

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 5

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

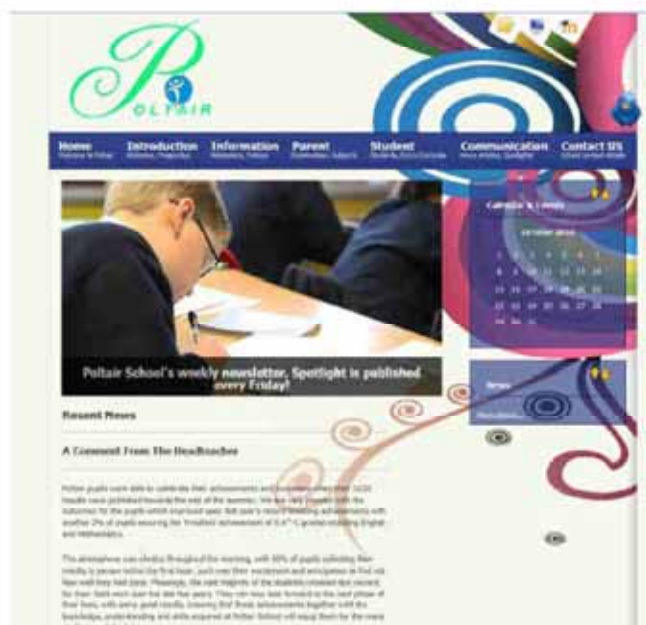
OPEN DAYS

All this week I have had the privilege of showing prospective parents around the school 'live' during a normal working day. We have visited many different classes, seen a huge range of teaching and learning strategies being employed, and witnessed first-hand real pupil progress and achievement for our own eyes. The tours have been part of an honest display of the school, which have included visits to the old parts of the school as well as the newly refurbished parts. We have made a point of observing lesson change-over, break-time in the canteen and been to visit the pupil toilets and the Student Services Centre. We have even shown parents the Internal Exclusion Room to explain and demonstrate how positive re-enforcement and clear boundaries are used to ensure that good behaviour and discipline are maintained across the school. I am hopeful that the mornings have proved useful and helpful to parents and pupils facing the difficult decision of selecting the right secondary school. More importantly for us, this is about a conscious move for Poltair to present itself as an open, honest school, proud of what we do and prepared to show it on a day-to day basis.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

At some point today our new school website will be launched. A Screen Print of the front page can be found below.

I hope that you will notice some significant improvements. We aim for this to be informative (with all of the right information available), easy to navigate (the menu system has been carefully designed) and colourful (this will speak for itself). In addition, the website will always be current (updated daily) with regular news features and editorials from myself. It will also, I believe be more corporate; you will recognise the use of key aspects of branding and some of the key messages that the school uses on a daily basis. We wish the website to be interactive too; we will use the website to host a number of on-line surveys, some on school business, some just for fun. The website will have some important links too. Pupils will be able to access their Rewards Accounts and the Virtual Learning Environment. Poltair will even be able to be followed on Twitter!



Some parts of the site are still being worked upon and will go live shortly. In the meantime, I hope that you notice the difference and the improvement! If however you have any comments on the new site, positive or otherwise we would welcome feedback.

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Stephen Tong

'WORD OF THE WEEK'
Chosen by Mr Booth

As part of our focus on
Literacy in the
MFL Department



un pamplemousse

Student of the Week
Year 7

Scott



For good work in Geography
using ICT.

Student of the Week
Year 9

Conor



For a high level of maturity
and positive contributions so
far this year.



UPDATE

We have used this reading scheme for 3 years and were the first in Cornwall to do so. It has since been adopted by several other schools in the area.

Pupils take a reading test on the computer which gives them a comprehensive review of their reading age, things to improve on and 'ZPD level'. Pupils choose books at their appropriate reading levels (ZPD) and read them at their own pace. You can visit AR BookFinder at <http://www.renlearn.com/arbookfinder/> to find available titles. The pupils then take an online quiz on the book they have read. Accelerated Reader has more than 140,000 quizzes to choose from. There is immediate feedback on the reading and vocabulary progress for each pupil.

