

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 7

Autumn Term 2011

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been quite a half term for everyone at Poltair School; busy, focused and productive. New school uniform, 100 minute lessons, zero tolerance when it comes to behaviours and consequences, the new House System, Ofsted, the Taster Day, the Open Evening, Prize Afternoon and hosting the Pearl of Africa choir, just to name a few.

Indeed, in reflecting upon some of these high profile events, it is with great pride that we consider how positive Poltair School looks and feels in the autumn of 2011. Visitor after visitor has remarked on the ethos, calmness and sense of common purpose when they have joined our learning community. A colleague from another school commented just this week on the professionalism of our staff, the high quality of the teaching and learning, the welcome they received from adults and children alike and indeed the respectfulness and good behaviour of the students.

With this in mind, we can all look forward to a well-earned half term break. Please enjoy.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Dates for diary

Friday 21 October to (Tewington House
Saturday 22 October Charity Event)

Monday 24 October to
Friday 28 October (Half Term)

Monday 31 October
On-site training – NO PUPILS IN SCHOOL

Tuesday 8 November
Year 10 Work Experience Evening
7.00 – 8.30 pm in the Main Hall

Thursday 10 November
Class of 2011 Certificate Evening
To arrive 6.00-6.15 pm for 6.30 pm start in the Main Hall

Wednesday 16 November
Individual Pupils Photos

Friday 18 November
Children in Need Day (special events)

Tuesday 22 November
Year 9 Parents Evening 3.15 – 6.30 pm in the Main Hall

Good luck to Team Tewington who will be taking part in the '24 hour' House Charity Event in order to raise money for Cancer Research. The event is taking place in the school Main Hall today and tomorrow and 36 pupils are aiming to keep an exercise bike pedalling for 24 hours. The event commenced at 12 noon today and will finish at 12 noon tomorrow. Although this event is for Tewington House pupils, any donations will be appreciated for Cancer Research the chosen charity. Please send any donations to school for the attention of Mr Foster.



Match Match Reports



U12 Girls' Netball Tournament at Brannel Wednesday 12 October

This was the first tournament for the Year 7 girls and we were concerned we would not have enough volunteers to make a team but thanks to last minute support from Ebony Brooks we presented a strong team. The girls, captained by Sadie Davey, played four games and won all four. Each game was played with confidence and speed. What we lacked in defensive tightness we made up for in shooting accuracy. Emily James was awarded 'Star player' earning 10 extras vivos and all girls received 30 vivos for representing the school. We look forward to seeing more Year 7 girls at practice on Tuesday nights.

Team: Sadie Davey (Captain), Emily Crane, Emily James, Ebony Brooks, Katie Wenmouth, Alana Marks and Keira Briden.

U14 Girls' Netball Tournament at Poltair Wednesday 12 October

The Under 14 girls started the season extremely well with a 2nd place finish in a mini-tournament held here at Poltair. We have a strong team this year, they gelled well and quickly began showing some silky skills in moving the ball down the court, keeping possession and scoring about 90% of their shots taken. They played a total of 4 games - wins against Penrice A (4-1), Penrice B (3-0), Roseland (3-0) and a loss against Fowey (a closely fought game finishing 3-2). The girls should be proud of their 2nd out of 5 teams and I am sure will continue to do well in any remaining fixtures; they were a pleasure to coach as always.

Team: Tori Marks (Captain), Emily White, Lauren James, Millie King, Chelsea Payton, Beth Powell, Gemma Floyd-Norris, Casey Mounce, Darrian Lee.

Half Term and Christmas Holiday Outdoor Activity Days at a reduced rate of £12pp!

BF Adventure has been awarded a limited pot of funding to subsidise positive activities for young people for the next 4 months (first come, first served). Sessions run from 10am – 3pm during holidays or at weekends and will include activities such as team building, canoeing, archery, climbing and zip wire. Support with transport or the cost of transport may also be available.

