

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 7

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2012



HOUSE STARS



TEWINGTON

Sarah
7RW/AF

For raising an amazing sum of money for the 24 hour Charity Cycle Event.

Charlie
11KH

Dedication to charity, no behaviour points, 100% attendance, positive attitude to learning and school life.

TREVERBYN

Teegan
8GH

For producing excellent homework and always following the 5Ps.

Jessie
10JD

For working proudly and positively.

TRENANCE

Jayme 7GO
&
Luke 7GO

100% attendance and no behaviour points all term.

Catherine
9KP

For being a model pupil and always doing her absolute best.

TREGREHAN

Mikayla
7CHA

For her mature attitude during the elections process.

Will
9EP

For being in the newspaper for Table Tennis champion.

Operation Christmas Child 2012 - Shoe Box Appeal

We are supporting the Christmas 'Shoe Box Appeal' run by the Samaritan's Purse International Relief. Please log on to www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk to find out further information and instructions on how to fill a shoe box. Pupils can bring their donated boxes in to school and pass on to Mrs Peters, either directly or through the school reception. Thank you for your help in supporting this worthy cause.



DIARY DATES	Friday 26 to Saturday 27 October	Tewington House 24hr Sponsored Cycle Event
	Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November	Half Term
	Monday 5 November	Staff Training Day (no pupils in school)
	Wednesday 7 November	House Quiz in the Main Hall 3.15 to 4.15 pm
	Thursday 15 November	Prize Evening - Main Hall 6.00 for 6.30 pm start (more details to follow)
	Wednesday 21 November	Year 9 Parents' Evening – Main Hall 3.45 to 6.15 pm
	Thursday 22 November	Coodes Quiz Evening – Main Hall 6.00 to 8.00 pm

Ten Tors Selection Training – Friday 19 October

Participants striving for a team place in this year's 35 and 45 mile teams, headed to the hills for a day of preparation, instruction and practice of navigational techniques and strategies. As Joey McDonald (35 mile) recaps; 'We walked ten miles across Dartmoor passing Foggintor Quarry, Yellowmead Farm, many hills and through Princetown. At the end of the day we were all worn out and very relieved to see the minibus! It was a good experience for all of us.'

Both the 35 and 45 mile teams bonded together throughout the day and worked efficiently as a unit. There is so much knowledge and experience to take on board until the next time when it really counts... all those new skills learnt need to be practiced and reinforced time and time again to aspire to be the best you can possibly be. Kadie Jackson (45 mile) 'What inspired me was Miss Blackburn pushing us up the hills and learning to work as a unit. I understand how to take a bearing with a compass and I learnt that a lot of hard work and teamwork is all worth it!'

Any Years 9 or 10 participants wishing to take on the Ten Tors Challenge 2013; please email hblackburn@outdoorschool.co.uk before Monday 5 November.

H Blackburn (35 & 45 Ten Tors Team Manager)



Award Shortlist for 'Learning Outside the Classroom' 2012 (LOtC)

Helen Blackburn, Ten Tors Team manager and DofE



expedition leader at Poltair, is one of just 5 people shortlisted for the Award for Outstanding Contribution to LOtC 2012 which recognises individuals and teams of people who have made a significant impact on the lives of children and young people through their commitment and dedication to providing and/or championing exciting and inspiring learning outside the classroom opportunities. The winner is now chosen via a public vote so if you wish to support Helen's nomination then please vote before 31 October at <http://www.lotc.org.uk/?pageid=-6376>

RLNI Donation

A total of £450 was presented to representatives of the RLNI from fund-raising activities by pupils in appreciation of all the life-guard services who supported Poltair pupils during Activities Week.



L to R: RNLI Rep, Danni Wright, Ross Peace, Caleb Hawken, Tori Marks and RNLI Rep.

Fit for Work – Tuesday 16th October

The Fit for Work Day provided our Year 10 pupils with a real challenge both inside and outside the classroom. The day was based on a live recruitment and selection process where pupils were given the opportunity to experience job searching skills, completing application forms, interviews, psychometric tests and outdoor pursuits.



Many pupils made positive impressions across a wide range of categories. These are as follows:

Best Overall Performing Tutor Group

The best overall performing Tutor Group on the day was 10LM. Pupils in this form really applied themselves across the different recruitment and selection activities. Well done!

Best Overall Performing Applicants

The best overall performing pupils on the day were:

First Place



Sam

Second Place



Grace

Third Place



Daniel

These pupils made fantastic impressions on tutors, interviewers and the teaching staff in the PE Faculty. ASDA vouchers were given out as prizes to celebrate their performance and achievement in the recruitment and selection process, Sam received £20, Grace received £15 and Daniel received £10.

Most Successful Interviews for Positions Offered

The following pupils were the most successful in the interview process. Pupils were interviewed for 1 of the 8 positions offered.

Recruitment Consultant – Tori Marks
Hair Dresser – Shamirah Richards
Beauty Therapist – Nicole Casley
Lifeguard – Emily White

Hotel Receptionist – Jessie Collins
Kitchen Assistant – Peter Ould
Accounts Clerk – Gemma Floyd-Norris
Marketing Executive – Jack Walker

These pupils made outstanding impressions on 1 of our 14 strong interview panel. Interviewers graded our pupils on quality of application forms, personal presentation, eye contact and body language, communication, being proactive and ability to ask and answer questions. Boxes of chocolates were given out as prizes to celebrate their performance in the interview process.

The following pupils were runners-up in the interviews:

Chloe Jarvis - Libby Bazeley - Matthew Horsfield - Hannah Elliot - Lewis Stockley - Lauren James
Casey Mounce - Jessica Lucas - Hope Couchman - Bethany Powell - Bradley Peach - Bradley Hallett
Lorna Welander - Amy Putko - Bethany Collett - Jordan Neville

These pupils proved to be a real asset to the school!

