



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 7 Spring Term

Week ending 28 February 2014

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

TAKING EFFECTIVE ACTION

We are delighted with the outcome of a recent visit from Simon Rowe, Her Majesty's School Inspector after which he commended the school for its recent effective actions in securing further school improvement. You may well wish to read the whole letter/report yourselves. It is available on the Ofsted website and on the school website as well.

In particular the visit and the report highlighted the extent to which the school is highly focused on all aspects of pupil achievement with teachers and leaders playing a key part within this. More than ever, we do respond to any pupil not making the progress that they should and ensuring that appropriate intervention is put in place to turn things around.

The visit also focused rightly on the school's drive to continue to improve the quality of teaching with our practitioners committed to learning the best from each other. Finally, the report acknowledged the major part that both senior and middle leaders and indeed governors are playing in ensuring that all plans and developments are closely monitored and evaluated.

I am delighted that the hard work, endeavour and commitment of the staff and the governors has been recognised so positively. We can feel confident that, following the recent announcement of being one of the most improved schools in the country, Poltair School will continue to go from strength to strength. This has to be good for the whole of our community, especially its young people.

A WET AND WINDY FRIDAY

I thought that I would write a little about the events of the morning of Friday 14 February. It was wet, really wet, pouring down in fact. And the fire alarm sounded. Contrary to the view that has been expressed by some, this was not planned or scheduled. Therefore because the alarm had sounded and its origin unknown, we did exactly what we must do – evacuate the building. And we did so, putting the safety of all children and adults first; I am sure you would expect nothing less. And although some parents did ask after the event, no evacuation procedure would allow you to assemble inside such as the Sports Hall area; besides, this could have been where a real fire was. Unfortunately, it was raining very hard at the time and all of us got wet in the process. Once reassured that there was no real fire, we quickly returned pupils to the building, in the knowledge that we had done exactly the right thing.

It made for a difficult day in school. Many children were soaked, a fact made worse by the paltry number that actually bring a waterproof coat to school, particularly on a day when heavy rain was always forecast. Please, please, please can we encourage all our parents and carers to provide all of their sons and daughters with proper outdoor attire. We want them warm and dry on all school days during the winter, in school and on the way to and from.

Of course we adapted for the day, allowing children to change into warm and dry clothes wherever possible, encouraging pupils to contact parents to bring in changes of clothing. Many of you did so and I would like to thank you for your help and contribution. Nearly all of you supported the school in doing its utmost to continue to deliver a normal school day. Thanks again.

The Poltair staff were brilliant, carrying out additional supervisory duties, putting on entertainment in the school hall and in classrooms and serving free hot chocolate in the canteen. A real team effort! My thanks to them too!

Let us hope that the worst excesses of the wintry and stormy weather are behind us and that spring is not too far away. I think we all deserve a little sunny weather.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Mathematics Prefects

Six Year 11 prefects have been selected to support the mathematics faculty. They help tutors with the weekly Numeracy quiz and they each have responsibility for two or three KS3 pupils. These pupils are in Year 7 or 8 and would all benefit from having additional peer support and coaching in mathematics. The prefects have got to know the pupils and are now working through key areas for development. This has involved working with mymaths booster packs and a tailored booklet of worksheets.

So far the pupils are all very positive, the prefects are excelling in their coaching skills and are enjoying leading the learning of the pupils. The pupils are appreciative of the extra support and attention and like having one of the older pupils take an interest in their progress.



St Austell Youth Council

Pupil Voice is an important part of Poltair School. We are proud of our students' ability to, not only share ideas and opinions in a confident manner but also, take responsibility for their school and their community.

It is because of these skills that we are incredibly pleased that four of our students have been given a seat on the Youth Council for St Austell. With their confidence and innovative approaches to problem-solving, we are looking forward to our students helping to improve and shape St Austell for the future.

Congratulations to: Ben Bassett, Lauren Sturtridge, Lauren Masters and Harriet Turner for securing their place on the Youth Council.

Top Ten - Natalie Chard



- 1) **What exactly do you do at Poltair?** I teach Design & Technology.
- 2) **What is your favourite meal?** Any Italian food!
- 3) **If you were not a teacher what would you be?** I always fancied being an interior designer.
- 4) **Who is your hero?** My hero is my Mum, a wonderful lady, a real role model.
- 5) **Who is your favourite singer?** My favourite singer is Sade, my favourite band is The Jam.
- 6) **What is your favourite book?** 'One day' by David Nicholls.
- 7) **Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I was born in Columbia, South America and my family, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins live in Quito, Ecuador.
- 8) **What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** The friendly welcome.
- 9) **What do you treasure most?** My daughter.
- 10) **What one thing would you change in the world today?** I would like there to be no poverty.

