

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 8

Summer Term 2011

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

House System

From September 2011 we will be changing our pastoral system from a Heads of Year structure for each year group to a new House system. The school will have four Houses (learning communities) which will allow school structures to put more emphasis on tracking student progress for target setting and inter-house competitions. The four Heads of House will be Miss Owens, Mrs Bond, Mr Hatt and Mr Foster. Students will be presented with a House tie by the school.

We will retain Tutor Groups for each year group and two additional tutor groups will be formed in each year taking the number of students per tutor group down from 30 to 20. This has meant that a number of students will be placed in new tutor groups as from September 2011. Each year group will have eight Tutor Groups with two tutor groups per House. The intention is to bring together the new Houses at the end of the summer term so that students are aware of the House and Tutor Group they are in.

Curriculum Structure

Alongside the Pastoral restructuring we will also introduce a "parallel population" structure for teaching groups in Years 8 and 9. This will allow us to raise the aspirations of all our students and avoid them feeling "stuck" in the lower band. The diagram below explains this:-

Current Structure

- Sets
- 1 Upper
- 2 Band
- 3

- 4 Lower
- 5 Band
- 6

New Structure

- Sets
- P1 S1
- P2 S2
- P3 S3

Two parallel sets 1, 2, 3

Some subjects can set independently within the populations eg. Maths.

We are looking forward to the opportunities that our new structures will offer us.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

YEAR 9 STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Daisy James



For being a very polite and helpful pupil.

'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Chosen by Mrs Gilbert
Student Services

As part of our focus on Literacy
in the MFL Department



Une mouette

Dates for diary

Monday 4th July to
Friday 8th July

**Work Experience Week
& Activities Week**

NO SPOTLIGHT

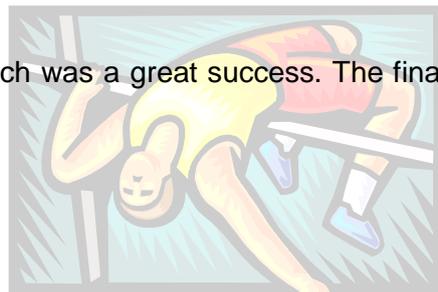
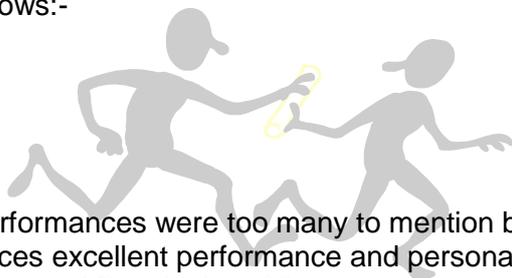
Friday 8th July
Due to Activities & Work
Experience

Sports Day 2011

Despite a few light showers we were thrilled to hold our Sports Day on Monday 27th June after the cancellation forced by bad weather last two years. Over 70% of students in Years 7 to 10 competed in one or more events – an amazing percentage.

Thanks to all staff who helped to organise and run the event which was a great success. The final House points were as follows:-

Hemmick	2185
Carne	2015
Fistral	1940
Porth	1725



Outstanding individual performances were too many to mention but worthy of note were:-

Isabella Mann – won 4 races excellent performance and personal achievement

Cameron Lobb – ran a Personal Best in the 100 metres

Year 11 were victorious against staff in the final relay of the day's events. Well done to all participants.

Master Navigation Class & Bivvi on the night of the Summer Solstice

As a team of navigators returned to school at 07.30 on the morning of 22nd June, Jack Barnell reflected on the overnight experience; *'Camping in the open was amazing and I want to go again!'*

Leaving school on the night of the Summer Solstice, the team soaked up the daylight hours with a Master Navigation class on Dartmoor. Constantly under 'assessment' participants improved their ability to walk on a bearing and build confidence in their pacing.

With an hour before sunset, we headed for a stone circle. After a self-heated meal and unfortunately no sun to be seen, we set off for Staple Tor and a suitable campsite (basically spending a night out in an orange plastic bag)!

