

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 13

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

GETTING BETTER ON BUSES

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about the whole school Every Child Matters review that we were conducting. The final report with its findings will be published in the New Year, but as it is currently the vogue, I thought I would offer a glimpse at one of the key findings. Our very own 'leak' if you like! One of the aims was to find out what impact the school's new Anti-Bullying Policy has had. The response from the pupil discussion groups was very positive indeed. Pupils told us that there has been significant improvements in regard to this issue. Now, we are realistic here; no-one is claiming that bullying has disappeared altogether. However we are confident that a 'zero tolerance' approach is having an impact, that over all pupils feel safer and more secure and that if a pupil is ever bullied, they know what to do, who to go to and what will be done about it.

We now wish to extend this firm approach to behaviour on the school buses. During the recent ECM review most pupils told us that behaviour on the buses is very good. Staff travelled on some journeys to verify this. However there is a small number of pupils who do not act as they should and this can leave other pupils feeling worried and unhappy. On Wednesday, after school, a strong and clear message was delivered by myself and the senior team to all those that travel on a bus. I made it clear that allegations about misbehaviour on buses will be dealt with in a particular way. Allegations will be thoroughly investigated and anyone proven to have acted in a way that threatens the safety of others will face a serious school-based sanction. Any repeat offence will lead to the school recommending to the Local Authority that the child's bus pass be removed. Of course, there are two audiences for this message. Firstly the small minority of miscreants who need to get things right or face the consequences. However, the larger and more important audience is the vast majority of pleasant, polite Poltair pupils who need to be reassured that their safety and happiness and ability to go about their business free from fuss and interference is and will remain an absolute priority.

I do hope that this message has already made its way home and meets with the approval of all of our pupils and parents.

Best wishes.

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Change to Year 7 timetables

Year 7 will be reorganised into ability groups with effect from January and a letter has been posted home to all Year 7 parents explaining this.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 15 December
(normal lunch times)

Christmas Lunch (only available if booked in advance)

Thursday 16 December

Carol Service - Sports Hall (pm)

Friday 17 December

Final Assembly

School closes 1.00 pm (Buses depart 1.15 pm)

Thursday 6 January 2011

All pupils return

French Quiz Night!

*Come and join us for our
French Quiz Night -
Monday 13th December
From 5.00 pm in the Library
(venue changed from Main Hall).
All parents and students
welcome.*

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

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Year 7

Amy



For Community Support
'sponsored swim'

Year 8

Shannon



For working well under
pressure.

Year 9

Natdanai



For positive attitude and
commitment in Art.

Year 10

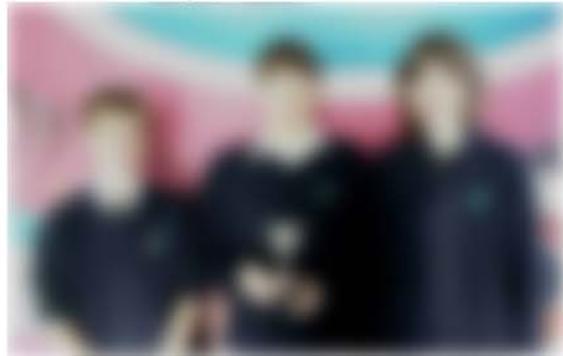
Sam



For achieving the highest
percentage in a GCSE French
Listening Paper.

JOINT Year 11

*Jack
Connor .
& Jordan*



Working hard in lessons and after school
and now on or above target in Science.



We have our first word millionaire! Harriet Turner has managed to read **1,016,488** words since the beginning of term, an amazing achievement. She will go on our Accelerated Reader wall of fame in the library and get a prize for all her efforts.

Mrs Hancock, Librarian

'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Chosen by Mrs Holmes
As part of our focus on
Literacy in the
MFL Department

Lost Property (School uniform)

We have many items still in the admin office. Please note that if they are not reclaimed before the end of term they will be sent for recycling (as we have no space to store them).



**un sapin
de Noël**

January Exams

Year 10 and 11 Students will be given individual timetables if they have been entered for exams.

Please note:

Students taking History will need to make sure they eat at first break as the exam will continue over lunch time.

Students taking French will need to bring packed lunch / drink as they will need to be supervised during the break between the exams.

Hair & Beauty Diploma	Monday 10 January	1.45 pm
Spanish (listening & reading higher)	Wednesday 12 January	8.45 am
Biology	Thursday 13 January	8.45 am
French (listening & reading higher)	Friday 14 January	12.30 pm
French (listening & reading foundation)	Friday 14 January	12.45 pm
Chemistry	Monday 17 January	8.45 am
History	Monday 17 January	1.00 pm
Physics	Wednesday 19 January	8.45 am
Geography Unit 1	Thursday 20 January	8.45 am
Geography Unit 2	Monday 24 January	8.45 am
Maths functional skills	Wednesday 26 January	8.45 am
English functional skills	Thursday 27 January	8.45 am

TOP TEN



Jamie Rickard

1) What option subjects do you do and what is your role in the Senior Prefect Team?

