



# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 8

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2010

## Dear Parent/Carer

We were delighted to welcome Year 10 Parents to our Work Experience preparation evening on Tuesday last. Mr King our Work Experience Co-ordinator has been pleased with the positive attitude of Year 10 students in their approach to the application process. However, we are aware that for a range of reasons, not least economic pressures being felt by everyone, that the availability of work experience placements this year is limited. We would be very grateful if any parents or members of the community were able to offer a work experience placement to a Year 10 student in the week beginning 4th July 2011. Education Business Partnerships Cornwall visit all potential placements to undertake a risk assessment so that safety and safeguarding are covered. If you were able to support the school in this way please contact Mr King direct at school.

Our Family Fun Nights got off to a very good start last Monday but there are still some spaces available. Please contact Mrs Eastwood, Community Secretary for more information.

For your information and interest the staff training day on Friday will focus on Teaching and Learning with staff engaged in developing schemes of work, receiving outside specialist training for PSHE, ICT training and for middle and senior managers a two day course (including Saturday!) on lesson observation to Ofsted Standards.

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

## LOST PROPERTY

Please note items of lost property are now situated in the Admin Office in West Block.

There are items of clothing, especially coats already in the office. If your child has lost any school items recently please send them to the office to check.

## HOMEWORK PROJECTS FOR Years 7, 8 & 9

### Weeks 7 – 9

**Monday 1st November to  
Friday 19th November**

### Subjects listed below:

Year 7	DT Product Design RE
Year 8	French Humanities
Year 9	DT Product Design Humanities

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES:-

### Friday 5th 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)**

### Monday 8th November to Monday 15th November

Exams – all pupils involved have received timetables.

### Thursday 11th November

Certificate Evening for last year's Year 11s  
To arrive 6.00-6.15 pm for 6.30 pm start  
in the Main Hall

## 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](http://www.poltairschool.co.uk)

**Year 7  
Student of the Week  
Marc**



For exceptional punctuality and meeting homework deadlines.

**Year 8  
Student of the Week  
Justin Burton**



For good work in Music

**Year 9  
Student of the Week  
Shannan**



For taking responsibility by asking for extra work to catch up and for good attitude and behaviour in tutor group.

**'WORD OF THE WEEK'  
Chosen by Ms Oram**

As part of our focus on Literacy in the MFL Department



**la poubelle**



**Update**

Just a reminder that Home Connect is still available for you to look at the results and book case data, however you are no longer able to take the quizzes at home. This option has been stopped by Renaissance Learning due to the results of some of the home tests being inaccurate.

Good news though, Harriet has read 775,178 words, the top for year 7 so far this term, the Year 8 star is Lennon having read 448,012 words. Well done to them both.

Mrs Hancock, Librarian



**Visit our Schools and Colleges Week**

As part of our Enterprise Education we were delighted to host a visit from Malcolm Bell, Head of Visit Cornwall which formed part of the national initiative for employers to visit schools and colleges with a view to making positive links.

"Employers and schools working in partnership can enhance the learning experience of children and young people. The Visit our Schools and Colleges campaign is a great opportunity to bring together business leaders with teachers and pupils. Mutual support, co-operation and understanding between business leaders and schools will help to continue to ensure that young people have the knowledge and skills which they need for a successful adult life."

**Chris Keates, General Secretary of the NASUWT, one of the teachers' union**

Mr Bell was given a conducted tour of the school and held discussions with Mr Tong and Mrs Holmes about ways that his organisation and Poltair might work together in future. A group of pupils pictured below quizzed Mr Bell about the usefulness of various skills and qualifications for today's employers.



# Spotlight on Humanities Department

## Year 7 welcomed to "My Place"

The new Year 7 has been warmly welcomed to Poltair by the Humanities Faculty. The History and Geography departments teamed up this term to produce a most innovative and stimulating introductory module of work, "My Place", for the year group. In introducing the 150 or so youngsters to Poltair their studies initially centred on the school site. Using old maps the eager newcomers investigated how the area had developed prior to the building of the school in 1907.

The inquisitive boys and girls then had to explore the school and piece together evidence to see how it had changed through time.

From this ...

to this ...



They were even able to examine artefacts to see how school life has changed over the last century.



*The St Austell County School House shield from 1919*



*Poltair School's original badge*



*The old school cane*

To complete the module each tutor group was given a guided tour of St Austell where they were able to use their freshly honed investigative and observational skills.



### **Parent Challenge**

Do you know St Austell? If in doubt then ask a Year 7 pupil! The following quiz is based on their walk.

