

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 6

Autumn Term 2010

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

Student Council Election Day

On Wednesday 20 October, our very own constituencies will go to the polls, when year groups will elect their respective representatives to the school's Student Council. This is always a very exciting and important day during the school year. The responsibilities of the councillors are considerable, not least because they have to represent the views of the entire student body. The term of office for the current council is about to come to a close and it is wholly appropriate for me to pay credit to their work. They have been insightful, reflective and I assure you, on occasion, quite combative! They have been very influential in brokering improvements to the school site and many recommendations with regard to the food served in the canteen. In addition, the group have been highly skilled when asked to play their part in the interviewing and appointing of new staff. Moreover, this year we have been listening very closely to the views of the various councils, to solicit their views on a range of topics surrounding 'learning and teaching.' We believe strongly that if we want to get better then we must take account of what the pupils say and think. Indeed, there is an old Chinese proverb that says, "If you want to know what the water is like, ask the fish. They swim in it!"

The Council have been a privilege to work with. The newly elected group will have a tough act to follow but I am sure they will bring their own focus and energy to the task. Election results will be published in a future Spotlight edition.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Student of the Week Year 7 *Tyler*



For supporting the Tutor Group (7KP).

Student of the Week Year 8 *Shane*



For working well in English.

Student of the Week Year 9 *Tamarra*



Improving her attendance and for helping another pupil to settle in to a new tutor group.

Homework

Thank you to parents who have been giving feedback to tutors about the new Homework Timetable. We are endeavouring to secure consistency in the setting of homework in line with the timetable. The core subjects of Maths, English, Science and ICT are being asked to set short tasks with the expectation that **pupils will complete them on the day that they are set.**

Thank you for your support in establishing regular homework routines with your child.

Parent Support Advisor (PSA) what do they do

My name is Wendy Calvesbert and I am a Parent Support Advisor. I work with parents, children and schools to give support, guidance and advice to improve outcomes for children, and families within a school setting.



You may have concerns about

- Communication with the school/teachers
- Your child's behaviour at home/school
- Housing
- Debts

If you have any concerns then you can come and speak to me, either at school or at your home. I may not have all the answers but I may be able to point you in the right direction.

If you would like to have an informal chat then please contact me either via the school or on 07590 416899.

Important notice about Science revision guides

Top set students who are studying separate sciences. Students in Year 9 will require the Chemistry and Physics guides, students in Year 10 will require all 3 revision guides, these are priced at **£2.99 each**. All three are available in school now though it may not be necessary to buy all books at the same time.

For **Double Award year 10 and 11** students we recommend AQA revision guides and work books.

Revision guides	£3.50
Work books	£2.50
When purchased together	£5.00

We have a large stock of all revision guides on order and these will be available to buy immediately after science lessons or at first break from the prep room. Due to syllabus changes which will take place in September 2011 we will only have the Year 10 books available for a limited period and we highly recommend that year 10 students purchase copies now. Any copies we do not sell before 5 November will be returned to the supplier.

Anyone who is unsure which revision guides are needed should speak to their Science teacher.



Year 7 have earned 402.4 points so far this term; these are awarded for 100% book test results.

Each book has a points total score which can be found on the label inside the book.

Please remind your child to do the Vocabulary test which follows their book test. The vocabulary and comprehension test includes current and previous vocabulary words which then generates a report on the pupil's vocabulary development.

Last week Kirra Graham (9MWA) was the top word count scorer with a grand total of 93,183 words.

Mrs Hancock, Librarian



Well done
Kirra

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, Calypso, 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 (cash) 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. Please send into school for the attention of Mrs L Booth.



'WORD OF THE WEEK'
Chosen by Mme Moor
French Assistant
As part of our focus on
Literacy in the
MFL Department



un pot-au-feu

TOP TEN



Becky Melton

1) What option subjects do you do and what is your role in the Senior Prefect team? I have chosen Geography, History and French and my role in the senior prefect team is Deputy Head Girl.

2) What is your favourite meal?
Chicken curry.

3) What job would you like to do in the future?
A vet in Africa because I have always wanted to give back what we have taken.

4) Who are your heroes?
Anyone who saves life (human or animal) or served their country in wars (whether dead or alive).

5) Who is your favourite singer/band?
Not one particular one really, just anything that is either on my iPod or the radio.

6) What is your favourite book?
The Harry Potter series.

7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?
I have performed in the West End with Paul O'Grady.

8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?
The way it gives everyone a chance to do something they haven't done before.

9) What do you treasure most? My surfboard, without it I don't think I could live!

10) What one thing would you change in the world? I would stop poaching and the selling of animal skin and ivory.

New School Website

The new school website has been launched (please note some items may not yet be completed as we are still working on certain sections)

www.poltairschool.co.uk

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES:-

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
(PE lesson 1 and then report to Extended Services building at 10.00 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)

For more details phone Sally Collard on 01726 69336.
www.cornwalldyslexia.org.uk helpline: 01872 27 48 27

Is your child struggling with reading?
Does your child find spelling difficult?
Does your child have dyslexia?



The Cornwall Dyslexia Association runs (free) dyslexia-awareness courses for mums, dads, grandparents, carers and other adults interested in finding out more about dyslexia.

ST. STEPHEN: Starts Weds 3rd Nov. Morning Sessions (10-12noon) OR Evening sessions (6:45pm-8:45pm).

What people liked most about the course:

- o The games and other learning strategies. *Helen - parent*
- o The course was enjoyable and enlightening. It was much more interesting and useful than I'd expected! *Phil - grandparent*
- o I know now how to help different children and recognise how different their needs can be. *Sue - teaching assistant*
- o Meeting others made me feel less alone. *Sharon - parent*
- o My child really enjoyed the children's workshop. I am now not so anxious or confused about knowing how to help him. *Carla - parent*
- o Practical resources and free games gave me something to take home every week. *Henry - parent*
- o This is a brilliant course and I wish I could have had this support and information sooner. *Lisa - parent*
- o I think the course would be helpful for all adults and children, and teachers / youth leaders. *Gavin - youth worker*

For more details and to book a place phone Sally Collard on 01726 69336. www.cornwalldyslexia.org.uk