



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 1

Parents' Information Newsletter

Summer Term 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

OPEN MORNINGS

Before Easter I mentioned that I was making myself available to show parents around the school whilst we are 'in session' so that you can see what we do 'live' as it were. These dates are now imminent and as there are still some spaces available, I thought I would mention it again to see if there were any more interested parents / carers. The dates available are Thursday 30th April and Wednesday 6th May both at 9.00 am. If you would like to avail yourself of these opportunities please contact my PA Mrs Ann McPherson on 01726 874520 or email head@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk.

EASTER REVISION CLASSES – GOOD SHOW FROM YEAR 11

I am pleased to announce that 82 pupils participated in the Easter Revision programme held at Poltair School. Congratulations to them for showing the right 'metal' at this crucial time in their lives; let us hope that this continues for the remaining weeks. I would like to also thank parents who did respond to my request to coax their sons and daughters into making the effort. Finally I would like to commend our hard-working staff for giving up two days of their holiday to help make a difference to our young people in Year 11.

PARENTAL SURVEY

As promised, I can offer a brief digest of the feedback that we received from parents during Target Setting Day. We had 91 replies with the vast majority of them containing many positive messages. There were also some good ideas regarding things to improve, but pleasingly these contained no shocks or surprises for us.

On the positive side it is worth noting that the main identified strength of the school is its approachable and friendly staff. Indeed, the school is regarded as a warm, welcoming and happy place. There were many positive comments about the high quality of school communication, the good behaviour and discipline of the vast majority of pupils and for our out-of-hours provision. It is also clear that parents like the ever-increasing emphasis on rewards and praise in the school and the focus of school improvement around the vision of 'Believe and Achieve'. Parents also believe that we are an inclusive school where every child does matter and are excited about the pending completion of the new school build.

In terms of parental 'wishes' for the future, most comments were about the school environment, including improvements to toilets, décor and parking. I am happy to report that these are all in our planning for the future but please remember that these things do cost and quick fixes are not what we want. A few parents also mentioned that they wanted all teachers to be consistent in their approach especially with regard to homework. Please be assured that we are working on this already as part of our focus on improving the quality of all learning and teaching so that Poltair pupils achieve their full potential in examinations and in life.

Finally we were overwhelmed with nominations for 'unsung heroes'. Many thanks for doing this. Each person identified will now receive a congratulatory card from myself thanking them on your behalf for going that 'extra mile'.

If you would like to see a full copy of the parental survey please contact the school on 01726 874520 or at head@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk.

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

You may have read in the local press earlier this week that Cornwall has been placed second on the national list of priority for funding from the Building Schools For The Future (BSF) programme. The news is better still because Poltair School is one of the five schools that has been identified in the first (priority) wave for Cornwall. This should mean that we can expect further building work to take place at Poltair School to complement that which is already taking place. However, the near future could still be a few years away. There is certainly still a lot of consultation required and a lot of planning to do before anything starts. However, it is clear that Poltair pupils of the present and future could easily benefit from further 'state of the art' learning facilities. Exciting times indeed!

Best wishes.

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

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Kilimanjaro Expedition February 2010

Life is an incredible journey... when you stand on the highest point on the African continent it is an extraordinary feeling to be walking on snow and ice, surrounded by huge glaciers, knowing that nearly 20,000 feet below are the hot, dusty plains of Tanzania.

Interested in a life changing experience? Please see Miss Blackburn for details. There will be a talk taking place in Room 50 on Wednesday 29th April for any interested pupils and parents at 6.30 pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday

Friday 15th May

Year 11 Final Assembly

Thursday 21st May

Year 8 Parents Evening

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Half Term Holiday

For Parents/Carers of Young People aged 10-17

Time Out for Teenagers

- Six weekly sessions for parents/carers of teenagers.
- Share ideas and problems with other parents
- Explore some new skills and strategies that are proved to work
- Free, fun and friendly!

Some comments from previous groups:

Really enjoyed it, thanks!

I shall miss it!

My son's back at school!

Very helpful

Me and my daughter are talking again, I'm so pleased

It was good to share with other parents and know it's not just me!

Starting Friday 1st May 09

10am-12noon

Polkyth Leisure Centre, Carlyon Road, St. Austell

For more information please contact: Bianca Barnett
01208 75388 or Natalie Giles 01872 326750