



# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 4

Parents' Information Newsletter

Summer Term 2012

## Dear Parent/Carer

We have received much positive feedback from the wider community about how smart our pupils look in their uniforms and the vast majority of pupils tell us that they are proud to wear their House ties and that they feel positive about themselves in their uniform. In this edition of Spotlight you will find definitive guidance about uniform requirements. Should you have any queries or need clarification please do not hesitate to contact the school before purchasing new items.

As I write St Austell is swathed in thick fog – we do hope that this clears before our intrepid Ten Tors Teams set off on this year's challenge at 7.00 am on Saturday. We do wish them success in their venture after their months of hard work and preparation.

A polite reminder that the consultation process for the St Austell Foundation Trust is now open. May I encourage you as key stakeholders to ensure that your opinion is expressed. The relevant papers can be accessed via the school website [www.poltairschool.co.uk](http://www.poltairschool.co.uk)

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

## DIARY EVENTS

<b>Wed 16 May</b>	School Athletics Years 7 & 9 Par Running Track 4.00 – 6.00 pm
<b>Wed 16 May</b>	Piano Workshop with Richard Meyrick concert pianist 4.00 – 6.00 pm
<b>Wed 16 May</b>	St Austell Foundation Trust Meetings Main Hall (1.30 – 6.00 pm)
<b>Fri 18 May</b>	Year 9 STEM Careers Day
<b>Mon 21 May</b>	Primary Cricket Festival Astro Turf 1.00 – 4.00 pm
<b>Thurs 31 May</b>	Tewington House Fine Dining Evening Main Hall 5.30 – 10.00 pm
<b>Monday 4 June to Friday 8 June</b>	Spring Bank Holiday

## Ten Tors Challenge 2012

The last few days are ticking down to 07.00 Saturday 12th May. The preparation and training (tough as always) has been completed, the kit will be checked... and re-checked by scrutineers. The adrenaline begins to bite... and Dartmoor is waiting...

Congratulations to David Winter (Leader), Jack Barnell, Abby Crane, Will Ratcliffe, Dan Rowe and Ruby Waterfield on being selected for the 35 mile team. Reserves: Ryan Mace & Rhys Dedman-Harris. 45 mile team: Jack Lobb (Leader), Luke Bryant, Stephen Bryant, Ben Caney, Georgina Hide and Ben Mace.

Good luck to both teams in their personal and team aspirations this weekend for the Ten Tors Challenge 2012.

**H Blackburn (Team Manager)**



# HOUSE STARS

## FORTHCOMING HOUSE TEAM EVENT

### TEWINGTON HOUSE FINE DINING EVENING THURSDAY 31 MAY

An evening where you will be wined and dined by the finest quality waiters and waitresses (the teachers) and be served a delicious three course meal of your choice, followed by a movie. Tewington pupils have been given full details regarding the event.

#### TEWINGTON

*Megan*  
8CH

For continuing to follow the 5Ps; as a result she has no behaviour points. Her tutor feels she is a great ambassador for the school and house group.

*Megan*  
11ABR

For her consistently positive attitude to learning.

#### TREVERBYN

*Laura*  
7KL

For having 100% attendance, no behaviour points and for her excellent work in Maths.

*Glenn*  
11JHK

For having no behaviour points, excellent attendance and punctuality, as well as always following the 5 Ps.

#### TRENANCE

*Catherine*  
8KP

For positivity and generally following the 5 Ps.

*Ivanna*  
10HV

For excellent attitude on 'Fit for Work Day' and generally improved behaviour.

#### TREGREHAN

*Emily*  
9PM

For continued positive contributions to Tregrehan House.

*Aaron*  
10KR

For a positive attitude.



ST. AUSTELL  
Town Council

ST AUSTELL  
WELCOMES  
THE FLAME

# Olympic Torch Relay is coming 3.44pm 19th May

Family fun, music, sports,  
food throughout St Austell



Cornish themed event in **TRURO ROAD PARK**: (12.30 - 3.30 p.m.) with St Austell Town Band, folk musicians with Cornish dancing and children's entertainment including face painting and magician. Refreshments will also be available. At 2.30 p.m. there will be a performance by Kernocopia - Cornwall's contribution to the opening ceremony at the Weymouth and Portland Olympic Opening Ceremony.

In **WHITE RIVER PLACE**, entertainment includes The Cornish Wurzells from 12 - 3pm, all day children's activities - bouncy castle, obstacle course, trampolines. Find 'Oily Flame' teddy bear by identifying flags of contenders in the Olympics. Come along and take up the rowing/cycling challenge.

