



# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 7  
Summer Term 2010

Parents' Information Newsletter

**England V Slovenia  
Wednesday 23 June  
Special World Cup Event  
at Poltair  
'Live Big Screen' viewing  
(further details to follow)**

## Important dates for your diary

**Tuesday – 15 June 2010**

Year 10 Science Curriculum Day

**Monday – 5 July to Friday 9 July 2010**

Activities Week for Years 7 – 9

Work Experience Week for Year 10

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The following dates have been confirmed for the start of the new Academic Year:-

**Thursday – 2 September 2010**

Staff Training Day (no pupils in school)

**Friday – 3 September 2010**

Staff Training Day (no pupils in school)

**Monday – 6 September 2010**

Years 7 and 11 return to school

**Tuesday – 7 September 2010**

All pupils attend school

*Kyle*  
YEAR 8  
STUDENT OF THE  
WEEK



For 100% attendance and no behaviour points.

Kyle is always polite and hardworking and is a credit to the school.

### **Cricket Cup Fixture – Poltair v Launceston** (Report by Dan Peters and Connor Paine)

Poltair were the underdogs on Wednesday 26 May as they lost the toss and had to bat first. A few early wickets and Launceston were looking strong; a good innings from Kyle Rickard and Daniel Peters put Poltair in with a glint of hope. Wickets began to fall, but Poltair hit back with a good innings from Ben Willetts, he helped to get Poltair's final score up to a strong 101 from 20 overs.

Now it was Poltair's turn to bowl and their hopes were high when Daniel Peters took an early wicket off the second ball from Launceston's county player. Good bowling from Ben Willetts, Tom Tyrell, Ben Pill and Sunny Nowell kept the innings tight by getting a few good wickets.

A close finish looked on the cards as Launceston needed 8 runs off 12 balls. Poltair's hopes were getting slimmer and slimmer but captain Daniel Peters was the only one switched on and stumped the Launceston batsman and won Poltair the game! Well done to the team for their fantastic fighting spirit!

**Team:** Dan Peters (C), Ben Pill, Bill Jones, Ben Willetts, Kyle Rickard, Tom Tyrell, Lee Vincent, Sunny Nowell, Kieran Hughes, Andrew Wheeler, Connor Paine, (Tallan Michael 12<sup>th</sup>)

### **Sports College connections – promoting enjoyment of sport**

Dates of national and international sporting events during June:-

**11 June – 11 July**  
FIFA World Cup

**21 June – 4 July**  
Wimbledon - Tennis

**21 – 25 June**  
National Schools Sports Week

**24 – 27 June**  
London – Paris Cycle Tour



### **Team Green Britain Bike Week 19 – 27 June**

**Bike Week** is the UK's largest mass participation cycling event and provides an annual opportunity to promote cycling as a source of fitness and fun, not to mention an alternative form of transport. This year, Bike Week 2010 is encouraging everyone to get on their bike, explore their local community and find out just how convenient cycling is for all those short trips we make each day, including the journey to school. Pupils are being encouraged to cycle to school, of course, ensuring basic 'cycle safety' such as wearing protective clothing and helmet and using specified cycle paths (when available).

**For more information on Bike Week visit the website:- [www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk)**

### **Cornwall College successes**

Year 10 Level 1 Salon Services and Level 2 Hair Diploma students enjoyed a special event on Thursday 10 June at Cornwall College St Austell, sponsored by Aim Higher. All the students thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

College monitoring reports have been received in school and special congratulations to the following who are all exceeding their targets on their respective courses:-

Zoe Masters – Level 2 Hair Diploma  
Joel Alves – Building Craft Foundation Certificate  
Adam Dingle – Building Craft Foundation Certificate  
Jon Gibson - Building Craft Foundation Certificate  
Chris Greenaway – Building Craft Foundation Certificate  
Kaylee Senter – Level 1 Salon Services  
Nicole Stallard – Level 1 Salon Services



# Spotlight on Science Department

## Round the Island Race

No doubt at 0500hrs on Saturday 19 June most people will be tucked up in bed. Ross Mack (Head of Science) will be milling around the start line off the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes, for the start of the J.P. Asset Management Round the Island Race.

The race with over 1,700 entrants, is the largest yacht race in the world. This year's line-up includes Ellen MacArthur, Team GBR Olympic '49er sailor' Ben Rhodes, Double Olympic Gold medallist Shirley Robertson, Francis Joyon solo world circumnavigation record holder and the Triple Olympic Gold medallist Ben Ainslie CBE as well as a host of seasoned professionals.

Although overall honours seem rather unlikely, a strong challenge and a class win is certainly the aim from the Swan 47 "Outrageous" a yacht previously campaigned in the USA with Ross Mack amongst the crew.

