



# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 2

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

## CHANGE OF DAY FOR SPOTLIGHT

From this week you can expect your son or daughter to bring 'Spotlight' home on a Monday evening. We have made this change so that we can take advantage of the re-scheduled tutor period in the morning to ensure that the newsletter is read by the pupils and that they put it safely in their bags ready for hand-over to our parents/carers.

## OPEN EVENING

Our annual Open Evening for prospective pupils and parents will be held on **Thursday 8 October** from **6.00 to 8.30 pm**. Existing Poltair pupils should only attend if they have been specifically invited to help in a particular subject area. You will be notified about this by letter if your child has been asked to help. He/she should wear full correct uniform.

## OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW BUILD

We are very much looking forward to the official opening of our new build on **Saturday 10 October**. We are proud and privileged that one of the school's most famous 'old boys', TV celebrity, John Nettles will be rejoining us to conduct the formal part of the proceedings. Please note that the school will be open to all members of the public (including our parents and carers) between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm, so do come and have a good look around the new Poltair School!

## TARGET SETTING DAYS

Our Target Setting Days are taking place this week. I do hope that you have already made your appointment to see your son/daughter's form tutor. These are critical meetings whereby tutor, parent and pupil are able to look at the whole picture of a child's progress and agree appropriate challenges and support so that each and every pupil can realise their full potential. There are some changes this year. All classes will continue as normal; **there is no school closure**. In addition, the 'day' is scheduled from 12.00 until 7.00 pm. These adjustments were deliberate responses to suggestions made to us by parents over the last year.

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

Poltair will soon begin its next drama production of 'Bugsy Malone'.

Pupils who are interested need to see Mrs Bond to sign up and audition. More information will be published on the Drama Studio noticeboard.

There is another exciting opportunity to visit London as part of the London Theatre Study Experience to see 'Billy Elliot', the Musical.

For further details pupils can collect information from Mrs Bond.

**Year 7**  
**Student of the Week**  
*Paige*

**Year 8**  
**Student of the Week**  
*Dan*



Excellent effort  
and good attitude  
to learning

For high number of  
house points gained in  
first fortnight of school

**Year 9**  
**Student of the Week**  
*Amie*



For excellent  
attendance and  
willingness to always  
help others

**CLASS OF '49 REUNION**

Laurence Olivier had won the Oscar for Best Actor in *Hamlet*, Frank Sinatra topped the charts with "*I Only Have Eyes For You*", the political tension of the Cold War chilled with the Berlin Airlift, Portsmouth were top of the league and sixty nervous eleven year old girls had their first day at St Austell Grammar School for Girls.

That year was 1949 and last Saturday, to mark their diamond anniversary, those girls got together for another reunion. The summer of 1949 was a glorious one and the girls were once again blessed with fine weather and after dining at the Pier House, Charlestown, they made their way to their Alma Mater on Trevarthian Road.

Now Poltair School, they were first shown around the once forbidden territory that was the Boys' School. They could not fail to be more impressed with this newly refurbished part of the school which now houses the Humanities Faculty and the Head's office. Long-time stalwart of the Admin team and former Grammar Schoolgirl, Gladys Hawke, couldn't believe her eyes, "What wonderful offices and classrooms, so light and airy; so different from my day!"

The next part of the tour was to retrace their steps through the hall and canteen but that proved to be a real test for the memory since the last twelve months has seen this area totally transformed. This part of the school now provides a most welcoming reception which opens out into walkways leading to a multi-purpose hall, drama studio, canteen and cyber café.

Organiser of the gathering, Barbara Bray, said "I cannot believe how much space seems to have been created" and "What a lovely atmosphere it is here too."

Once the girls had come to terms with the fabulous present they meandered down memory lane into East Block, once the location of the St Austell Girls Grammar School. Although taken by the banks of computers now at the disposal of Poltair pupils, it was also the time to go into nostalgia overdrive.

"Miss Camous's office was there!" recalled one former pupil. "I was petrified queuing up to go in there." "I'm sure this is where the library was" remembered another and "I think I did my French oral in there" recalled another pointing to another state of the art office.

"What fantastic facilities this school now has" said Gladys "so completely different from our day!"

And with the tour over the girls who passed the scholarship, which later came to be known as the 11-plus exam, retired to Mount Charles Church for tea and to continue to reminisce about what life was like in 1949 and of course to enjoy taking part in one more rendition of their old school song, *The Red River Valley*.

<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>		
Monday 28 September	Year 11	Target Setting Days Parents have been informed by letter of times and venue. <b>Normal lessons for all pupils.</b>
Tuesday 29 September	Year 8	
Wednesday 30 September	Year 9	
Thursday 1 October	Year 10	
Friday 2 October	Year 7	
Tuesday 6 October	Year 7	CATS for Year 7 only (screening process to check that pupils are correctly set)
Wednesday 7 October		Open Evening 6.00 – 8.30 pm
Thursday 8 October		Opening Ceremony for the new build 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

### **Celebrating pre-16 courses at Cornwall College**

Alongside our greatly improved GCSE results we have also been delighted to receive data from Cornwall College which highlights the very successful progression rates on to post-16 courses for our Year 11 hairdressers, builders and engineers.

## **Truro School**

**Sixth Form Open Morning  
Saturday 3rd October 2009  
9.30am-12.30pm**

# **Well Done!**



Oli Elston (Year 10) has been racking up the tennis titles over the summer. He won the County U16 title with brother and ex-Poltair pupil Dan. He has also won the St Austell Mens' doubles and mixed doubles titles.

### **NEW FITNESS SUITE NOW OPEN!**

**STAFF AND PUPILS ARE THRILLED THAT INDUCTION SESSIONS ARE NOW BEING HELD TO USE THE NEW FITNESS SUITE. PUPIL REGISTRATION £2 PER YEAR, STAFF REGISTRATION £5 PER TERM. SEE POSTERS AROUND THE SCHOOL FOR SESSION TIMES.**

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](http://www.poltairschool.co.uk)