**POLTAIR PARK BIG FLAME FEST** is a celebration party for all between 10-1 p.m. Live music and dancing from the students of Cornwall College St Austell, as well as local chefs cooking up culinary delights. Bring your picnic, sit, relax and enjoy the morning. Have a go at bowls, rifle shooting and football. At 12 pm, join the attempt to beat the World Record for the number of people having a cream tea.

Family Fun Event at **WOODLAND ROAD**: Spots and Stripes family sports, St Austell Bay Radio, children's entertainment with face painting, balloons and story book reading. Performance from the Mount Charles Band.

For more information visit: [www.visitcornwall.com/whats-on/olympic-torch-relay](http://www.visitcornwall.com/whats-on/olympic-torch-relay)

# ROCHE CRICKET CLUB



- Roche Cricket Club -  
Youth training sessions for Summer 2012

Now the football season's finished come and give a proper game a try!

We are particularly keen to recruit players in the Under 13 age group  
(school years 7 & 8 - up to and including age 13)

Training is on Sunday mornings from 10.30am to 12.00pm at  
Roche Cricket Club (next to the football ground)



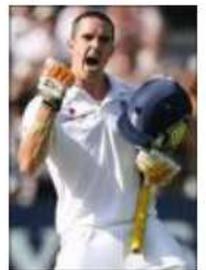
~ All sessions (and matches) cost just £2 ~

There will be league games in all age groups as well as tournaments and friendlies through the season. But most of all there's the FUN of playing cricket, making new friends and getting fitter!

For more information contact **Ian Harvey** on **01726 810036**

Or just turn up for a session on a Sunday. You know you want to!

See you soon at the RCG!!



# Spotlight on Humanities

***“Taking learning out of the classroom context gives young people with different strengths and learning styles the chance to shine, improving relationships between peers and strengthening student-teacher relationships. These impacts have a lasting effect both back inside the classroom and in later life,” so says Paul Rose a presenter, explorer, naturalist.***

It is such sentiments that the Humanities Faculty has endorsed this year with a view to developing them even more in the future.

It is perhaps timely to briefly re-cap what the Faculty has achieved outside the classroom since their last Spotlight:

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Mrs Golding accompanied pupils to Truro Girls High School to debate “Evil”. *What does it mean to be human? If death is natural, why isn't it wrong to prevent someone from dying? Is embryonic selection morally right?* Those were just some of the questions posed during an all-day religious philosophy and ethics conference our pupils attended in January. Leading British academic Dr Peter Vardy was the speaker, addressing a range of topics like ethics and assisted reproduction, Catholic natural law, utilitarianism and the problem of evil and suffering and concluding with a debate about whether a belief in God can be justified in the face of horrendous evil.

"It's been really good and made me think about what I'll do at college," said Ella Fage, a Year 11 student. "Some people have tried to put me off studying philosophy at A Level but now I am confident how useful it can be."

**GEOGRAPHY:** In February Miss Hughes, in conjunction with PE's Mr Adams, led a trip to the new Olympic Stadium. The trip covered many key Geography aspects including development and tourism. As Miss Hughes said, “We were using a unique location to inspire learning in a range of subjects and at all levels.”

No doubt influenced by the London Eye experience and well-known beef burger, Year 7 pupil Caleb Hocking thought it was “the best (school) day ever.”

**HISTORY:** In March it was Miss Venn's trip to the battlefields of the Western Front. Much has been said about the trip already but as Miss Venn points out, “The trip was more than a lesson about the Great War. Many of the pupils were travelling abroad for the first time and experiencing a new culture and seeing the world in a different light.”

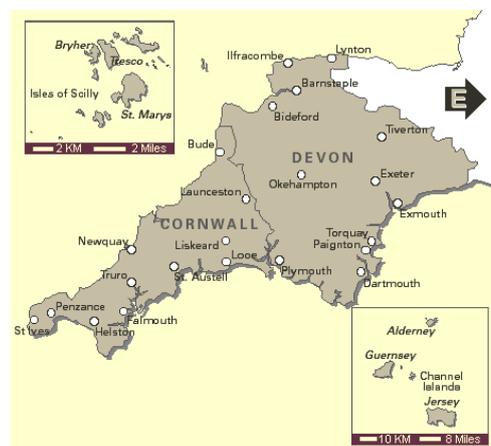
School trips - an awful lot of organising; the on-line health safety and the risk assessments all take a time and we are fortunate that our staff are so committed to such ventures. Humanities is about improving pupils' understanding, skills, values, personal and social development and act as a vehicle to develop capacity and motivation to learn. As Mr Lake says, “the team works really hard in organising these trips and have exciting plans for the future.”

## **IDEAS FOR DAY TRIPS**

With the summer fast approaching we asked the Humanities Faculty if they could recommend a day trip which would incorporate some learning.

