



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 11

Parents' Information Newsletter

Summer Term 2012

IMPORTANT 2012 to 2013 dates and holidays in this edition

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of a very busy school year it is time for us to recognise the efforts of those staff to whom we will be saying goodbye at the end of term.

Sarah Mortiboys will be leaving Poltair School after working closely with all of our community partners firstly as the Partnership Development Manager for the Poltair School Sports Partnership and then latterly as our Network Manager and School Games Officer. Sarah has worked hard in challenging circumstances to maintain and develop the school's excellent community sporting legacy as she takes her up her new post as School Games Officer in London.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to two staff who have covered maternity leave and a fixed term supply contract in English. Fiona Stevenson has worked with energy and commitment in PE and we wish her well for her new post at Cornwall College. Carla Connors has worked as a dedicated member of the English team and she leaves with our gratitude and best wishes.

Kimberly Oram will also be departing after two and a half years at Poltair School. Her passion for Music was clear to everyone throughout her tenure at Poltair. It was a great shame that throughout the last part of Kimberly's time with us she has been unwell. However, we would like to wish her all the best for the future involving, I believe, bespoke Music tutoring services.

In Kimberly's stead, since January, we have been fortunate to have secured the temporary presence of Hannah Taylor. Joining us as a supply teacher, with a long journey to work and initially a very unclear pattern of available work, Hannah threw herself into school life and the teaching of Music. It could easily be forgotten that Hannah had no permanent contract arrangement with us or indeed that she is in the first year of teaching! We have been truly fortunate and we would like to wish her every success in her new post as Teacher of Music at Pool Academy.

Similarly, we will be saying goodbye to Jane Nicholas at the end of this year. Jane joined us at the beginning of the year when it became clear that Paul Barrows would not be able to return to school. Jane 'stepped into the breach' of planning, teaching, marking and organising to the benefit of all, not least the pupils. Indeed, at one point, alongside Sue Booth she found herself running the ICT department. We are very grateful to Jane for the perfect demonstration of 'going the extra mile', time and time again.

Ben Montgomery has been a member of our Mathematics team for this year. He was watched by an Ofsted inspector on just the second day of his career – what a way to start! However, this did not put Ben off and he has worked hard on behalf of the pupils at school both in his endeavours in the classroom and involvement in the wider life of the school. I am pleased that at the end of his first year in teaching, Ben has successfully secured a further post as Teacher of Mathematics at Penryn College.

James Axe will be leaving Poltair School after eleven years loyal service with the school as a Teacher of Design and Technology. Beloved of his tutor group, James is a very patient and considerate teacher, who used his genuine personal enthusiasm for 'making' and 'doing' as a driver for pupils to become engaged in big projects in the school. In the last year the very successful 'Step Up' carpentry course, made very much his own by James's enthusiasm, deserves particular commendation. Sadly James has been unwell in the last few weeks but we would like to wish him a speedy recovery and good fortune for the future.

Suzanne Hopkinson joined Poltair School in 1994 and will be retiring this summer, having worked diligently and passionately throughout this time. Suzanne has been a key part of the Science team and its remarkable renaissance in the last few years. She has embraced the changes that came with this, maintaining her enthusiasm for teaching, her subject and most importantly, her belief in all young people to have the best chance in life. We wish Suzanne every happiness in her well-earned retirement.

Peter Booth leaves Poltair School after 14 heady years, firstly as the school's Director of PE and Sport and then as the Director of Premises, Projects and Finance. There will remain two huge legacies of Pete's work. Firstly there is the school's connection with sport. As one of the very first Sports Colleges, the school's reputation amongst the community for high quality PE, extra-curricular opportunities and community and club links is very strong and Pete was instrumental in establishing this. Secondly, our building stock is good. Pete ably oversaw the significant refurbishment and new build work that took place three years ago but has also tirelessly ensured that the remaining facilities are in good repair. Indeed, external visitors always comment on our buildings! Pete will be missed for his teaching of PE, his common sense outlook on matters both professional and personal and his sense of proportion and sense of humour. He was the 'go to' man for many who wanted support and to many (including Headteachers) who wanted something sorted out. Pete retires this summer and can look forward to a richly-deserved retirement