1. Who was the founder of St Austell Brewery?
2. Which famous footballer – once as famous as Beckham and Rooney – played at Poltair Park?
3. Whose Coronation is commemorated with a stone in King's Avenue?
4. When did the GWR build a bridge over the railway lines at the station?
5. Who designed Zion Chapel?
6. What did Walter Hicks use Tregonissey House for?
7. What was the name of the (now long gone) hotel opposite Tregonissey House? (*The irony of this was not lost on some pupils*).
8. What is the name of St Austell's church?
9. What was the area in front of the Red Bank once known as?
10. Which china clay magnate has a memorial in the park?

Please send your answers to [tlake@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:tlake@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk) by Friday 19 November. The winner will be drawn from all the correct entries and there will be an appropriate 'St Austell prize'.

*Congratulations to Mrs Crane who won our "Disasters Quiz" in the summer term. We hope that she enjoyed the Bill Bryson prize.*

### **Key Stage 4 GCSE Geography**

Year 11 pupils have been busy this term working on their Controlled Assessment task in Geography. Controlled Assessment has replaced coursework tasks at GCSE level and is essentially coursework under controlled conditions.

There are two tasks this term; a fieldwork investigation and a secondary data geographical study with a combined value of 25% of the total GCSE mark. Pupils are near completion of the fieldwork investigation and will begin the secondary study, focused on renewable energy, in mid-November.

In January, all pupils studying Geography in Year 10 and 11 will take module exams worth between 25%-50% of the overall mark. The dates of the exams are as follows:

- Unit One: The Coastal Environment - Thursday 20th January (All Year 11 pupils)
- Unit Two: Living with Natural Hazards - Monday 24th January (All Year 10 pupils and a selection of Year 11 pupils)

Of course, the right preparation for the exams will mean that pupils have the chance of securing their best possible grade. During January, we will spend lesson time helping pupils to get ready for the exams. However, it is **strongly recommended** that pupils take advantage of revision sessions on offer during November, December and January. See below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Revision Topic</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
Thursday 25th November	Economic development of coastal areas - part one	11	Mr Pope
Friday 26th November	The causes of earthquakes and volcanoes	10 + 11	Miss White
Thursday 2nd December	Economic development of coastal areas- part two	11	Mr Pope
Friday 3rd December	The effects of earthquakes and volcanoes	10 + 11	Miss White
Thursday 9th December	Physical processes	11	Mr Pope
Friday 10th December	Cause and effects of tropical storms	10 + 11	Miss White
Thursday 6th January	Coastal landforms	11	Mr Pope
Friday 7th January	Cause and effects of wild fires	10 + 11	Miss White
Thursday 13th January	Coastal Management	11	Mr Pope
Friday 14th January	Reducing the effects of hazards	10 + 11	Miss White
Friday 21st January	Exam practice	10 + 11	Miss White

All revision classes will take place in W2 and drinks and snacks will be provided. All pupils attending revision classes will be rewarded with Vivo Miles. The enhancement bus runs on both Thursday and Friday.

# Humanities Blunders!

*They didn't  
really write that,  
did they?*

*(Not at Poltair anyway)*

**Equator:** An imaginary lion running around the Earth through Africa.

**Vacuum:** A large, empty space where the pope lives.

**Germinate:** To become a naturalised German.

The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar.

The Romans conquered the Greeks. History call people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long.

The First World War, caused by the assigation of the Arch-Duck by a surf, ushered in a new error in the annals of human history.

The Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offence.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West.



## TOP TEN



Miss Venn

**1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?** I am Head of History and G & T Co-ordinator.

**2) What is your favourite meal?** It can only be a roast dinner drowned with plenty of gravy!

**3) If you were not a Teacher what would you be?** I always fancied a career in law, but more than likely it would lead me away from Cornwall which I wouldn't want.

**4) What is your favourite film?** I am a big fan of horror films but my top three 'must-see' films are: The Green Mile, Braveheart and Pirates of the Caribbean and sequels.

**5) Who is your favourite singer/band?** As lots of pupils ask me this question, many will know my music taste as pop/R & B. I'm a big fan of artists like Lady Gaga, Rhianna, Florence and the Machine.

**6) What is your favourite book?** I love classical literature, mainly because I studied A-Level English Literature. My all time favourite is 'Wuthering Heights' by Emily Bronte but Dickens and Hardy come very close.

**7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I am currently studying for my Masters Degree which I should finish early next year. I would love to be able to continue further by doing a PhD.

**8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** I absolutely love my job, I am here to teach and hopefully inspire. When pupils enjoy my lessons this is a huge reward. The staff here are great, teaching would not be the same without fantastic colleagues!

**9) What do you treasure most?** Life, love and happiness of friends and family.

**10) What one thing would you change in the world?** For people to realise that war solves nothing apart from bringing death, destruction, financial hardship and future intent for revenge.