

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 12
Spring Term 2009

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

SCIENCE EXAMS IN THE NEWS

You may have read the publicity at the end of last week regarding Ofqual's report on the standard of Science GCSE examinations. I am delighted to inform you that there is no need for any Poltair pupil or parent to be alarmed by this news. Indeed the course followed by our pupils constitutes real Science in every sense and contains a high level of rigour. This was confirmed by Ofqual. As a result, there will be no changes to the way our pupils are taught or assessed. Taking this into consideration it makes the achievements of our pupils at GCSE Science even more remarkable; we anticipate record numbers this year not only securing two grades in Science, but doing so at Grades C and above.

PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRES

Many thanks to all the parents who took time out during Tuesday's Target Setting Day to complete a questionnaire. The information is very useful to us not only in celebrating what we do well but also in terms of shaping our future 'direction of travel.' We will collate the information shortly and report back to you early in the new term. It looks like we will have some positive messages to share as well as some clear improvement priorities. In the school's spirit of recognising hard work and celebrating success, I will ensure that all of your nominated 'unsung heroes' amongst the staff receive a note of congratulations.

EASTER REVISION PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 11 PUPILS

Please can all the parents of Year 11 pupils encourage (or even badger, bribe and coerce) their sons and daughters to take full advantage of our Easter Revision Programme. There are four full days of activities; we know that for many pupils this could make the vital difference as they approach their final examinations. We are very lucky to have so many staff willing to give up their holiday time to prepare and run these sessions; let us make sure that our young people avail themselves of this opportunity (even if the sun shines).

Finally I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday over the Easter period. I look forward to welcoming all the pupils back on 20th April at the beginning of the Summer Term, a term when we will say goodbye to our current Year 11 pupils, in anticipation that they will be our most successful cohort ever and a term when we will commence our move into the new school building. Exciting times!

Best wishes.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Ben Parr

YEAR 11 STUDENT
OF THE WEEK

Cornwall College
Student of the Year for
Building Craft Occupations



First taste of Success for Year 11

Last Thursday a special event was held at Cornwall College St Austell to celebrate the success of our Year 11 Learners who have been following courses arranged through our partnership with the College and local schools. Mr Tong was the Guest Speaker and gave an amusing speech about how partnerships work. Proud parents and friends were able to congratulate our pupils as they were called up on to the stage to receive their certificates. In each area one student has been selected from across all the schools for special mention as 'Student of the Year'. We hope that this success will be repeated in the summer when the students get their GCSE results.

Sam Egerton

YEAR 11 STUDENT
OF THE WEEK

Cornwall College
Student of the Year for
Level 1 Salon Services



Year 11 Netball

The team played an excellent first quarter against Fowey, scoring an outstanding eight goals to nil. Continuing their excellent play they managed to score an extra four goals bringing the score to twelve goals to nil. Fowey managed to pull back two goals but by then it was all over as we brought the score up to eighteen goals to nil. Final Score Fowey 2 – Poltair 18.

Team: Jade Lewis, Georgia Bristow, Harriet Caple, Lauren Jarvis, Kelly Peters, Kirsty Hawkins and Abi Caple.

Year 10 GCSE Catering Group

The group visited the Carlyon Bay Hotel on Friday 27th March where they were shown around the facilities by the Executive Chef Paul Leakey. They were given a tasting session of lobster and other fish dishes which were both appetising and delicious. The group were very appreciative of Paul's efforts and were able to see the workings of a professional kitchen.

Mrs M Peters



Year 10 Catering Group
at the Carlyon Bay Hotel

Maths Homework and Revision. How can I help?

We know the importance of giving our children chances to connect with us. You should feel good if your child comes to you for help with maths homework.

If you're unsure about maths, don't panic. There are still ways to help. Just keep reading.

If you're good at maths, don't take over. You'll help most as a guide.

No matter what your own experiences are with maths, there are questions you can ask that will help your child. So can a smile and a little encouragement.

Although this isn't a script, you might try these questions.

- What is the problem you're working on?
- Let's look at it.
- What do the instructions say?
- Which words or instructions don't you understand?
- Where do you think you should begin?
- What do you already know that can help you work through the problem?
- Tell me what you've done so far.
- Where can we find help in your notes?
- Are there similar problems to look at?
- Let's try drawing a picture or making a diagram.
- What did the teacher ask you to do?
- What problems like this one have you had before?
- Tell me where you are stuck.
- Who can you call to get help?
- Who is your learning buddy?
- Can you skip this problem and go on to another?
- Why don't we look for some help on Mymaths?
- Can you go in before or after school for some help with your teacher?
- Should we tackle this when you are not so tired?



G&T Update

The G&T register for Year 7 will be completed over Easter, so parents and pupils will be informed shortly after. Any additions to the whole school register will also be notified shortly after Easter.

To be Gifted and/or Talented in a particular subject means that your child is working above the average level of their peers. In order to cater for Gifted and Talented pupils at Poltair, the Gifted and Talented Programme has been in place for a year now, and very soon I will be welcoming parental feedback. I wanted to take the opportunity to clarify what the programme entails. In lessons Gifted and Talented pupils are stretched and challenged in order to meet their needs and this forms a large part of the subject G&T programme. Alongside this subjects offer enrichment activities which take place throughout the year in order to enhance their enjoyment and progress.

Miss L Venn
Gifted and Talented Lead Teacher

Poltair Success at the County History Final on Friday 27th March



Last week, some of Poltair's G & T History pupils took part in a County History Competition which I had created over the past six months. It was held at the Keay Theatre, and five schools took part with 11 entries in total. The competition was called 'Restoration Cornwall' and pupils had to choose a site which they think should be restored and put a presentation together of their ideas and arguments. Poltair School came an excellent second place (see photo) with Darren Ould, Liam Ettenfield, Corey Koppelow and Neil Sanders. Chris Chard also participated with a passionate and engaging presentation which impressed the judges. I shall be running the competition again for G & T Historians from the summer term.

Miss Venn
History Department/
Gifted and Talented Lead Teacher



Back row: Miss Venn third from left
Front row: L to R Corey Koppelow, Neil Sanders, Darren Ould and Liam Ettenfield

IMPORTANT EVENTS

EASTER GCSE REVISION PROGRAMME

Pupils involved have been informed

4th April to 19th April
Easter holidays

Monday 20th April
Pupils return

Happy Easter to you All!

