

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 1

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

EXAMINATION SUCCESS AT POLTAIR SCHOOL

Poltair pupils were able to celebrate their achievements and successes when their GCSE results were published towards the end of the summer. We are very pleased with the outcomes for the pupils which improved upon last year's record-breaking achievements with another 2% of pupils securing the threshold achievement of 5 A*-C grades including English and Mathematics.

The atmosphere was electric throughout the morning, with 95% of pupils collecting their results in person within the first hour; such was their excitement and anticipation to find out how well they had done. Pleasingly, the vast majority of the students received due reward for their hard work over the last five years. They can now look forward to the next phase of their lives, with some good results, knowing that these achievements together with the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired at Poltair School will equip them for the many challenges of the future.

Notable performances at Poltair School included those of Bryony Curtis (12.5 GCSE passes including 10 A*/A grades), Adam Marks (12.67 GCSE passes including 10 A*/A grades), Laura Marks (11.5 GCSE passes including 7 A*/A grades), Gemma Salter (11 GCSE passes including 8 A*/A grades), Christopher Chard (11.5 GCSE passes including 6 A*/A grades), Cameron Whymer (12.67 GCSE passes including 6 A*/A grades), Sophie Edwards (11 GCSE passes including 5 A*/A grades), Becky Hawke (11 GCSE passes including 5 A*/A grades) and Rebecca Sturtridge (10 GCSE passes including 5 A*/A grades).

It was also fantastic that so many staff were able to spend the morning celebrating alongside the delighted and excited pupils. I was able to offer the following comments to the local press, "We are delighted with this year's results. In terms of pupils' achievements, there are more individual success stories than ever before! We are very proud of the collective and the individual successes which have been hard fought for and richly earned. We hope and trust that as young people 'on the threshold of their lives' our school leavers will go on to meet the challenges of the future, drawing confidence from these achievements and with a real sense of pride regarding their time at Poltair School."



L – R: Sam, Ashley, Cameron, Gemma, Adam & Chris



Gemma & Adam
Head Girl and Head Boy

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Enhancement Bus

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 13 September	Individual School Photos
Wednesday 22 September	Yr 6 Open Day (No pupils in school)
Thursday 23 September	Open Evening 3.15 – 8.15 pm
Monday 27 September	Year 9
Tuesday 28 September	Year 7
Wednesday 29 September	Year 8
Thursday 30 September	Year 10
Friday 1 October	Year 11

Target Setting Days
Parents will be informed by letter of times and venue. **Normal lessons for all pupils.**

INCREASE TO SCHOOL MEALS

From the 1 September 2010
the price of a school meal
will be £2.10;
the increase is imposed by
the County Council
and not the school.

Drinking water machine

There is a new water machine in the dining hall (no cups provided). Pupils should please bring a small bottle (330 ml) as the bigger bottles will not fit.

Year 10 Enterprise Day – 16 July

The Enterprise Day was hosted by the Maths Faculty. Pupils demonstrated their creativity and organisational skills by designing and making games with some mathematical content.

The games they produced ranged from innovative ideas based on treasure islands, clocks and race tracks to variations on old favourites such as monopoly and snakes and ladders.

The ingenuity and effort of our pupils were very impressive and the judges had a tough challenge in ranking the five semi-finalists.

The group who carried off the title of "Gamesmasters" with their version of "Mathopoly" were Carl Banfield, Abigail Caple, Liam Harbidge and Bethany Stephens.

Congratulations to all our pupils whose enthusiasm and hard work contributed to a very enjoyable day for pupils and staff.

TOP TEN



Mr Tong

1) What exactly do you do at Poltair? I am the Headteacher.

2) What is your favourite meal? Roast lamb with mint sauce.

3) If you were not a Headteacher what would you be? My dream job would be English Cricket Captain. However, I initially went to university with the plan to become a journalist.

4) Who is your hero? For very different reasons, Nelson Mandela, John Peel and George Edward Tong.

5) Who is your favourite singer/band? The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Byrds (from the past), Teenage Fanclub (closer to the present)!

6) What is your favourite book? 'The Little Prince' by Antoine De Saint-Exupery; 'Birdy' by William Wharton (learning to fly); any Wisden Cricketers Almanack.

7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? Before becoming a teacher I was a postman, delivering letters and parcels on a rural route that involved 11 miles cycling a day.

