

SPOTLIGHT



Parents' Information Newsletter

Issue 3
Spring Term 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

Poltair is fully committed to raising standards and offering opportunities to pupils to progress in their learning. This focus was identified by Ofsted when they visited in September 2011 as they recognised the school's determination to "accelerate progress". The Inspectors particularly commented on the wide range of curriculum opportunities and drew attention to the exciting new options structure beginning in Year 9. Our current cohort of Year 9 pupils are making pleasing progress in their GCSE options and have a very positive attitude to their learning.

Ofsted said:

"The development of the options programme for Year 8 students and the introduction of GCSE courses in Year 9 has raised aspirations and developed appropriate challenge".

With this in mind Year 8 Parents and pupils will wish to be aware of important dates coming up in the next few weeks which will help Year 8 pupils to be guided into the best choices for them in Year 9. Firstly there is the Year 8 Subject Parents' Evening on Tuesday 31 January and this will be followed immediately after half term by the Year 8 Curriculum Evening on Tuesday 21 February. An Options Booklet will be published to pupils for them to consider with their parents during half term. Choosing appropriate courses which will enable each pupil to reach their full potential is an exciting challenge and we look forward to working with parents in the coming weeks.

Helen Holmes
Director of Curriculum

Guide Dogs for the Blind – Stamp Appeal

We continue to collect postage stamps for this worthy cause.

Can you please send in any of your used postage stamps to the Student Support Reception desk.

Thank you.

DATES FOR DIARY

Tuesday 31 January

Year 8 Parents' Evening (3.30 to 6.30 pm) Main Hall all pupils should have appointment sheets

Tuesday 31 January, Wednesday 1 Feb & Thursday 2 Feb

Restormel Dance Festival (see attached)

Saturday 4 February to Saturday 11 February

Ski Trip

Monday 13 to Friday 17 February Half Term

Tuesday 21 February

Year 8 Curriculum Evening (6.30 to 8.30 pm) Main Hall

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 30TH JAN (PM)

PHYSICS UNIT 2

1.30PM



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

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

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.



Ten Tors Checkers Training Day

On Saturday 21st January, the Checkers team rendezvoused at Four Winds CP on Dartmoor for some mid-season training. Unusually, for the Checkers Training, the weather was drizzly, misty and windy. All fantastic conditions for training! I was impressed with the team kit check and key topics were covered out on the hill. The feedback explains the thoughts of the day;

'A great morning walk in the mist, rain and wind. I learnt a lot and would definitely do the training again!' Richard Bale.

'Mist, rain, wind - where is 'Great Mis'?. We certainly went through our paces! Pacing, bearings, relocating, linear and spot. So much to remember even before we start. A welcome hot drink at the Fox Tor Cafe and even more revision. What a day!' Diane Parkinson.

'It's good for the Checkers to get together and have some very important training in supporting the teams on the moor.' Vicky Libby.

'We are the people who appear on tors and wait patiently. The teams are watched by us as they approach to be checked in. Why do we do it? For Helen's enthusiasm, love of Dartmoor and the feel of pride in Poltair children aspiring to the Ten Tors Challenge.' Caroline Swann.

Helen Blackburn (Ten Tors Team Manager)

SUL LANGUAGE SCHOOLS
English language courses for life

★ FRIENDLY & CARING FAMILIES REQUIRED

HOSTING IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST IN THE ST AUSTELL AREA

Host overseas students (13-16yrs) with bed & breakfast, packed lunch & supper. The students are out all day.

10 weeks' work available from June-August. Host teachers with teaching qualifications also required.

If you have a spare room you can act as hosts for our junior students in your home for 1-3 weeks. Good rates and excellent support!

Please call Stephanie on **01726 814227**
or email stephanie@sul-schools.com

SUL LANGUAGE SCHOOLS
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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

Congratulations to Beck Read (Mum to Leah Read 7MP) for providing the first set of correct answers in last week's Humanities quiz, her prize was a copy of "Kings & Queens" by Tony Robinson. The answers were:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Captain Robert Falcon Scott | 7. Campbell's Soup Cans |
| 2. Charles Dickens | 8. Michael Schumacher |
| 3. Herald of Free Enterprise | 9. Black September |
| 4. New York City, USA | 10. Napoleon Bonaparte |
| 5. General Belgrano | 11. The Mousetrap |
| 6. Wallis Simpson | 12. Piltown Man |

Mr Lake thanks all those who entered and warns of a tougher quiz next time!