## Separate Science Update

Most students at Poltair gain a Double Award GCSE in Science by studying for Core and Additional Science GCSEs. However, our most able students are given the chance to study Separate Sciences (a Triple Award GCSE), as part of their timetabled lessons. Some other Cornish schools have to deliver the extra content for the Separate Sciences as an extra-curricular activity outside of the normal school day.

Essentially, the Separate Science curriculum differs from the Double Award by the inclusion of some extra topic material and the requirement to study other topics in more detail.

Unlike the short multiple-choice tests that are used to assess progress in the modular units that constitute the Core GCSE, Separate Scientists are assessed by longer exams requiring structured responses, often with less prompting. These exams are only offered twice each academic year (in the January and June series), as opposed to the three times (in November, March and June) that the multiple-choice tests are offered. This essentially means that opportunities to re-sit any Triple Award exam are more limited, further increasing the pressure on candidates.

Despite this increased level of demand, our current (Year 10) cohort are more than half-way through their programme of study and **Stacey Parsons** and **Bethany Southey** must be congratulated for achieving the maximum mark of 100 in their recent Physics Exam.

Universities are happy to accept applications from students with good post-16 qualifications who have been awarded either a Double or Triple Award GCSE in Science, even for courses such as Medicine and Veterinary Sciences. However, the 'knowledge-gap' between GCSE and Advanced-Level Sciences is deemed to be wider for students who only study Double Award as opposed to Triple Award.

**Mr L Martin**

### Important date for Year 10 Students

Just a reminder to all Year 10 students that their final set of Modular exams will take place on the morning of **Monday 28 June 2010**.

Revision sessions will run after school on Thursday 17 June and Thursday 24 June.

Revision guides are still available from the prep. room at £3.50 and workbooks for £2.75 or both at the reduced price of £5.00.

## New KS3 Planning (Effective 2010-2011)

The Poltair Science staff are currently undertaking a number of significant adjustments and changes to the KS3 Science Schemes of Work.

This work will result in more accessible, exciting and engaging units throughout KS3.

For most pupils KS3 work is studied over three years with the exception of set 1 in each year group who are accelerated in order to start GCSE Science in Year 9.

We are combining a more applied approach to Science alongside established and secure scientific teaching approaches.

Assessments and homeworks will remain in a traditional format. However end of term learning reviews will be developed in the style and format of SATs tests and will form our main assessments for pupils and will guide us in monitoring progress and any potential pupil re-setting.

**Mr B Riley**

My name is Rachael Wingrave I am the newest member of the Science department and I have worked in the department for just over a term. I am one of the technicians whose job it is to prepare lessons for the teachers, making sure that they have all essential equipment needed for practicals.



I have worked with children for over ten years and I am a qualified Nursery Nurse and play worker. I have three children, two of whom attend Poltair School at present. I am looking forward to future training courses to extend my knowledge of science and doing some practical work in the classrooms with the pupils.

## TOP TEN



**Mrs Gaukroger**

**1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?** I am Deputy Head of Science.

**2) What is your favourite meal?** Any roast made by my Mum followed by raspberry pavlova or tiramisu. I also love fish.

**3) If you were not a Teacher what would you be?** A Doctor.

**4) Who are your heroes?** Lena Koppen a Danish Dentist who won the All England Badminton Championships in 1979 and 1980 – she also found time to be a dentist!

**5) Who is your favourite singer/band?** I listen to a wide range of music, especially in the car with my children! Anything from Michael Buble to the Black Eyed Peas, The Eagles to Alicia Keys.

**6) What is your favourite book?** "Jane Eyre" is my all time favourite, but I love murder mysteries by Michael Jecks because they are set on Dartmoor near where I grew up, even if they are set in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century! Currently I am reading Stieg Larsson's 'The Girl who played with Fire'.

**7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I come from Devon but have Cornish roots (my maiden name was Coath which is the Cornish word for "old"). My 9 times great-grandfather was hung for stealing a sheep and my 10 times great-grandfather was a smuggler!

**8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** The students - I've taught a lot of them in the 26 years that I have worked here!

**9) What do you treasure most?** My family and a gold locket that belonged to my grandmother.

**10) What one thing would you change in the world?** I'd like to think that everyone had enough to eat and that famine would never happen.

## The Great Science Quiz 2010



1. What colour does acid turn Litmus paper?
2. Which metal do you get from bauxite?
3. Which animal produces the biggest baby?
4. Acid rain is composed mainly of the oxides of two elements. Give either.
5. What sort of creature is a snipe?

6. What is calcium carbonate normally known as?
7. What word do we use to describe the asexual reproduction of a genetic copy of an animal or plant?



