

# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 12

Autumn Term 2010

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

## SPORTS COLLEGE AND SPORT PARTNERSHIP

We live in interesting and difficult times. Many of you will have noticed in the news that school sport has become a considerable area of political debate over the last few weeks. As one of the longest standing sports specialist colleges nationally, we have for many years hosted the highly successful Poltair School Sport Partnership. The partnership includes 9 secondary and over 60 primary schools. It has contributed to competitive sport, has developed links with community sports clubs and has developed leadership and volunteering opportunities for young people through sport. In addition, it has provided many more opportunities for pupils to participate in extra-curricular activities across a far greater range of sports and fitness related activities, often alongside expert external sports coaches. There have also been many inter-school competitions at primary and secondary level which have engaged a wide range of participants. It has provided a network for those that teach PE in schools to share and develop best practice; we know how well PE is taught in schools these days. The contribution to the 'Every Child Matters' agenda has been enormous, especially when we consider the strands of 'fit and healthy', 'making a positive contribution', and 'enjoy and achieve.'

About a month ago the government announced, as part of the Compulsory Spending Review, the intention to remove the funding available for Sport Partnerships. For the Poltair Sport Partnership, this equates to a considerable six figure sum. We are very disappointed with the decision but are determined to carry on with our activities as best we can, even if on a smaller scale. We are absolutely committed to our designation as a sports college, our PE and sport specialism, our belief that sport is an excellent motivator to promote engagement and achievement and that it is a superb vehicle for fostering high quality community links and moulding the young citizens of the future. Please be re-assured that our partnership team are now working very hard, selflessly, in order to plan for a continuation of our well-regarded activities albeit on a much smaller scale and budget. It is too important to all of us to do otherwise.

In the meantime, let us hope that, following Prime Minister's questions in parliament on Tuesday there may be some rethink on the recent announcement.

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

## DATES FOR DIARY

### Tuesday 7 December

Ski Trip meeting  
Cyber Café 6.30 – 8.00 pm

### Wednesday 8 December

A level Evening for Parents and Pupils  
Run by Cornwall College St Austell  
7.00 – 8.00 pm at Poltair (invitations distributed to Years 10 & 11)

### Thursday 16 December

Carol Service  
Sports Hall (pm)

### Friday 17 December

Final Assembly  
School closes 1.00 pm  
(Buses depart 1.15 pm)

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

**TICKETS ON SALE FROM  
6 to 10 DECEMBER**

**Wednesday 15 December (all years)  
(normal lunch times)**

Christmas Lunch (£2.10) as main  
meal with cold snacks as alternative.

**NO TICKET – NO CHRISTMAS LUNCH!**

## CHILDREN IN NEED Friday 19 November



The school has raised a  
total of **£798.01**.

Thank you and well done to all  
those who contributed.

# Students of the Week



**Year 7**  
*Brandon*



For extra effort and fortitude.

**Year 8**  
*Lewis*



For being an excellent ambassador.

**Year 9**  
*Tom*



For outstanding achievements and progress in PE

**JOINT Year 11**

*Frankie and Vicky*



Improving their Science grade to a 'C' with motivation and hard work.



Nicole Casley (8SH) is this week's top quiz-taker. She has completed 7 out of 7 quizzes at 100%. Also Sarah Linsley (8JD) has achieved 11 out of 11 at 97.3%. The pupil with the highest points score this term so far is Harriet Turner (7YM) with 133.9 points. Well done to them all! Pupils who quiz and get 100% frequently are the top scorers and really show great progress. Keep it up!

Mrs Hancock, Librarian



Nicole



Sarah



Harriet

## GIVE IT A GO:

South Restormel Extended Services has money allocated to provide pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds with experiences and equipment that they would normally not be able to afford. If you are a family who receive higher band tax credits (proof needed), have children who qualify for free school meals or look after a child in care you qualify for £150 towards any of the following:

- Activity beyond the school day provided by registered providers
- Holiday activities provided by registered providers
- Out of Hours Learning provided by schools
- School camps/trips that are outside of the normal school day
- Music lessons (in school time)
- Equipment i.e. bike, skateboard, wetsuit



give it a go!  
Get Active!

We have the vouchers and details of how to claim in school. If you would like to access your money just send your child to collect a form from Mrs L Booth or pop into the school reception to collect your application form.



