



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 2
Spring Term 2009

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

EXAMINATION SUCCESS

As you may be aware, GCSE examination results were confirmed this week for all schools including Poltair. We are keen to secure year on year improvement for the benefit of all pupils who attend the school. Last year, of course, we received a national award for being one of the five most improved schools in the South West. I can now confirm that there are many positive and pleasing features in this year's results. In terms of Contextual Value Added (a measure which takes into account the social background and prior attainment of pupils) the school achieved its best ever GCSE results. Moreover the average point score achieved by our pupils, when compared to similar schools, places us in the upper quartile of schools nationally.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are also very confident that this summer we will celebrate even more student success. We aim to increase the number of pupils who achieve the all-important threshold of 5+ GCSE A*-C grades including English and Mathematics. This particular measure makes a huge difference to their future prospects as young adults. Many parents will already be aware of a number of things we are doing differently, especially with Year 11 pupils, in order to secure pupil achievement. Many pupils have been assigned mentors to offer challenge and support on a regular basis. After-school revision classes are readily available and are directly focused on examination skills and technique. We are also working hard to ensure that all learning is about the real world and is as fun and challenging as it possibly can be; to this end we are running a number of extended learning days. In addition we are exploiting our sport specialism to motivate pupils and are offering incentives to pupils to maintain good progress. In other words, we are not leaving anything to chance!

Hope you all have a good weekend.



Stephen Tong
Headteacher

The 5 Ps

The focus for the next fortnight is 'PUNCTUAL' (*Do pupils arrive to their lessons on time?*)

IMPORTANT DATES:-

Monday 19th January
Exams/Resits (pupils involved have been notified)

Thursday 22nd January
Year 10 Option 'A' Day

Friday 23rd January
Ten Tors Training – Perranporth

Saturday 24th to Saturday 31st January
Ski Trip to Alpe D'Huez, France

Monday 26th to Friday 30th January
GCSE Mock Exams Week (Year 11)

Wednesday 28th January
Year 10 Parents' Evening

Staff Christmas Card Collection

This year instead of giving Christmas cards to each other, staff made a donation to the OXFAM Gift Aid appeal. The aim was to raise £55.00 to "Build a Bog" for an African village. This was easily surpassed and a total of £120.53 was collected, which has enabled us to buy two 'build a bog' packages and a goat!

For further details go to www.oxfam.org.uk/shop

Well done and thank you to all staff who donated.

Mr R Mack
Head of Science

Sporting News

Year 9 Basketball fixture

Congratulations to the Year 9 Basketball team who continued their phenomenal start to the season with a 79-11 victory over close rivals Penrice. Sam Marchant scored 24 points and Scott Daly scored 26 points. A big 'thank you' to Josh Gilbert and Aaron Beresford for filling in at the last minute for two squad members, due to injury and illness. This did not affect the team's performance as there was consistency and fluency throughout. With the addition of our two absentees hopefully the Year 9 team will be 'going for gold' in the upcoming county finals.

Written by Sam Marchant and Scott Daly (Year 9)

Further Trials for Abbie



Congratulations to Abbie Caple, who has been invited to attend U17 trials for the South & South West Regional Netball performance centre.

Abbie who is only in Year 9 has trained with the South West team this year and has attended performance screening days where she has experienced coaching from the England staff and been subjected to ice baths! She has worked incredibly hard and we wish her the best of luck at the trials on 25th January.

Tennis Success

Well done to Ollie Elston, who has been selected for the County U14 Tennis Squad for the coming 2009 season. Ollie, who won the St Austell Mens' Singles title in 2008 is working hard to improve his national ranking and shows great potential for the future. He is a talented all-round sportsman, who is an integral part of the Poltair U14 Basketball and Badminton squads that are currently working their way to the county finals.



PE Department

Ten Tors – 35/45 mile Selection Walks

Year 9-Year 11 Day 1 Selection:

It was 5 degrees on Monday 5th January when the first team were exposed to Dartmoor's elements. The team had tough conditions to deal with but battled on and worked hard to achieve the day's goals!

Abi Duckworth, Emily Duckworth, Oli Elston, Jordan Fairclough, James Rowe, Ashley Stone (45 mile selection Matt Chandler, Justin Hooley, Joey Mudge)

Year 9 Day 2 Selection:

Thursday 8th January

'The day we had on Dartmoor was an absolutely fantastic experience even though it was tough and a lot of teamwork was required! We had so many things to learn - how to work as a team efficiently and how to use a map and compass. Today we have learnt that Ten Tors is not for the light-hearted and needs mental and physical strength. Although we were tired we still kept going and we enjoyed all of it!'

Michael Barnell, Leigh Bowman, Abi Caple, Jacob Double, Kyle Gallacher, Ben Mace, Becky Melton.

Miss Blackburn (35 & 45 mile Ten Tors Team Manager)

Please note that the weekly Spotlight and any archived Spotlights, together with news items, are available to view or download from the school website www.poltairschool.co.uk