

## A Message From Stephen Tong - Headteacher

We have recently been working on some alterations to the School's Development and Improvement Plan in order to ensure that the improvements we seek are fully secured and reflect consistent practice across the school. We recognise, as did Ofsted during their recent visit that there are significant strengths in the school's quality of teaching but that too often momentum is lost where this 'very best' is not replicated lesson by lesson across the school. Much of our recent improvement planning seeks to address this. Moreover, we intend to work on certain aspects of our practice in bite-size pieces so that we can ensure that each move forward is consolidated and fully embedded.

It is my intention to regularly update parents and carers about these foci in the Spotlight, detailing what it is that we are focusing on, what you should hear your children talking about, what they may notice in students' work and books and what parents can do to support.

Our first focus, for the next two weeks or so, is on getting the starts to lessons spot on. If you like, a set of New Year resolutions in regard to adopting a set of non-negotiable expectations in order to make lessons and learning a success. The old adage that 'beginnings are everything' is right and so the whole community, teachers and students alike are being asked to focus on getting these 'steps to success' consistently right. The promotional material being used for this launch is shown here so that you can scrutinise the clear but simple messages for yourself. Please do read them but remember this is not about restarting but about driving for high quality consistencies.

### Expectations For Students

- 1 Line up silently in a straight line outside the classroom
- 2 On entering the classroom, stand behind your allocated chair
- 3 Without being asked or reminded, place Student Planner and writing equipment on your desk
- 4 Ensure your desk area is tidy and ready for learning
- 5 When greeted by your teacher, respond positively and politely
- 6 Take your seat when prompted to do so
- 7 Remain silent once sat so that your teacher can start the lesson promptly.

### Expectations For Teachers

- 1 Arrive promptly for the start of the lesson
- 2 Greet students at the door with a smile and warm greeting
- 3 Once students are stood silently behind chairs, check to ensure that all students have the equipment needed for the lesson
- 4 Greet the class collectively and invite to take seats
- 5 Be prepared with an activity for students to complete immediately once sat– all students active within five minutes after arrival
- 6 Ensure that all learning activities are achievable for all students
- 7 Praise students for demonstrating positive behaviours for learning

# Basic Equipment Needs

It is evident from the first few days of this new term that not all pupils are as prepared for lessons as they should be. This is in respect to both the wearing of the correct uniform and having basic equipment for use in lessons. Please can we ask you to check with your children the equipment they need for their lessons (see list) and also ensure that correct uniform is worn at all times.

Pupils are expected to have this equipment with them at all times. Every fortnight, tutors reward the pupils within their tutor group who consistently follow the 5 Ps.

## Basic equipment needs...



## Prepared For GCSEs

If your child is starting Year 9 or is in Year 10 or 11, it can also be beneficial for them to have highlighters and sticky notes which will aid their revision skills.

If you have any questions about either then do please contact your child's tutor to discuss.

## Santa Fun Run - December 2015

On the final day of the Autumn term at Poltair School, we enjoyed our annual Santa Fun Run in aid of the Cornwall Hospice. There was a huge involvement from our students and staff alike. Although no prizes for those coming first, there were medals for all who participated. Incidentally, Mr Foster (PE department) and Mr Morris (Year Manager – Year 11) ran their Santa socks off to come a “short” distance behind some very speedy Year 11 students who finished ahead of the pack!

And we have so far raised a fantastic £1540.11 for the Hospice. An excellent effort from all but a huge thank you to Daniel Allen (8MK) for raising the most money by a single student. Well done to Nyle Chapman (11MT) and Aidan Kitts (8MK) for having the “best dressed” Santa suits.

If your child still has money raised & sponsor forms for the Santa Fun Run they it should be handed to Mrs Chard in the Admin Office by Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Year 11 Parents With Mentors Evening

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

3.45pm - 6.15pm