

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 4

Parents' Information Newsletter

Summer Term 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

A reminder of the Poltair Five Ps

Throughout this week I have been delivering assemblies with the Leadership Team on the topic of the Five Ps.

These form the basis of the minimum expectations that we have for all pupils all of the time. To put it another way, the Five Ps summarise our school rules. If we want to be positive about it, they are our recipe for success. The Five Ps are: Polite, Positive, Punctual, Proud and Prepared. The assemblies did deliver some sharp and clear messages; mainly to point out to the vast majority of our pupil population that their efforts to meet and exceed these standards are important and that we are keen to commend them for this. Equally however it was a stern reminder to the small minority who let themselves, their parents/carers and the school down.

I am committed to making no compromises on these standards and I am sure that we can count on your unconditional support in following up with any individuals who do not respond to our firm message. We would also appreciate any reaffirmation of the message that you can deliver at home. Pupils do have to be in school on time and in lessons on time; if they are not they disrupt their own learning and often the learning of others. Pupils must be prepared for all lessons; this means a pen, pencil, ruler and a rubber for every class, sports kit for every day that PE is on their timetable and ingredients for every practical in food technology. The vast majority of our pupils wear their uniform with pride. A small handful do not. Shoes must be black; any t-shirts worn underneath shirts or blouses must be white and not visible; all pupils must have a school jumper or fleece; no facial piercings are allowed at all. Interrupting adults and answering back to adults is impolite and will not be tolerated; opening doors for each other, using the words 'please', 'thank you' and 'excuse me', speaking calmly, smiling at each other and practising other basic courtesies is polite. This is encouraged; it helps maintain Poltair as a happy school.

Of course, we wish to keep this message positive. When the Senior Team visit lessons in the next two weeks, we are looking forward to congratulating classes that are "doing the business". That will mean good learning is going on. We will write to parents of the 'unsung heroes' identified by the teachers when we visit. We will also deal with any pupils who have not heard or responded to our reasoned message.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Poltair Ten Tors 35 & 45 mile 2010 50th Anniversary

Ten Tors hosts 400 teams tackling 35, 45 and 55 miles over Dartmoor between the hours of 07.00 on Saturday 8 May to 17.00 on Sunday 9 May. Since 2002 to 2010 every single team from Poltair has successfully completed the relevant routes.

This year our 45 mile team excelled themselves and arrived at the finish at 09.28 on Sunday morning (10th position out of 400 teams). Ten Tors is not a race but the teams are trained to be the best they can possibly be and they certainly proved what they were capable of. The team members were: Michael Southey (Leader), Ollie Scott, Jonathan Sheppard, Darren Ould, Justin Hooley, Dan Murphy.

Our 35 mile team also tested their limits finishing at 13.01 with an incredibly impressive day 1. The team members were: Oli Elston (Leader), Michael Bamell, Josh Gilbert, Jack Lobb, Jess Newson, Georgina Hide.

Congratulations to both teams on seven months of tough training and their success at the weekend. Thank you to my support team made up of parents past and present and staff, Linzi Booth, Vicki Libby, Karen Walker, Helen Holmes and Val Pascoe.

Helen Blackburn (Ten Tors Team Manager)

Ruby
YEAR 8
STUDENT OF THE WEEK



For dedication and hard work during the Bussy Malone Production.

Georgina
YEAR 11
STUDENT OF THE WEEK



In recognition of her particular commitment to her Young Apprenticeship work placement at Carlyon Bay Hotel.



Talk to the animals!

The MFL department is organising a trip to Newquay Zoo on Wednesday 16th June.

The trip is open to all year 7 pupils studying French as well as year 8 pupils who study Spanish. This is a fantastic opportunity to use a language outside the classroom. Please see Mrs Hancock (E3) for more information.

Poltair boy takes seat

With 23,423 votes and a majority of 9,560 former Poltair Schoolboy Steven Baker was elected MP for Wycombe.

Steven, who became Head Boy in 1986, spent his five years of secondary education with us, and still refers to Poltair "as a great comprehensive school". After gaining nine 'O' levels he then continued his education at the Sixth Form College.

Steven Baker



After 'A' levels and a BEng Aerospace Systems Engineering Degree from Southampton University, he joined the Royal Air Force as an engineer officer, a role that took him all over the world. Following his RAF career Steven read for an MSc in Computer Science at Oxford University and joined a software firm as Head of Consulting and Product Manager.

Steven says that he is "in politics to re-establish a working system of Parliamentary democracy, to foster peaceful relations between communities and to preserve and extend our social and material prosperity through sound economics."

He remembers his schooldays fondly and considers his old maths teacher, Frank Stevens, "his inspiration".

Our in-house archivist Tony Lake writes:

As far as I know Steven is the only former pupil from the schools based here to become an MP. Of course, our most famous pupil, A. L. Rowse, contested the Penryn & Falmouth seat twice in the 1930's but both times was unsuccessful. Two other former pupils, H. O. Hooper and Sir Laurence Martin, however, played key roles within the government. Owen Hooper held a significant position at the Board of Trade during the war and post-war years whilst Sir Laurence established Chatham House which steered government policy during the Cold War.

Nevertheless, two former members of staff have become MPs. Mr Symonds, the Latin master in the 1930's, won the Cambridge seat after the War, in which he had been mentioned in despatches for undercover work in the North African desert. Robert Hicks, who was the Geography teacher at the Grammar School in the 1960's represented three Cornish seats from 1970 to 1997.

TOP TEN



**Adam
Head Boy**

- 1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?** Together with Gemma I helped organise the Prom Fashion Show. I have also organised and initiated many sporting events.
- 2) What is your favourite meal?** Homemade pasty.
- 3) What do you hope to do in the future?** Pursue an occupation in Science and Maths.
- 4) Who is your hero?** My Grandad.
- 5) Who is your favourite singer/band?** Susan Boyle and Michael Jackson.
- 6) What is your favourite book?** The entire Harry Potter series.
- 7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I am a Kernow league football champion, playing for Charlestown.
- 8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** The opportunity to broaden my knowledge and the amazing jacket potatoes from the canteen!
- 9) What do you treasure most?** My family and education.
- 10) What one thing would you change in the world?** Unfair trade and exploitation of people in LEDC's (Less economically developed countries).

TOP TEN



**Gemma
Head Girl**

- 1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?** Together with Adam I helped organise the Prom Fashion Show. I also won Atlantic FM's 'Time for a Song' with my band 'Chemistry'. I played 'Blousey' in the school production 'Bugsy Malone'.
- 2) What is your favourite meal?** Chicken tikka masala.
- 3) What do you hope to do in the future?** I would like to be a dentist but I'm not 100% sure yet.
- 4) Who is your hero?** Andrew Lloyd Webber.
- 5) Who is your favourite singer/band?** I like everything but have recently been listening to Dubstep.
- 6) What is your favourite book?** Alan Carr's Autobiography.
- 7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I'm still scared of Cruella De'Vil from 101 Dalmations and the Lion from the Wizard of Oz.
- 8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** I enjoy making new friends and the opportunity to achieve success.
- 9) What do you treasure most?** My family and memories.
- 10) What one thing would you change in the world?** Prejudice as I feel everyone deserves to be treated equally.

Well done to the following Year 11 pupils

Aaron
Chris
Megan
Becky



Adam
Lauren
Steven
Samantha