

# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 3

Spring Term 2009

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

## FAMILY LEARNING DIPLOMA – A HUGE SUCCESS

We are very pleased to announce that the first of our Family Learning Diploma evening workshops was a resounding success. The first event, held on Wednesday evening, was a 'Cornish Language Night', and was attended by pupils, past and present, parents and friends of the school from throughout the community. Together we took our first steps in saying our first words and holding conversations in Cornish. We were ably assisted by our visiting presenters, Jenefer Lowe and Pol Hodge. They did an excellent job and the evening was thoroughly engaging and enjoyable. The Cornish Language Night was the first in a number of community events being held over the coming months and I am very grateful to Sean Hewitt for putting the programme together. The next evening titled 'Who Do I Think You Are?' is all about tracing your ancestry and takes place on Wednesday 25th February.

## SMOKERS

I would like all parents and pupils to be aware that we are about to take a no nonsense, zero tolerance response to the small number of pupils who try to smoke in and around the school site. It is totally against school rules, is seen as intrusive and threatening by large numbers of other pupils, and in terms of the school site is actually illegal. Any pupil caught in the act of smoking will receive an automatic period of time in the Internal Exclusion Room. I would like to add that this will also apply at the end of the day for all pupils when in the immediate vicinity of the school. I know that I can rely on the support of our parents and carers in making this very important stand.

Stephen Tong  
Headteacher

<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>	Saturday 24th January to Sunday 1st February	<b>Ski Trip to Alpe D'Huez, France</b>
	Monday 26th to Friday 30th January	<b>GCSE Mock Exams Week (Year 11)</b>
	Wednesday 28th January	<b>Year 10 Parents' Evening</b> (Smith Block 3.15 – 6.15 pm) An important opportunity to meet with subject teachers to report on pupil progress
	Thursday 5th February	<b>Year 9 Curriculum Evening</b> (Sports Hall 7.00 – 8.00 pm) A 'Showcase' for Year 9 Options
	Tuesday 10th February	<b>Year 11 Parents' Evening</b> (Smith Block 3.15 – 6.15 pm) An important opportunity to meet with subject teachers to report on pupil progress
	Friday 13th February	<b>Training Day</b> (No Pupils in school)
	Monday 16th to Friday 20th February	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
	Wednesday 25th February	<b>Year 9 Parents' Evening</b> (Smith Block 3.15 – 6.15 pm) An important opportunity to meet with subject teachers to report on pupil progress

## Year 9 Pathways

Year 9 pupils will be attending a seminar during lessons on Tuesday 3rd February when they will be given their Pathways Booklet. This is the beginning of the important Options process. As there are more courses than ever on offer this year, it is vital that pupils make the most of all opportunities to discuss their decision making process with parents, tutors and teachers. Pathways forms must be handed in by Thursday 26th February.

## *Darren Tooley*

YEAR 7 STUDENT  
OF THE WEEK

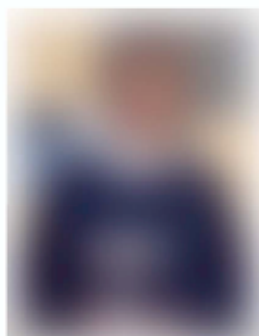
For effort and number of merits obtained since the beginning of term.



## *Hannah*

YEAR 8 STUDENT  
OF THE WEEK

For exceptional cheerfulness and enthusiasm.



## *Connor*

YEAR 9 STUDENT  
OF THE WEEK

For good attitude to work in Science.



### **Duke of Edinburgh Training 1 - Eden area**

Friday 16th January

The D of E Bronze group had great fun and sang lots of songs during their training. Everyone said it was really useful and great fun!

#### **Team Sierra:**

Michael Southey; Abi Duckworth, Emily Duckworth, Chris Shand, Darren Ould

#### **Team Tango:**

Ollie Scott, Jonathan Sheppard, Graham Endean, Justin Hooley, Matt Chandler



### **Ten Tors Checkers Training on Dartmoor**

Saturday 17th January

A team of checkers (parents and ex-Poltair parents) arrived at Four Winds car park for training on Saturday. We spent the day walking two of the 'Checker' routes up to Great Mis Tor and Lower White Tor. En route skills and techniques were consolidated by what had been delivered in the classroom.

I would like to say a massive 'thank you' in advance to everyone who gave up their time to be part of the Ten Tors Checkers team.!

Miss Blackburn (Team Manager)

#### ***Duke of Edinburgh Training***

Thursday 29th January Cardinham Woods

#### ***Ten Tors Training***

Sunday 1st February Dartmoor

### **Student Council Report from Conner Pearce**

At our recent meeting we looked at the new proposals for making the Code of Conduct as clear as possible. This item has already been put into action and the 'Traffic Lighting' system is on view in every classroom. It is an effective discipline code to be followed by all staff and pupils.

Pupils have requested through the Council that there is clearer signage about the menu on offer in the Canteen, so that they can see the selection while they are queuing.

Some pupils have complained that teachers are setting too much homework. Mr Tong will remind staff to stick to the Homework Timetable and tutors will be reminded to check Pupil Planners.

Finally there is a vacancy for a Year 10 Rep. as Greg Pinto has left Poltair, if you are up for the challenge then speak to Mrs Golding, who supports the work of the Student Council.

Please note that the weekly Spotlight and any archived Spotlights, together with news items, are available to view or download from the school website [www.poltairschool.co.uk](http://www.poltairschool.co.uk)