Please call 01326 340912 or email nicolaa@bfadventure.org



MUSIC STUDENT OF THE WEEK

10 October

Ethan Vogwill (7MP)
(violin)



POLTAIR
Poltair School invites you to a
Family Fun Quiz Night!
Thursday 1st Dec 2011
6pm - 8pm

FREE PASTY SUPPER
To book
Tel: 01726 874 570
leastwood@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk

Raffle in aid of CLEAR
(Supporting Children who have witnessed or have been victims of domestic abuse)

Sponsored by



Cornwall Learning
Education Business Partnership

Watch out for full details
after the half term break.

SPOTLIGHT ON DESIGN TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

RNAS Culdrose 12 October

As a Design Technology Department we were pleased to have been actively involved in taking six pupils on a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Activity to RNAS Culdrose. Our pupils rose to the challenge of building a crane to rescue a stranded scale model Merlin Helicopter. Out of the nine schools taking part Poltair narrowly missed first place coming second overall with a team of Year 9 pupils who competed against some teams of Year 10 pupils from other Cornish schools.



Pupils L to R: Alisha, Hope, Kieran, Jessie, Ryan and Matt in the control room for the Merlin Helicopter flight simulator at RNAS Culdrose during the STEM visit.



Merlin Helicopter

**Report on the day by
Alisha Armstrong**

It was a great opportunity for us to visit RNAS Culdrose last week. The day was incredible in my opinion. Not only did we build a crane to lift a Royal Navy Merlin Helicopter but we were given a tour of HMS Seahawk too which was an added bonus. It was phenomenal to see how the helicopter pilots are trained. There were 9 secondary school teams in total and Poltair came 2nd. I feel that our team did ourselves and Poltair proud. In our team two of us were structural engineers (Ryan and Kieran) another two of us were mechanical engineers (myself and Hope) and the final two were the electrical engineers (Jessie and Matthew).

It was amazing how much I learned, for example how to be part of a team and to experience first-hand what it's like to work with people that I may not have worked with before. I also learned that an initial idea is not always going to be your final idea and we as a team had to make modifications to make our crane slick and to be the best it could be. I feel honoured to have been given the chance to be a part of this challenge and to be an ambassador for the school.

We learned some fascinating facts about the Merlin Helicopters such as each individual Merlin Helicopter costs around £50 million pounds and just one helicopter rotor blade costs £250,000 (5 of these blades are needed on the helicopter)!

Hope said: "It was a good day out and I learned a lot. I met new people and after hearing about the helicopter pilots and their jobs I would seriously consider joining the Royal Navy."

Matthew explained: "It was good fun seeing how different designs work in extreme conditions and learning about the career options the Royal Navy provides."

TOP TEN



James Axe

- 1) **What exactly do you do at Poltair?**
I teach design technology, work skills, science and have just introduced the NOCN step-up course.
- 2) **What is your favourite meal?**
A Cornish pasty.
- 3) **If you didn't work in a school what would you be?**
A boat builder.
- 4) **Who are your heroes?**
Harry Ferguson and Gladys Aylward.
- 5) **Who is your favourite singer/band?**
No Such Thing as Silence: John Cage's 4'33".
- 6) **What is your favourite book?**
The Kon-tiki Expedition and Colman's Drive.
- 7) **Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?**
I was in Red Square as the tanks rolled in at the start of the Russian Coup of 1991.
- 8) **What do you enjoy most about Poltair?**
Pupil success.
- 9) **What do you treasure most?**
My family.
- 10) **What one thing would you change in the world today?**
Poverty and injustice.

Step Up Course



**Year 9 pupils
marking out and constructing
a canoe.**



With canoe clockwise from left:
Shane, Curtis, Reece, Martyn,
Aaron, Kaylem, Lewis, Callum and
Shane.

Many activities are now taking place within the department both during and after the school day. The most recent additions include a Robotics Club and the building of a 16' Canadian Canoe using the stitch and glue plywood construction technique (see Poltair + for details).



