Bringing you our latest news!

SPOTLIGHT

Issue 2
Autumn Term 2011

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our pupils and our parents for their support and assistance during this week's Ofsted inspection. Obviously, at this stage we do not know all the details of the final report; however, initial feedback has been very positive. The team recognised the school's recent strong improvements and shared our anticipation and excitement about the future too. We benefited from the enormous support of parents who returned questionnaires; over 50% of you did so, compared to the normal average of 17% - this said a great deal about our positive engagement with parents. Moreover, the team were incredibly impressed by the exceptionally high levels of civility, courtesy and good manners amongst the pupils and their highly positive relationships with the adults in our learning community.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

WELCOME to new staff

A warm Poltair welcome to our newly appointed staff:
Kirsty Hughes (Head of Geography),
Deneka Truscott (RE-Citizenship),
Ben Montgomery (Mathematics),
Lee Adams (PE),
Lauren Sushams (English)
Caroline James (Cleaning Team).

Music Tuition

Year 7 pupils enjoyed a brass instrument demonstration from the County Music Service on Monday afternoon. If your child would like to learn to play an instrument (piano/keyboard, strings, brass, guitar, bass guitar and drum-kit) or to have singing lessons please contact Ms Oram Head of Music for further information. This is available to pupils in all year groups.

Dates for diary

Pupil photos have been postponed due to the Ofsted Inspection and a new date will be arranged.

Tuesday 28th September
GCSE Information Evening for Year 10 (Main Hall) 6 – 8 pm (information to follow)

Friday 30th September
Prize Day Ceremony (Sports Hall) 1 – 3 pm

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

RNLI Donation

A total of £400 has been presented to a representative of the RNLI from fund-raising activities by pupils in appreciation of all the life-guard services who supported Poltair pupils during Activities Week.

Back row L to R: Kieran Powell, Keagan De Carvalho, Bradley Peach, Dan Marks, RNLI Representative and Mr Foster
Front row: L to R: Millie King, Emily White and Tori Marks

Summer Challenge 2011

During a week in the Summer Holidays, pupils due to start in Year 7 at Poltair attended Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre with Sue Gilbert and Emma Hendy from Student Services for a week of team, confidence and self-esteem building activities.

The week involved a number of exciting and challenging tasks including kayaking, orienteering, first-aiding and beach activities. A great time was had by all; a big 'thank you' to staff of Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre. Thank you also to the Peer Mentors who helped out: Josh Gilbert, Charlotte Jarman, Zenna Thompson, Georgina Hide and Emily Job.

School Show-jumping

Sally Barker the school nurse would be delighted to speak to any pupils who are interested in joining the school show-jumping team. They will need a horse, transport and willing parents!! There are two shows in the near future offering the opportunity to compete. Please find her in the medical room if you would like to discuss further.

Poltair School PE Department
Extra Curricular Activities ~ Autumn 2011

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch		Fitness Suite		Fitness Suite Year 7, 8 Football	Year 9, 10, 11 Football
Poltair Plus 3:15 - 4:15	Fitness Suite Basketball	Badminton Netball Boys Fixtures	Fitness Suite Social Football Girls Fixtures	Basketball Rugby Girls Fitness Suite Boys Fixtures	Fitness Suite - Staff Trampolining Dodgeball

ENHANCEMENT BUSES RUN ON
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS RUN 3:15 - 4:05pm

YEAR 7 Team Building

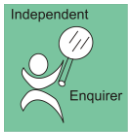
Poltair's new Year 7 got off to a flying start on 7th September when they excelled in their team building day.

Each tutor group completed a set of physical and mental challenges ranging from Maths puzzles to Cyclo Cross. Each activity was designed to encourage our new pupils to think about the Personal Learning and Thinking skills of Independent Enquirer, Team Worker, Effective Participator and Creative Thinker.

Working in their tutor groups' pupils got to grips with working alongside new people and using creative solutions as a team to solve problems. The whole group worked extremely hard and made a great impression upon their tutors, the Happy Puzzle instructor and the staff from Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre.

In the evening we were delighted to welcome parents of Year 7 pupils to join in the puzzles and challenges as part of a family workshop

Pupils from each tutor group were awarded prizes for being the most effective learners, notable performances below.



