

# SPOTLIGHT



Parents' Information Newsletter

Issue 7  
Spring Term 2012

## Dear Parent/Carer

It is with great regret and sadness that I have to inform you of the death of a very close friend and associate of the school, Clive Nicholls. Clive had been the clerk to the Governing Body of Poltair School until 2011 and had fulfilled that position for over twelve years, spanning the tenure of two Chairs of the Governing Body as well as three Headteachers.

The role of the clerk is a crucial one in any school, ensuring that the Governing Body execute their statutory duties and that all matters to do with governance follow due process. It is a largely unseen role but nonetheless an important one and a good clerk is a very precious resource. With a whole lifetime of experience working for the County Council and the Education Human Resources department, Clive was exceptionally knowledgeable and advised the school expertly on numerous occasions. I know that the Governing Body was extremely thankful for his clear guidance on any number of tricky matters over the years. From a personal perspective, this one-time 'rookie' headteacher took great confidence from his assured and precise line on a host of managerial challenges.

More important than all of this, Clive will be missed as a person. He was a true gentleman, always putting other people first. He was a great listener and exercised great discretion. When he spoke to you, you felt considerable warmth – the notion of doing things right and treating people right was always at the forefront of his mind. His minute-taking skills were legendary, having the ability to summarise a genuinely heated but good discussion in terms of a way forward that everyone could subscribe to.

Clive stepped down as Clerk last summer. He was at that time 65 years old and was looking forward to a deserved retirement. Sadly, at about the same time, Clive was diagnosed with cancer. Typically Clive approached the various stages of his treatment with good humour and measured tone. Largely he retained a good level of health until close to the end. Clive died on Tuesday 14 February and was laid to rest on Thursday 23 February. A number of the Governing Body were in attendance.

He will be much missed by all that knew him. Our thoughts are very much with his family and particularly his wife Marlene.

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

## DATE FOR DIARY

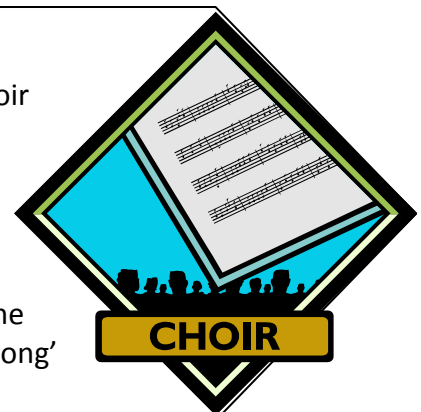
**Tuesday 27 – Thursday 29 March**  
History Battlefields Trip

**Friday 30 March**  
Last day of term – school closes at 1.00 pm

## NEW CHOIR

Miss Taylor will be holding Choir Sessions between now and Easter on Tuesdays starting on 6 March (3.15 – 4.15 pm) in M1.

All Welcome – the first song the choir will tackle will be 'Your Song' by Ellie Goulding.





# HOUSE STARS



TEWINGTON

*Bradley Cain*  
7LW

For settling in well.

*James Lewis*  
10MWA

For always being helpful and polite.

TREVERBYN

*Chloe Copping*  
9KW

For working extremely well in Geography and always following the 5Ps.

*Georgina Hide*  
11JHK

For her contribution to tutor time activities and always following the 5Ps.

TRENANCE

*Lewis Clapham*  
7KO

For being positive and polite always!

*Jessica Newson*  
11GO

For excellent behaviour and attitude.

TREGREHAN

*Rafaela Duarte*  
8AL

For determination and progress in French.

*Victoria Hooper*  
10SG

100% attendance and zero behaviour points.

FORTHCOMING  
HOUSE EVENTS



## TRENANCE

DANCEATHON

Friday 23 March to Saturday 24 March

## TEWINGTON

EASTER BUNNY EGG AND

SPOON FUN RUN

Friday 30 March



# Spotlight on English

## Latest News!

### Year 11 Controlled Assessment Deadline

Hot off the press! Year 11 GCSE controlled assessment deadline for English has been announced as **FRIDAY, 16 MARCH**. It is now absolutely crucial that students attend after-school revision sessions with their English teacher if they are missing pieces, or need to improve pieces.

After-school sessions are being held on Wednesdays each week, but additional sessions are available, if arranged with the teacher.

**After Friday, 16 March**, Year 11 students will not be able to re-sit any controlled assessments or complete any missing pieces.

Please see your English teacher ASAP to arrange for an after-school session!

## TOP TEN

*Liz Burr*



- 1) **What exactly do you do at Poltair?** I am a Teaching Assistant.
- 2) **What is your favourite meal?** Any Chinese food.
- 3) **If you didn't work in a school what would you be?** The Stewardess of a Sports Club, as in a previous life. I used to manage the 1200 member St George's Hill Lawn Tennis Club in Surrey for 13 years and met so many interesting people, so something along those lines maybe.
- 4) **Who is your hero?** Nelson Mandela. He made a stance regarding his beliefs on apartheid and endured incarceration for 18 years, fighting for the freedom and freedom of speech for all black Africans.
- 5) **Who is your favourite singer/band?** Adele at the moment, but I love most music.
- 6) **What is your favourite book?** Pride and Prejudice; really anything by Jane Austen or Dan Brown.
- 7) **Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I was a hotel receptionist and PR manageress of a large hotel in The Gambia, meaning that I lived in Africa for 3 years. It was there that I learned to speak Wolof, one of the tribal languages of The Gambia.
- 8) **What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** I love helping the students.
- 9) **What do you treasure most?** My memories; I have a lot of them seeing as I am so old!
- 10) **What one thing would you change in the world today?** I'd change the amount of time wasted on video games. Life is short, so make the most of your time. Time once lost can never be found again.

# World Book Day: Thursday, 1 March 2012

As part of the English Department's celebrations of World Book Day on Thursday, 1 March 2012, we are going to hold two House competitions: 'Design a Bookmark' and the 'World Book Day Quiz'.

During their tutor time between now and Friday, 9 March 2012, students will have an opportunity to be creative by designing their own bookmark, based on a book theme. Their fabulous artwork will need to fit into the template provided by the World Book Day organisation because they will also be sent off to the external competition.

For this external competition, the overall winner of the bookmark competition will receive £100 book tokens that can be used in any bookseller. Internally, the winners will receive the following prizes:

Whole-school winners:

1<sup>st</sup>: 100 Vivos

2<sup>nd</sup>: 75 Vivos

3<sup>rd</sup>: 50 Vivos



House winners:

1<sup>st</sup>: 75 Vivos

2<sup>nd</sup>: 50 Vivos

3<sup>rd</sup>: 25 Vivos

The second competition is the 'World Book Day Quiz'. Students will complete this in one tutor time, and they may only submit one quiz per tutor group. The tutor groups with the most correct answers will win the following prizes:

Whole-school winners:

1<sup>st</sup>: 100 Vivos

2<sup>nd</sup>: 75 Vivos

3<sup>rd</sup>: 50 Vivos



House winners:

1<sup>st</sup>: 75 Vivos

2<sup>nd</sup>: 50 Vivos

3<sup>rd</sup>: 25 Vivos

**School winners will be announced during House assemblies  
in the week starting Monday, 26 March 2012.**

