



# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 6 Summer Term

Week ending 13 June 2014

Parents' Information Newsletter

## What does good attendance mean?

We are in the process of writing to all parents and carers to update you on your child's attendance to date. The national average for school attendance is 95% which equates to no more than 9 days of absence from school. All absence, even when the school is made aware of the reason, reduces a child's overall attendance percentage.

When a child is absent from school, they are missing out on learning activity and ultimately, this will impact on how successful a child is at the end of their secondary education. Many of our pupils have good attendance and demonstrate determination in being in school even on days when they might feel under the weather. The impact of this is reflected in their good achievement in subject areas and being on target to achieve good GCSE and BTEC grades in school. However, we still have a large number of pupils whose attendance is below 91% which is of concern.

As you receive your child's attendance certificate, please can we urge you to reflect on any absence your child has had this year, and if needed, consider how they can best be supported to further improve their attendance to national standards. Your child's tutor is the first point of contact should you need to discuss your child's attendance. If your child's attendance certificate has an "N" for any period, this means that we have not yet been informed of the reason for the absence and this currently indicates that it is unauthorised. Please can you let us know the reason for this absence so that we can update our records?

For all children whose attendance is above 95%, we will be rewarding with entry in to a draw, taking place later this term with an opportunity to win a range of excellent prizes.

## TOP TEN

### This week



Emma Evans

- 1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?** I am the Education Welfare and Attendance Officer. I support pupils to attend school so they can reach their full potential.
- 2) What is your favourite meal?** Quality fish and chips, eaten on the beach at the end of the day... ace!
- 3) If you were not an Education Welfare and Attendance Officer what would you be?** Wonder Woman or a mermaid (swimming in *Mauritius*)!
- 4) Who are your heroes?** Wonder Woman, Temple Grandin and my Grandmother, she is 83 and still goes to the gym!
- 5) Who are your favourite bands?** I love music so it's difficult to pin it down to one band or singer. I am currently listening to Daughter, Keaton Henson, Foals, The Jezabels and Elvis. My favourite song at the moment is 'Till I Die' by Cian Ciarán.
- 6) What is your favourite book?** 'The Old Man and the Sea' by Ernest Hemingway.
- 7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I was commissioned to do a sculptural piece of work for London Fashion week when I left university. I also have work displayed in the Midlands for a nature trail.
- 8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** Working at Poltair is a privilege. Parents, staff and pupils genuinely care, and go out of their way to make you feel part of the Poltair community.
- 9) What do you treasure most?** My family.
- 10) What one thing would you change in the world today?** I wish people would focus on being the best they can be... I think everyone would be happier.

## Maths GCSE Foundation Revision Session 8th June

Thirty committed Year 11 pupils came into school for 9.00am on Sunday 8 June, for last minute revision, in preparation for their GCSE Mathematics exam. They worked in two teams on a carousel of algebra, number, geometry and statistics activities. It was a positive experience for both staff and pupils. The pupils all worked really well, they were focused and it was obvious they were well-prepared and ready for the exam. It was a pleasure spending time with them. They were given a special treat by being rewarded at the end of the morning with Domino's pizzas.



Some of the comments received from the pupils included:- "The 45 minute sessions were really good as we were focused for the whole time", "I enjoyed revising with other pupils", "there was a good supply of food and drink to keep our energy levels up!".

**Good luck Year 11 – from the Maths team!**

## YEAR 11 YEARBOOK

The Year 11 Yearbook will be available for purchase from Mrs Chard at both breaks in the Admin Office.

(You can use your vivos).

Cost - £14.50

## World Cup 2014

During the World Cup Season the canteen will be running 'themed' days when we will be serving food from some of the participating countries. Posters will be on display in the dining area.

**Thursday 12th June to Sunday 13th July**

### Activities Week 'Special Offer' 14th—18th July 2014

Packed lunch - £2.20 per day or £10 for the five days  
Packed lunch consists of filled roll, cake, piece of fruit and carton of drink.

If you would like to take advantage of this special offer, orders should be received in the Canteen **before** 7th July.

Packed lunches for pupils entitled to free school meals will be ordered through their activity leader.

## DIARY DATES

Wednesday 25 June	<b>Year 10 Curriculum Enrichment Day</b>
Tuesday 1 July	<b>Year 6 Transition Day - New Intake Parents' Evening</b>
Wednesday 2 July	<b>Year 6 Transition Day</b>
Monday 7 July	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening</b>
Thursday 10 July	<b>Sports Day</b>
Monday 14 to Friday 18 July	<b>Activities &amp; Work Experience Week</b>
Wednesday 23 July	<b>Celebration Assembly Last day of term—School finishes at 1.00 pm</b>
Thursday 24 July	<b>TRAINING DAY—no pupils in school</b>