8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? It is a warm and welcoming place. For the most part, everyone is friendly, asks how you are, smiles and opens doors for you. Basic courtesies count for a great deal in life (even though they do not give you GCSEs for them)!

9) What do you treasure most? Good health, happiness, friends and family, represent all you could possibly wish for. My most precious possession is my record collection.

10) What one thing would you change in the world? I think that if everyone adopted and practised the Five Ps, the world would be a happier place, more productive, less selfish, more tolerant, with greater equality and less want..

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



Summer Challenge 2010

During a week in the Summer Holidays, pupils due to start in Year 7 at Poltair attended Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre for a week of Team, Confidence and Self Esteem building activities. The week involved a number of exciting and challenging tasks. The group was split into 3 with each being supported by a pupil mentor from Poltair. The mentors were Josh Gilbert, Charlotte Jarman and Jack Lobb. Each day involved different activities including kayaking, shelter-building, first aid, rock pooling and orienteering. A great time was had by all, and one of the youngsters said, 'It was the best week of my life'. A big 'thank you' to staff of Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre.



Year-long arts project ends with beach celebration

Poltair Art Department has been involved in the year-long countywide festival led by KEAP (Kernow Education Arts Partnership) to celebrate the life and work of the Cornish playwright Nick Darke who lived and worked near to Porthcothan beach between Newquay and Padstow. In the last week of the summer term Year 10 pupils Michael Childs, Zoe Masters, Naomi Underwood, Mercedes Jennings and Stacey Parsons, supported by Mrs Eileen Pearson, took part in the Big Sing event at the beach where the huge papier mache lobster made by Year 9 pupils was 'set free' by being set on fire and floated out to sea on the evening tide.



Pupils with the papier mache lobster before it was set fire and sent out to sea!

Reading skills are for life not just for school!

There are exciting times ahead as Poltair begins a whole school literacy initiative based on developing reading skills across all year groups.

As literacy underpins all learning the initiative aims to include all curriculum subjects with the intention of building continuity. Pupils will see the skills they learn in one subject are transferable to others. No subject works in isolation because literacy, whether reading, writing or speaking and listening is the common denominator.

We begin the initiative on Monday 13 September with a focus on "Skimming". This will last for three weeks and then we will move on to "Scanning". The agenda for the Autumn Term is listed below for you to follow and is available on our website.

Mon 13 Sept to Fri 1 Oct	Skimming	Read quickly in order to obtain the general gist of a text
Mon 4 Oct to Fri 22 Oct	Scanning	Searching for specific words, phrases or numbers
Mon 1 Nov to Fri 19 Nov	Predicting	Make informed guesses about the text
Mon 22 Nov to Fri 10 Dec	Visualising	Creating a mental picture from words

If parents would like more information please contact Miss C White, Assistant Headteacher or Mrs D Braithwaite, English Department.

London Theatre Experience 2011 – 'Dirty Dancing'

Due to the success of this year's Theatre trip to see Billy Elliot in London Mrs Bond is planning another London Theatre trip to see Dirty Dancing in July 2011. Priority will be given to Year 11 pupils who will have finished their GCSE Exams and Year 10 pupils studying GCSE Drama or Dance. Pupils who are interested in the trip please see Mrs Bond to collect a letter.

Homework Timetable

Please find attached a homework timetable for your information. This is also available on our website. From Monday 13 September pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will receive short regular homeworks in core subjects (English, Maths, Science and ICT) plus projects in other subjects. Following feedback from parents and pupils we will set projects in only two subject areas at a time. This is to support children in working independently and to enable them to learn about each topic in depth. In Years 10 and 11 homeworks will vary according to your child's options and individual learning plan. However we do expect all Key Stage 4 pupils to be regularly completing homework.

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 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Homework is an important element in children's learning and we appreciate the support of parents as we work together to help your child achieve their full potential. Please contact your child's tutor, in the first instance, if you have any questions or concerns about homework.