With the Home Connect facility, you can keep involved by linking the school and home to make personalised reading practice even more effective. By logging on from a home computer, pupils and parents can see progress towards reading goals, conduct book searches using AR Bookfinder, review results on AR quizzes, view the number of books read, words read, and quizzes passed.

Each week in Spotlight pupils who have achieved particularly well will be mentioned. This week Andrew Hammett has read the most words since the beginning of term, an outstanding figure of 359,861 words! Also he has taken and passed 7 tests. Across Years 7 and 8 a total of 317 books have been read, and the total number of words read for all which equates to the combined number of words read for all Year 7 and Year 8 pupils and one year 9 group totals 4,048,918!

Mrs Hancock, Librarian



**On Friday 12th November Poltair School will be hosting
a Charity Zumba Party from 7- 9 pm in the Main Hall**

Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance-fitness class, using international music, rhythms and dances, for example Salsa, Merengue, Calpso, Cha Cha and many more. It is a cardio workout so you will need to wear fitness clothing and appropriate shoes.

The event will be admission by ticket only at £5 per person as numbers are limited and tickets will be available from Monday 11th October from the school reception or from Becky Hosking on 01726 77017 (Zumba Instructor and event organiser). If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact Becky.



All the money raised from the event will be donated equally to Little Harbour and Cornwall Hospice Care. So "Join the Party" and have some fun whilst supporting these local charities. **A raffle will also be held on the night so any appropriate prize donations will be gratefully received.**

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPORTS COLLEGE

As a Sports College we strive to be a focal point for excellence in PE and community sport.

Inspiring Communities

In January 2010 we started our first Family Activity Night using our Sports Specialism to engage families in learning together through sport. It was such a success that we are running a new and improved Family Activity Night again this year but this time to include art and music percussion classes. See details below, for more information email leastwood@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk

Family Activity Night

Poltair School

Mondays 5 - 7 pm Nov—March

Activities on offer for families with children in years 5 - 9

(all children must be accompanied by an adult)

Come on Parents learn a new skill with your children. Some of the activities on offer:

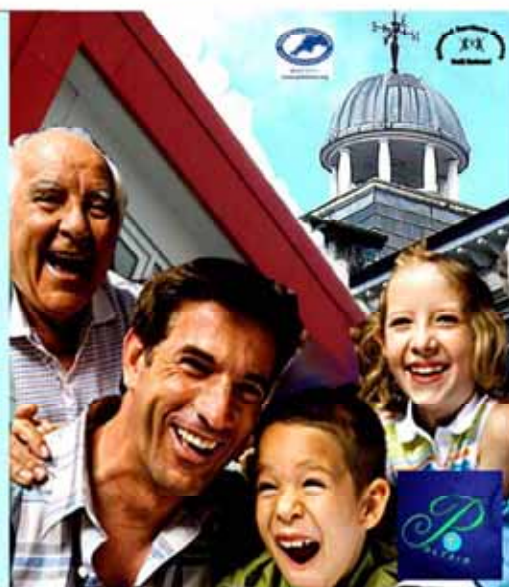
Trampolining, Table Tennis, Bowls,
Fitness Activities, Art classes and
Music Percussion Group

Meet in the Main School Reception

Need Transport? - Book your place on the mini-bus by calling 01728 874570

STARTS November 1st 2010

Please note art and music classes are 1 hour long. To book your place please email leastwood@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk



PE Experiment

This term, as part of the practical assessment from their Planning and Leading unit the BTEC certificate class have supported the delivery of core PE to year 7 on Friday afternoons. The leaders have been first rate. "They are the best I've ever seen" claims Mrs Crawford. Leaders have been taking warm ups, teaching skills and umpiring games, even coaching within the games. The year 7 pupils have responded very positively, welcoming a fresh approach and gaining admiration for older pupils within the school. It is a shift in culture generating a sense of pride and self-esteem for the older pupils and giving the younger pupils role models within the student body.



Mr Foster 'Street-surfing'

Developing and Sharing good practice

This term pupils from Carclaze Primary School are learning how to 'Street-Surf' with the Sports College staff.

The staff from Carclaze are working alongside Mr Foster and Mrs Davies to learn how to teach Physical Education in a new fun and exciting way.

YEAR 9 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Year 9 Netball team started as they mean to go on this week in the first tournament of the season. Playing a total of 5 games, they won 3 and narrowly lost 2 - their best start to the season for two years!

