

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 3

Parents' Information Newsletter

Summer Term 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

TEN TORS SUCCESS

I would like to congratulate all of the participants in the 2011 Ten Tors Challenge for their remarkable achievements in completing this year's event. It truly is a test of physical and mental strength and stamina, requires considerable intellect and an unwavering belief that the achievement of a team is stronger than that of an individual. The striking thing about Poltair teams is their humility, good humour, good order and absolute commitment and focus. Well done to all of the following:

45 mile team: Michael Barnell, Luke Bryant, Ben Caney, Oli Elston, Josh Gilbert, Jack Lobb

35 mile team: Gina Hide, Jack Barnell, Abby Crane, Jess Newson, Ruby Waterfield, David Winter

The 35 mile team completed the course in a record Poltair time and both teams, by finishing fit and well and together, maintained a 100% success rate of every Poltair team completing the Ten Tors Challenge. All of us know that the huge success of the Poltair brand of Ten Tors is inspired and sustained by the belief, faith and utter commitment of Helen Blackburn and it is right for me, on behalf of pupils and parents, to express my gratitude and thanks for all the hard work in making this year's challenge such a success. Let us hope that there will be many more to come.

CASHLESS CATERING

In last week's Spotlight we mentioned the new catering contract arrangements with Chartwells. As part of their improvement we will shortly be introducing new technology which will allow all transactions in the school to be cashless. This will be operated through a biometric system which uses thumb-print recognition, converted into an individual data code. Chartwells will be explaining the system in more detail in assemblies to the children and after half-term we will also run a Parent Information session. This system is already successfully used in many schools locally and throughout the country. Specific details will follow next week.

Best wishes.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

'PHRASE OF THE WEEK'

Chosen by Mrs Chard

As part of our focus on Literacy in the
MFL Department



Dates for diary

Monday 30th May to
Friday 3rd June –
Spring Bank Holiday

Year 9

Student of the Week

Jade Truman



For being a role model and
having no behaviour points
to date.

Par un beau jour d'été

School Website

Please note that the weekly Spotlight and any archived Spotlights, together with news items, are available to view or download from the school website. www.poltairschool.co.uk

Bugle Festival – Saturday 14 May

Julie Nicholls a pupil in Year 11 won an award for showing the most promise in all areas of dance at the Bugle Festival. She was presented with a shield and a certificate.

Julie is presently dancing with Capitol School of Dance and has been dancing since she was 7 years old. For the event she performed 3 solos, 2 duets and a trio. Well done Julie!



Careers in Science Day

On Tuesday 17 May Year 9 pupils were able to spend the day focussing on career pathways through Science. The event is the latest in our successful series of Enterprise and Careers activities and was organised by Miss Brader and Mr Lake.

Pupils attended a series of workshops led by local employers who were able to demonstrate how the study of science is important to their industries. This was complemented by a mini-careers fair in the main hall. Our thanks go to all the employers who gave up their valuable time to support this valuable event.

Careers fair exhibitors included: The Army, Cornwall College St Austell, Imerys, Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, Royal Institute of British Architects, Royal Air Force, Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust, Royal Navy and Royal Marines, Truro and Penwith College, Ultra Training, University of Exeter.



Sam Sidwell
who was awarded 50
vivo miles for winning
the Careers quiz.



UPDATE

We were pleased to receive this message from Renaissance Learning this week.

*'On behalf of **Renaissance Learning** and the **Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund**, I would like to congratulate you and your school for making a special effort on Wednesday 6th April 2011 and taking a significant number of Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes that, as you will remember, qualified for a 5p/quiz donation to the Fund by Renaissance Learning. I am delighted to report that 935 British schools took part in the event resulting in well over 30,000 quizzes taken on the day of which 26,789 quizzes were passed and thus qualified. You can read more about the day by following the link from the Renaissance Zone on our website: www.renlearn.co.uk/renaissance-zone
All this hard work has resulted in a whopping **£1,339.45 donation.**'*

Mrs Hancock, Librarian

Tesco Computer for school vouchers

First of all a big 'thank you' to all who have sent in vouchers so far. Although vouchers will not be given out in the stores for much longer, please remember to send yours in. We will be grateful for any you have 'Every little counts'.

