

SPOTLIGHT



Parents' Information Newsletter

Issue 10
Spring Term 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing the last Spotlight of the term from Ypres, Belgium during the first day of the Battlefields Tour. Having travelled overnight, we have already visited the Menin Gate where tomorrow we will be taking part in the ceremony which takes place at 6pm each evening to remember the fallen of World War 1. We will be thinking of the 10 ex-pupils of Poltair who gave their lives in that terrible conflict. Earlier we visited Lissenthoek Military Cemetery where we laid a wreath in honour of Mrs Pearson's great uncle, Arthur Bainbridge. Arthur was an examiner from Durham who died of his wounds in 1916. Only one member of Mrs Pearson's family has ever been able to visit his grave so this was a generous act by Poltair pupils on behalf of the family. Mrs Golding led a short prayer at the graveside.

Back at school the Trenance Dance-a-thon heroes are recovering from their 24 hours of dancing in what was an amazing feat (no pun intended!) of endurance. To date at least £1,343 has been raised for Children's Hospice South West. Well done and thank you to Miss Owens Head of Trenance House and to all the staff who supported the event by foregoing a night's sleep and this on the same day that we lost an hour's sleep anyway due to the switch to British Summer time (see Miss Owen's report below)!

Our Year 9 pupils have enjoyed a day's taster visit to Cornwall College where they were able to sample student life; from catering to photography, from web design to rock climbing, from motor vehicle maintenance to beauty therapy. Pupils were able to see the full range of courses on offer to them post-16. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their day.

May I wish you a restful Easter break and let's hope the sun keeps shining! Pupils return to school on Monday 16 April.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

TRENANCE 24 HOUR DANCE-A-THON

From 2.30pm on Friday 23 March until 2.30pm on Saturday 24 March, members of Trenance House took part in a 24 Hour Dance-a-thon in aid of Little Harbour Children's Hospice. Experiencing cheerleading, Zumba, Disco and Bollywood, as well as Wii dancing and cheesy routines, throughout the night and into the early hours of the morning. It was hard going at times but everyone kept going to raise money for the Hospice. With support from some parents and staff, we have raised approximately £1,343 but the money is still coming in! Get those sponsor forms and money into Mrs Chard/Mrs Russell first break please, and feel free to keep donating on the website <http://www.chsw.org.uk/poltairtrenancedanceathon>

Congratulations to all of those who took part - you made me a very proud Head of House! A special mention to Courtney Long, Curtis Best, Stacie and Tori Marks and Josh Gilbert for raising a large amount of money for the Hospice on their own; and a big thank you to all of the staff that helped - particularly Mrs Gilbert, Miss White, Mrs Golding and Mr Adams who did the whole 24 hours. ☺

Last date for collecting in the money will be Friday 20 April 2012



Registered Charity No. 1003314

DATE FOR DIARY

Friday 30 March

Last day of term – school closes at 1.00 pm buses depart at 1.15 pm

**Saturday 31 March to
Sunday 15 April**

Easter Holidays

Monday 16 April

School returns

EASTER REVISION (Monday 2 April to Wednesday 11 April)				
Date	Subject	Staff	Room	Who
<u>MONDAY 2 April</u> 9 – 1 pm	Maths – Yr10	Mrs Kellow Mr Butterworth	S13 S16	INVITED PUPILS ONLY
	English – Yr11	Miss Sullivan Mrs Braithwaite Mrs Dunn	S10 S11 S12	All welcome
<u>TUESDAY 3 April</u> 9 – 1 pm	Maths – Yr11	Mrs Kellow Mr Butterworth	S13 S16	INVITED PUPILS ONLY
	Media – Yr10	Mrs Venables	E7	All welcome
<u>WEDNESDAY 4 April</u> 9 – 1 pm	Separate Science General Science	Mrs Gaukroger/ Miss Brader	S2 and break out area	Year 11 Set 1 All
	Music	Miss Taylor	Music Rooms	By appointment
<u>THURSDAY 5 April</u> 9 – 1 pm	Geography	Miss White Mr Pope	W1-4	All welcome
	RE	Miss Truscott		
	History	Miss Venn		
	PE BTEC	Miss Owens	T1	Miss Owen's group only
<u>TUESDAY 10 April</u> 9 – 1 pm	Drama	Miss Bond	Drama	All
	PE BTEC	Mr Marshall Mr Foster	T1	By appointment
<u>WEDNESDAY 11 April</u> 9 – 1 pm	PE BTEC	Mr Marshall Mr Foster	T1	By appointment

Spring & Early Summer Exam Information

Y9, 10 and 11 students with summer exams have been given exam entry sheets to check with teachers. They have also received a timetable showing dates and times of the exams entered so far.

Once entries have been checked, and amendments / re-sits following January exam results have been processed, all students will receive a more detailed timetable. A copy will also be posted home.