They played Bodmin 2nd team in the first game, moving the ball around well with some excellent defending by Laura McDonald and sharp-shooting from Jade Truman which led to a 3-1 victory.

Game 2 saw us play the Bodmin 1st team, with some slight changes to position we worked hard to secure a 2-1 win. We only just lost to Fowey 2-1 in game 3, despite battling hard at the end. Game 4 was against Brannel and again, score-line of a 2-1 loss but a very close game. The final game was against Roseland which was a 1-0 win!

The team as a whole gelled really well and I am sure they will continue to be successful over the rest of the season - well done girls!

Miss Owens

SQUAD LIST: Abby Crane (Captain), Laura McDonald, Kia-Mai Worden, Amy Floyd-Norris, Kirra Graham, Nicole Gilbert, Jade Truman, Maddie Freight

ABI FLYING HIGH!

Massive congratulations to Abi Caple for her progress with Netball. She is now a member of Team Bath Under 19 National Talent League squad as well as being in the Regional Excel Academy. This is a huge achievement in sporting terms – think of it as being in the Premiership in Football!!



Well done Abi, we are really proud of you and wish you further success in the future!

Fun for Early-risers

Trampolining Club on Tuesday mornings and Fitness Suite Club on Wednesday mornings before school: 7.30 - 8.15 am.

(see full timetable of PE extra curricular activities attached)



TOP TEN



Oli Elston

1) What option subjects do you do and what is your role in the Senior Prefect team? The option subjects I am taking are PE BTEC and Geography. My role in the Senior Prefect team is Head Boy.

2) What is your favourite meal? Homemade lasagne.

3) What job would you like to do in the future? The job I would like to do in the future is Podiatry.

4) Who are your heroes? Lance Armstrong and Roger Federer.

5) Who is your favourite singer/band? I'm into a wide range of music so it is hard for me to choose one.

6) What is your favourite book? "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee.

7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? I enjoy playing the drums.

8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? I enjoy the really happy atmosphere and seeing my friends.

9) What do you treasure most? My family.

10) What one thing would you change in the world? My dream would be that all service personnel are given more respect and gratitude and are treated like the heroes they are.

