

# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 10  
Autumn Term 2010

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

## PROUD STUDENTS RETURN

Over 100 of last year's Poltair School leavers returned to us last week to collect their GCSE certificates in front of proud parents and staff. It was thrilling to have so many of the year group return for the celebration event, and to find out how they are already moving forward with their many hopes and ambitions. Guest of Honour was Mrs Sue Booth, former Inclusion Co-ordinator at the school. She delivered some very good advice to the audience, sharing with them four important principles in life; "never be afraid to ask for help, work hard, think about the consequences of everything you choose to do and always be the best person you can be."

## FLOODS & BAD WEATHER

Wednesday morning proved to be an interesting one at school. The significant overnight rainfall led to a level of surface water that the drainage system could not cope with. The result was that a number of social and teaching areas of the school were water-damaged and had to be taken out of operation. However, having heard many other local stories, we perhaps got off lightly. Fortunately, with the patience and co-operation of pupils, staff and parents, we were able to open as normal and run a normal school day. We would like to thank all of you that made a big effort to ensure that pupils got to school safely and securely and to publicly acknowledge the fantastic work of our site team.

Inevitably, there were rumours going around that the school was closed but this was not the case. Should this ever be the case, a message will appear on the school website as soon as the decision is made. In addition, we would use our texting facility to send an information text to every parent. However, this is only as effective as the completeness and accuracy of the mobile phone numbers that we have on record. (There is a polite reminder in here!) Finally, we would also contact the local radio stations so that a message goes out on the airwaves; however, previous experience tells us that there can be a delay to how quickly that information is relayed.

Best wishes.

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

### 'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Chosen by Mrs S Barker  
Nurse

As part of our focus on  
Literacy in the  
MFL Department



**la piscine**

### Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

**23, 24 & 25 November**

Wider Key Skills for selected Year 10 pupils

### Wednesday 24 November

Year 9 Parents' Evening

(Year 9 tutors have the appointment sheets)

3.30 to 6.30 pm 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)

# Students of

# the week

**Year 8**  
*Scott Job*



For his positive attitude in Tutor Group.

**Year 7**  
*Laura Cutlan*



For her achievement in ballet/dance.

**Year 9**  
*Robbie Copping*



For 100% attendance and zero behaviour points.

**Year 8**  
*Scott McKend*



For his excellent attitude and attainment in Art.

## Prefect Activities during first and second break

From **Monday 22 November** the Year 11 Prefect Team will be running activities for pupils at first and second breaks. Posters around the school are advertising what is happening and when. For more information please see Mrs Booth or to enter your teams in to the 5-a-side League please see Jordan Conroy (Yr 11 Prefect).

Activity	Days	Area	Times
<b>Board Games</b>	Monday (Yr11), Tuesday (Yr10), Wednesday (Yr 9), Thursday (Yr 8), Friday (Yr 7)	Main Hall	First Break (11.00 – 11.20)
<b>TV Programmes</b>	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	Main Hall	Second Break (1.30 – 1.50)
<b>Basketball</b>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Sports Hall	First Break (11.05 – 11.25)
<b>5-a-side Football</b>	Tuesday (Yr7), Thursday (Yr8)	Sports Hall	Second Break (1.25 – 1.50)
<b>Badminton</b>	Friday	Sports Hall	Second Break (1.25 – 1.50)
<b>Reading</b>	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	Library	First Break (11.00 – 11.20) Second Break (1.25 – 1.50)
<b>Skipping</b>	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Play Area	First Break (11.05 – 11.25)
<b>Ball games</b>	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	Play Area	First Break (11.05 – 11.25)
<b>Step by Step</b>	Monday	Field	Second Break (1.30)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Pupils from all year groups may attend, except where a specific year group is shown.

KS3 homework projects for Weeks 7-9 should be completed by this Friday 19 November. The final series of projects for the Autumn Term will be set from next week and should be completed by Friday 10 December.

## HOMEWORK PROJECTS FOR YEARS 7, 8 & 9

**Weeks 10 – 12**  
**Monday 22 November to**  
**Friday 10 December**

**Subjects listed below:**

**Year 7**  
 French  
 Humanities

**Year 8**  
 DT Product Design  
 Humanities

**Year 9**  
 Art

## ZUMBA CHARITY EVENT - FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER

Last Friday 12th November Poltair School hosted a Charity Zumba Party with all proceeds being divided equally between Cornwall Hospice Care and the Precious Lives Appeal.



Over 60 people braved the stormy night and danced to the infectious Latin American beat and the sweat was pouring off everyone from teenagers to seniors as they shimmied and shook.

The evening was a great success and raised £562 in total with each charity receiving £281 from ticket sales and a raffle. Zumba Instructor Becky Hosking said "I would like to thank all who took part in the event with a special mention to Linzi Booth, Director of Sport and her team of Prefects. They were a massive help with signing people in and selling raffle tickets. Also thanks to Michael for his DJ skills and generally looking after us all as well as joining in with the routines."

### Time Out For Teenagers

Suitable for Parents of 13-19 year olds

**Free** 6 week course  
 2 hour sessions, informative and fun

Some of the Topics covered:

SETTING BOUNDARIES & KEEPING THEM

PEER PRESSURE

LONE PARENTING/STEP PARENTING

COMING HOME TIMES

RUDENESS

GETTING IN WITH THE WRONG CROWD

If you would be interested in joining a parent group please contact

**Wendy Calvesbert - Parent Support Advisor** 07590416899

make: christmas craft  
 fair and workshops



unique gifts from local designer-makers

make your own Christmas presents with hourly workshops for a fiver...

proper coffee and homemade cakes

on Saturday 27th November 2010  
 10—4pm

at the old bakery studios, Malpas Rd, Truro (between West Briton Newspaper offices and Radio Cornwall)

call Sarah for more details: 07951 960647  
 facebook: i love handmade things. www.sarahdrew.com



## Spotlight on the English Department

When we all heard about the new changes to the GCSEs in English last year, we were all nervous to find out how the students would be affected. No coursework? Instead we have seen the introduction of controlled assessments with limited time for writing. So, we began planning the journey that our students would take, and we're pleased that they are doing so well.