We can spend them on a greater variety of items this year as the sports and general items available have been combined. In previous years we have bought several eco-friendly items, including an insect habitat. Also we have obtained sets of books for the library and some smaller IT items. We hope to be able to buy some sports equipment as well this year.

Thank you for all your help with this year's collection.

Mrs Hancock, Librarian



SPOTLIGHT ON THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

Revision Classes Tuesdays 3.15 – 4.05 pm				
Year	Level	Syllabus	Teacher	Room
11 & 10	Higher	Module 5	Mr Boden	S14
11	Foundation	Module 5	Mr Clooney	S17
11 & 10	Foundation	Linear	Mrs Kellow	S13
10	Higher	Unit 2	Miss Fairweather	S16
10	Foundation	Unit 2	Mrs Walker	S15

Key Exam Dates:

Year 11 and Year 10 Set 1

Module 1	Monday 13 th June am
Module 3	Tuesday 21 st June pm
Module 5 & Linear	Monday 6 th June pm Friday 10 th June am

Year 10 Set 2 and 3

Unit 2	Tuesday 21 st June pm
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UK Maths Challenge



Year 9

L to R: Casey, Robbie, Nicole, Zach, Amy



Stacie Marks
'Best in School'



Year 10

L to R: Danny, Maria, Brooke & Stacie

Poltair Gifted and Talented pupils competed against 600,000 pupils from across the country in the UKMT Mathematics Challenges.

Year 9

Bronze Awards: Nicole Gilbert, Amy Hollins, Casey Job, Zach Tunstall, Robbie Copping

Year 10

Best in School: Stacie Marks **Silver Award:** Maria Brett **Bronze Awards:** Brooke Whetter, Danny Lyden

Congratulations!

Puzzle

What 5-digit number has the following features:

If we put the numeral 1 at the beginning, we get a number three times smaller than if we put the numeral 1 at the end of the number.

Entries to Mrs Kellow by the end of June with name and tutor group.

Vivo points to be awarded to any correct entries.



MyMaths

We would ask that you get involved with your child's Mathematics. Some parents have expressed an interest in having a go at MyMaths, one of the interactive on-line software packages that we use as a learning tool for our students. We would definitely encourage this as a way of supporting us in developing the skills and techniques we are trying to promote. You can access MyMaths at www.mymaths.co.uk and the school login details are *poltair* and *circle*. Each student has also been assigned their own account details, which will record the completion of the weekly homework and the effort they put into it.



How can you count with twigs, tethers and ropes?

How did Egyptians move granite to build pyramids?

Why would you need gloves on to do maths?

Ask Year 7M1 or 8M1 who benefited from a visit from Tracey and Jane of the Royal Cornwall Museum Truro last week.



Equipment needed for all Maths lessons and exams:

Scientific Calculator

2 Black Pens

2 Pencils

Eraser

Pencil Sharpener

Clear 30cm ruler

Compass

Protractor



TOP TEN



Mr Binstead

1) What exactly do you do at Poltair? I teach Maths, French and Citizenship Education this year.

2) What is your favourite meal? Chicken pasta and vegetable stew with a spicy sauce.

3) If you were not a teacher in this school what would you be? I would probably be a teacher in another school!

4) Who is your hero? The Buddha. He was a really cool guy who taught other people how to free themselves from their physical and mental pain. I'm also very proud of an ancestor of mine who fought against the slave trade while he was serving in the British navy in the 1820's.

5) Who is your favourite singer/band? Neil Diamond (singing Jonathan Livingston Seagull), and Pavarotti.

6) What is your favourite book? It tends often to be the book I'm reading at the time. I like well-researched historical novels. They are a fun way to learn history. Biographies and autobiographies too.

7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? When I was 18, I hiked across Africa, from London to Johannesburg in South Africa, taking me 9 months, with just a back pack, a good pair of boots, and a (very) few quid.

8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? The pupils here. I think most of them are really smashing.

9) What do you treasure most? My health; my lifestyle; my dogs; meditation and freedom; Cornwall, its coast and countryside.

10) What one thing would you change in the world today? I'd like to see more integrity in politics.