HOUSE STARS



TEWINGTON

Jordan Dodd
8CH

Maintaining an excellent report since the beginning of term. Also following the five Ps - 'Proud' of his English work.

Samantha Newton-Sheppard
10KH

Progressing really well in all of her subjects; has independently found a work experience placement and is achieving really good grades in all of her subjects.

TREVERBYN

Scott McKenzie
8PBR

For always working well and for having a good attitude, attendance and punctuality.

Shannon Pascoe
10DT

For always following the 5Ps, having excellent behaviour and punctuality.

TRENANCE

Tia Pinnington
8JH

For excellent behaviour and attendance.

Matthew Searle
10HV

For maintaining a 100% record for attendance and attitude towards school.

TREGREHAN

Sophie Hollins
8AL

For always following the 5 Ps.

Ellis King
10KR

For his positive contribution during a recent Parents' Evening.

Spotlight on Maths

Top Ten James Butterworth



- 1) **What exactly do you do at Poltair?**
I am Deputy Head of Maths.
- 2) **What is your favourite meal?**
Roast beef dinner with all the trimmings.
- 3) **If you didn't work in a school what would you be?**
Reading FC Football Manager.
- 4) **Who are your heroes?**
My mum and dad.
- 5) **Who is your favourite singer/band?**
1)Oasis 2)Kasabian 3)The Smiths.
- 6) **What is your favourite book?**
Starter for Ten by David Nicholls.
- 7) **Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?**
I used to be a ball-boy at Reading FC.
- 8) **What do you enjoy most about Poltair?**
Being able to teach Maths every day.
- 9) **What do you treasure most?**
My car - as it helps me visit my friends and family.
- 10) **What one thing would you change in the world today?**
For everyone to live up to and realise their potential.

Cornwall College Visit

On Tuesday 20th 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 says "the chips in the canteen were 'ansome!'"

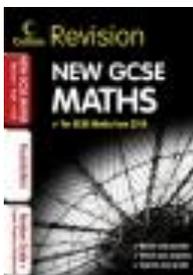
MyMaths

We would ask that you get involved with your child's Maths. Some parents have expressed an interest in having a go at MyMaths, one of the interactive on-line software packages that we use as a learning tool for our students. We would definitely encourage this as a way of supporting us in developing the skills and techniques we are trying to promote. If you would like to have a MyMaths account please do let us know. All students have access to MyMaths at www.mymaths.co.uk and the school login details are *poltair* and *prime*. Each student also has their own account details which will record the effort they put into out of school learning.

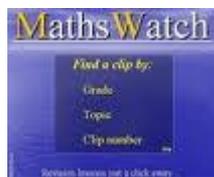
IMPORTANT MATHS EXAM DATES

1 March	Year 10 & Year 11 Mock Exam
14 & 24 May	Use of Maths
17 May	Functional Skills
11 June	Linear GCSE Non-Calculator
13 June	Linear GCSE Calculator Unit 3
18 June	GCSE Statistics
POLTAIR + (3.15 – 4.30 pm)	
Tuesday	Year 10 & Year 11 Maths
Wednesday	Year 9 & 10, KS3 Maths homework help

We have revision guides and Maths Watch CDs to help support KS4 pupils with their GCSE exams.



Revision guides £4



Maths Watch CDs £3

All pupils must have a scientific calculator for their Mathematics lessons. We have some for sale for £6.00 – please see Emma Russell if you would like one.



BP ENTERPRISING SCIENCE: Trading Challenge Roadshow

Just before Christmas sixty Year 9 and twenty-five Year 11 pupils took part in the BP Enterprising Science Trading Challenge. The challenge provided an engaging and fast-paced work-related activity that was delivered in school by an energetic team of BP presenters. The Roadshow offered the students the opportunity to put applied mathematical and enterprise skills into action through an exciting simulation of real-life trading. The students worked together in teams, competing against each other to trade oil and make a profit, demonstrating skills and values that can contribute towards success in business.



Year 11 Winning Team:

L to R: Stacey Marks, Maria Brett, Amy Figgitt and Ella Fage



Year 9 Winning Team:

L to R: Jordan Neville, Jamie Chapman, Brad Hallett and Jack Crocker