It rained on and off through the night and as we awoke in hope of a sunrise at 04.15, only mist and rain was upon us. We headed down to the minibus alone in the car park. As Ruby Waterfield explains, *"The rain did not matter at all! The bivvi experience was brilliant! I learnt many new skills on Summer Solstice eve including micro-navigation and I now feel more confident with my pacing. We all enjoyed socialising over dinner of a 'self-heated meal' and although the sun did not set or rise for us to see, it was a great experience."*

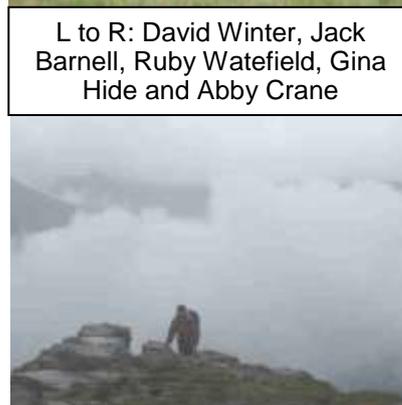
Gold DofE Qualifying Venture in the Brecon Beacons

A team of ex-pupils headed to the mountains of the Brecon Beacons during half term to complete their Gold DofE award. The team were involved in some conservation work as part of their John Muir Award; sowing grass seed just off the summit of Pen y Fan (the highest mountain in the Brecon Beacons). They also learnt some bush-craft skills in fire-lighting. The expedition was tough and the team excelled themselves.

Miss Blackburn (Outdoor Education)



L to R: David Winter, Jack Barnell, Ruby Waterfield, Gina Hide and Abby Crane



L to R: Jonathan Sheppard, Michael Southey, Dan Murphy and Emma Hide



FRENCH VISITOR

I am Pascale Muselle. I am currently on a visit to Poltair School where I will be staying for 2 weeks. I come from Lyon in France where I teach English to 15 to 18 year old pupils in a college located in Charbonnières which is about 10 miles from Lyon. My school is opening a European class next September. It means that the pupils who have been selected to follow the European class are supposed to be very motivated to improve their English (for them a foreign language) because they will have physics and history lessons in English as well as ordinary English lessons. Poltair School and the Lycee Blaise Pascal, which is the name of my school, have been paired up in order to work together. The purpose of my visit therefore is to get to know how your school works, to devise possible activities with the French department here and perhaps to try to set up an exchange trip between English pupils and French pupils. I am looking forward to meeting the English pupils my French pupils are going to work with. I am eager to know more about how foreign languages are taught in your school. I am thrilled to attend lessons which are not taught in French schools.

I am all the more delighted to be here with you since I have never been to Cornwall before and hope to help my pupils discover your area and make them want to learn more about your awesome region.



Twilight GCSE Mandarin Chinese at Penrice

Penrice are offering a twilight GCSE Mandarin Chinese course next year. It will be for Year 9 taking them through to Year 11.

The course runs once a week for 2 ½ hours over three years. The cost will be £100 a term or £300 a year per student; approximately £3 an hour. If the numbers grow then this amount might be reduced. Poltair are able to arrange transport to Penrice but parents will be responsible for the journey home from Penrice. We are not aware yet which day the course will run.

If you are interested, speak to me.

Miss Obet (MFL Subject Leader)

Top Ten



Pascale Muselle

1) What exactly do you do at Poltair? I am on a visit to Poltair and am based in the French Department.

2) What is your favourite meal? Moussaka.

3) If you didn't work in a school what would you be? A librarian.

4) Who is your hero? Gandhi.

5) Who is your favourite singer/band? I like the Beatles, Muse and Sting.

6) What is your favourite book? 'The Waves' by Virginia Woolf.

7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? I would like to play and/or dance in a musical.

8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? The warmth of the people I have met.

9) What do you treasure most? Loyalty.

10) What one thing would you change in the world today? Child labour.

Blue Phoenix Singers
Present a
Charity Concert
in aid of Cornwall Hospice Care

Thursday 7th July 2011 - 7.30pm
St Paul's Church Hall, Charlestown
£5 per ticket

In support of
 Cornwall Hospice Care
"Caring for our community"

Contact George on 01726 851982
or 07776 238116 for details