Some early practical exam dates are listed below:

Date	Subject details	Year group
Friday 20 April (All day)	GCSE ART (practical exam) – SESSION 2	Y11
Tuesday 1 May (Lesson 1+2)	GCSE ART (practical exam) – SESSION 3	Y11
Thurs 3 May (All day)	Entry level PE moderation (practical)	Y11
Tuesday 8 May – Tues 26 June	Main Summer GCSE season (see exams timetable on school website for more information)	Y9, 10 & 11

Cashless system in Canteen

Now we have been providing the cashless system in the canteen for a year, can we please remind parents to ensure their child has enough dinner money on their account? As the system is "cashless" this means we are unable to provide pupils with any change.

Surfing

I have received an opportunity for coaching by UK surfer Russell Winter. If anyone is interested in a surfing competition and training then please come to see me in the PE office. Please note that you have to be of a good standard already.

Mr Adams
PE Department



STEM Activity

On Friday 16 March I took a group of Year 9 pupils to Cornwall College St Austell for a taster session in the Engineering workshop as part of National Science Engineering Week. The boys were an absolute credit to the school. They listened to everything that was said to them, followed instructions exactly as directed and asked the right questions at the right time. During the practical session they all worked together really well. Despite being restricted with time they all managed to finish a set piece of work and each brought back with them a metal tray.

Arthur Woodman, Charlie Rooker, Bradley Collins, Darren Tooley, Angus Helston, Peter Ould, Keiran Powell, Sam Oliver and Lennon Wilkinson

Mrs Haley, Senior Science Technician

Battlefields Trip

Poltair pupils have honoured soldiers killed in the First World War as part of their World War One Battlefields Trip. The group also attended war cemeteries and museums before laying wreathes.

Trip organiser, Head of History, Lisa Venn said: "The Last Post is played every night, the whole year, by the buglers of the local fire brigade at the Menin Gate at 8pm in remembrance of all the soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave.

"Our pupils travelled to Ypres, and also visited local battle sites and spent a day on the Somme battlefields." Ypres was a major focal point of armed conflict during the First World War as it stood in the way of the proposed German sweep through Belgium into northern France.

It was the site of the third battle of Ypres – commonly known as the Battle of Passchendaele, with early encounters featuring the use of mustard and chlorine gas against Allied troops. During the war the town was all but obliterated by artillery fire.



The Menin Gate

Poltair Students Make The News—Literally!

On Thursday 15 March, 11 Year 8 gifted and talented pupils - Hannah, Neely, Taylor, Josh, Katie, Saffron, Ben, Charlie, Harriet, Jenna, and Chloe - went to the BBC Radio Cornwall Studios in Truro. It was BBC School News Day, and we were doing a project on the London 2012 Olympic Games. Mr Tong selected three pupils, Hannah, Neely and Taylor, to be on the air between 11 am and 12 pm on The David White Show.

We were asked questions about our Olympic School Project and what we had been doing. Mrs. Venables also was on the air for a few minutes, and she said, 'It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to see what goes into writing and reporting the news from a professional journalist. They also had the chance to see how much work goes into producing a radio show. Some of them were surprised that there were more people behind the scenes than on the air.'

On the air, Taylor was asked to read a song request and introduce the song. Hannah read out the Cornish band of the week, and Neely was asked to read the weather out on the air. They were also asked questions about what they had been doing in school and what they had learned by making their news video.

At the end of the day, Katie said, 'It gave me a bigger insight into a journalism career,' and Saffron said, 'It showed us how much work is actually involved in preparing a 5 minute news bulletin.'

All the pupils went on a tour of the studios and they all enjoyed seeing what goes on behind the scenes. Everyone enjoyed the day thoroughly!

If you would like to check out what the pupils got up to on the day, you can watch their news video on the school website; just look for the Poltube link, and the video is there!

You can also listen to the interview of the pupils on The David White Show by going to the BBC iPlayer, choosing The David White Show on Thursday, 15 March. Their interview starts about 2 hours 30 minutes into the show.

Spotlight on Creative & Performing Arts

Mural by the Poltair 'Princes Trust' Students

I had the opportunity of working with a group of our Year 9 and 10 students who are currently working towards a qualification linked to the 'Princes Trust' Organisation.

The school was contacted by the large building company 'Keir Construction' (presently building houses on the Polkyth site), who were keen to create links with the local community and schools. Claire Harvey (Princes Trust teacher) and I went to the local building site and discussed with Mr Matthew Richards (site manager), what they would like our students to produce.

The plan was to paint murals on the hoardings around the site, but as you know January was particularly 'freezing' and because of this we set up two workshops in school to complete the enormous task of producing murals that reflected St Austell.

All the students worked incredibly hard to produce some fabulous murals. This project will go towards their qualification. Make sure you go down and have a look the next time you are visiting Polkyth!

