

SPOTLIGHT



Parents' Information Newsletter

Issue 1
Spring Term 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

New Year new era

I would like to start my first message of 2012 by wishing everyone associated with our learning community a very Happy New Year. I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful festive period. The new school term is already more than a week underway and the approach from everyone has been very business-like. Indeed we have significant numbers of pupils in Years 11, 10 and 9 who are currently sitting GCSE examinations. Undoubtedly their close supervision and careful preparation, both in school and at home, will be critical to their success.

We have two members of staff who have joined us this term. We welcome James Butterworth who joins us from Treviglas School as our new Deputy Head of Mathematics. With Linzi Booth currently on maternity leave we are also pleased to have secured the services of Fiona Stevenson as a PE Teacher. In addition, pupils will probably notice that Lee Adams is now in school on more days than previously.

It is also very important that we note and acknowledge a significant change in the government of the school. After many years of loyal and committed service, Diana Pride stepped down as Chair of Poltair's governing body at the end of last term. It would be impossible to quantify the amount that Diana has done for the school community during her assiduous stewardship of the governing body. Having been Chair for more than ten years she worked with three headteachers and was also at the helm for the time when there wasn't a headteacher! On behalf of everyone involved with our learning community, past, present and future, I would like to offer our thanks and gratitude for Diana's sterling efforts. On a personal level I would also like to offer my own thanks – she has been a tower of strength during my first years of headship.

However, Diana is not getting off that lightly! She has agreed to remain on the school governing body, so her considerable knowledge and experience will still be used to the benefit of all. We are very pleased to announce that Daphne Johns, previously Vice-Chair of Governors is now the new Chair. As a previous headteacher of a number of schools in Cornwall, senior advisory teacher in the local authority and long-standing member of our school governing body we can be very confident that the challenge and support that the school needs in securing the very best for young people is in safe expert hands.

Stephen Tong

**Stephen Tong
Headteacher**

ICT After-school catch-up

Mrs Nicholas runs sessions on Tuesdays every week and Mr Hatt will run sessions on Thursdays Week A starting on 2 February. OCR National pupils in Years 9 and especially 10 and 11 are encouraged to attend. Sessions take place in E10.



DATES FOR DIARY

Thursday 19 January

Year 11 Parents' Evening (3.30 to 6.30 pm) pupils have appointment sheets

Tuesday 31 January

Year 8 Parents' Evening (3.30 to 6.30 pm) appointment sheets next week

Tuesday 31 January, Wednesday 1 Feb & Thursday 2 Feb

Restormel Dance Festival (see attached)

Saturday 4 February to Saturday 11 February

Ski Trip

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

JANUARY 2012 EXAMS

(All students taking exams will have received a detailed timetable – a copy has also been posted home)

PLEASE NOTE - At Poltair, students remain in the exam room until the end of the exam, they will not be allowed to leave if they finish early. For afternoon exams longer than 1hr 30 min, students who go home by bus will need to make other arrangements.

MON	16TH JAN (PM)	FRENCH LISTENING + READING	1.30PM
TUES	17TH JAN (PM)	HISTORY UNIT 1	1.30PM <u>FINISH APPROX 3.30PM</u>
WED	18TH JAN (AM)	CHEMISTRY UNIT 1	8.45AM
FRI	20TH JAN (AM)	PHYSICS UNIT 1	8.45AM
TUES	24TH JAN (AM)	BIOLOGY UNIT 2	8.45AM
TUES	24TH JAN (PM)	GEOGRAPHY UNIT 2	1.30PM
WED	25TH JAN (AM)	ENGLISH READING L1 F/SKILLS	8.45AM
WED	25TH JAN (AM)	ICT L1 F/SKILLS (2 SESSIONS DUE TO NUMBERS)	9.00AM & 11.30AM
WED	25TH JAN (PM)	ENGLISH WRITING L1 F/SKILLS	1.30PM
THUR	26TH JAN (AM)	CHEMISTRY UNIT 2	8.45AM
WED	25TH JAN (AM)	ICT + ENGLISH L1 F/SKILLS	8.45AM
FRI	27TH JAN (AM)	MATHS L1 F/SKILLS	8.45AM
MON	30TH JAN (PM)	PHYSICS UNIT 2	1.30PM

Spring term homework projects History and Geography

Year 7 and 8 parents should have received a booklet through the post about spring term homework projects in all subjects.

