



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 4

Summer Term 2011

Parents' Information Newsletter

School uniform

As you all know the school uniform was subject to a review for September 2011. Thank you to all parents and pupils who completed the online survey and provided us with excellent feedback.

The results were analysed and presented to the School Governing Body and the Senior Management of the school. The pupils, parents and staff were unanimous in their support for making adjustments to the uniform to make it **even** smarter.

Consequently, the following items will be worn by **all** pupils from September 2011.

- Navy 'V' neck Poltair sweatshirt.
- White shirt or blouse with a top button for tie.
- Clip-on 'house' tie.
- Black school trousers of standard pattern. No black denim, jeans or extreme fashion cut trousers.
- Black pleated skirt of a decent length. Tight fitting and/or excessively short skirts will not be permitted.
- 100% Black leather shoes.

The **new House ties** will be purchased by the school and presented to each pupil in September during the first week of the Autumn Term so please **do not** buy a Poltair school tie. The 'V' Neck Sweatshirt and other items, such as PE Kit, are available from 'Cornwall Screenprint', Holmbush, St Austell.

The following items of jewellery are permitted:

- Watch
- One signet ring
- One pair of stud earrings

A reminder:

The following items are not allowed to be worn under the current Uniform Policy and this will also apply to the Uniform Policy from September 2011.

- Coloured strap tops and coloured t-shirts must not be worn under shirts.
- Trainers are not allowed including those with coloured details
- 'Hoodies' of any type are not allowed
- Oversized belts with large buckles are not allowed. Any belts should be worn inside belt loops on trousers.
- **For the remainder of this term ONLY; if sweatshirts are not worn then ties MUST be worn.**

If you have any queries regarding the school uniform please contact Mr Richardson.

Dates for diary

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

Year 7 Student of the Week *Thomas*



For consistently
achieving the 5 P's.

'PHRASE OF THE WEEK'

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



Ouvrez la fenêtre
s'il vous plaît



Congratulations
to Jose Gilbert of Year 11
who on Sunday won the
Women's St Austell
six mile race.

Ten Tors Reflections

The fantastic Ten Tors achievement outlined by Mr Tong last week is here endorsed by pupils past and present as well as staff involved in Ten Tors who this week have been talking to Helen Blackburn Team Manager about the impact Ten Tors involvement has had on them:

'Ten Tors was the best experience of my life and the team I was with made it all the better! I really hope that I can enjoy that same brilliant experience next year!' **Ruby Waterfield (35 mile)**

'The challenge of physical exertion to the extreme with the monstrous terrain reeking havoc on peoples bodies and their minds pushing them on willing them on to feel that one moment of pure glory and absolute pride when the finish line is the last step and the embrace of family and friends is the prize. These are the few words that sum up Ten Tors for me but it would not be the same without the amazing friends that you share those steps, pain and glory with until the very end and that is the reason I keep going back for the ultimate challenge I can be offered!' **Jack Lobb (45 mile)**

'Ten Tors was awesome especially crossing the finish line with the crowds cheering and the helicopters overhead, knowing that we had successfully just achieved 45 miles over 2 days across some of the harshest terrain. What an amazing time with the best of mates.' **Josh Gilbert (45 mile)**

'Huge congratulations to the 35 and 45 mile teams on a fantastic achievement, you are fab! Special mention must go to all the volunteers, mostly parents, former pupils and staff who give up their time at the weekends in particular to support the teams. Lastly, to the magnificent Miss Blackburn whose skill, expertise and enthusiasm has ensured the success of Ten Tors teams from Poltair.' **Val Pascoe (Teacher and part of the minibus support team)**

'Ten Tors is more than a 35, 45 or 55 mile walk. Its more than the training walks, its more than the skills you learn, its more than the friends you make, its more than the achievements you reach, its more than the personal goals, its more than the deep emotion challenge set in your capabilities and your personality. It's all of those things, and a few miles more.' **Dan Murphy (Ex-Poltair 55 mile)**

35 mile team



45 mile team



45 mile team with their awards



Here is the present reading strategy in our cross curricular development of literacy skills.

Reading Strategy

Key Idea

Comprehending Vocabulary: Understanding difficult words.

Put the word into the context of the text you are reading.



Use a dictionary to get a word definition and then put the definition into the context of the text.

Read and reread the previous sentence again to discover possible meanings.

Try to break the word down into smaller component words you might know.

Comprehending Vocabulary

Rounders results:

Well done to the Y8 Rounders Team who won all 3 of their matches in the first tournament of the season on Thursday 19th May. After a shaky start the team produced some outstanding fielding to win their matches. Outstanding performances from Emily White and Tori Marks saw no fewer than 10 people caught out in 2 matches.

The scores Poltair 8 Fowey 4
Poltair 6 Penrice 5
Poltair 9 Roseland 6

The team: Tori Marks, Emily White, Chelsea Payton, Gemma Floyd-Norris, Alisha Armstrong, Casey Mounce, Lauren James and Hope Couchman.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

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.

The Year 9s were fantastic with all of them actively involved in the sessions and asking some really positive questions to the presenters. All of the groups went to the 5 workshops and spent time in the careers fair. The session leaders were:-

Pall Incorporated - Dr Gillian Cairns who presented on Microbiology

Cornwall County Council - Kev Brader who presented on Environmental Health and Natasha Jenkins on Food Standards

Truro College - Jessica Cowen who presented on Sports Science Careers

Devon & Cornwall Police - Dave Thompson who presented on Forensic Science.