**BEDRUTHAN STEPS** - A superb short but steep (!) walk on the north coast, offering a vast array of erosional features such as sea caves, arches and stacks. Check the tide times before you go and take some sensible walking shoes! Not to be missed – a cup of hot chocolate and a slice of cake in the cliff top tea rooms. (Miss Hughes)

**THE GEEVOR TIN MINE** is an evocative and often moving monument to an industry indelibly associated with Cornwall. Not to be missed: the cafe. Its huge window offers magnificent views over the industrial landscape and the Atlantic. (Mr Pope)



**LANHYDROCK HOUSE** is a magnificent late Victorian country house with gardens and wooded estate. Not to be missed: the kitchens, nurseries and servants' quarters of Downton Abbey times. (Miss Venn)

**THE JAPANESE GARDEN AND BONSAI NURSERY** is a beautiful oasis of tranquil gardens where East meets West. Not to be missed: the Zen viewing house for a unique spiritual experience. (Miss Truscott)

**THE CAMEL TRAIL** – Wadebridge to Padstow. Excellent views of the Camel estuary showing different types of land use along the coast. Take a rest to see how the river changes along the path and marvel at the sandy beaches of Padstow and Rock. Not to be missed – having a paddle in the sea at Padstow to relieve aches and pains! (Miss Hughes again!)

**PORTREATH-TEHIDY COUNTRY PARK:** This coastal and woodland walk takes you from the quaint surfing beach of Portreath, west along the coastal path giving views for miles along the erosional coastline of Cornwall. See the evidence of recent rock falls and if you're lucky, seals playing in the gentle surf before walking inland through the old Bassett Family stomping ground of Tehidy Country Park. Not to be missed: Ralph's Cupboard - a striking rock formation with crystal blue sea surrounding it.

**TRURO CATHEDRAL :** Cornwall's magnificent triple spired mother church. Not to be missed: a number of children's trails for families to use. (Mrs Golding)

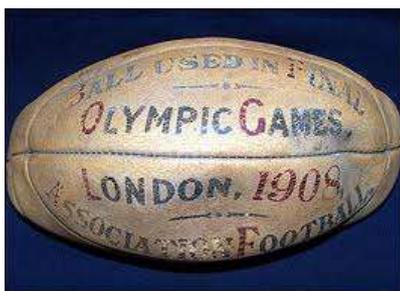
**GRIMSPOUND:** Dartmoor's most impressive prehistoric site sprawls over a gorse-covered slope in the heart of the moor. Not to be missed: the stone paving leading up to the impressive original entrance on the enclosure's southeast edge. (Miss Libby)

**THE MAYFLOWER STEPS,** on Plymouth's historic Barbican, the spot from where the Pilgrim Fathers set sail in 1620 and helped found a nation. Not to be missed: the Mayflower passenger list, painted on a wooden board outside Island House in the adjacent street. (Mr Lake)

## **THE LONDON OLYMPICS 1908**

With London about to enjoy its third Olympics Mr Lake recalls the first time Londoners hosted the event...

Concerns over the weather, the ticket prices, boycotts and terrorism won't be original in 2012 as they were key features of the 1908 Games. The shorts were too long, the swimming pool was too green, and some of the winning athletes were helped along by friends and alcohol, yet London's first Olympics set the template for the modern Games.



The 1908 Olympics were heading for Rome until Mount Vesuvius erupted in 1906 and the Italians suddenly had other priorities. With just two years' notice, London came to the rescue.

Within 12 months, the world's first purpose-built Olympic Stadium was erected by George Wimpy at Shepherd's Bush, and the £60,000, 70,000-seat stadium became known as "White City" after its ugly concrete structures.

Indeed, the 1908 games were far from perfect. 1,971 men competed but only 37 women (in archery, tennis, ice skating and yachting). However, three weeks before the Games opened, a "monster meeting" demanding votes for women took place in Hyde Park and the pressure applied by the suffragettes may have resulted in more "ladies' events" in future Olympics.

It started in the April with the rackets event at Queen's Club. This, it must be said, was a flop. Every single entry was British and the final between E.B. Noel and H.M. Leaf did not take place because Leaf had hurt his hand. Noel won gold without hitting a ball.

The rugby was equally farcical. Just one team, Australia, turned up to play only to find that Britain's top rugby players had set off for a tour, of all places, to Australia.

The motor-boating was, literally, a washout. Gales blasted the Solent course which attracted five British boats and one French. In the first race - a battle between the Duke of Westminster and Lord Howard de Walden - both

boats had to withdraw or face sinking. The 1908 Olympics eventually went down as the wettest in history. Now, there's a challenge for 2012!

There was, however, no shortage of enthusiasm for the athletics events when they were opened by Edward VII in July. This involved the first proper opening ceremony... and first boycott threat.

