

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 7

Autumn Term 2010

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

As I mentioned last week, Wednesday was Student Council Election Day. All pupils (the electorate) have been busy casting their votes for their chosen candidates. All of the candidates are now on 'tenterhooks' as they await the announcement of the poll by the Returning Officers. This will take place in the week after Half Term in each of the year group assemblies. It has been great to have so many pupils with the confidence to put themselves forward for election. Giving a speech to your own year group is no mean achievement on its own. I should also congratulate the team of pupils and staff who spent all of Wednesday working so hard to ensure that the process went smoothly and accurately. You can find some pictures of the whole event unfolding underneath.

Yr 9 - Curtis voting



Yr 10 Rory placing vote in ballot box

Anti-clockwise: Declan Michael, Daniel, Ellis, Lauren & Amie

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

'WORD OF THE WEEK'
Chosen by Mr Richardson

As part of our focus on
Literacy in the
MFL Department



doucement

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES:-

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)

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

UPDATE

Congratulations to Courtney (pictured below) who is this week's top word scorer, having read 97,030 words.

8 set 4 with Mrs Braithwaite has the highest average percentage of tests correct since the beginning of term with 92.9%, and a total of 51.8 points. Leading the points table at the moment however is 8 set 2 with 134.1 points followed by 8 set 1 with 180.6.



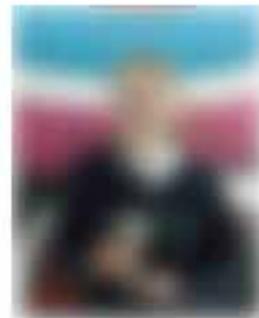
Keep up your reading during half term, don't forget you can do your tests and check your progress on line.

Mrs Hancock, Librarian



Students of the Week

Year 9
Amy



For always trying hard and working quietly with focus and determination

Year 10
Laura



Consistent positive attitude and commitment to work.

Year 11
Mike



Excellent progress and being above target in the majority of his lessons

South Restormel Extended Services

Half Term Hullabaloo

Family Fun Day
Wednesday 27th October 2010
10:00 - 15:00
Poltair School

Free Activities for all the family

Face Painting	Family Information Services
Arts & Crafts	Parent Support Advisers
Sports	Give it Ago
Dance	Health Promotions
Pumpkin Carving	
And much, much more.....	

Refreshments will be available to purchase or please bring your own

Spotlight on the Science Department

Aimhigher: HEgg Cup Challenge

On the 6th October 2010, Mr Martin took 4 of our gifted and talented Year 11 science students to the University of Plymouth to take part in a team building and problem solving event called **The HEgg Cup**; *'higher education is no yolk!'*

The competition was run along the lines of a 'Scrap Heap Challenge'. The challenge was to work as a team with various bits of 'scrap' to design and build a self-powered vehicle to transport an egg along an 8ft suspended pole!

The event aimed to improve lateral thinking, team-building skills and aspects of science, technology and engineering to complete the task successfully and win 'The HEgg Cup'. 18 Teams represented schools from all around Devon, Cornwall and Somerset and after final judging, we came joint 7th place.

The day also included a tour of the University campus and all of the students who attended agreed that they now feel more confident about their ability to enter higher education.

The students who attended were **Charlotte**
Becky **Michael** and
Jordan Congratulations to them all.



Trips like the one mentioned above are just one of the range of ways that we support and extend our most able students. At the beginning of year 9, our most able students start their GCSE courses, with an opportunity to achieve three separate GCSEs in the three disciplines of Science. Initially, the pupils cover the same modules that comprise the Core and Additional GCSEs, but with the addition of the three extra more challenging modules:

B3 Further Biology
C3 Further Chemistry
P3 Further Physics

In the most recent round of module tests, some of our highest achieving Year 11 students include:

Charlotte Collier (100% in Biology and 90% in Chemistry)
Erin Cole (90% in Biology)
Beth Southey (97% in Biology and 98% in Chemistry)
Jose Gilbert (90% in Biology)

The following Summer 2010 Year 11s who completed their separate science courses must also be congratulated:

Bryony Curtis gained **3 A Grades** in Physics, Chemistry and Biology
Adam Marks gained an **A** in Biology, and **A*** in Chemistry and Physics
Cameron Whymer gained **A*** in Biology and Chemistry and an **A** in Physics.

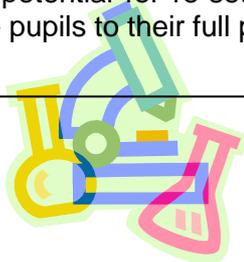
Congratulations to them all.



Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 the Science curriculum has been changed to include a wide range of exciting topics within the disciplines of Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Pupils are taught key scientific principles and then encouraged to apply their new-found knowledge and understanding in exciting and challenging situations using resources from the new 'Wikid' scheme of work. This means that the students can be like CSI officers, learning about Pyrotechnics, seeing how Chemistry is involved in cooking and experiencing many more new learning opportunities.

There are small unit assessments and assessment for learning (AfL) tasks within each unit, accompanied by termly reviews of learning. As all pupils cover the same units per term, close monitoring of progress can take place with the potential for re-setting to fully stimulate pupils to their full potential.



TOP TEN



Mr Riley

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

2) What is your favourite meal? Moules marinière.

3) If you were not a Teacher what would you be? A Neurologist or a Professional Surfer.

4) Who are your heroes? My parents.

5) Who is your favourite singer/band? Oasis.

6) What is your favourite book? Michael Peterson's Biography (he is a famous Australian surfer from the 70s who has schizophrenia).

7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? I have a professional scuba diving qualification.

8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? Seeing the pupils succeed.

9) What do you treasure most? My education, as it provided me with all the opportunities to do so many things in life and I haven't finished yet!

10) What one thing would you change in the world? The British weather!

Important Exam Information

Year 10 modules: (Majority of Year Group) Thursday 11th November 2010

Year 11 exams: (Separate Science set only)

Biology	Thursday 13th January 2011
Chemistry	Monday 17th January 2011
Physics	Wednesday 19th January 2011

Revision Guides are available from the Prep room as follows:

Year 9 set 1 and 10 set 1 Separate Sciences £2.99 per Science

Year 10

Year 10 Core revision guide	£3.50
Year 10 Core workbook	£2.50
Purchased together	£5.00

Year 11

Year 11 Additional revision guide	£3.50
Year 11 Additional workbook	£2.50
Purchased together	£5.00

Due to syllabus changes in 2011 the Year 10 books will only be available for a limited time so we highly recommend that Year 10 students buy these now. Any copies not sold before 5th November 2010 will be returned to the supplier.

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

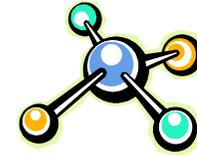
Revision

We will be running revision sessions until 4.15pm on Thursday evenings in the run up to the November exams and again for the January exams.

SCIENCE FAMILY QUIZ

Answers to be submitted to any member of the Science team by Friday 5 November 2010

1st prize - 20 vivos 2nd prize - 15 vivos 3rd prize 10 vivos



Round 1: Chemistry

- 1) What pH value indicates an alkaline solution? pH0, pH3, pH7 or pH14
- 2) Ethanoic acid is contained in which common household substance?
- 3) Na is the chemical symbol for which element?
- 4) When an acid reacts with a base, what is produced?
- 5) Which of these is an example of metamorphic rock? Chalk, Marble, Granite or Limestone



Round 2: Space

- 1) How far is the earth from the sun?
- 2) Which is the 5th planet from the sun?
- 3) In what year did NASA first land a spacecraft on Mars?
- 4) How many days does it take Mercury to orbit the sun?
- 5) What do we call an object that is in orbit around a planet?

Round 3: Nature

- 1) Which bird has the largest wingspan of 11 feet?
- 2) What is the fastest animal in the world?
- 3) What happens if a goldfish is kept in the dark?
- 4) The strawberry is part of which plant family?
- 5) How many hearts does an earthworm have?



Round 4: Physics

- 1) Which of the following is not a magnetic material?
- 2) The heat an object contains is the amount of its thermal energy, what is it measured in?
- 3) What colour will a blue flag appear in red light?



- 4) What is the approximate range of frequencies that can be heard by people with normal hearing?
- 5) A spanner is used to tighten a nut. A force of 100N is applied 0.2 m from the centre of the nut. What is the moment?

Round 5: Biology

- 1) What is the function of the cell membrane?
- 2) Which of these features is an example of continuous variation? Gender, blood group, weight or eye colour?
- 3) Which of these features shows inherited variation? Tongue-rolling, having a scar, pierced ears or being able to swim
- 4) What sort of joint is the shoulder joint?
- 5) Where is digested food absorbed into the bloodstream?



Round 6: Engineering

- 1) What type of frequencies are too high to be heard by humans?
- 2) Which of the following was not designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel? The Thames Tunnel, the Royal Albert Bridge, the Clifton Suspension Bridge or the London Sewer System ?
- 3) Where is the tallest man-made structure in the world?
- 4) Computer storage density is a measure of the quantity of information. What is this measured in?
- 5) Give four examples of things an electrical engineer would design.