Pupils in Year 8 follow a carousel of History and Geography lessons. This means that pupils will have different homework projects in the Humanities subjects at different times, depending on their group. These will start on 23 January. Across the spring term pupils should all complete TWO projects which may be one History, one Geography OR 2 History or 2 Geography dependent on group - please see below:

	8P1	8P2	8P3	8S1	8S2	8S3
Spring 1	Geography Extreme Planet Homework project – Tropical Rainforest	History Which Way for Europe? Homework project – Timeline of Europe	History Was the 20 th Century one long war? Homework project – Timeline of 2 World Wars	History Which Way for Europe? Homework project – Timeline of Europe	Geography Hazard Hunters Homework project - Volcano	Geography Extreme Planet Homework project – Tropical Rainforest
Spring 2	History Was the 20 th Century one long war? Homework project – Timeline of 2 World Wars	History Was the 20 th Century one long war? Homework project – Timeline of 2 World Wars	Geography Hazard Hunters Homework project - Volcano	History Was the 20 th Century one long war? Homework project – Timeline of 2 World Wars	Geography Good to be Global? Homework project – Fairtrade product	History Was the 20 th Century one long war? Homework project – Timeline of 2 World Wars

If pupils or parents are unclear which homework projects a particular pupil should complete then please contact Humanities staff.

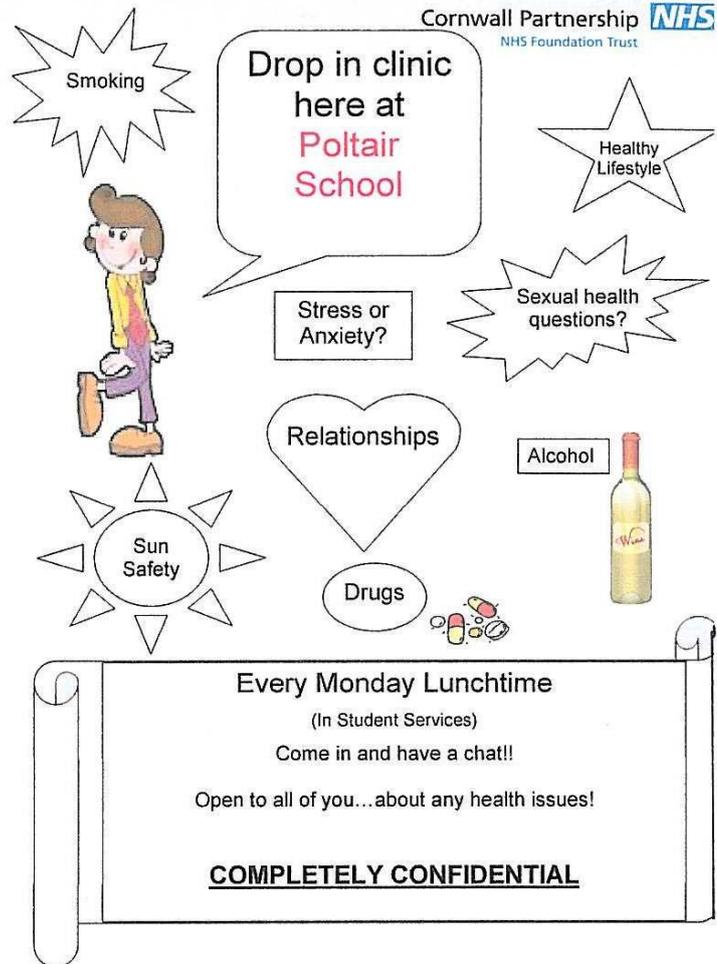
Cornwall College visit

On Tuesday 20 December a group of talented Year 10 mathematics students attended a conference at Cornwall College St Austell. They participated in mathematical challenges and workshops including “The Creation of Number” and “How to Weigh a Body”.

Prizes were awarded to two Poltair teams and students left with a greater awareness of the interesting career opportunities available to them.

Our winning teams comprised Tom Tyrrell, Ben Willetts and Connor Paine; and Jade Truman, Nicole Gilbert and Abby Crane.

Ben enjoyed his experience as the subject of an experiment to find his centre of mass – and Connor Paine said “the chips in the canteen were ‘ansome!’”



Drop in clinic here at Poltair School

Smoking

Healthy Lifestyle

Stress or Anxiety?

Sexual health questions?

Alcohol

Relationships

Drugs

Sun Safety

Every Monday Lunchtime
 (In Student Services)
 Come in and have a chat!!
 Open to all of you...about any health issues!

COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL

RESTORMEL DANCE FESTIVAL 2012



The Restormel Dance Festival is fast approaching again! It is our fourth year of hosting this fantastic event at The Key Theatre, Cornwall College St Austell. Approximately 700 pupils from local secondary and primary schools will dance alongside Poltair, show-casing a variety of Street, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Ballet and Break-dancing. We have had to extend to 3 evenings this year due to popularity and consistent sell-out performances.

The Festival is on:-

Tuesday 31 January 7.30-9.30pm,

Wednesday 1 February 7.30-9.30pm and

Thursday 2 February 4.30-5.30pm (Primary schools matinee) and **7.30-9.30pm.**

Tickets are on sale now from Mrs Russell, first-break only, in the school office:-

£5.50 : Adults £4.50 : Concessions

Tuesday 31 January is Poltair's Year 8 Parents' Evening and therefore **no Year 8's** will perform at The Restormel Dance Festival on that evening to avoid any clash of commitments.



Poltair's Dance Department has a sponsored rehearsal day organised by Treverbyn House pupils, for The Restormel Dance Festival. This is during school hours on Friday 27 January. Pupils will get sponsored to practise their dances ALL Day in preparation for the festival and raise money for the CLIC Sargent charity to help children and their families who are dealing with cancer. Please support this by encouraging friends and families to sponsor the pupils involved.

Good luck to all our performers!
 Mrs Hulbert





HOUSE STARS

On Wednesday 14 December, Team Treverbyn staged their Christmas Extravaganza, with all proceeds going to their nominated charity for the season, FLEET (a local charity that raises money to ensure that our emergency services have the necessary equipment to save lives). The event saw ten tutor groups in Treverbyn House running stalls including Hoopla, Decorate-a-Cake, Putt the Golf Ball and a White Elephant stall plus many more.
Thank you to all who contributed to the fete.
The total raised was £320.41.

TEWINGTON

Alice Eade
7LW

For no behaviour points, kind to others in the school and tries her hardest.

Samara Jehan
9LKV

Always making a fantastic effort and contribution.

TREVERBYN

Tammy Dingle
9KW

For having excellent behaviour and punctuality, 100% attendance and being supportive of others.

Ben Bartlett
10DT

For having excellent punctuality, 100% attendance and for working extremely well in Drama, Maths and English.

TRENANCE

Emily Crane
7SF

For her contribution to the Tutor Christmas decorations.

Beth Walker
10DBR

For her improved attendance.

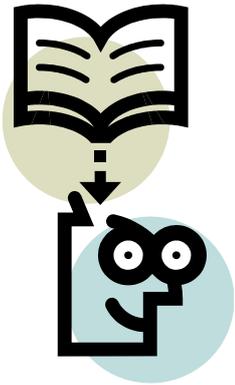
TREGREHAN

Bradley Hallett
9JAX

For being a top fund-raiser in the recent Santa Fun Run charity event.

Mark Wherry
11JC

For being a top fund-raiser in the recent Santa Fun Run charity event.



Gifted and Talented Provision

Before Christmas, letters were sent home to parents/carers of pupils in Year 8 who have been identified as Gifted and/or Talented. I intend to meet with all of the Year 8 pupils in the next few weeks. We have also started to consider pupils in Year 7 for the Gifted and Talented register, so if there is any additional information you feel we should know, please contact me.

Gifted and Talented programme- what is it?

- Targeted learning activities in class to ensure progress to Level 7 or Grades A-A*
- Pupils monitoring their progress through individual subject target sheets.
- Subject provision - details on the school website to follow.
- After-school enrichment masterclasses.
- Monthly subject House competitions - starting in February with Humanities.
- GTCash cards- pupils collect stickers and earn certificates/vivos.

Upcoming events

Each week a different subject area will provide an extra-curricular opportunity after school, for G&T pupils to enjoy new learning experiences. These sessions are inclusive and will be offered to ANY pupil that wants to attend. All events are advertised in the Spotlight and school website. Pupils must sign up with Miss Venn to confirm attendance.

Here is the programme for the next few weeks, details to follow:

Monday 23 January	Art 3.00 - 4.15 pm
Week beginning 30 January	RE
Week beginning 6 February	DT
Week beginning 20 February	MFL
Week beginning 27 February	Music
Week beginning 5 March	Dance/Drama
Week beginning 12 March	ICT

Pop up Pottery will run a ceramics glazing session where pupils will glaze a money box or trinket box of their choice. Please see Mrs Pearson for a letter as soon as possible as places are limited.



Miss L Venn

G & T



Battlefields trip 27 to 29 March

A reminder for parents of pupils going on the trip that final payments are due by

Friday 20 January.

