



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 7

Parents' Information Newsletter

Summer Term 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

I wish you all a restful and relaxing half term and hope you enjoy the long bank holiday weekend along with the Jubilee Celebrations. Brilliant sunshine would be an added bonus as well!

I look forward to us returning refreshed on Monday 11th June.

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Silver DofE Qualifying Venture Exmoor – Report by Georgina Hide and Ruby Waterfield

'We started our expedition with a night in a bunkhouse in the woods. In the morning we made our way to Hillsford Bridge to complete four hours of National Trust coppicing conservation work. It was hard work in the sun but really good fun! As we sat down to lunch, millions of dandelion seeds flew past over the river like snow – it was beautiful! With sunhats and suncream on we set off in the baking heat to experience a new landscape and terrain. It was an early night to bed at Lorna Doone camp. At 4.30 am when we dismantled camp, it was warm and sunny! It was not long before the heat was pounding down on us once more! We discovered a new part of the moor and when we arrived at camp we sorted our injuries and some of us accepted the challenge of making fire with a fire steel. On Monday we set off for the final time and it definitely felt like the hardest day as we walked uphill most of the way. The view from Dunkery Beacon was incredible. We sketched some views from the summit in our John Muir Award books and set off downhill to meet our assessor and 'create and light' our rush lights!

Overall it was an amazing new experience for the whole team. We loved exploring Exmoor.'

The Silver DofE team had an awesome expedition on Exmoor and the following participants have completed their expedition section: Abby Crane (Team Leader), Jack Barnell, Georgina Hide, Will Ratcliffe, Ruby Waterfield, David Winter.

H Blackburn (Silver DofE Unit Leader)



The Silver DofE Team at Dunkery Hill

DATES FOR DIARY

Monday 4th June to Friday 8th June

Spring Bank Holiday

Wednesday 13th June

Par Athletics Years 7 & 9 (4.00 – 6.00 pm)

Monday 25th June

Sports Day

Wednesday 27th June

Par Athletics Years 7 – 10 (1.00 – 5.30 pm)

Thursday 28th June

Reserve Sports Day

Unwanted Items of School uniform

If you have any clean unwanted items eg sweatshirts, shirts/blouses or trousers/skirts these would be gratefully received. Please pass in to the school reception.

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

Seahorse School
Class of 2012
Year 11 Ball
Friday 13th July 2012
 7.00 pm-11.30 pm
 The Seahorse Centre, Pentewan Sands
 Cost of Admission - £25





Year 11 Ball Prices

£25 for the ball
 £15 for the yearbook
 or £35 for both together.

First break in the Admin Office from
 Mrs Chard or Mrs Russell.

HALF TERM REVISION SESSIONS FOR YEAR 11 PUPILS

Wednesday 6th June
History & Geography (am)
Thursday 7th June
History & Geography (am)
Sunday 10th June
Maths

*Pupils and parents will have been contacted
 if the sessions are applicable to you.*

EARRING MAKING WORKSHOP **Wednesday 6th June and Friday 8th June**

In the Craft Café in the Market House, St Austell
 10.30 to 3.00 pm
 DROP-IN SESSIONS
 £5.00 per hour

Please see Mrs Haley (Science Department) for
 further information.

Year 11 Ball Photos

- This year the photos will be taken by **Duchy Photography**
- They will be printed and paid for on the evening of the Ball to take home with you
- The photos will be 9 x 6 and presented in a cardboard mount



PRICE:
£10.00 each
 or
**Buy 2 get
 1 FREE**
 - you need to bring
 money to the Ball



duchy photography · 29 Northfield Drive · Truro TR1 2BT · Tel: 01872 223706
 Web: www.duchyphotography.co.uk · Blog: www.duchyphotography.co.uk/blog



UPDATE

The latest word count report shows that there are 5 students who have now read more than a million words since September. In fact Celeste has read 2,204,181 and still top of the list is Taylor with a staggering 3,390,691 words read. Many of the Year 7 and 8 students have been taking their Star reading tests again recently. These show progression made since September and many of the results indicated an increase of over 12 months reading age in that time. It just shows how well the scheme works when the pupils are engaged. Keep it up over the half term week, remember you can read most of your own books and be able to take a test on them. If you want to check, just go to www.arbookfinder.co.uk

Mrs Hancock Librarian

Teaching and Learning @ Poltair

Decoding “teacher talk”: A handy guide explaining what teachers mean

Feedback

Regular feedback helps pupils to know how well they are doing and what they need to do next. Feedback can be:

- Self-assessment- where pupils assess their own work against criteria set by the teacher
- Peer assessment- where pupils assess the work of others against criteria set by the teacher
- Verbal feedback- spoken comments given to a pupil
- Teacher marking- where teachers put comments into exercise books. The need for this form has become less as the other forms have increased.

If you imagine baking a cake, you need a recipe and the ingredients. Success criteria are the ingredients a pupil needs to carry out a successful learning activity (the recipe). The progress of the learning then can be measured against the criteria.

Success Criteria

Learning Objectives

Every lesson has an aim which we call the learning objective. This is shared with pupils at the start of the lesson and referred to throughout. Being clear about learning objectives helps pupils to understand the purpose of the lesson.

Working with our primary school colleagues, we know a great deal about pupils on their arrival at Poltair. As well as their friendship groups, their hobbies and interests, strengths and weaknesses we also know their attainment levels in KS2 SATs.

Like all schools, we use this information to forecast the grades that pupils should achieve in each subject. We share these regularly with pupils to help them stay on track to fulfil their potential. This is their “expected progress”.

Expected Progress

Intervention

Intervention is any additional support given to a pupil. This can be in many forms e.g.

- Specialist resources used in class
- Small group work
- One to one tuition
- Increased monitoring

Interventions help all pupils to stay on course to achieve their expected progress grades.

Department Reviews

To support departments in identifying their strengths and areas for development we carry out rigorous department reviews. In a two yearly cycle each department review consists of:

- Lesson observations for all subject teachers
- Work analysis- looking at pupils' work to check for consistency and rates of progress.
- Pupil voice- a pupil survey of at least 10% of the pupils to elicit their opinion on each subject
- Pupil interview- a cross-section of pupils are interviewed about their experience of each subject
- Analysis of progress data

The most recent review was in MFL and we are due to complete the cycle with a review in DT and one in PE in the forthcoming weeks.

Poltair's Teaching and Learning Group



Formed in 2010, the Teaching and Learning Group consists of some Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils who meet every two weeks to discuss teaching and learning at Poltair. They have been involved with a number of different activities including:

- Interviewing candidates for teaching posts
- Designing the pupil planner
- Suggesting ideas for improving lessons
- Reviewing the behaviour policy introduced in September 2011

The group has grown in confidence and for their insightful thoughts, their dedication and commitment they were rewarded last term for with a trip to Ozzell Bowl!

As we approach the new academic year we are looking to expand the group. If any pupils in Years 7-10 are interested in joining us they should speak to Miss White.

If you have any teaching and learning related questions or comments, please feel free to contact Miss White, Assistant Headteacher by email: cwhite@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk