



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 6 Summer Term
Week ending 24 May 2013

Parents' Information Newsletter

**SchoolComms –
School Communication with Parents**

Dear Parent/Carer

Improved text messaging system – and you can help the school save money

From time to time, we send information to parents via text message to your mobile phone. A new, free, smartphone app for parents is now available for download called 'School Gateway' for Apple (iPhone 3GS, iPad, iPod Touch) and Android (2.3 / Gingerbread or later) devices.

Please could you download this new app to your phone (it's free) as it will help us improve communication with parents – and save the school money.

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play or on your phone go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android)
2. Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications"
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you. As soon as you've got the system set-up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/alerts as normal.

If you've recently changed your email address or mobile telephone number, please let us know so we can update our records.

Thank you for your help.

School Office

DIARY DATES	
Monday 27 to Friday 31 May	Half term holiday
Monday 24 June (Friday 28 June) Reserve date	Sports Day
Monday 8 to Friday 12 July	Activities Week & Work Experience
Friday 19 July	Last day of term School Closes at 1.00 pm

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



HOUSE STARS



TEWINGTON

Katy Mumford

7RW/AF

For 100% attendance and no behaviour points and for representing the school in the book reviews.

Nicole Casley

10SAH

For her positive attitude and politeness.

TREVERBYN

Maria Ball

8KL

For having excellent attendance and a positive attitude to learning, especially taking part in competitions and her level of work in Maths.

Rhys Dedman-Harris

10KW

For his excellent attendance, positive attitude to learning and for being the team leader in the 35 mile walk as part of Ten Tors.

TRENANCE

Adam Mumford

7GO

For being positive and 100% attendance.

Beth Walker 11DBR

For participating in Poltair's Got Talent.

Daisy James 11CS

For excelling herself in terms of her attitude towards her studies .

TREGREHAN

Evie Collett

8MP

For being positive.

Sheree Dagley 11KR &

Chloe Jarvis 10MG

For excellent performances in the Poltair's Got Talent Final.



POLTAIR'S GOT TALENT

On Thursday 16 May 2013, Poltair School played host to its very own Poltair's Got Talent. The evening's entertainment of music, singing, dancing and laughter promised to be extremely exciting. The judging panel included Cornwall's finest: Headteacher Stephen Tong, Radio St Austell Bay Manager Sheila Vanloo, and former Poltair pupils Shane Solomon of the Cornwall Channel and Edward Rowe (AKA the Kernow King).

For those lucky enough to have secured tickets for the sell-out show, the evening proved no less than spectacular.

The ten finalists, having endured a process of gruelling auditions, performed their remarkable talents with exceptional pride and joy.

The judges had a very difficult task in their deliberations. Congratulations to Jordan Coon who was this year's winner with a fantastic version of 'Someone like You' by Adele. The runner up was Curtis Coello with a guitar solo which was his own composition. Chloe Jarvis was a close third with a piano and vocal piece.

We are very much looking forward to next year's audition process and the final of Poltair's Got Talent, 2014!

Jordan



Curtis



Chloe



Mamma Mia! Year 8 enjoy a taste of Italy!

Keen Food Technology students in Year 8 recently enjoyed a visit to Frankie & Bennie's as part of their topic about Italian food.



It was especially fun for Callan Phillips as the restaurant owners discovered it was his birthday so they dimmed the lights and everyone sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Pupils were set a design challenge - they were given a large pizza base and a variety of toppings and had to assemble a pizza. It was then cooked for them and they ate it (even though it was only 10.30 in the morning!)

A big thank you to Mrs Peters for organising the visit and to Frankie & Bennie's for hosting our pupils.



Spotlight on Maths

My Easter Maths Experience – Alfie Chambers



During the Easter holidays I attended a three-day residential mathematics master-class hosted by The Royal Institution along with 23 other students across Devon and Cornwall. Over the three days we had six three hour sessions where we learnt about different types of Maths. The sessions were matrices and coding, mathematical medley, traffic flow, a Maths Trail, Mathematics and Philosophy, and a taste test demonstrating probability. I really enjoyed learning about what a matrix was and how you worked codes out with them. The maths medley was fun as it showed us how to use maths in magic tricks. My favourite session was Mathematics and Philosophy led by Stuart Rowlands. In this session we debated whether all the angles in a triangle added to 180 degrees and if maths was either invented or discovered. The session gave me the chance to get my opinion across and listen to other peoples opinions and compare them with my own.

