more effective for every student.
- Personalise reading practice to each student's current level.
- Manage all reading activities including read to, read with, and independent reading.
- Assess students' reading with three types of quizzes: Reading Practice, Vocabulary Practice and Literacy Skills.
- Build a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Your son or daughter will be bringing home an Accelerated Reader book which has been chosen for them because it is suitable to stretch their reading ability. Ideally each student will read a different book each week and then take an online quiz to demonstrate their understanding of the book. There are three different types of quizzes available: reading practice, vocabulary and literacy skills. Each student should aim to achieve 75% accuracy in the quizzes in order to move forward to more challenging texts. Most students have already made rapid progress, gaining competence in comprehension and expanding their vocabulary, which has in turn improved their standards of literacy across the entire curriculum. This programme gives your son or daughter a fantastic opportunity to continue to improve their standards of literacy.

In Years 7 and 8 pupils do not receive any other English Homework whilst involved in this programme.

Mrs Clark
Head of English

Languages opportunities at Poltair:

We are delighted this year to be delivering both French and Spanish to our able linguists in both Years 8 and 9. Students also have the opportunity to study a range of languages to GCSE through our Leading Edge collaboration with Fowey and Penrice. We currently have 3 pupils learning Japanese and 5 learning Spanish. Congratulations to Philippa Leaity who achieved GCSE grade B in Italian in the summer, having studied the language from scratch at Leading Edge classes.

Mrs Holmes
Director of Curriculum

High School Musical – Theatre Royal Wednesday 5 November

The English and Drama faculties have organised a trip especially for Years 7 and 8 to the Plymouth Theatre Royal to see 'High School Musical' on Wednesday 5th November. The trip will leave school at midday and we will travel by coach to Plymouth and return to school by 6.30 pm in the evening, when we would ask for parents to collect their children from school. Letters and permission slips are available from Mrs Clark. The cost of the trip will be £13.10. Payment and permission slips must be returned to Mrs Russell in the School Office. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

**Mrs Clark Head of English/
Mrs Bond Head of Drama**

Box Tops for Books

Box tops tokens are on the top of boxes of Nestle cereal. We can get free books for the library with them. Please collect cut out tokens and bring them into Mrs Hancock in the school library and you will get a free sticker and bookmark.

Mrs Hancock, Librarian