



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 4 Spring Term

Week ending 31 January 2014

Parents' Information Newsletter

MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY. Poltair School is on the list!

As many of you will already be aware, last Thursday saw the publication of the secondary school performance tables. Largely for those who work in schools, this does not bring particular surprises; we have known our headline results since August. But this year there was a very pleasant twist.

Poltair School was named as one of six Cornish schools as the most improved in the country. This is based on looking at a three year upward trend in examination results. We know, as you do, that we have been getting better year on year so this acknowledgement and recognition was very pleasing.

It is, of course, the result of more and more individual pupils' successes and the realisation of their goals. In addition it reflects the phenomenal hard work and dedication of the Poltair staff and governors, working alongside parents and pupils to drive the school's standards forward.

And I am already confident that next year will be record breaking too and I hope that we will make the most improved list once again. Maybe even further up the list. Now there's a challenge.

Stephen Tong

Mr Stephen Tong
Headteacher



HOUSE STARS



TEWINGTON	TREVERBYN	TRENANCE	TREGREHAN
<p><i>Elliot Roffe</i> 8RW</p> <p>For taking part in the Master Chef competition and getting to the final. Well done.</p>	<p><i>Goncalo Rosario</i> 7HV</p> <p>For his continued generosity and support of others on a daily basis.</p>	<p><i>Talana Mills</i> 8FG</p> <p>For always being cheerful and trying her best.</p>	<p><i>Dylan Jones</i> 8DT</p> <p>For following the 5Ps.</p>
<p><i>William Lucas</i> 10CH</p> <p>Despite many setbacks he has remained positive and determined and has now secured a work experience placement. Well done.</p>	<p><i>Leah Harbidge</i> 11JD</p> <p>For her consistent observation of the 5Ps.</p>	<p><i>Izzy Shiner</i> 9SF</p> <p>For excellent attitude and maturity towards the extended tutor time.</p>	<p><i>Fabio Caetano</i> 10MWA</p> <p>For being helpful.</p>

Mock Exams

Year 10 and 11 get exam ready!

Over the past fortnight, pupils in Year 10 and 11 have taken part in mock exams in preparation for their final GCSE exams that are fast approaching.

The exams are designed to give pupils a taste of what the final exam will be like whilst also providing an assessment point for teachers. For many pupils, this has highlighted where areas of strength exist and where, perhaps most importantly, they need to focus their energies on improving.

On Thursday 30 January, the pupils were issued their results in the style of a final results day, really giving a sense of what they might achieve. There were many happy pupils who were pleased that the preparation they had completed ahead of the exams had paid off.

Now that the mocks are complete, teachers will be inviting those pupils who require additional exam preparation support to attend enrichment sessions taking place after school between 3.00 and 4.15pm Tuesday-Friday. We would welcome your support in encouraging pupils to attend these sessions as we know from experience that attendance at these sessions can make a significant difference to the final grade achieved.

Can we also make a plea that you encourage your child to be in school for as many sessions as possible over the remainder of this academic year - attendance at all lessons makes a huge difference to overall performance.

In the next month, we will also be holding meetings with parents and carers of pupils who we are particularly concerned about achieving their best possible grades in all of their subjects.

The final exam period is fast approaching and there is plenty of advice and guidance to help. A good starting place is the following websites:

<http://www.futurelinkpublishing.co.uk/docs/gcse-sample.pdf>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/helping_with_exams/

<http://www.wikihow.com/Help-Your-Child-Prepare-for-Exams>

Look out on our website for more guidance on how to help your child to prepare for their exams - coming soon!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's performance in the mock exams or indeed their performance in class, please contact their subject teacher in the first instance.

REMINDER



A reminder to Year 11 pupils who expressed an interest in NCS, can you please return your completed forms direct to Cornwall College John Keay House main reception.

Call 01726 226511, email ncs@st-austell.ac.uk



DIARY DATES	Wednesday 5 February	Masterchef Round 1 (Years 9, 10 & 11)
	Thursday 6 February	International Maths Challenge
	Tuesday 11 February	Safer Internet Day
	Wednesday 12 February	Masterchef Final
	Thursday 13 February	Year 10 Parents' Evening 3.45—7.15 pm
	Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February	Half term

MASTERCHEF QUALIFYING ROUND 1

With the key stage 3 heat of Masterchef completed the excitement is now mounting for the key stage 4 round on Wednesday 5 February.