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

Pupil comments on the day

"On the Science Careers Day I enjoyed the Careers Fair and the Sports part; I also enjoyed learning about the opportunities that Science offers."
Mike Carne Yr9

"I enjoyed talking to people in the Careers Fair and finding out about how science affects lots of different jobs. It is worth getting good levels in science because there are lots of different opportunities you can get through Science."
Abby Crane Yr9

TOP TEN



Miss Brader

1) What exactly do you do at Poltair? I teach Science and I am also a Year 10 Tutor.

2) What is your favourite meal? Thai red curry.

3) If you were not a teacher in this school what would you be? A helicopter pilot.

4) Who is your hero? My Granny.

5) Who is your favourite singer/band? Kings of Leon.

6) What is your favourite book? 'On Beauty' by Zadie Smith.

7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? I am going to climb a glacier in New Zealand during the summer break.

8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? My Tutor Group.

9) What do you treasure most? My friends and family.

10) What one thing would you change in the world today? I would introduce a four day week and a three day weekend!

GCSE EXAMS

(all pupils taking exams have their timetables)

Tuesday 7th June	Biology Unit 1
Wednesday 15th June	Chemistry Unit 1
Friday 17th June	Physics Unit 1
Tuesday 28th June Modular	Biology 1 a & b
	Chemistry 1 a & b
	Physics 1 a & b
Revision Classes take place every Thursday in the Science Block	3.15 – 4.05 pm

CASHLESS PAYMENT IN THE CANTEEN

We are pleased to announce that Poltair School is installing a cashless catering system over the half term holiday. The new system will allow us to continue with the development of the school meal service, and will provide us a more efficient, faster and ultimately better quality of service.



This is a system that incorporates the latest technology and eliminates the need to carry cash throughout the day. It is also biometric so there is no need to carry a card as the system will recognise the thumb of your child at the revaluation pay points and at the tills.

The system will start to operate from the end of June and will run side by side with the usual till payment system for the rest of term to allow everyone time to get used to the new method of paying for food. From September the cashless system will be the only way to pay for food at the canteen.

All pupils and staff will be given training on how to use the system.

Any amount of money can be paid into your account, with the money spent on food and drink deducted on a daily basis.

We have three methods of payment option available to you - online payments, coin and note payments to the revaluation pay-points, and by cheque. All are explained with the attached information.

There will be a daily 'spend limit' programmed into the system of £4.00, this can be increased or decreased for an individual pupil by making a written request to the School Finance Office.

The attached information hopefully should answer all your questions, but should this not be the case a **Parents' Information Evening** is planned to introduce the system and take your questions at 6pm in the school dining area on **Wednesday 8th June**.

Benefits the 'trust-e' cashless system will bring to the school.

- Specific food allergy ingredients can be barred automatically.
- Healthy eating is encouraged.
- Discourages the misuse of school dinner money through spending in shops outside of the school grounds.
- Alleviates many of the associated problems with the use of cash in schools. i.e.: Loss, theft and potential bullying.
- Queuing times are reduced through increased speed of service.
- Automatic free meal allocation with the pupil remaining anonymous.
- Having control of pupil accounts by pupils teaching them important life skills.
- A more efficient delivery of service helps the canteen to provide wholesome, healthy and enjoyable school meals at a lower cost.
- Control of pupil accounts, ability to confirm money paid into the accounts, and various other reports on all aspects of the system.

Some Popular Questions and Answers

Q. How do I credit the account?

A. This can be done in 2 ways:

By Cheque, this eliminates the need for pupils to carry any cash. Cheques should be made payable to **Poltair School** with bankers card details, pupils name and tutor group on the back. The cheque should be handed to the School Office.

By Cash, into the revaluation machines on site. These take £5, £10 and £20 notes, £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p coins – **no copper is accepted.**

There is no minimum or maximum amount that has to be credited to the account before it can be used. (However the account must be in credit to purchase food)

By the Internet AVAILABLE FROM SEPT 2011

By use of the online ParentPay system (for full details please go to

www.Parentpay.com) a login and password will be provided later in the term. This will allow you to make electronic payments into your child's account. Please note it is envisaged that ParentPay will also be used as an option to pay for school trips starting in September 2011.

Q. Can I still continue to pay by cheque in September?

A. Cheques are encouraged because it means no cash has to be carried. Cheques should be made payable to **Poltair School** paying by cheque means you know the money is being spent on food and drink within the school.

Q. When can I use the revaluation machine?

A. At morning break and at lunchtime.

Remember to credit your account in advance before purchasing food.

Q. How do I check if I have credit on my account?

A. Enter the pin into the revaluation machine and this will tell you the balance on your account.

Q. I am entitled to a free meal, how does it work?

A. The allowance is credited to you each lunch time to allow you to purchase your meal. **(This allowance if not used will not carry over to the next day).**

Q. Can anyone else use my account?

A. No – a unique number is allocated to each pupil and a photo image of each pupil which appears on the tills. Anyone found using someone else's pin will be reported to the school but they can only add money to someone else's account. At the tills the lookup is by photo only and not pin.

Q. What if my photograph has not been taken?

A. New pupils will have their photograph taken within the first weeks of term.

Q. What happens if I forget my money to credit my account?

A. You will need to see the Catering Manager to authorise and cover the cost of a meal – this **MUST** be paid back in full the next day.

If you require any further information please contact **Mr Booth**