Pupils Nominated by Tutors for Good Performance

These pupils impressed their tutors whilst undertaking activities on the recruitment and selection process.

Georgia Best - Kieran Powell - Chloe Jarvis - Amy Putko - Eleanor Southey - Bradley Hallett - Sian Peachey - Daisy Gonzalez - Stephen Fage - Matthew Horsfield - Lauren James – Hope Couchman - Bethany Collett.

A special 'thank you' to ASDA, Cornwall Council, St Austell College and past teaching staff from Poltair School for providing an invaluable interview experience for our Year 10 pupils.

New Developments

There have been a number of new developments in Teaching and Learning at Poltair School this year. The staff responsible for these developments have outlined their roles below.

Teaching and Learning Groups

Pupil Group: Chelsea Payton, Emily White, Brindley Turner, Kieran Hughes, Tori Marks, Jordan Laughton, Robbie Copping and Chloe Copping

The pupil Teaching and Learning group have met regularly throughout the year to provide a pupil view on classroom practice. The group have worked on redesigning the pupil planner, investigating the use of iPads in classrooms and evaluating the use of rewards by teachers. The preliminary work carried out by the group on the use of iPads has been followed up with the investment in two class sets of iPads. The details of how they will be used in PE are outlined by Mr Marshall below.

The staff Teaching and Learning group has also met regularly and worked on developing new initiatives across the school to plan and deliver exciting and engaging lessons for all pupils.

New pupils wanted - we are recruiting new pupils for the Teaching and Learning group, so if you would like to make a significant contribution to the school by being part of this group, please contact Mr Mack.

Forums and Blogs!

We are developing both Teaching and Learning Forums and Blogs for staff to share good practice, if you would be interested in investigating how parents can be involved in their own area, please email Mr Mack rmack@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk

ICT across the curriculum

ICT can be found in all areas of life, in the workplace or in our homes and can be used to help students learning in all subjects at school. New technologies can help students develop and transfer skills in team work, develop independence and resilience. By personalising their learning, technology can meet individual pupil needs and increase levels of access to learning resources.

As Co-ordinator for ICT **across the curriculum** I have the fantastic opportunity to develop the use of ICT across the school to enhance teaching and learning. It is my mission to realise the potential uses for new technologies that make learning more engaging, motivating and fun!

My role provides me with the opportunity to work with senior leaders, teachers and students to set the direction for new developments, ensuring we all have the confidence to take advantage of technology in a safe and meaningful way.

My aim is to provide teachers with the tools they need to develop their use of ICT in their classroom and share their ideas with others. This will bring even more creative uses of ICT into lessons and help students make better progress.



Mr Fitzgerald
Leader of learning in
ICT



Mr Kit Sugden, Co-ordinator of Numeracy

The purpose of the Co-ordinator of Numeracy is to promote and support the delivery of Numeracy skills in all subjects. Recent Ofsted reports include 'improving the delivery of Numeracy across all subjects' as a key area for development (for all classifications). We hope that improving the consistency of the delivery of Numeracy in all subjects will overall increase our pupils' competency of using Numerical skills in and out of school.



Things to watch out for (pupils):

- There will be a fortnightly numeracy quiz and numeracy puzzles starting after half term for the numeracy section of your tutor times. This will be an on-going competition between tutor groups and houses.
- Regular numeracy puzzles in the spotlight.
- Numeracy across the curriculum posters will start to appear in other subjects.
- Spot what numeracy skills appear in other subjects. Pupils will be rewarded for identifying numeracy being used in other subjects.

Use of New Technologies in PE



The PE Department have been using iPods and iPads to further the knowledge and understanding of pupils who are studying BTEC level 2 in Sport. The technology makes it easier to capture sometimes fast moving sporting action and put the video clips into slow motion. This enables the pupils to pick out others strengths and weaknesses and come up with ways for their peers to improve.

'The video evidence makes it easier for me to annotate my thoughts rather than forgetting what I have just seen' – Tom Rowe Year 9 BTEC Sport

'I have enjoyed using the iPods and iPads in lessons as they give us instant feedback and make me work harder so I achieve more' – Jack Carron Year 9 BTEC Sport

In the future the pupils will use iPads for creating their own interactive eBooks that other pupils can view and get personalised information from.

The PE department will be rolling the new technologies out through other faculty areas as the year progresses.



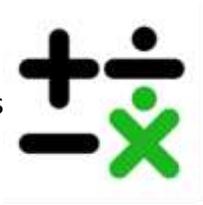
Tom and Jack using an iPad



Teaching and Learning outside of the classroom

Year 11 Maths Dartmoor Trip

The Mathematics department held a trip to Dartmoor on 12th – 13th October. This was part of a joint project with Pool School and the six pupils that attended had a fantastic weekend.



The pupils stayed at “Whiteworks” which is a bunkhouse near Princetown with no heating or running hot water! During the trip the pupils walked 17 miles over the moors which included a midnight walk and navigating themselves across Dartmoor with the aide of just a map and compass.

The pupils commented on how valuable the experience was and how they enjoyed the scenic views and the atmosphere during the trip. I would like to thank Mrs Truman and Mr Tong for their help during the trip and the pupils who were a credit to Poltair School.

Mr Butterworth

Deputy Head of Mathematics



L to R: Mr Tong, Amy Floyd-Norris, Samantha-Louise Newton-Sheppard, Kieran Shaw, Chad Ackrell and Mr Butterworth

FEEDBACK:

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