

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 1

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

POLTAIR SCHOOL SECURES BEST EXAM RESULTS EVER!

As you may have already read in the local press, exam results day was a particularly special event this year. We are proud to announce the significant improvements in the number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C and those doing so including English and Mathematics. The first of these indicators improved by a whopping 13%, the latter by a massive 9%. There were big improvements in results in English, Mathematics and Science as well as virtually every option subject. This equates to the best set of results that the school has ever achieved, smashing the previous best set twelve years ago. This is a remarkable achievement and I would like to pay credit to the hard work of the staff for their considerable efforts in securing these outcomes. More importantly I am delighted for all of the individual young people who 'made target', achieved well, did their best and secured their tentative first steps into adult life. We are very proud of them.

I would, however, like to make it clear that whilst we are delighted with these results, there will be no-one 'resting on their laurels' at Poltair School. We believe there is still much that we can do to improve standards and achievements even further in the years to come.

POLTAIR SCHOOL NEW BUILD OPENS ON TIME AND TO GREAT EXCITEMENT

After what appears to be a lifetime of waiting, we are proud to announce that we were able to take delivery of the new school build in time for the beginning of the school year. The difference made to both learning and social spaces in the school is quite phenomenal and our first full week has been characterised by various people (pupils and staff) wandering around in wide-eyed and wide-mouthed amazement. We are truly fortunate and there will be planned opportunities for you to see the new facilities in the near future. The changes include a new school reception, a cyber café, a parents' meeting room, a completely redesigned and refurbished West Block including five state of the art classrooms. We have also gained an impressive new school hall, a new canteen (kitchen and dining area), drama studio and radio station. Smith Block (which now houses all of the core subjects of English, Maths and Science) has also been refurbished. There are additional toilet facilities for pupils and a number of redesigned and newly landscaped social areas for pupils to use during lunchtimes. For those pupils who come to school by bus, there is a new bus park to allow for loading at the end of the day to be smoother; for those that cycle to school there is a covered bike rack. The renewing of the astro turf will be completed this weekend and supplements nicely the improvements to the sports hall and the opening of the new fitness centre.

I would like to thank the whole school community for demonstrating such fortitude over the last eighteen months of the build. We have managed exceptionally well during this time whilst we patiently waited for everything to be ready. A number of people went the 'extra mile' to get to this point. This includes our own Director of Premises and Projects, Mr Pete Booth as well as Mr Wayne Moriarty and his site team. I would also like to acknowledge the incredibly hard work of Mr Mike Woodland, Site Manager for Kier Western who has done a sterling job. We are genuinely very grateful.

It has been a truly fantastic and positive start to the new school year.

Best wishes.

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		
Monday 14 September		Individual School Photos
Monday 28 September	Year 7	Target Setting Days Parents will be informed by letter of times and venue. Normal lessons for all pupils.
Tuesday 29 September	Year 8	
Wednesday 30 September	Year 9	
Thursday 1 October	Year 10	
Friday 2 October	Year 11	



MONDAY 14th September

Individual School Photos

All years will be having individual photos taken on Monday. Your child will be informed of the procedure for the day. Can you please ensure they come to school in full school uniform and of course looking as smart as possible!

The 'Five Ps' – Poltair Students must

- Punctual** arrive on time and meet deadlines
- Prepared** bring the correct equipment, be organised, know what level they are working at and how to improve
- Positive** try their hardest and contribute where they can
- Polite** have respect and consideration for others
- Proud** wear the correct uniform and look after our school



Own Learning – Years 7 and 8

Students in Years 7 and 8 will be given a series of interesting and challenging activities to complete at home and in their own time. The focus is on the development of independence as learners, by encouraging research and creativity. This will prepare our younger students for the more specific challenges of examination work higher up the school. Staff will begin to set this work next week and a booklet for parents will be posted home in the next few days so that you can support and encourage your child. All students are expected to complete 'Own Learning' and there will be rewards for successful completion.

Please note the English Department are unable to introduce the Accelerated Reader Programme in full until the end of the month, due to the refurbishment programme of the Library.

Homework Timetable – Years 9, 10 and 11

Homework timetable for Years 9, 10 and 11 is published with this bulletin. Tutors will be going through this in detail with the children to make sure they understand the relevant details for their teaching groups. Staff will begin to set this work next week. Much of the work relates directly to examination courses and therefore students in Years 9 to 11 will incur sanctions if it is not completed. Please contact your child's tutor or the subject teacher at any time should you have concerns with regard to homework.

For further information and notes on how you can support your child, please refer to the school website under the Students Section. It will be updated with this year's homework information early next week.

Homework Club runs in Student Services from 3.15 to 4.15 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. IT Suites are open after school for homework.

H Holmes, Director of Curriculum

Enhancement Bus

The enhancement bus is now running on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4.30 pm and will follow the usual route i.e. Penwithick, Stenalees, Treverbyn, Bugle, Lanivet then returning to the depot at Roche.

Tregorrick Park Youth Football Club (St Austell)

The Youth Football Club urgently requires additional players SCHOOL YEAR 7 for the U12s team this year.

Training is at Tregorrick Park on Wednesday evenings at 6.15pm and we would like to see anyone who wishes to develop their skills and have the opportunity of playing competitively, regardless of their ability.

Please telephone 07727603448 (Club Secretary) for more details.



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