Gone are the days of coursework and having the new controlled assessments is much better. Our students like the challenge of writing an entire piece of coursework within an hour, and we are extremely proud of our Year 10 students who are the first group to study the new GCSE.

Their first challenge has been to describe a 'funfair' in detail. There were some rather tantalising, tasty, juicy burgers served, oozing in ketchup and smothered in fried onions. Rides were given personalities of monsters, dragons, and old ladies. We don't think that any of us will ever look at a funfair in the same way again!

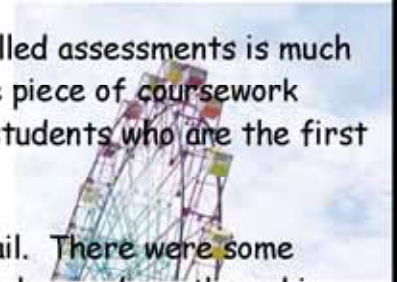
Next, students were challenged to write a story that began with: 'She knew it was a mistake as soon as she turned the corner' or 'Hero'. The results were phenomenal! There was every type of twist and turn that you could imagine—leaving us on the edge of our seats.

Now Year 10 are working towards their first controlled assessment on literature: the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.

We're confident that they'll go from strength to strength as they stretch to meet the new GCSE syllabus.

### News in Brief:


- Last week, most of the Year 11 students took their GCSE English Language exam; results are due in January. We're hoping this will be our most successful group ever!
- Year 9 are currently studying World War I poetry. Do you have any family photos or memories from either world war? If so, please dig them out and share them with your children! We're sure they'll love it.
- To raise money for Children in Need, we've been running a Sponsored Read-a-thon in the library. Several students have supported the charity by reading during their lunch break. What a fantastic result!
- We've also welcomed a new teacher to our English department, Mrs Venables.
- And, finally, we've updated our information on the English section of the school website, so please check out all the fascinating information about our English teachers!




This week's star is Harriet Turner 7YM with 10 tests taken and all 10 passed; she has read 865,032 words so far this term. Well done. Overall the classes taking part in the AR scheme have read 941 books since the beginning of term, quite an achievement. Remember if you have a book at home and wish to take a test on it, you can find it on [www.arbookfinder.co.uk](http://www.arbookfinder.co.uk). This will show the book's quiz number, ZPD and points value.



Mrs Hancock, Librarian

<p><b>TOP TEN</b></p>  <p><i>Jack Lobb</i></p>
<p><b>1) What option subjects do you do and what is your role in the Senior Prefect team?</b> I take business studies, graphics and BTEC sports. My role is Deputy Head Boy.</p>
<p><b>2) What is your favourite meal?</b> Cornish Pasty.</p>
<p><b>3) What job would you like to do in the future?</b> I would either be a PE Teacher with my second subject as Science or a doctor who specialises in high altitude disorders.</p>
<p><b>4) Who are your heroes?</b> My dad.</p>
<p><b>5) Who is your favourite singer/band?</b> I don't have a favourite singer or band but my favourite song is OMG by Usher.</p>
<p><b>6) What is your favourite book?</b> 'Holding the Zero' by Gerald Seymour.</p>
<p><b>7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?</b> I play hockey for Cornwall and I am progressing towards West of England status.</p>
<p><b>8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?</b> BTEC Sport and being a member of the Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes.</p>
<p><b>9) What do you treasure most?</b> My family.</p>
<p><b>10) What one thing would you change in the world?</b> I would stop ignorance and make sure everyone gets acknowledgement for their successes and accomplishments.</p>

<p><b>TOP TEN</b></p>  <p><i>Mrs Venables</i></p>
<p><b>1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?</b> I'm a Teacher of English, and I also mentor our English trainee teachers. I am also proud to have a Year 9 tutor group.</p>
<p><b>2) What is your favourite meal?</b> Anything with a lot of spice. My family is part Cherokee Indian, so we used to eat a lot of spicy food, and a lot of it was similar to Mexican food, which is one of my favourites.</p>
<p><b>3) If you were not a teacher what would you be?</b> A doctor. I actually started medical school many years ago, but I decided to change to become a teacher because I wanted a different type of challenge.</p>
<p><b>4) Who is your hero?</b> My hero is probably my husband because he is the most patient, kind, gentle man I know.</p>
<p><b>5) Who is your favourite singer/band?</b> I have two favourites: Snow Patrol and Dixie Chicks; it just depends on my mood as to what I like to listen to.</p>
<p><b>6) What is your favourite book?</b> 'Anne of Green Gables' by L M Montgomery. I love the character of Anne!</p>
<p><b>7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?</b> I love to crochet, and I've made several blankets and scarves over the years. Right now, I'm trying to learn how to knit.</p>
<p><b>8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?</b> There are many things, but right now, I love seeing my tutor group every day. They're just such a fantastic group of students! It's nice to have our own little 'family' in school.</p>
<p><b>9) What do you treasure most?</b> My faith. My faith guides every decision I make, so I treasure it the most.</p>
<p><b>10) What one thing would you change in the world?</b> This is really hard to answer, but I would stop people from arguing over religion and politics. It causes so many problems!</p>