At the opening ceremony, the flags of China and Japan - with no athletes at the Games - were flown instead of those of Sweden and the United States who had. Furious their flag was not flying; the American team marched into the stadium, but refused to dip their flag to the King whilst the Swedes gave the ceremony a miss. The Finns, who had been told to carry a Russian flag, marched with no flag. Some of the Irish competitors, who had been told to parade under a British flag, refused to march at all.

But, for the first time, there was a serious gathering of international athletes. And 1908 is remembered chiefly for the Marathon. Held on a warm July day, the favourite was Canadian Tom Longboat. But he collapsed after 19 miles, possibly not helped by the champagne his assistants gave him en route. The Canadians claimed he had been drugged.

This led the way for diminutive Italian confectioner Dorando Pietri to lead the race all the way to the stadium (it had started outside Windsor Castle) with only the odd nip of brandy for sustenance.

Heat, exertion, and possibly the brandy, combined to make Pietri collapse five times and run the wrong way in the final stages.

A posse of helpful officials, including, it is said, Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, helped the exhausted runner over the line - and led to an official complaint from the USA. This was upheld and Pietri's gold was given to the second finisher, American Johnny Hayes, while fighting broke out in the stands. Public - and royal - sympathy rallied around Pietri. The next day, Queen Alexandra presented Pietri with a gold cup to the jubilant acclaim of another packed house. The Italian had achieved global immortality and Conan Doyle raised £300 for him.



Dorando Pietri at the finish line



Bad blood between the Americans and their hosts festered throughout the Olympics. The Americans abandoned the tug-of-war, arguing their British opponents, the Liverpool Constabulary, cheated by using spiked boots.

The Americans lodged an average of one official protest a day, from the too-long running shorts to the ban on having coaches on the field. Team manager James E Sullivan, an irascible Irish-American, became a hate figure in British newspapers, while US periodicals decried "unfair" and "snobbish" British refereeing. In 1908, as

at all previous Games, the officials came from the host nation.

They also, maybe understandably, questioned the decision to give a gold medal to test cricketer Johnny Douglas in the middleweight boxing division. A final verdict on a split decision was called by the referee, Douglas's own father!

The disagreements reached a climax in the final of the 400 metres which was contested by three Americans and one Englishman, Wyndham Halswelle. Halswelle was adjudged to have been obstructed by the American J.C. Carpenter, who was disqualified. When the American protested the race was re-run, but the Americans refused to compete so Halswelle jogged round the track alone, leaving the Americans to complain their treatment had been 'cruel, unsportsmanlike and unfair'.

After 1908, the International Olympics Committee made a raft of improvements, including unified rules, lanes in running events and a requirement that Olympic officials come from more than one country.

But British competitors at London 2012 must look back ruefully on one fact from the Fourth Olympiad: it was the first (and last time) that Britain ever topped an Olympic medal table.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 <a href="#">Great Britain</a> (host nation)	56	51	39	146

# Top Ten - Tom



**1. What option subjects do you do and what is your role in the Senior Prefect Team?**

I have chosen Hospitality Level 2 Diploma, History and a twilight in Spanish. My role in the senior prefect team is House Captain for the Blue House (Tewington).

**2. What is your favourite meal?** My brother's homemade pasta mushroom gratin.

**3. What job would you like to do in the future?** I would like to be a professional chef.

**4. Who are your heroes?** My Mum and Dad because they have always supported me in everything I do.

**5. Who is your favourite singer/band?** I actually have three Dire Straits, Uncle Kracker and Cee-lo Green.

**6. What is your favourite book?** Nation by Terry Pratchett.

**7. Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I was presented with the St Mewan School Citizenship Award at the end of Year 6 which I'm very proud of.

**8. What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** The friendly atmosphere.

**9. What do you treasure most?** My friends and family.

**10. What one thing would you change in the world today?** Poverty.

## **HUMANITIES QUIZ**

It would not be a Humanities Spotlight without one of Mr Lake's quizzes and, as promised, this one is harder than usual. It's tough! In keeping with our 'out and about' theme tackle these Cornish questions.

1. Where is *Troy Town*? And who wrote it?
2. Which town has beaches called Porthminster and Porthmeor?
3. Which was the first Cornish town to be lit by electricity?
4. Where is the smallest parish in Cornwall?
5. Who re-built Pentewan Harbour in 1825?
6. Which National Trust Garden is opposite the King Harry Ferry?
7. What structure is found on the Gribben Head?
8. Which saint is the most popular patron of Cornish churches?
9. Where did Thomas Hardy spend his honeymoon?
10. Which Cornish borough was Sir Francis Drake the MP?



Making a concession this time Mr Lake says that the prize winner will be the person who sends him **the most correct answers** by 26th May. (In the event of a tie there will be a draw)

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