



# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 3  
Spring Term 2011

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

You will notice from the 'dates for diary' feature below that there are a number of significant opportunities on offer in the coming weeks for pupils and parents to receive personalised support and guidance. May I warmly encourage as many parents of Year 11 pupils as possible to attend the Parents' Evening this coming Tuesday 1st February. This provides the final formal chance to speak to all subject teachers at one time and to discuss together specific targets for pupils in these last few weeks before final examinations. Just two weeks later on Tuesday 15th February at 6.00 pm we are holding a new event for parents of pupils in both Years 10 and 11 with the aim of helping parents to understand the best ways to support their child with revision and exam preparation. The evening will include help and advice with revision materials available to buy. Please look out for details in next week's Spotlight and on our website.

Staff are currently preparing Year 9 reports and the Poltair Year 9 Options process will begin in March. Year 8 pupils will also be making curriculum choices later this year as we continue to develop our personalised curriculum approach in order to maximise pupil progress. Further details for these two year groups will follow after half term.

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

## Dates for diary

Tuesday 1st February

### **Year 11 Parents' Evening**

3.30 to 6.30 pm in the Main Hall (your child should have received an appointment sheet)

Wednesday 2nd February

### **Year 9 Business and Languages Day**

All day (pupils involved have received an invitation)

Wednesday 2nd February

### **G & T Enrichment Session**

3.15 – 4.15 pm in the Library (pupils involved have received an invitation)

Thursday 10th February

### **Year 11 Fashion Show (see poster)**

Tuesday 15th February

### **Year 10 & Year 11 GCSE Information Evening**

6.00 to 8.00 pm in the Main Hall

Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February

### **Half Term**

## 'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Chosen by Mrs Moore

As part of our focus on Literacy in the MFL Department



## le boeuf bourguignon

In the absence of a School Crossing Patrol person can we please ask parents to remind their children to cross opposite the main school entrance.

They **MUST NOT** cross by the roundabout adjacent to the Football Club.

**Student of the Week****Year 7***George*

For exceptionally good manners.

**Student of the Week****Year 8***Tabatha*

For her positive approach in Music

**Student of the Week****Year 9***Charlie*

For making excellent progress in IT lessons

**Local Health Authority Advice**

We have recently received some advice from the Local Health Authority to say that if pupils have Swine Flu, diarrhoea or any other of the highly infectious bugs going around at the moment they should return only when they are symptom free. This will help prevent the spread of the infection.

**HOMEWORK PROJECTS FOR YEARS 7, 8 & 9****Weeks 4 to 6****Monday 31st January to Friday 4th February****Subjects listed below:**

Year 7	French Humanities
Year 8	DT Food & Textiles Humanities
Year 9	Art



Welcome back. The Accelerated Readers are off to a flying start. At only two and a half weeks into the term 2 students have read over 500,000 words. Olivia Evison (Yr 8), with 637,962, leads the way, closely followed by Celeste Barberly (Yr 7) with 514,853. There are a number of other students who have also clocked up an impressive number of words.

It is great to have a room specifically for the Accelerated Reader books. In addition, there are also several computers in the area, where pupils can take their tests during breaks and before and after school.

**Mrs Hancock, Librarian**

**Animated Prize Winners**

Four Year 9 pupils saw their drawings come to life after winning a competition earlier in the year.

The four pupils spent the day at a Web Design and Animation Workshop devising their own 3D animation sequences.

Teresa Lawrance, South Restormel Consortium Coordinator, organised a competition during a careers event in Mevagissey which investigated the Diploma qualification. Students from all the local schools participated producing marketing materials – adverts, posters and presentations. The prize for the winning team was to spend a day with the Web Design and Animation tutors at Cornwall College St Austell.

The winning team of Lewis Hoskin, Amy Winter-Baker, Caitlin Pickford and Jacob Bazin (pictured right) thoroughly enjoyed their day having a go at creating their own animations and learning how web pages are created.

Teresa Lawrance said, "The winners enjoyed themselves working on a variety of media packages and were a credit to Poltair."

Speaking for the other pupils Amy said "it was a really good day and we learnt lots whilst having fun."



# Fashion Show Thursday 10 February

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO:-

- DESIGN TICKETS AND POSTERS
- PRODUCE MUSIC
- HELP AS A STAGEHAND OR BACKSTAGE
- HELP AT FRONT OF HOUSE
- SELL REFRESHMENTS

If you are interested in helping please see:-

JESS BIRCH (HEAD GIRL)

or MRS PEARSON

## POLTAIR SHOW-JUMPING TEAM

I would like to share the exciting news that we now have a show-jumping team to represent our school. At the moment it consists of Amber Whetter, Brooke Whetter and Emily White. Our first outing will be the Schools' Show-jumping Competition at the Colraine Equestrian Competition and Training Centre, Callestick near Truro on Thursday 24th February, which is during the half term break. We are expecting great things!

As time goes on we would like to open the teams to the whole school, so if you have an able pony, willing parents and transport come and see me.

Mrs Barker, School Nurse

There are thirteen flags in total and if you can identify them in the correct order from left to right you could win a prize. Entries to be submitted to Mrs Holmes by Friday 4th February with pupil's name and tutor group. Group entries will also be accepted.