I take Business Studies, DT Food and PE BTEC. My role is Deputy Head Boy.

2) What is your favourite meal? Cornish pasty.

3) What job would you like to do in the future? I would like to be a PE Teacher.

4) Who are your heroes? My teachers and my family.

5) Who is your favourite singer/band? I like a lot of music and mainly listen to Radio 1 but I don't have a favourite singer/band.

6) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? I play bowls for the County.

7) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? My friends and PE.

8) What do you treasure most? My hair colour and my family and friends.

9) What one thing would you change in the world? For everyone to have equal rights.

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

Spotlight on Commerce

Response to Change

At the beginning of this academic year, the Commerce Faculty introduced a new course in ICT to all Y9 and Y10 pupils. The OCR Nationals in ICT will provide our pupils with the opportunity to gain a practical qualification in ICT which is widely recognised by colleges and employers.

During the autumn term, Y9 and Y10 pupils have been working on a wide range of ICT tasks during lessons. These ICT tasks include the production of presentations, business letters, promotional leaflets, business cards and invoices. All work produced by pupils in ICT lessons will count towards their final qualification.

The new course has provided our pupils with the opportunity to develop more advanced ICT skills. For example, pupils have learnt the following when producing presentations:

- How to provide footers
- How to produce speaker notes
- How to print off presentations in handout form
- How to use a master slide
- How to use slide animation and transition functions
- How to use spell checker



During the spring term, pupils will undertake work on database management, mail-merging, spreadsheet production and file management. After completing these tasks, pupils will get accredited for their first module on the course called 'ICT Skills in Business'.

Pupils will also have the opportunity to work on modules involving video-creation, desktop publishing, webpage creation and spreadsheets during the course. This will provide them with an enriched ICT curriculum with the necessary scope to develop ICT skills and levels of application required in modern business.

Here are some of the positive comments made by our Y9 and Y10 pupils about the course:

"I like learning new ICT skills and it is challenging."

"ICT skills are linked to business."

"A wide variety of tasks has been set."

"I enjoyed producing the presentation and the leaflet."

"You can use your own ideas when completing tasks."

"The assessment is easy to follow."

"The Task Guidance Sheets are very useful because you know what you are aiming for. We know what to do next. They help with progression."

"You do not have to complete an exam in the subject as it is a 100% coursework."

Tips on how to be successful in the OCR Nationals in ICT

- Listen carefully in lessons and follow instructions given by teaching staff.
- Use the learning support materials for tasks held on the shared area.
- Follow task guidance sheets to grasp what is required by teaching staff.
- Make sure you print off everything you have produced in lessons including any screenshots of processes adopted in the production of work.
- Form a peer assessment partnership with another pupil to get feedback on improving work.
- Complete the extended learning activities set during lessons.
- Attend our ICT club after school for further teacher support and guidance.

Opportunities to Improve

Pupils are more than welcome to come to our ICT Club after school to complete or improve work.

Benefits of attending our ICT Club include:

- ICT teacher support and guidance will be given on work set during ICT and Business lessons. You can improve your understanding of what needs to be done.
- Help is offered with software packages to improve your ICT skills.
- Assessment and feedback will be given to those pupils undertaking OCR National courses in Business and ICT. This provides the opportunity to improve your work further or to obtain a final task grade.
- 10 Vivo Miles will also be given to each pupil who attends the ICT Club.

Opening times and teaching staff

Wednesday	3.15 to 4.15 pm	Mr Jones
Thursday	3.15 to 4.15 pm	Mr Barrows
Friday	3.15 to 4.15 pm	Mr Jones



Commerce Faculty pilots a new ICT Leadership Award

The Commerce Faculty plans to deliver a new leadership scheme to pupils with a strong ICT focus. The ICT Leadership Award is currently being piloted with a target group in Y10. In order to obtain the Award pupils must successfully meet these unit requirements:

Unit 1: Support in Lessons

- Provide at least 3 hours 1-to-1 support with a KS3 pupil.



Unit 2: Organise an Event for Pupils

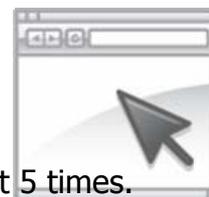
- Design a flyer for a training event.
- Organise a training event on an ICT topic during or after school.

Unit 3: Extra Curricular Clubs

- Provide at least 2 hours support during ICT Club after school.
- Provide 5 sessions support during lunch or morning break in the ICT Room (Library Area).

Unit 4: Technical Support

- Design a computer equipment maintenance sheet.
- Working in pairs check computer equipment in an ICT room at least 5 times.
- Record and report any problems to our Network Manager.



Unit 5: Work Experience

- Demonstrate that you have used ICT in your work placement.