CORNWALL COUNCIL SCHOOL TERM DATES 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR

September 2010		October 2010		November 2010	
Sun	5 12 19 26	Sun	3 10 17 24 31	Sun	7 14 21 28
Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	4 11 18 25	Mon	1 8 15 22 29
Tue	7 14 21 28	Tue	5 12 19 26	Tue	2 9 16 23 30
Wed	8 15 22 29	Wed	6 13 20 27	Wed	3 10 17 24
Thu	2 9 16 23 30	Thu	7 14 21 28	Thu	4 11 18 25
Fri	3 10 17 24	Fri	1 8 15 22 29	Fri	5 12 19 26
Sat	4 11 18 25	Sat	2 9 16 23 30	Sat	6 13 20 27
December 2010		January 2011		February 2011	
Sun	5 12 19 26	Sun	2 9 16 23 30	Sun	6 13 20 27
Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	3 10 17 24 31	Mon	7 14 21 28
Tue	7 14 21 28	Tue	4 11 18 25	Tue	1 8 15 22
Wed	1 8 15 22 29	Wed	5 12 19 26	Wed	2 9 16 23
Thu	2 9 16 23 30	Thu	8 13 20 27	Thu	3 10 17 24
Fri	3 10 17 24 31	Fri	7 14 21 28	Fri	4 11 18 25
Sat	4 11 18 25	Sat	1 8 15 22 29	Sat	5 12 19 26
March 2011		April 2011		May 2011	
Sun	6 13 20 27	Sun	3 10 17 24	Sun	1 8 15 22 29
Mon	7 14 21 28	Mon	4 11 18 25	Mon	2 9 16 23 30
Tue	1 8 15 22 29	Tue	5 12 19 26	Tue	3 10 17 24 31
Wed	2 9 16 23 30	Wed	6 13 20 27	Wed	4 11 18 25
Thu	3 10 17 24 31	Thu	7 14 21 28	Thu	5 12 19 26
Fri	4 11 18 25	Fri	1 8 15 22 29	Fri	6 13 20 27
Sat	5 12 19 26	Sat	2 9 16 23 30	Sat	7 14 21 28
June 2011		July 2011		August 2011	
Sun	5 12 19 26	Sun	3 10 17 24 31	Sun	7 14 21 28
Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	4 11 18 25	Mon	1 8 15 22 29
Tue	7 14 21 28	Tue	5 12 19 26	Tue	2 9 16 23 30
Wed	1 8 15 22 29	Wed	6 13 20 27	Wed	3 10 17 24 31
Thu	2 9 16 23 30	Thu	7 14 21 28	Thu	4 11 18 25
Fri	3 10 17 24	Fri	1 8 15 22 29	Fri	5 12 19 26
Sat	4 11 18 25	Sat	2 9 16 23 30	Sat	6 13 20 27

AUTUMN TERM 2010 (72 days)
2 September – 17 December
(Half term 25 – 29 October)

SPRING TERM 2011 (63 days)
5 January – 8 April
(Half term 21 – 25 February)

SUMMER TERM 2011 (60 days)
26 April – 26 July
(Half term 30 May – 3 June)

No pupils in school
STAFF TRAINING DAYS
Thursday – 2 September
Friday – 3 September
Friday – 15 October
Friday – 5 November
Wednesday – 5 January

YEAR 6 INTAKE DAY
Wednesday – 22 September

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
Christmas Day Holiday 27 December 2010
Boxing Day Holiday 28 December 2010
New Year's Day 3 January 2011
Good Friday 22 April 2011
Easter Monday 25 April 2011
Early May Holiday 2 May 2011
Spring Bank Holiday 30 May 2011
Summer Bank Holiday 29 August 2011



POLTAIR SCHOOL PE DEPARTMENT EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ~ AUTUMN 2010



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30 - 8:15		Trampolining - All years - KD	Fitness Suite - Open session - KD		
Lunch	Basketball - Girls Wiz Rehearsals	Fitness Suite - Open session - KD	Basketball - Girls Boys football - SW	Boys Dance BTEC Catch up	Dance Rehearsals
After school (3rd Hour)	Basketball - KS3 Trampolining - KD Fitness Suite - MR	Rugby yr 7,8,9 CF/PM Netball Yr 7,8,9 KD,GOW Boys Fixtures	Basketball KS3 KS3 Social Football - PB/BR Fitness Suite - KD - All Climbing - SW Girls Fixtures	Netball - Yr 10/11 -LB Fitness Suite -KD - All Street surfing/ Table Tennis - MR Girls cheerleading - RU Dance - All Years Girls Football - LC Boys Fixtures	Fitness Suite - Staff

ENHANCEMENT BUSES RUN ON TUESDAY,
WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS RUN 3:15 - 4:05pm