# Spotlight on Modern Foreign Languages

## French Quiz Night!

**Come and join us for our  
French Quiz Night -  
Monday 13th December from 5pm in  
the Main Hall.  
All parents and students  
welcome.**

**Refreshments will be provided.  
There will be prizes for the winning  
teams and a raffle.**

### Business meets Languages

Poltair School will be hosting a Business meets Languages day on 2nd of February 2011. The aim of the day is to engage students interactively with local employers who are championing the importance of MFL in the workplace and to raise inter-cultural awareness. About 90 pupils in Year 9 will be invited to take part in the day, which will be a fantastic opportunity for students to practise their linguistic skills.

Miss Obet (MFL leader)

### 'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Chosen by Mr Lake - as part of our focus on Literacy in the MFL Department

**trempe  
jusqu'aux os**



### TOP TEN



Miss Magnin

- 1) What exactly do you do at Poltair? I am a French Teacher.
- 2) What is your favourite meal? Sunday roast.
- 3) If you were not a Teacher what would you be? Entrepreneur.
- 4) Who is your hero? Anyone who has made a difference to someone's life.
- 5) Who is your favourite singer/band? Coldplay.
- 6) What is your favourite book? Too many to name.
- 7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? I lived in Australia and New Zealand for 7 years.
- 8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? The support and atmosphere.
- 9) What do you treasure most? My freedom.
- 10) What one thing would you change in the world? Fanatical religion.

## **Reading skills are for life not just for school!**

Since September Poltair has been running a whole school literacy initiative based on developing reading skills across all year groups.

As literacy underpins all learning the initiative aims to include all curriculum subjects with the intention of building continuity. Pupils will see the skills they learn in one subject are transferable to others. No subject works in isolation because literacy, whether reading, writing or speaking and listening is the common denominator.

We began the initiative with a focus on "Skimming" and after three weeks moved on to "Scanning". In November we have looked at "Predicting" and "Visualising" (see posters below).

Skimming	Read quickly in order to obtain the general gist of a text
Scanning	Searching for specific words, phrases or numbers
Predicting	Make informed guesses about the text
Visualising	Creating a mental picture from words

If parents would like more information please contact Miss C White, Assistant Headteacher or Mrs D Braithwaite, English Department.

# Reading Strategy

### Key Idea

**Predicting: when you make informed guesses about the text**

Look at the pictures, maps or diagrams for any clues we can infer.

Look at the table of contents or the chapter headings and predict what information they may contain.



Make an informed guess – does it sound right?

Go back and revisit the text – you may have to revise your original predictions as new information becomes available.

## Predicting

### Key Idea

**Visualising: when you create a mental picture from words**

Look at the words and activate prior knowledge to build the picture.

Use your senses:  
see the colours  
hear the sounds  
feel the textures  
taste the flavours  
smell the odours.



It is like creating a painting on a blank canvas – you might start with background and then add detail.

It's like putting the pieces of a jigsaw together to draw conclusions and create unique interpretations.

## Visualising



The Last Garden of  
**HELIGAN**

**Cornish  
Christmas Night**  
Monday 6th December  
5:30pm - 9:00pm

Local  
Choirs

Wreath  
Decorating

Mulled wine &  
SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS

**10% Discount** IN THE  
HELIGAN SHOP & PLANT CENTRE

**Free Lantern-lit Tours**  
OF THE NORTHERN GARDENS

**Free Parking and Free Admission**  
to Heligan Tearoom, Shop, Plant Centre & Lobbs Farm Shop

**For more information:**  
Tel: 01726 845100 www.heligan.com

**Saturday 26 Feb 2011**  
**HIP HOP DANCE WORKSHOP**

with  
Britain's Got Talent  
semi-finalists 'FLAVA'

The event is taking place at  
Truro College at 11am  
Followed by a stage performance.

For ages 6-20 years, ages will be  
split into groups on the day.

**Tickets £20**

For more information and to book  
contact **Jenny 01726 820115**.



In aid of the Forget Me Not Charity  
[www.forgetmenotcharity.org](http://www.forgetmenotcharity.org)

**Starts 12th January 2011**

**Ashiita-Kai  
Karate Kids**

**NEW Karate class**

*For 12-Adult*

*(with Russell Becker)*

*Book your place NOW in this exciting NEW class*

**Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.00 pm**

**Poltair School, St Austell**

**1st 2 lessons for the price of 1**

*Classes also available*

*Monday: WADEBRIDGE Wednesday: FOWEY Thursday: LANIVET*

*Friday: LOSTWITHIEL Saturday: ST AUSTELL*

*Learn self-defence, confidence, get fit (Black belt instruction)*

**For further details telephone Mr S Drage - 01726 812209**

**Cheaper training available with monthly price plan**

**CRB checked**