



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 1

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2012

FOURTH YEAR OF RECORD BREAKING EXAMINATION SUCCESS AT POLTAIR SCHOOL

On Thursday 23 August, pupils from last year's Year 11 joined staff and governors at Poltair School in order to find out their examination results. The atmosphere was busy, excitable and celebratory. For the fourth consecutive year, examination results at Poltair have set new records for the school.

Everyone in the school is delighted with the results achieved by pupils at Poltair School. The rise in standards achieved across the school and the very many individual pupil success stories are due reward to the focus, attitude and commitment of the pupils in the school as well as the hard work put in by our staff to teach, guide and support them. We are proud of the pupils' achievements not least because it means that they can take on the future challenges of young adulthood, with some real tangible success, confidence in themselves and a belief that through hard work, achievement is always possible. We also hope that all the current pupils take special note of what a winning formula looks like.

Initial calculations indicate that 44% of pupils achieved the threshold of 5A*- C grades including English and Mathematics, a rise of 6% on the previous year. In addition, 63% of pupils secured 5A*- C grades, a rise of 7% on 2011. Examination results increased in all three core subjects (English, Mathematics and Science) to record breaking levels. In English, 66% of pupils secured an A*- C grade, an increase of 9% on the previous year. The standards achieved by the pupils are impressive but the real magical stories lie in the progress that many of the pupils have made, given their starting points. For example in English we believe that in excess of 78% of pupils have made the expected progress from Year 7 to 11, a figure likely to be far in excess of national norms. A similar story is likely to be the case in Science too.

There are many remarkable individual achievements deserving of mention, commendation and celebration. However the best examination results were secured by Maria Brett with 13 GCSE A*- C passes (including 11 A*/A grades), Stacie Marks with 16 GCSE A*- C passes (including 12 A*/A grades), Sam Cross 11 GCSE A*- C passes (all 11 with A*/A grades and Erin Licursi with 17.5 GCSE A*- C passes (including 11 A*/A grades).

IMPORTANT DATES:-

Wednesday 19 September

Year 6 Taster Day – Poltair pupils' remote learning day

Thursday 20 September

Open Evening 6.00 to 8.30 pm (see poster)

Safeguarding

This is a polite reminder to parents that the school has a duty of care towards pupils and may make a referral to social care or other agencies when appropriate.

Poltair School

Believe & Achieve

Open Evening

Thursday 20 September

6.00pm - 8.30pm



For more information telephone 01726 874520
or visit www.poltairschool.co.uk

Their Future is changinghelp make it happen

The Government has decided to raise the current school leaving age of 16. This means that from 2013 all young people will continue in education or training to the age of 17. From 2015 they will continue in education or training to the age of 18.

However this does not mean that they will have to stay on at school. They will be able to choose from a range of options, which include

- Full time education, such as school sixth form or FE college
- Work based learning such as an apprenticeship
- Part time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more per week

The first young people to be affected will be pupils who started Year 10 in September 2011 who are currently aged 14 – 15. These young people will now continue in learning or training until the end of the academic year that they turn 17 years of age. Those who are currently in Year 9 will need to continue in learning or training until at least their 18th birthday.

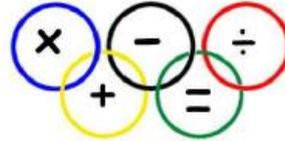
Leaflets are being sent to all Year 9 and Year 10 students and made available in libraries, one stop shops and other public buildings.

There is also information on the Council's website – www.cornwall.gov.uk and from Careers South West - www.careerssw.org, and Volunteer Cornwall – www.volunteercornwall.org.uk

The homework timetable is now published and will shortly be available on the 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

Maths Year Review



UKMT Awards

Massive congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 pupils who have received their UKMT Maths Challenge certificates, with a special mention to Scott McKenzie who received a Gold Award and had the highest score in the school.

Year 10 Maths Enterprise Day

The Year 10s were off timetable on Wednesday 18 July working on a task to develop their enterprise skills. They worked in teams to produce a board game that would be suitable for teaching mathematics. This year provided us with the most imaginative and creative games yet including number breathing dragons and 'froggy' maths. Congratulations to the winning team who produced a fantastic game 'Mathopoly' to go along with a professional presentation!



The winning team
with their
'Mathopoly' game.



'Froggy' maths!



The number
breathing dragon.



'Outside the Box'
game.

USE OF FACILITIES for community groups

Following the wonderful Olympic and Paralympic Games that have inspired the nation it seems appropriate to make our wider community aware of the various facilities that are available for hire during the evenings and weekends at Poltair for leisure and sport activities. For many years now community groups have been making use of our excellent facilities.

We are presently used by Naturally Learning Nursery, Zumba - Fitness, Tae Kwon Do, Ashiita-Kai Karate Kids, Doryoku Karate Jutsu, Capitol School of Dance, St Austell Basketball Club, St Austell Bay Badminton, several football clubs (Junior and Senior). Areas available for hire include Sports Hall, Main Hall, Dance Studio, Drama Studio, IT suite, classrooms and an Astro Turf Pitch.

If you would like to know more or are interested in availability please contact Mrs Eastwood, Community Secretary either by email leastwood@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk or telephone 01726 874570.

Library News

All pupils should have received a copy of the Cover 2 Cover leaflet this week; this is a selection of books published by Scholastic that are available to order. There are some great bargains in the leaflet, and when ordered through the school, the library gets a commission which is used to get free books for the school.

In this month's leaflet look out for a book review by Ben Bassett, reviewing the Infinity Ring book. He is a Year 8 pupil at Poltair and one of the school librarians. Well done Ben.

If you wish to order, please complete the form on the back and return it to Mrs Hancock in the library, with either a cheque payable to Poltair School or cash. Thank you.