8. Which chemical element has the shortest name - 3 letters?
9. What is the correct name for a rabbit's tail?
10. What name is given to the negative electrode of an electrolytic cell?
11. What property of a body is calculated by multiplying its mass by its velocity?
12. What is an "ocular contusion" more commonly known as?

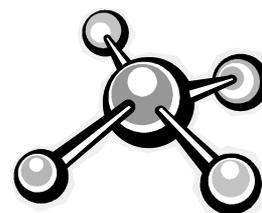
13. What 2 creatures are on the Australian coat of arms?
14. From which part of its body does a cow sweat?
15. By what process does the sun's energy reach the earth?



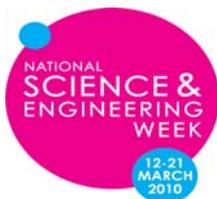
16. What is the collective name for a group of caterpillars?
17. Who discovered penicillin?
18. What acid is associated with muscles in the body experiencing lack of oxygen?
19. What does a lepidopterist collect?
20. Which Science Teacher studies otters in his spare time?



**Answers should be handed in to Mr Gapper by Friday 18th June. There will be some great prizes for the winning entry! What are you waiting for?**



# Special Science Projects



National Science and Engineering Week is a ten day programme of Science, Engineering and Technology events and activities.

This year at Poltair we wanted to provide learning opportunities for areas not covered in detail by the national curriculum. We decided to invite outside agencies to run various workshops covering a range of different Science and Engineering areas.

Also as part of Science week this year Poltair Science Department were happy to be able to take Science demonstrations to one of our feeder primary schools. Mr Riley and Mr Martin spent the day at Bishop Bronescombe School, where pupils were able to watch and take part in some fantastic Physics and Chemistry activities.

The week was very successful and enjoyed by all the students who took part and renewed their enthusiasm for Science.



**Forensic Science Workshop Truro College  
Tuesday 16th March**



**Wednesday 17th March  
Methane bubbles**



**Engineering Workshop  
Cornwall College - Camborne  
Thursday 18th March**

**Royal Cornwall Museum  
Archaeology and Fossils  
Friday 19th March**



## [The Charles Darwin Project](#) by Alisha Armstrong 7set 1



For the last few weeks 7 Set 1 have researched Charles Darwin. This included his birth, childhood, his life on the HMS Beagle, his career and his magnificent theory of Evolution.

Performances included fact-filled PowerPoint presentations, colourful posters and comedy-based plays. In one presentation the audience was rewarded with sweets at the end of a quiz and the class loved it!

This last project has been a chance for the pupils to be imaginative and creative and has been a great way to understand evolution and how Charles Darwin discovered it.

Charles Darwin was born on the 12th February 1809 in Shrewsbury. The Mount was the name of his home. His father was a doctor. Charles' dad always thought that Charles was a boy who hated school and so sent him to Edinburgh, Scotland to learn medicine and become a doctor like his dad. In this process there was a lot of screaming and blood and young Charles could not bear it so he quit.

Charles then went to Cambridge to become a Priest but here he met Professor Henslow who was big in to plants and Professor Sedgwick who was in to rocks. They took Charles with them and taught him how to study nature in a Scientific way. Finally Charles found something he loved. When the Beagle stopped at the Galapagos Islands in the pacific ocean he found evidence that animals evolved from animals from a long time ago. He found lizards that swam in the sea and ate algae. Evolution was truly great.

# Science Enterprise Day

Science Enterprise Day on Tuesday 15th May was very different as we hosted over fifty people from the community to talk to Year 10 pupils who had opportunities to investigate a number of Science related careers.



Two workshops were run by Environmental Health Officers, Kevin Brader and Lesley Carrodus.

Kevin spoke about his work involving noise pollution and noisy neighbours. Pupils were able to use sound meters to measure traffic noise.



Lesley spoke about her work in food standards working with restaurants and take-aways. We were shocked by some of the revolting photos taken as evidence of bad practice. Lesley also demonstrated hand washing using UV sensitive hand gel and a UV light box.



Former Poltair pupil Renay Rickard is now a Veterinary Practice Manager at Pelyn Vets. She explained various jobs and roles within the veterinary field. Pupils were able to discuss training routes and qualifications required.



PC Dave Thompson spoke about the work behind crime scene forensics.



Warren Valentine from Gul Wetsuits introduced the Science behind wetsuit design. Pupils investigated some of the properties needed in a good wetsuit, such as thermal insulation and how quickly wetsuit materials dry.



Pupils also benefited from a session by Dr Jon Phipps of Imerys who demonstrated the properties and uses of some of the minerals produced in the china clay industry.



As well as the workshops pupils toured a Careers Fair where there were exhibits from a host of employers including the Armed Forces, Colleges and Training Providers.