UKMT Mathematics Challenge

Poltair's more able mathematicians competed in the annual UK Maths Trust National Competition. They spent an hour answering complex mathematical problems, such as...

'The northern wheatear is a small bird weighing less than an ounce. Some northern wheatears migrate from sub-Saharan Africa to their Arctic breeding grounds, travelling almost 15,000 km. The journey takes just over 7 weeks. Roughly how far do they travel each day, on average?'

A 1 km B 9 km C 30 km D 90 km E 300 km

The pupils were very successful and were awarded several certificates at Bronze, Silver and Gold level.

Best in School (Years 9 & 10) – Saffron Tyler

Best in School (Years 7 & 8) – William Heaman

Saffron also scored enough points to go through to the next round of the competition, and was invited to spend the day at Plymouth University extending her mathematical understanding.

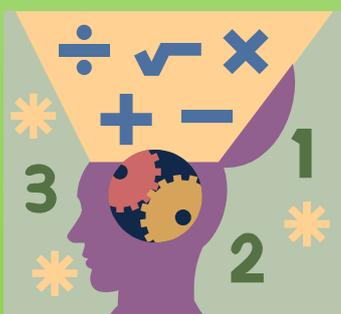


News from the Maths Leaders (20 Year 9 pupils who will be leading Mathematics at Poltair next year):

Year 9 More Able Mathematicians written by Will Lucas (Year 9)

A select group of Year 9 pupils went to Cornwall College St Austell to take part in some extra maths. When we arrived at the A Level Centre we were greeted by the lecturer Tim Wells. He asked us to complete algebraic questions, each set of answers were related to a type of number, who they were invented by and when. The questions got harder until they were very challenging and they led us to discover integers, decimals, negatives, rational and imaginary numbers. We all really enjoyed the session. Tim supported us and was really helpful.

Since this first session the group have been back to the College three more times, after school, to work on Geometry and the use of ICT to discover Geometrical properties.





This year 639 Poltair pupils have been registered to use the fantastic Maths site, www.sumdog.com

Overall our pupils have answered hundreds of thousands of questions with astonishing accuracy.

Our top eight pupils are:

Karl Sincock	Year 8	8,742 – 92% correct
Sam Turner	Year 8	6,177 – 78% correct
Dean Taylor	Year 8	3,703 – 84% correct
Hanna Knowles	Year 8	3,355 – 86% correct
Chad Ackrell	Year 11	3,248 – 88% correct
Luke Pote	Year 8	3,213 – 76% correct
Aidy Walmsley	Year 10	3,103 – 82% correct
Joel Barnicoat	Year 9	3,040 – 84% correct

Karl Sincock deserves special recognition for finishing in first place in 2 competitions that have taken place between more than 10 schools in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Well done to everyone involved.

Not got a password yet? See your Maths teacher!

Poltair Maths Workshops for our feeder Primary Schools

Mr Butterworth has been working with level 6, Year 6 pupils from Carclaze, St Mewan, Pondhu, Sandy Hill and Bishop Bronescombe developing their skills and understanding in six fun-filled workshops. The pupils have really enjoyed visiting the school and we look forward to continuing this partnership over the next academic year.



ALL pupils will need the following for their exams:

* A Scientific calculator * Pencil * BLACK pen * Rubber * Ruler * Protractor * Compasses

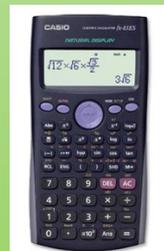
IMPORTANT KS4 MATHS EXAM DATES

Tuesday 11 June 2013	Linear GCSE Non-Calculator
Friday 14 June 2013	Linear GCSE Calculator
Monday 24 June 2013	GCSE Statistics

POLTAIR + (3.15 – 4.30 pm)

Tuesday	Year 11 Maths
Wednesday	Year 10 Maths
Thursday	All years 'Mymaths'

All pupils must have a scientific calculator for their Mathematics lessons. We have some for sale for £6.00 – please see Mrs Russell if you would like one.



We have revision guides for £4 to help support KS4 pupils with their GCSE exams.