UPDATE

Most Year 7 pupils have taken their Star Reading test. This shows their level of reading book they can choose within the Accelerated Reader Scheme. When they have read their book, they take a quiz on it and aim to get a 100% score. After obtaining 3 passes in a row they then move up to the next level of book. They will also have brought home a letter giving details and log-in passwords for the Home Connect. You will be able to track their progress, see which books have been read and check the percentages obtained.

Some pupils have already read books and taken tests, our top scorer on the word count table at the moment is Abigail Barr with 6,483 words. Well done.

Mrs Hancock, Librarian

World Celtic Cyclo-Cross Championships Volunteering

On Sunday 9 September, a team of Ten Tors participants headed to Bodmin to volunteer at the World Celtic Cyclo-Cross Championships. Team members took part in marshalling and judging throughout the races and spent a substantial amount of time carrying straw bales, all fantastic training for the Abbot's Way 26 mile walk on Dartmoor at the beginning of next month!



Ten Tors Challenge 2013

Ten Tors is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Are you up for a two day walking expedition, calling in at ten checkpoints, across Dartmoor, whose moods, in whatever month of the year, can change from calm to raging within an hour? The ten checkpoints will be on a set of tors (granite outcrops scattered across the moor). Depending on your age, your route will be thirty-five (Year 9 and 10) or forty-five (Year 11) miles long and you will be in a team of six, overnight on Dartmoor along with kit to carry - tent, food, stove, water, clothes and sleeping bag.

To prepare for this expedition, serious training is involved. Are you up for a challenge like no other? If you are interested in finding out more about the Ten Tors Challenge and potentially the Duke of Edinburgh Award, please attend a meeting on Monday 17 September in T1 between 3.30 and 4.15 pm.

H Blackburn (Ten Tors Team Manager 35 and 45 miles)

DAY	CLUB	INFORMATION	STAFF/ROOM
MON Break 2	Computer Programming	KS3 pupils	Mr Fitzgerald E7
MON 3.20 - 4.20	Basketball	All years	Mr Cooper
	Girls Rugby	All years	Miss Bailey
	Fitness Suite	All years	Mr Shepherd
3.15 - 4.30	Expedition Training	Years 9, 10 & 11	Miss Blackburn T1
TUES Break 2	Fitness Suite	All years	Mr Shepherd
	Chess Club	All years and all abilities welcome	Miss Fairweather S17
	Football	All years	Mr Watkinson Astro
TUES 3.20 - 4.20	DT Catch Up	Year 11	Ms Lobb T5
	Badminton	All years	Mr Cooper
	Netball	All years	Miss Owens
	Maths revision	Year 11	Maths staff/Maths rooms
	History Controlled Assessment	Sept/Oct (Y10 & Y11) Nov/Dec (Y9)	Miss Venn W1
	Robotics/Electronic Club	Year 8 (after half term)	Mr King T4
	ICT	Year 11 Catch up	Mr Fitzgerald E7
	English Revision	Year 10	All English staff
	School Production	All Years	Drama/Dance/Music
	Homework Club	For all subjects and all years	Mrs Warwick SSC
3.15 - 5.30	Boys' Fixtures	See over	Various
WED Break 2	Football	All years	Mr Watkinson Astro
3.20 - 4.20	Maths Revision	Year 11 (selected pupils)	Maths staff/Maths rooms
	Fitness Suite	All years	Mr Shepherd
	Dance	All welcome (boys and girls)	Mrs Hulbert Dance Studio
	Geography controlled assessment	Years 10 & 11	Miss Hughes SC3
	Art Club	All years	Mrs Pearson/Mrs Whitbread-Abrutat
	History Horror Club	Week A only All Years	Miss Venn W1
	Social Football	All years	Mr Cooper
	English	Exam Preparation - Year 11	English staff/English rooms
	GCSE Catering Catch-up	Years 10 & 11	Miss Partis T7
	DT Catch Up	Year 11	Mr King T4
	School Production	All Years	Drama/Dance/Music
	Homework Club	For all subjects and all years	Mrs Warwick SSC
3.15 - 5.30	Girls Fixtures	See over	Various
THURS Break 2	Fitness Suite	All years	Mr Shepherd
	Football	All years 'Fancy a kick about, just bring trainers?'	Mr Watkinson Astro
	Maths Catch Up	Selected pupils	Maths staff/Maths rooms
THURS 3.20 - 4.20	STEM Club	For pupils in the STEM Year 9 group to build their formula 24 car ready for the race in June	Miss Brader, Mr Martin S7 Mr Sugden
	Science	Exam Revision Year 10 & Year 11	Science breakout
	Girls' Fitness Suite	All girls welcome	Miss Stevenson
	Maths	All years	Computer break out (S18)
	History Controlled Assessment	Sept/Oct (Years 10 & 11) Nov/Dec (Year 9)	Miss Venn W1
	Media Studies	Revision, coursework and catch up session	Mrs Venables E9
	Young Enterprise	Year 10	Mr Jones E8
	Rugby	All years	PE Staff

	Volleyball	All years	Mr Adams
	Literacy Club	Improve your reading and writing	Mrs Webb SSC
3.15 - 5.30	Boys' Fixtures	See over	Various
FRI	Trampolining	All years (starts after half term)	Mrs Truman
3.20 - 4.20	Street Surfing	All years	Mr Adams
	BTEC Sport Catch up	Years 9, 10, 11	Miss Owens
4.00 - 5.30	Fitness Suite	Staff only	
Enhancement buses - run on all days of the week at 4.30 pm from the front of school			
Don't forget your ORANGE bus slip (Remember that you get 10 Vivos for attending an after school club from the teacher who runs the club.)			