KEEP THIS BY THE PHONE OR ON YOUR FRIDGE!

POLTAIR SCHOOL

Poltair +

Nov & Dec 2011



DAY	TIME	CLUB	USEFUL INFORMATION	STAFF/WHERE?
MON	3.15 – 4.30	Fitness Suite	Get fit using your own fitness programme.	Mr Shepherd
		Percussion Ensemble	Everyone welcome, learn how to make music the fun way	Miss Johnston - music practice rooms
TUES	Break 2	Fitness Suite KS3		Mr Shepherd
TUES	3.15 – 4.30	Badminton	All years	Club Staff - Sports Hall
		Christmas Toy Making	Y7&8, make your own toys ready for Christmas gifts	Mrs Peters T9
		Robots	Y7,8,9 make a robot	Mr King T4
		Maths Revision	Y10 &11	Maths staff
		Netball	All years	Miss Owens & Miss Bailey
		ICT	Homework and improve skills. All years	Mr Jones E7
		Homework Club	For all subjects and all pupils	Mrs Warwick in SSC
	3.15 - 5.30	BOYS FIXTURES	See Mr Marshall for a Fixture List	Various
WED	3.15 - 4.30	Maths Catch Up	My Maths, Homework, or just general help! All Y7, 8 & 9 welcome	Mrs Warder & Mrs Lean in E8
		Fantasy Football	Budding Managers all year groups	Mr Montgomery
		Social Football	All years, all abilities welcome	Mr Booth - Astro
		Fitness Suite	All welcome	Mr Shepherd
		Christmas Cake Club	Make and decorate your own cake in time for Christmas	Miss Partis T7
		Geography Booster sessions	All GCSE Geography pupils	Miss Hughes W3
		Origami	The art of making objects from paper!	Mrs Hulbert Dance Studio
		Dance	Boys and Girls All welcome	Mrs Lobb T2
		DT Catch Up	All years, spend time perfecting your work	Ms Oram - Music
		Choir	Love to sing, you will love this	Mrs Warwick in SSC
	Homework Club	For all subjects and all pupils		
3.15 – 5.30	GIRLS FIXTURES	See Mrs Booth for a Fixture List	Various	



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POLTAIR SCHOOL

Poltair +

Nov & Dec 2011



DAY	TIME	CLUB	USEFUL INFORMATION	STAFF/WHERE?
THURS	Break 2	Fitness Suite Y7&8 Football	Fancy a kick about? Just bring trainers	Mr Shepherd Mr Watkinson - Astro
THURS	3.15- 4.30	Science STEM Club	Y9	Miss Brader & Mr Martin S4 Jamie Sports Hall
		Basketball	Plymouth Raiders Coaching All welcome	Field
		Boys Rugby	All welcome	Mrs Booth
		Girls Fitness Suite	All girls welcome	Miss Bailey
		Girls Rugby	Learn the basics of the game and roll in the mud!!	Various
		1-1 Maths	Targeted pupils	Mr Jones E7
		ICT	Homework and improve skills. All years	Mrs Warwick in SSC
		Homework Club	For all subjects and all pupils	Miss Johnston music practice rooms
		Song Writers Club	Learn how to make musical magic! GCSE students particularly welcome.	Various
	3,15 – 5.30	BOYS FIXTURES	<i>See Mr Marshall for a Fixtures list</i>	
FRI	Break 2	Y9, 10 & 11 Football	Fancy a kick about, just bring trainers.	Mr Watkinson Astro
FRI	3.15 – 4.30	Trampolining	Great fun, fab exercise. Just for fun or work towards your skills awards.	Mr Strickland Main Hall
		Fitness Suite	Staff Only	3.15 - 5.30
		Dodgeball	Great fun! Throw balls at people! ALL WELCOME	Miss Owens Sports Hall

Enhancement Buses - run on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 4.30 pm from the front of school.

Don't forget your **ORANGE** bus slip

Remember that you get 10 Vivos for attending an after-school club from the teacher who runs the club.