Sports College connections – promoting enjoyment of sport

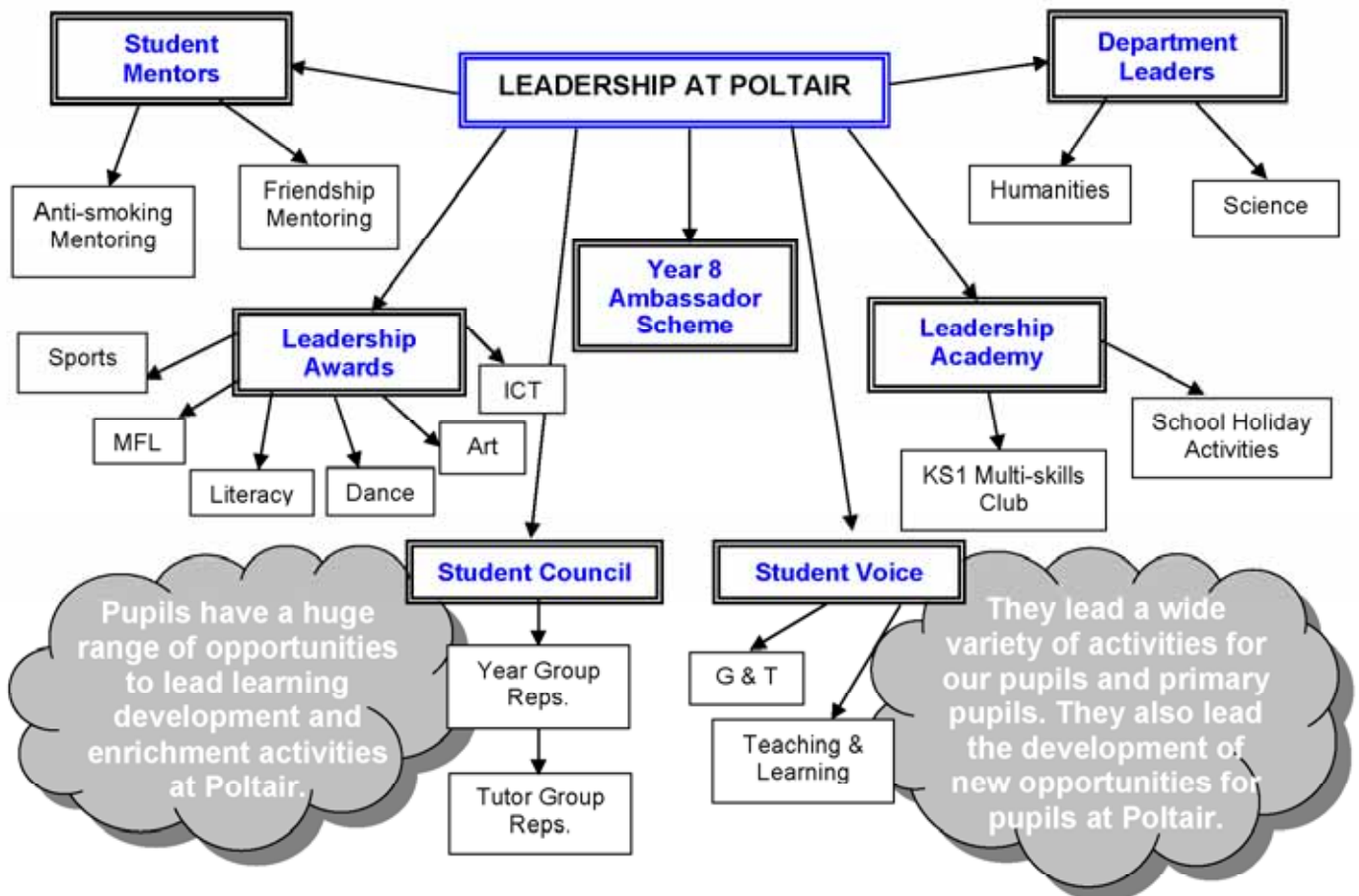
Dates of national and international sporting events during October:-

3 – 14 October
Commonwealth Games

10 October
Horse of the Year Show

31 October
World Rowing Championships

Opportunities for young people



Senior Prefects Initiative

The Senior Prefects are keen to provide activities for the younger pupils during wet breaks. If you have any unwanted board games/jigsaws (in good condition) we would be pleased to receive them. Please send them in to school for the attention of Mrs Booth.

POLTAIR SCHOOL PE DEPARTMENT Extra Curricular Activities – Autumn 2010					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7.30 – 8.15 am		Trampolining – all years	Fitness Suite – Open session		
Lunch	Girls Basketball WZ Rehearsals	Fitness Suite – Open session	Girls Basketball Boys Football	Boys Dance BTEC Catch-up	Dance Rehearsals
After school (3 rd hour)	KS3 Basketball Trampolining Fitness Suite	Rugby Yrs 7-9 Netball Yrs 7-9	Basketball KS3 KS3 Social Football Fitness Suite – all years Climbing	Netball Yrs 10-11 Fitness Suite – all years Street surfing/ Table tennis Girls Cheerleading Dance – all years Girls Football	Fitness Suite - staff
		 <i>Boys Fixtures</i>	 <i>Girls Fixtures</i>	 <i>Boys Fixtures</i>	

After School Clubs run 3.15 – 4.05 pm

Enhancement Buses run on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES:-

Friday 15 October

Poltair training day (no pupils in school)
Year 10 Diploma pupils should attend College courses as usual
Level 1 College Courses will not be running
(Building Craft/Engineering/Salon Services)

Wednesday 20 October

Year 7 Parents' Evening (letters have been issued) 3.30 – 6.30 pm

Friday 22 October

Cornwall College St Austell training day
Year 10 Diploma pupils working in school
(report to Extended Services building at 9.00 am)
Level 1 College Courses – Special Programme (separate letter from Mrs Booth)

Monday 25 to Friday 29 October (Half Term)

Tuesday 2 November

Year 10 Work Experience Evening – Main Hall 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Friday 5 November

On site training day (no pupils in school)
Year 10 Diploma pupils should attend College courses as usual
Level 1 College Courses will not be running
(Building Craft/Engineering/Salon Services)