

Industrial Action - Tuesday 5th July

Due to the National Union for Teachers (NUT) taking industrial action over pay and conditions **Poltair school will only be open to Year 10 students on Tuesday 5th July 2016.**

Please see the school website for further information.

Focus on the Computing Department Year 7 and 8 Computing

This term the Year 7 and 8 students have been learning the fundamentals of computer programming. They have started from first principles and have slowly developed an understanding of computer programs. Most of the programming we have done this term has been using the amazing Scratch programming language.

As well as programming computers we have been looking at computer games, what makes them good and what makes a classic game. The pupils often play games outside of school but for most this has been the first time they have looked at aspect such as playability and audience. Alongside this we have been learning how to write informative reviews of the computer games we have been playing.

Year 9 iMedia

The Year 9 iMedia students have been learning about graphic design, including the key principles and how to use graphics software, such as Photoshop and Illustrator. They now are able to use many of the Photoshop skills and techniques used by professionals in the industry. It has been great to see the creativity the pupils have been cultivating, especially now they are more competent with the software.

Year 10 Computing

The GCSE Computing students are all learning Python, a powerful programming language that is popular in education and powers a number of huge Internet sites such as Youtube and Instagram. They have found it really hard and challenging but are making great progress in what is an advanced set of skills.

Key Stage Three Computer Club

On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes we have held a Key Stage 3 computer club where pupils have been learning and practicing computing. The club is often very popular with students looking to carry on the programming from class or projects they are doing independently.

This Term's Star Students

This term every student has really risen to the challenge of learning programming in their ICT and Computing lessons. Three students have shone out as being exceptionally keen and skilled at computing. These are:



Elliot (Year 7)



Daniel (Year 8)



Shani-Ann (Year 10)

What are the Department Plans for Next Term?

Next term sees the arrival of a new Head of Computing, Mr Renshaw. He is going to be working on rolling out the new GCSE curriculum and continuing the Key Stage Three teaching of computing. Next term will be an exciting time for the Computing Department at Poltair School.

The BBC MicroBit

The school Computing department is waiting excitedly for a set a set of BBC Microbits. These are tiny and simple computers that the pupils will be able to program to do all kinds of interesting things. The BBC Microbit is part of a big push by the BBC and the government to get pupils more into computing and Poltair are very much behind this push.



Already a number of the students have started programming them on the emulators and making simple but fun games and other innovative programs.

Decryption Challenge

Can you crack the encrypted text below. You can do it using just pen and paper. The secret message is:

e.ivotomoc lamte saylwai rngkior wstir fhe tltui bckhiitevTrd archRi

Submit your answers to Mr Ripley mripley@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk by Monday 11th July.



*P*OLTAIR'S GOT
T★LENT
FINALISTS

Courtney Jade Rowden

Jessica Weighill/Sophie Everleigh

Shannon Rundle

Kyanna-Lee Orchard/Lydia Ellis

Abbie Burton

Kyle Lynch

Ben Bassett/Delilah Prové/Georgina Bazin/Jack Landles

Emileigh Evelyn

Holly-Ruth Martin

Grace Wells/Nicole McCullough/
Jessica Blows/Gabrielle Brown

Well Done!

FINAL: THURSDAY 7th JULY - 7pm

The final day of the 2015-16 summer term is
Friday 22nd July 2016

The school will re-open to pupils for the new academic
year in September 2016 as follows:

Tuesday 6th September 2016

Year 7 and Year 11 pupils only

Wednesday 7th September 2016

All pupils

The School will be closed on the following days in
2016-17 for staff training:

Monday 5th September 2016

Friday 30th September 2016

Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Monday 27th February 2017

Friday 30th June 2017