PLT	GH	DGB	KL	SHP	KO	SF	MP	LW
Creative Thinker	Alana Marks	Thomas Dutch	Kaydan Michael	Tiago Soares	Brandon Chapman	Jamie Chapman	Oliver Duckworth	Steven Carne
Effective Participator	Emma White	Chloe Bastow	Gabrielle Grant	Maggie Vague	Grace Northcott	Pedro Gomes	Jake Ferris	Alice Eade
Independent Enquirer	Rhys Mills	Caleb Chillingworth	Solomon Clemes	Talitha Jobson	Chris Harvey-James	Sadie Davey	Michael Hill	Ross Marks
Team Worker	Caleb Hocking	Danny Thomas	Callum Hancock	Joshua Bickley	Daniel Tyrrell	Harry Savage	Bethany Michael	Georgina Bazin
Most Improved 50 VIVO'S	Cheyanne Winfield	David Woodhouse	Shakira Jones	Kieran Harris	Jordan Parker	Libby Green	Tyler Peak	Chris Short

Gifted & Talented Provision so far...

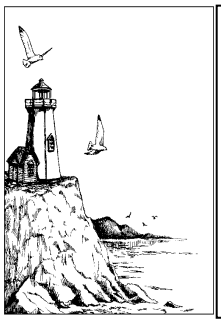
The Gifted and Talented programme over the last year has provided so many opportunities for ALL pupils at Poltair. Any enrichment activity has been offered to any pupil who has a keen interest in the subject, and I have been pleased to see how many pupils have become involved. The programme has been really successful in engaging pupils with the subjects, and to learn about topics beyond the curriculum. Below are the highlights of opportunities provided.

Miss L Venn

PE, Art and Geography

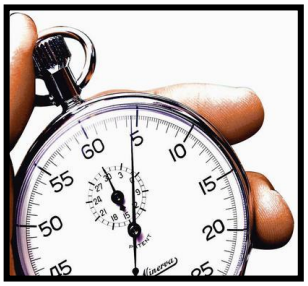
All three subjects focussed upon the 2012 Olympics. For PE, pupils looked at the history of the Olympics and the different sports involved leading to an ICT activity. In Art, pupils were engaged with ceramic painting of Olympics logos and for Geography pupils considered the sustainability of the Olympics. Many thanks to Miss Owens, Mrs Pearson and Miss Smith.

English



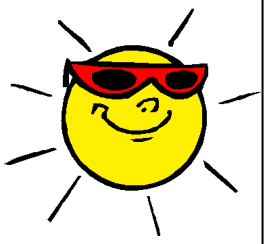
Mrs Venables led an exciting masterclass in poetry for English, using the local landscape of lighthouses and the sea to inspire their work.

Maths



Mrs Walker led a keen group of pupils investigating shadow and time. In particular they looked at how sundials work and how races are started.

Food



Miss Partis led a Food masterclass entitled 'Tastes of Summer' where the pupils prepared and cooked a range of dishes which they then ate.

Science

For Science, pupils took part in a Solar Car Challenge, and also visited Cornwall College St Austell for Sports Science classes.

Humanities

Mr Lake led two fantastic masterclasses. One looked at sport history and the other focussed on local humanities based upon the china clay industry.

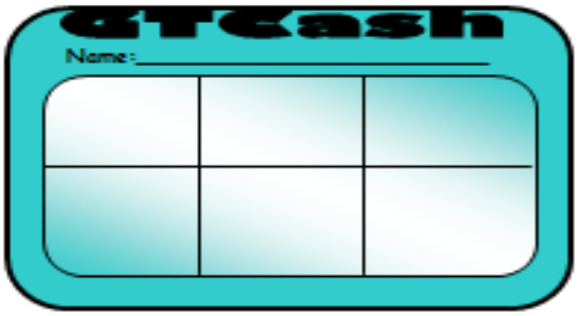
Gifted & Talented Provision this year...