Mrs Whitbread-Abrutat
Head of Art



Thank you to all the students who have already signed up, we have had a great response so far, but we would love to see more boys signing up, especially in Years 9 and 10.
Mrs Whitbread-Abrutat, Head of Art

Some examples of work completed by Poltair students for the mural.



Face Britain

Mrs Whitbread-Abrutat would like to thank all the tutor groups who took part in the House challenge for the Face Britain (The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts) online gallery; entries are now currently being displayed in the canteen.

The overall winners were:

Treverbyn a total of 140 entries, the house will receive 700 Vivos

Tewington a total of 106 entries, the house will receive 500 Vivos

Tregrehan a total of 69 entries, will receive 300 Vivos

Trenance a total of 64 entries, will receive 200 Vivos

The four winning students who will each receive a £15 voucher are:

Samantha Winter 11MG (Tregrehan),

Lauren Nicholson 11FG (Trenance)

Lauren Wiles 10KR (Tregrehan)

Jack Craddock (Tewington)

The runners up are:

Michael Hill, Perran Anderson, Myles Coakes, Sam Currell, Maddison Burdon, Cheyanne Winfield, Brogan Cawley, Emily Job, Dan Seward, Curtis Best, Anthony Pell, Sam Webb, Ruby Waterfield, Jack Walker, Tyler Cross, Scott Job, Charlotte Neville, Sophie Collings, Ryan Daniels, Christian Maude, Jessica Newson, Elizabeth Hambly, Liam Wells, Katie Round, Rebecca Hempenstall (they will all receive 10 Vivos each).



Some of our pupils' portraits



Monthly Art Award Winners

Year 11

Zak Durrant, Ella Fage, Jake Francis, Lauren Nicholson, Shannon Wheat, Amber Whetter, Andreas Dowling

Year 10

Nicole Gilbert, Haidee Bark, Trehane Hooper, Lewis Hoskin, Daisy James, David Winter, Ivanna Griffiths-Hughes, Rebecca Hempenstall, Leanne Meaden, Darren Tooley, Amy Floyd-Norris, Keron Cooper

Year 9

Moisha Horsefield, Zannah Rickard, Jasmine Symons, George Head, Kieran Green, Kacey Boutcher

Year 8

Maddison Burdon, Shannon Symons, Connor Cawley

Year 7

Jack Craddock, Alice Eade, Charlotte Grigg, Izzy Shiner

THE ART DEPARTMENT

POLTAIR SCHOOL

HAS PLEASURE IN AWARDING A CERTIFICATE TO:

_____ tutor group _____

FOR

Artist of the Month

Date _____

Signed _____

Head of Art



TOP TEN

HANNAH TAYLOR

- 1) **What exactly do you do at Poltair?** I teach Music and Performing Arts.
- 2) **What is your favourite meal?** Jacket potato, cheese and beans.
- 3) **If you didn't teach in a school what would you be?** I'd be an opera singer trying to get to fame and fortune.
- 4) **Who is your hero?** My Mum – she's like Wonder Woman!
- 5) **Who is your favourite singer/band?** That's a tough one and impossible to answer! I like too much music!
- 6) **What is your favourite book?** Dan Brown's 'Angels and Demons' – couldn't put it down.
- 7) **Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** When I first considered my career options, I wanted to go to Sandhurst and become an Army Officer.
- 8) **What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** Everyone is so friendly – don't think I've been anywhere else where I've settled down so quickly!
- 9) **What do you treasure most?** My family and close friends – I've seen lots of people lose their nearest and dearest so I treasure every moment I have with mine.
- 10) **What one thing would you change in the world today?** I'd get rid of spiders – they're disgusting and creepy abominations of nature that like to hide in the studio! *shudders*

Primary Liaison

The Dance Department is currently involved in several weeks of Primary Liaison offering lessons, workshops and support in Dance to Year 3s from Charlestown Primary School, and Year 5s from St Mewan School.

This has been a great opportunity for our pupils to broaden their leadership skills and for teachers to share good practice!

Mrs Hulbert

GCSE Drama Moderation

Pupils have been working really hard in preparation for their GCSE Drama Moderation which took place on Friday 23 March. There were a range of performances: Science fiction with the Mad Professor desperately trying to fix his spaceship in an attempt to return the humans back to earth after crash-landing on his planet, War time Britain, a comical 'A Pirate's Life for Me' and 'Genie of the lamp post' a comedy with a message in the story. Pupils have given up their time during break times and after school to ensure pieces were polished and ready for their performances.

Mrs Bond

In Drama your imagination can run wild!

By taking GCSE Drama I have learned a lot. It is fun! Our teacher is really good at helping us through problems with our acting skills.



Drama is brilliant!

Drama has really helped me with my confidence, it is brilliant!