

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 1

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

BEST EXAM RESULTS EVER! AGAIN!

Last years' Year 11 pupils were celebrating their achievements and successes as GCSE results were published in late August. We are delighted with outcomes for the vast majority of pupils who received due reward for their hard work over five years. A particularly exciting feature was the large proportion of young people now able to begin the next phase of their lives with some good results, a clear focus and a secure placement, whether in school, college or the workplace.

Notable performances at Poltair School included those of Charlotte Collier (16 GCSE passes including 12 A*/A grades), Jose Gilbert (15 GCSE passes including 12 A*/A grades), Oli Elston (17 GCSE passes including 10 A*/A grades), Bethany Southey (13.5 GCSE passes including 8 A*/A grades), Jordan Conroy (11 GCSE passes including 8 A*/A grades), Jack Lobb (12.5 GCSE passes including 8 A*/A grades), Andrew Hodgkiss (14 GCSE passes including 6 A*/A grades), Stacey Parsons (14 GCSE passes including 6 A*/A grades), Scott Daly (14 GCSE passes including 6 A*/A grades), Polly Hore (12 GCSE passes including 6 A*/A grades), Melissa Pollard (14 GCSE passes including 5 A*/A grades), Josh Gilbert (15 GCSE passes including 4 A*/A grades) and Michael Childs (11 GCSE passes including 4 A*/A grades).

Indeed there were many success stories for Poltair pupils including those who achieved similarly excellent results, those who had performed at a level way beyond expectation and target, and the many who secured richly deserved success through perseverance and hard work. Actually in the end our role is always to ensure that each individual gets their 'Personal Best.'

For the school overall, this year's results were once again record-breaking. Indeed a clear trend has been established; the examination results at Poltair have improved in each of the last three years. We are pleased and have paused for breath briefly, but now must ensure that we continue to improve day by day so that this record of success and improvement continues.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

The new school year always brings for both pupils and staff a mixture of excitement (it is what we are here for), trepidation (we know the importance of what we are doing). But here we are with a new cohort, a new school day, a new school uniform and a new structure for our timetable and a brand new house system. These are exciting changes, meticulously researched and well planned for. We are ready and it has been hard work.

Having listened closely to parents, pupils and staff, we have also resolved to be much more 'joined up' in our approach to expectations, being definite and consistent, knowing that this is what builds confidence in pupils and especially amongst the vast majority who follow the 'Five Ps' on a daily basis. Indeed, we have not actually changed any rules but are determined to be 'joined up' in our approach to rewarding those who get it right and if necessary in ensuring that those who do not, face consequences.

The uniform changes have been the 'hot topic' amongst the pupils, and watching them practise the fitting of a clip-on tie for the first time has been entertaining. Wearing a smart uniform correctly is undoubtedly part of our drive towards sustaining a higher level of expectations and standards. It is also the way that each individual can demonstrate their personal pride, not only in their own appearance but in terms of the learning community that they are part of. Trust me, they look great.

The issue of the school's stance on black leather or leather type shoes has caused some small teething problems. I would like to refer all parents and carers to the following statement regarding shoes:

***"Black plain shoes which should be made of leather, or look as if made of leather.
All the following are unacceptable: coloured laces, high heels, logos, coloured trim, trainers,
boots."***

This statement and clear explanation appeared in the school newsletter, 'Spotlight' posted home to all parents and carers in July. It also appears on the school website and in the student planner. Now whilst we want to be clear and resolute on the rules, we also wish to be fair-minded. Inevitably we have been presented with one or two interesting 'test cases'; we will post a definitive guide to footwear next week, with attached photographs! Moreover, should we have any families who need our assistance in ensuring their child is in the correct uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help.

Stephen Tong

**Stephen Tong
Headteacher**

DIARY DATE

Monday 12th September - Individual School Photos