## Flag Competition Reminder



**WEST COAST DANCE**

IDTA

Latin  
Zumba  
Freestyle  
Belly Dance  
Ballroom

**Mullion • Penryn • St Austell**  
For more information Tel 07851 487713

## G&T Enrichment Session- open to all G&T History

Wed 2nd February  
3.15-4.15pm- Library

Mr Lake will be leading a masterclass on Sportsmen who fought in WW1



- Drinks/snacks available
- Attendance certificate
- GTCash stickers

Confirm your attendance with Miss Venn by 27<sup>th</sup> January



Starts At Poltair School on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January

Call 01726 874579 to book

Places are limited - be sure to book early

FREE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR POLTAIR PUPILS

18:30 - 19:15	Junior Freestyle Dance - Years 3 - 6	£2.25 per session
19:15 - 20:00	Junior and Senior Ballroom / Latin dance - Years 5 - 11	£2.25 per session
20:00 - 21:00	Senior Freestyle Dance - Years 7 to 11	£3.00 per session

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

## KEY EXAM DATES:-

Year 9 Set 1 (2010 GCSE)	Unit 1	Monday 7th March - am
Year 11 Sets 2, 4, 5, 6 Year 10 Set 1 (2009 GCSE)	Module 5	Monday 6th June - pm Friday 10th June - am
Year 11 Sets 3, 3a, 7 (2009 GCSE)	Linear	Monday 6th June - pm Friday 10th June - am
Year 10 Set 2 & 3 (2010 GCSE)	Unit 2	Tuesday 21st June - pm

## Revision Classes

Tuesdays 3.15 – 4.05 pm

Year	Level	Syllabus	Teacher	Room
11 & 10	Higher	Module 5	Mr Boden	S14
11	Foundation	Module 5	Mr Clooney	S17
11 & 10	Foundation	Linear	Mrs Kellow	S13
10	Higher	Unit 2	Miss Fairweather	S16
10	Foundation	Unit 2	Mrs Walker	S15

## Equipment needed for all Maths lessons and exams:

Scientific Calculator  
2 Black Pens  
2 Pencils  
Eraser  
Pencil Sharpener  
Clear 30cm ruler  
Compass  
Protractor



## PUZZLE



How can I get the answer 24 by only using the numbers 8,8,3,3.

You can use the main signs add, subtract, multiply and divide.

Entries to Mrs Kellow with name and tutor group. Vivo points to be awarded to any correct entries.

## UKMT

Poltair has once again entered the UKMT Mathematics Challenges. Gifted and Talented pupils from Years 7 to 10 will solve intriguing multiple choice questions, which are designed to stimulate interest in Mathematics. They, along with over 600,000 pupils from across the country, will compete for the top places and entry into the British Mathematical Olympiad.

Years 9 & 10 - 3rd February 2011

Years 7 & 8 - 6th May 2011

## MyMaths

We would ask that you get involved with you child's Maths. Some parents have expressed an interest in having a go at MyMaths, one of the interactive on-line software packages that we use as a learning tool for our students. We would definitely encourage this as a way of supporting us in developing the skills and techniques we are trying to promote. If you would like to have a MyMaths account please do let us know. All students have access to MyMaths at [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) and the school login details are *poltair* and *circle*. Each student also has their own account details which will record the effort they put in to out of school learning.

# Maths Homework and Revision

## How can I help?



**W**e know the importance of giving our children chances to connect with us. You should feel good if your child comes to you for help with Maths homework.

If you're unsure about Maths, don't panic! There are still ways to help - just keep reading.....

If you're good at Maths, don't take over. You'll help most as a guide.

No matter what your own experiences are with Maths, there are questions you can ask that will help your child as will a smile and a little encouragement.

Although this isn't a script, you may want to try these questions:

- What is the problem you're working on?
- Let's look at it together.
- What do the instructions say?
- Which words or instructions don't you understand?
- Where do you think you should begin?
- What do you already know that can help you work through the problem?
- Tell me what you've done so far.
- Where can we find help in your notes?
- Are there similar problems to look at?
- Let's try drawing a picture or making a diagram.
- What did the teacher ask you to do?
- What problems like this one have you had before?
- Tell me where you're stuck.
- Who can you call to get help?
- Who is your learning buddy?
- Can you skip this problem and go on to another?
- Why don't we look for some help on MyMaths?
- Can you go in before or after school for help from your teacher?
- Should we tackle this when you're not so tired?

## TOP TEN



**Mrs Kellow**

- 1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?** Lead Teacher in Mathematics.
- 2) What is your favourite meal?** My mum's roast dinner.
- 3) If you were not a Teacher what would you be?** A Crime Scene Investigator.
- 4) Who is your hero?** Anyone that has supported me in becoming the person I am today.
- 5) Who is your favourite singer/band?** Blur.
- 6) What is your favourite book?** As a child anything by Enid Blyton – now anything!
- 7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I like to Scuba Dive.
- 8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** The friendly and caring atmosphere.
- 9) What do you treasure most?** My family.
- 10) What one thing would you change in the world?** Fighting.

