



# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 6

Parents' Information Newsletter

Summer Term 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

### Timings of the School Day

I am writing to let you know about our proposal to make some changes to the timings of the school day from September 2011. As you will be aware we have already decided to introduce a school day made up of three 100 minute lessons. As a result of this there is also a need to alter other aspects of the timetable. Movement time between lessons will no longer be needed. This means we would like to introduce a slightly later start in the morning and a slightly earlier finish. Consequently we can maximise the time available after school for clubs, study support and activities. We will also be able to time the two breaks into slots which we believe will be better for our pupils and staff.

The proposed timings are:-

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 0835 - 0900 | Tutor time / Assembly   |
| 0900 - 1040 | Lesson 1  |
| 1040 - 1105 | Break 1   |
| 1105 - 1245 | Lesson 2  |
| 1245 - 1320 | Break 2   |
| 1320 - 1500 | Lesson 3  |
| 1505 - 1630 | Poltair+ (after school study support and extra-curricular activities) |

Poltair staff and governors have already been consulted and have approved these changes. However, it is important for parents to have your say and so we will hold a meeting in the school library on **Wednesday 22nd June** at 6.30 pm to give you the opportunity to discuss the proposal and raise any questions. If you intend to come to this meeting, please email my PA Ann McPherson [amcpherson@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:amcpherson@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk) by Monday 20th June so that we have an idea of numbers.

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

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

## Maths

Tues 21<sup>st</sup> June

3.15-4.15pm- \$15

Mrs Walker will be leading a session on **Shadows and Time**



How did we start to time events?

Why are shadows important?

Confirm your attendance with Miss Venn by 20<sup>th</sup> June

- Drinks/snacks available
- Attendance certificate
- GTCash stickers

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

## Food Technology

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> June

3.15-4.15pm- T7

Miss Partis will be leading a food master class called **'Tastes of Summer'**



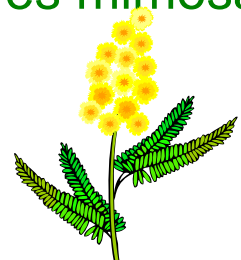
Confirm your attendance with Miss Venn by 22<sup>nd</sup> June

- Drinks/snack available
- Attendance certificate
- GTCash stickers

### 'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Chosen by Madame Grau Teaching Assistant As part of our focus on Literacy in the MFL Department

**Des mimosas**



### Dates for diary

Monday 27th June  
**Sports Day**  
(Reserve Day Thursday 30th June)

Monday 4th July to Friday 8th July  
**Work Experience Week  
& Activities Week**

### YEAR 8 STUDENT OF THE WEEK

*Moisha Horsefield*



For serving the school community - supporting reception and being an excellent student ambassador.

### YEAR 9 STUDENT OF THE WEEK

*Chloe Dalzell*



For punctuality, 100% attendance and no behaviour points.

### Cashless Catering – Feedback

The biometric data capture went well last week with the vast majority of pupils having their thumbs scanned and turned into a four digit code without any problems. The installation of the revaluation machines started this week and they should be up and running on Monday 20th June, ready to take their first payments.

It is our intention to run the new and old systems side by side until the end of term allowing everyone to get used to the new system prior to it being the only system the pupils can use in September.

We thought it might be useful to publish some of the most frequently asked questions and answers so everyone is fully in the picture.

**Q. Is my finger print stored on a computer system?**

A. Your finger print was scanned and six key points were turned into a four digit code unique to you. The code is recorded on the system, **your finger print is not**. The scanners will then recognise the same points on the finger and therefore recognise you in the future (very much like a bar code).

**Q. How can we credit money to my account?**

A. In two ways for now, one by bringing money into school and feeding it into the revaluation machines as demonstrated in pupil assemblies last week, **OR** by bringing a cheque into school made payable to 'CHARTWELLS' and handing it in to the school office – it will then be credited to your account.

**Q. When can I use the revaluation machine?**

A. At morning break and at lunchtime.  
Remember to credit your account in advance before purchasing food.

**Q. How do I check if I have credit on my account?**

A. The revaluation machine can tell you the balance on your account.

**Q. I am entitled to a free meal, how does it work?**

A. The allowance is credited to you at the beginning of each day to allow you to purchase your meal. **(This allowance, if not used, will not carry over to the next day).**

**Q. Can anyone else use my account?**

A. No – a unique number is allocated to each pupil and a photo image of each pupil appears on the tills. Anyone found using someone else's account will be reported to the school. At the tills the lookup is by photo only.

**Q. What happens if I forget my money to credit my account?**

A. You will need to see a member of staff to authorise and cover the cost of a meal – this **MUST** be paid back in full the next day.

**Q. Am I able to use the internet to credit my account?**

A. Not at the moment but we are in the process of setting this up and aim to have it available by October this year – further details will follow.

## Fairytales County Art Competition – 30th June

As reported in last week's Spotlight, Art work developed by Poltair pupils will be on display at an exhibition at the University College Falmouth on 30th June.

The list of pupils exhibiting:-

### Year 9

Daisy James  
Casey Job  
David Winter  
Lee Vincent  
Haidee Bark  
Victoria Hooper  
Shannon Pascoe  
Michael Carne  
Nicole Gilbert  
Kirra Graham  
Amy Hollins  
James Lewis  
Shaunna Manley-Davies  
Shannan Stephens  
Jade Truman

### Year 10

Matthew Collings  
Andreas Dowling  
Emma Hudson  
Bobby Long  
Jessica Lewis  
Shannon Wheat  
Krystian Chmielewski  
Danielle Swiggs

# OPEN EVENT

**Saturday 18th June 10am - 12noon**

Find out about A-levels, Diplomas, Apprenticeships, Practical Skills Training, Professional Qualifications, Degrees and much more.