DIARY DATES	Monday 3 March to Friday 7 March	World Book Week
	Thursday 13 March	Curriculum Enrichment Day
	Friday 21 March to Saturday 22 March	Years 7, 8 & 9 Retro Challenge (see poster)
	Thursday 27 March	Year 8 Curriculum Evening 6—8 pm
	Friday 4 April	Last day of term school closes at 1.00 pm (buses leave at 1.15 pm)
	Saturday 5 April to Monday 21 April	Easter holidays
	Tuesday 22 April	School returns

WORLD BOOK WEEK 3rd to 7th March

World Book Week

Every day during the week there will be a member of staff reading in the library at break times. Ask your tutor and check the library for details (open for all years).

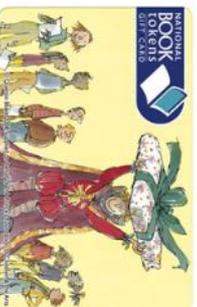
There are “design a book mark” and “design a book cover” competitions, forms will be available from your tutor.

All pupils will receive a voucher in their English classes during the week. The voucher can be exchanged for a £1.00 World Book Day book or can be used towards the purchase of a book in many shops, or from the Scholastic leaflet (pupils will already have received this). Enjoy spending it!

World Book Day Thursday 6th March 2014

World Book Day is the biggest annual celebration of books and reading in the UK and Ireland. It is a registered charity whose financing of World Book Day comes mainly from contributing publishers, the generous sponsorship of National Book Tokens Ltd, some literacy partnerships and other supporters, as well as the participating booksellers who fund the entire cost of Book Token redemption. WH Smith and Waterstone’s, as well as many independent booksellers are participating, as are a number of school book clubs. Tesco’s and Sainsbury’s supermarkets are also participating in some of their larger stores. Have a look at the website www.worldbookday.com for competitions and articles.

Mrs Hancock, Librarian



6th March 2014

As usual there will be loads of competitions going on and fun events to look out for!

- **Guest readers in the library**
 - **Design a bookmark competition**
 - **Design a book cover competition**
 - **Tutor book quiz**
 - **STOP THE CLOCKS**
 - **FANCY DRESS FOR ALL YEARS AND STAFF!** Different themes for each year group – see your tutor
- It is NOT a non-uniform day. If you do not want to dress up, you have to wear normal uniform.**

Igo's  **SPONSORED...** 

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9

RETRO CHALLENGE



**FRIDAY 21st MARCH •
SATURDAY 22nd MARCH
SPORTS HALL
POULAIR SCHOOL**

TO SUPPORT...



Carnwall Hospice Care
Caring for our Community

Lifeboats



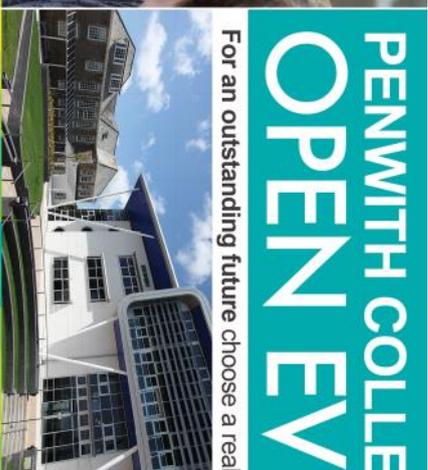
Highway County, Inc. 111310



SEE YOUR TUTOR

FOR MORE DETAILS

College events

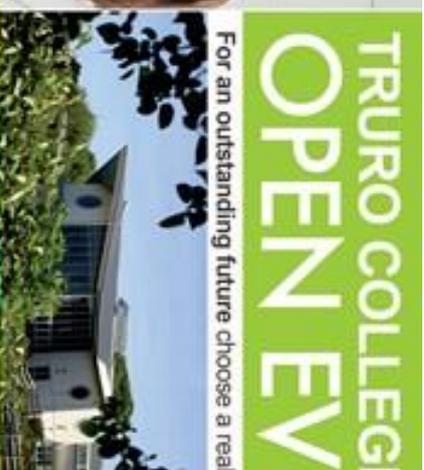


PENWITH COLLEGE
OPEN EVENT

For an outstanding future choose a really outstanding college

**SATURDAY 1 MARCH
10AM TO 1PM**

PENWITH COLLEGE
Part of Truro and Penwith College



TRURO COLLEGE
OPEN EVENT

For an outstanding future choose a really outstanding college

**SATURDAY 8 MARCH
10AM TO 1PM**

TRURO COLLEGE
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