Students in Year 7 and 8 did a super job, when they arrived in Mrs Toms' room at 3pm the teams were given the brief:- to create a pizza, plus accompaniment, in an hour from scratch – to feed two people! After some stunned looks that the pizza had to be entirely created from scratch and not from the freezer, the teams got to work!

The standard of each of the entries was brilliant. Everyone worked really well in their teams and the finished results were fantastic – from the recreation of a Pizza Express favourite to the Poltair School logo, the entries were all individual and our panel of judges – Mr Tong, Mr Marshall, Mrs Haselden and Mr King certainly had their work cut out in choosing a winner from the 36 entries (see photo)!



After much deliberation the final 6 who would proceed to the next round were chosen and it was down to Mrs Toms to deliver the exciting news – the key stage 3 finalists were:

Mrs Haley and Elliot Roffe

Mr Butterworth and Angelina Martin

Mr Martin and Jamie White

Mr Mack and Georgina Palmer

Mrs Kellow and Lewis Reynolds

Mr Adams and Jenna Elliott



Well done to our 6 finalists from heat 1 and we look forward to next Wednesday and the key stage 4 heat. **Watch this space to see who the winners from that round will be.**

Top Ten - Mrs Johns

- 1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?** I am Chair of Governors. I lead a team of governors, friends of Poltair, who ask challenging questions about teaching, learning and pupils' progress..
- 2) What is your favourite meal?** Prawn cocktail followed by steak, salad and chips.
- 3) If you were not Chair of Governors what would you be?** I would like to be a chef or a baker; I love cooking, especially cake making. .
- 4) Who are your heroes?** Mark Ormrod, and all those who have survived terrible injuries in Afghanistan. I admire their courage, resilience and perseverance.
- 5) Who is your favourite singer?** I listen to a wide range of music. Not very cool - but I like the music of Andre Rieu.
- 6) What is your favourite book?** I would be lost without books. I read a wide range, mainly fiction and have recently reread Ernest Hemingway's inspirational "The Old Man and the Sea".
- 7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I am an enthusiastic Speedway fan and lifelong supporter of Swindon 'Robins'. I also follow Cornish riders, Chris 'Bomber' Harris and Ben Barker (ex Poltair).
- 8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** The warm welcome that I always receive and the family atmosphere.
- 9) What do you treasure most?** My lovely family. Phil, my husband, our three daughters, their husbands and our four grand children.
- 10) What one thing would you change in the world today?** I would like to see an end to violence. I find it hard to comprehend the terrible things that human beings sometimes do to each other.



INFORMATION EVENT

At Cornwall College St Austell

Thursday 6th February,

4pm – 7.30pm

Drop in to find out more about
our range of courses.



**ROYAL
AIR FORCE
AIR CADETS**
the next generation



1225 Squadron (St Austell & District)

Interested in finding out more? What to join in?

If you are 13 or over and want to join in the adventures and fun please come along to the Squadron at the Cadet Centre on South Street, St Austell on either a Wednesday or Friday evening from 7:00 pm until 9:30 pm and you'll be made very welcome. Maybe bring along a friend. I can assure you it's worth it. If you would like to find out more before coming along please call us at the days and times above on 01726 67803.

Cl John Goodwin, 1225 (St Austell & District) Squadron,

Air Training Corps, The Cadet Centre, South Street,

St Austell PL25 5BN

Poppy Rocks

MALE & FEMALE

!!! singers required !!!

A fun, fabulous new choir is starting up and will be including many musical genres including Soul, Motown, Jazz, Rock, Blues and Pop. Who knows - maybe even a little bit of 'hip-hop'...

Auditions to take place on

Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th of February

no appointment needed – just pop in between

6.00pm until 9.00pm

66 Lemon Street, Truro, TR1 2PN

Rehearsals in Truro every Wednesday
(usually)

7.30 – 9.00pm

For more information email Annie at:

abinding@britishlegion.org.uk

Or Phone: 07768 793847