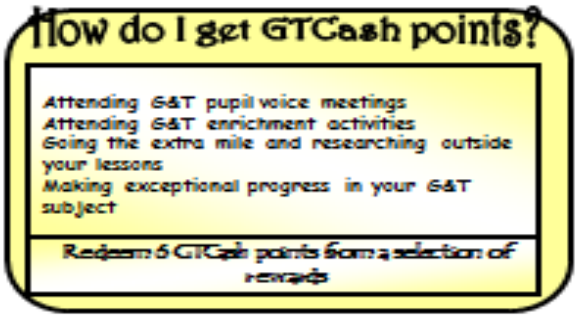
There are many exciting opportunities this year when we continue with our enrichment programme afterschool. In the next few weeks we will be identifying our Yr8 pupils, so if parents would like to write to me and let me know information about their son or daughter's particular gifts and talents, they are more than welcome.

I intend to review the Target Setting procedure for Gifted and Talented pupils in the next few weeks, so that G&T pupils are very clear about their next steps of improving learning in their lessons.

For existing G&T pupils, don't forget your GTCash cards. If you need a new one, please come and see me. Here is a reminder of what they are for:

Each G&T pupil will receive a card.....





You will receive a sticker for doing any of the above

Any questions regarding gifted and talented provision, please don't hesitate to ask. My email is lvenn@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk

Miss L Venn

Years 7 and 8 Homework Timetables have been posted home,
please inform reception if you have not received a copy.

Homework Timetable 2011-2012

Autumn term – Year 7

WEEK A

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
P	Maths Science	English groups a/c	English group b	Science English	Maths
S	Science English group b	English	Maths	Science	Maths English group a

WEEK B

P	Maths English	Maths	Science	English group b Science	English groups a/c
S	Science English group b	Maths English group a		English	Maths Science

PROJECTS

Weeks 1-3 12 September -30 September	Art project will be set at the beginning of each term	Re	
Weeks 4-6 3 October – 21 October		DT Food	History
Weeks 7-9 31 October – 18 November		Geography	
Weeks 10-12 21 November – 9 December		French	

Autumn term – Year 8

WEEK A

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
P		Maths	English Science	Maths	English Science
S	Science	English Maths groups 2/3	English	Maths group 1	Maths Science

WEEK B

P	English	Maths	Science	Maths	English Science
S	Science	English	Maths groups 1/2	Maths group 3 English	Science

PROJECTS

Weeks 1-3 12 September -30 September	Art project will be set at the beginning of each term	Geography	
Weeks 4-6 3 October – 21 October		DT Product Design	French
Weeks 7-9 31 October – 18 November		Geography	History
Weeks 10-12 21 November – 9 December		Re	

Homework Timetable 2011-2012

Autumn term – Year 9

'P' POPULATION

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
WEEK A	Maths Re	Science Option A	English Maths set 2 It sets 3, 4	Option B Maths sets 1, 3, 4 It set 2	English Science
WEEK B	It set 1	Science Option A	English Maths set 2	Maths sets 1,3, 4 Option B	Maths English Science

'S' POPULATION

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
WEEK A	English It	Science Option A	Maths English	Option B Re set 1	Maths Science
WEEK B	Re set 3 English sets 1, 2	Science Option A	Maths It	Option B English set 3	Re set 2 Science Maths

Autumn term – Year 10

UPPER BAND

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
WEEK A	English Maths	Science Spanish It set 5	Maths Option A	Option C Science	English Option B It set 3 and 4
WEEK B	English sets 1-3 Re sets 4-5 Maths	It sets 1-2 Science Spanish	Maths Re set 3 Option A	Option C Science	English sets 4-5 Option B Re sets 1-2

LOWER BAND

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
WEEK A	English	Re Maths Science	English Option A	Option C Science	Option B Maths
WEEK B	English Maths	Science	Option A It English	Option C Science	Option B Maths

Autumn term – Year 11

UPPER BAND

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
WEEK A	Maths Option C	Science English Option A	It set 1 Maths set 2, 3	English Science	Maths set 1 It sets 2, 3 Option B
WEEK B	Maths sets 2, 3 Option C	Option A Science English	Maths set 1 Re set 1 English set 1	Science English sets 2, 3	Option B

- Other Re classes in the upper band will be set homework on whichever day the lesson is timetabled.

LOWER BAND

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
WEEK A	Re set 3 English sets 1, 2, 4 Option C	Maths Option A Science	It set 2	It set 1 English Science	Option B
WEEK B	Option C It set 3 Maths	Option A Science Re set 1, 4	English Maths	Re set 2 English set 3 Science	Option B