Visit us at our campuses at Camborne, Newquay, Saltash, St Austell and Falmouth Marine School



**Mrs Verona Mayhew**



## TOP TEN

**Mrs Christine Pearce**



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?</b>                       | We are both technicians, working for several departments in the school:- Food Textiles Technology, Art, Music, Design Technology and Drama. We also supervise children at break/lunch times in the canteen.                                |
| <b>2) What is your favourite meal?</b>                             | Pasty<br>Anything I haven't cooked myself<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b>  |
| <b>3) If you were not a technician what would you be?</b>          | A looked after woman!<br>A very, very rich woman or a trained dancer!<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b>  |
| <b>4) Who is/are your hero(es)?</b>                                | Myself for all I have achieved in my life on my own.<br>My mother and father.<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b>  |
| <b>5) Who is your favourite singer/band?</b>                       | I'm not interested in music.<br>U2, Status Quo, Bon Jovi, The Eagles.<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b>  |
| <b>6) What is your favourite book?</b>                             | I don't have a favourite.<br>'The Valley of the Dolls' by Jacqueline Susann or as a child 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King.<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b>  |
| <b>7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?</b> | I have been a Foster Mum for 20 years.<br>I once went on a date with David Essex!<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b>  |
| <b>8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?</b>                    | The variety in my job role, the staff I work with and especially working with Christine!<br>The friendly work colleagues, great children and the 'other half' Verona (honestly I wasn't paid to say this!)<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b> |
| <b>9) What do you treasure most?</b>                               | I am not at all sentimental – so nothing!<br>My children and jewellery which has sentimental value.<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b>  |
| <b>10) What one thing would you change in the world today?</b>     | Jobs for all the young people ... like there used to be when I left school.<br>For all people to be treated as equal and for no one to be unhappy.<br><b>Mrs M</b><br><b>Mrs P</b>   |

# Design Technology: Food, Textiles and Catering

The DT Food/Textiles/Catering Department has two full-time members of teaching staff Miss Partis and Mrs Peters. Ms Lobb has also taught Food Technology to Year 8 this year. We also rely very much on our technician team Mrs Dinsdale who also works in school as a Teaching Assistant and Mrs Mayhew and Mrs Pearce who are always very flexible and supportive and have many roles in school.

## GCSE Catering

This course is becoming a very popular one. We have three groups in the current Year 10 who will complete their GCSE next summer in Year 11, and they have already begun their controlled assessment work.

Next year in the new Year 10 there will be a further three groups starting the course. With the introduction of Year 9 options another class in the new Year 9 will also begin the GCSE and hopefully complete the course and take the written exam at the end of Year 10. Thus we will have approximately 120 students who potentially will gain the catering GCSE qualification in the next two years and be able to move confidently on to a Catering and Hospitality course at College. With the tourist industry being a major employer in Cornwall these catering qualifications are a way to gain employment in the tourist industry.

### Course Content:

The industry – food and drink  
 Job roles, employment opportunities and relevant training  
 Health, safety and hygiene  
 Food preparation, cooking and presentation  
 Nutrition and menu planning  
 Costing and portion control  
 Specialist equipment  
 Communication and record keeping  
 Environmental consideration

### Examination Requirements:

60% Two practical assessments and supporting written work – plans, recipes, evaluation etc.  
 40% Written exam – catering, food and the consumer.

Here are pictures of our current Year 10 students preparing a range of dishes to illustrate imaginative use of fruits and vegetables.

Connor Couch preparing ingredients for a potato salad.



Reece Cameron whipping cream to decorate a cheesecake.



Bruce Rogers making chicken and vegetable stir fry and Fajitas.



Bruce Rogers and Connor Couch proudly showing off their dishes.

**FOOD  
 GLORIOUS  
 FOOD!**

Kaye Pedley's finished fruit salad.



A display of products from the Year 10 group.



## Parents of children



May 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians

### **Re: MMR and measles outbreaks**

This is to alert you that France is currently experiencing a large outbreak of measles with over 3000 cases confirmed this year. Outbreaks have also been reported in countries bordering France and in other parts of Europe. [http://www.euvac.net/graphics/euvac/pdf/2011\\_jan\\_feb.pdf](http://www.euvac.net/graphics/euvac/pdf/2011_jan_feb.pdf)

There has been a much smaller increase in confirmed cases of measles during the past month in the UK. The vast majority of cases have occurred in persons who are unimmunised and most cases are in older children attending secondary school, in students attending university and in adults. Many of these cases have links to cases in France.

**There is considerable risk that your child may catch measles if they are not protected against the disease. Unless your child has already received two doses of vaccine, we would advise you to obtain MMR vaccination before travelling to mainland Europe.**

### **Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine**

Immunisation with MMR vaccine is the safest way that parents can protect their children against measles, mumps and rubella which are diseases that can have serious consequences for babies, young children and their families. Not all people respond adequately to a single dose of vaccine, so to ensure greater protection, people need to receive two doses of MMR. Two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine offer full protection against the three illnesses, provided the first dose is given from 12 months of age.

In the UK two doses of MMR are usually given, the first at around 12 months and the second around the time of school entry.

- If your child is older than 12 months of age and has never had MMR, please contact your GP to give the first dose as soon as possible.
- If your child has only had a single dose of MMR a second dose will improve the level of protection.

If you require further information then please do not hesitate to contact your local Health Protection Unit. For further information also go to:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Measles/>

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Kealy".

Dr Mark Kealy  
Acting Interim Unit Director SW South HPU

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Felicity Owen".

Felicity Owen  
Director of Public Health, NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Cornwall Council, Council of the Isles of Scilly