

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 5

Parents' Information Newsletter

Summer Term 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

The new build programme comes to an exciting stage during the half term break as we take partial possession of the 'Heart of School' building. This will give us the new reception and the cyber café areas of the build. This 'hand-over' allows us to release the west end of Smith block to the builders so it can be reconfigured into three new classrooms. As a result the school reception will move to its new location. Therefore from 1st June when visiting the school please report to the new reception, which will be signposted, and is centrally located at the front of school, between East Block and West Block. Earlier this week the Maths, English and Humanities Sections moved to their temporary homes for the rest of term to allow the builders access to West Block. Their work will last until the end of August and will cost in the region of £1million. At the start of September we will take possession of five refurbished classrooms, a new Head's Study and school admin. centre. Exciting times indeed!

Let's hope the weather stays fine and you enjoy a lovely half term break. School returns on Monday 1st June at 8.30 am.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Data Collection Form (all years)

You will have received a data collection form for completion, please ensure this is returned to your child's Tutor. It is very important that we have up to date information on the school system.

Poltair teams Ten Tors success 2009

Poltair has been training teams for Ten Tors since 2000. Under the motto of 'Start together, hike together, finish together', all Poltair participants have completed the Ten Tors Challenge to date as complete teams.

This year, Poltair 35 mile team (Ollie Scott (Team Leader), Michael Barnell, Oli Elston, Ben Mace, Jonathan Sheppard, Michael Southey) and 45 mile team (Emma Hide (Team Leader), Hari Caple, Justin Hooley, Dan Murphy, Darren Ould, Neil Sanders) were just two of the 400 teams taking part. Helen Blackburn, Ten Tors Team Manager and Outdoor Education Co-ordinator for Poltair, said 'Words cannot begin to explain how proud I am of the young people I train. Ten Tors captivates the souls of thousands of young people and I am sure it has captivated the teams of 2009.'

Headteacher, Stephen Tong said, 'As always the event is superbly managed by Helen Blackburn and executed brilliantly by the dedicated and hard working team members. It is not by accident that the 35 mile team recorded the fastest time by a Poltair 35 mile team in the history of the school entering the event. It is an absolute honour to have these outstanding young people representing Poltair School at such a fantastic event.'



35 mile team at the finish



Emma Hide with
team certificate



45 mile team filmed for BBC Spotlight

Shana

YEAR 7 STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Polite and friendly member of the Tutor group. Settled in well after only being here for a short time



Jade

YEAR 8 STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For determination to succeed.



Abi

YEAR 9 STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For outstanding progress



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 25th May to
Friday 29th May**
Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 9th June
Year 7 Parents' Evening
(Parents will be notified)

Praise of Poltair pupils

Sue Holden, a representative from the national consultancy firm IGEN needed to interview a selection of pupils from across the county this week and she was especially impressed with a Year 9 group from Poltair.

Chris, John, Santos, Tom, Joel, Kieran and Nicola from Mrs Peters' Tutor group (9MP) discussed the Year 9 option process, explaining its strengths and how it could be improved.

At the end of the day Sue said that "whereas groups elsewhere have just looked at the floor the Poltair pupils had been willing to speak up about all the aspects of Options".

Teresa Lawrance, Diploma lead for the South Restormel Consortium, summed them up as a "lovely group".

St Austell Bowling Club and Poltair School Community Bowls Project

In May 2008 St Austell Bowling Club ran a hugely successful Taster Day when over 100 pupils from Poltair School tried out the game of bowls. Following on from the Taster Day, which was the launch of the St Austell and Poltair School Community Bowls Project, 20 Poltair pupils attended weekly sessions at the club and competed in a league for which they received trophies in the school summer term Achievement Assembly.

The initiative was so successful that seven of the youngsters have become full junior members of the club and compete regularly. The most notable achievement is that of Conner Pearce who has competed in the final of the English Bowls Youth Development Scheme (EBYDS) competition in Exeter. Jamie Rickard, Josh Gilbert and Andrew Hodgkiss have all taken part in the Cornwall U25 Team Trials.

The Club has been working with Bowls Cornwall to develop the initiative and has obtained funding through Cornwall Sports Partnership's 'Sport Unlimited Project'.

On Tuesday 12th May 2009 coaches from the club and Bowls Cornwall hosted a second Taster Day for 80 pupils from Poltair School, 30 pupils from Biscovey Junior School and 20 students from Cornwall College St Austell. The day was a huge success and it is hoped that young people will continue to engage with the community club by attending a 10 week programme of coaching sessions each Tuesday evening after school. It is hoped that the partnership between school and club will continue to develop the sport of bowls across the St Austell area in the coming year.



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