Tony Lake joined Poltair School in 1979. Thirty-three and a bit years later, in the Summer of 2012, Tony will retire having spent his entire professional career loyally and passionately serving the needs of the young people of St Austell. To 'serve all of your days' in this way is remarkable and fantastic, whether as Teacher of History, long-serving Co-ordinator of Careers Education or Head of Humanities. As one might expect of a History teacher with such longevity and such a rich association with the school, Tony is the unofficial archivist of the school's history. In the last week of his career, he has been entertaining the staff with nuggets from the archives. Interestingly, a pattern has emerged. The school (and Tony himself) may have seen many changes. But Tony himself is always 'near the front'. Tony has always been there to embrace change, or shape it, or adapt to it, to advise on it or lead it and make it happen. (We were pleased to note Tony's personal memorandum to staff regarding the possible early uses of the Internet). Tony is rightly proud of his legacy in the Humanities faculty; they are a genuine team who do things right. Moreover, under Tony's stewardship this togetherness, experience and passion has been used to support and develop the careers of a significant number of other colleagues. Tony is a selfless man, wholly entwined with the fortunes of the school he has served so loyally. He deserves to have a long and fruitful retirement.

On behalf of the whole school community I would like to express our gratitude to every one of our staff leavers for their effort, commitment and enthusiasm. We wish them the very best for the next stage in their professional and/or personal lives. To the rest of the staff I would like to say a very big thank you for their unswerving hard work during the course of this last year. Their belief in Poltair School and its pupils is a critical ingredient in creating successful starts for young adults of today. They deserve a well-earned holiday.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our pupils (and their families) a restful, enjoyable and exciting summer holiday break. Let us hope that the summer is finally here and that all pupils can pursue hobbies and interests, indoors and out. I would like to remind them to keep themselves safe and free from harm and look forward to seeing them again refreshed for the start of the new school year.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

New Timetables in September

We will be issuing the pupils their new timetables at the start of the new term in September. A number of groups will be re-organised to ensure that each pupil is placed in the most appropriate group for them to achieve. Year 7 pupils going into Year 8 will be placed in ability groups for most subjects based on their progress this year. This may involve certain pupils moving between 'populations' to ensure they are in the best group for them. For Key Stage 4 pupils there may be further changes early in the new term once exam results have been analysed, for example where a pupil may have taken GCSE English or Maths exams and the result means they need to move group for extra challenge or further support.

If you have any questions about your child's setting please contact the school in September.

Helen Holmes, Director of Curriculum

Art, Science and Maths Workshop

A workshop took place on Thursday 21st June with the artist Simon Thomas; who uses mathematical formulas and nature to construct his sculptural work. The workshop consisted of an introductory slideshow/talk about how Maths is expressed in the artist's work, students then used resources to investigate geometric and mathematical form. They also investigated percentages, projections, platonic solids, spherical networks; this was connected to the artist's work.

Our overall aim was for the students to create and make permanent art forms linking to science and maths; we hope to continue with the development of this project within the STEM Club.

Mr Butterworth and Mrs Whitbread-Aburat supported the day which was held in the Art Department at Poltair.



2012 Cornwall School Games

The Performing Arts Year 9 students had the opportunity to be part of the 2012 School Games that was held at Newquay Tretherras on the 22nd June. It was an incredible day and surprisingly hot and sunny. The students worked hard to produce two stunning murals that represented the sports events taking place. Miss Taylor also helped to support the project with Mrs Whitbread-Abrutat who had organised the project through her AST outreach work.

Also as part of the School Games the Poltair Equestrian team collected Silver Medals at a hotly contested competition at Marazion, earlier in the term.



Years 7 to 9 have been engaged in their Annual Activities Week - Rebecca Hempenstall of Year 10 has been our 'roving reporter' sending us an insight into Activities Week.

Readathon Week (25th – 29th June)

Pupils have expressed some really positive comments regarding the Reading time, which they enjoyed in different lessons and subjects.



Thank you also to our Guest Readers who read extracts from their favourite texts to pupils during lunch times in the library. Year 7 and 8 students really enjoyed listening to the readings.

The very enthusiastic Dance and Drama group said they enjoyed the Drama and learning all the different types of Dance. *"I felt that it was an amazing experience and if I could do Dance and Drama again next year, I would!"* - Sarah Linsley, Year 9

The Fame Academy were so busy with their fantastic music, none of them had time for an interview! However, I managed to track down a pupil on Work Experience to give her view: *"I was on Work Experience and I found it really helpful to interact with the younger years. Everyone here has really enjoyed the week and although we had a good laugh, we have been working extremely hard."* - Sarah Cridge, Year 10

Although it has been raining, it wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of the Sun, Sea and Surf group! Before they departed to the beach, Adam explained:

"I mainly enjoy the different beaches and the swimming and I have made loads of new friends. It has been a really funny week and I would recommend it!" - Adam Barnicoat, Year 8

This week, I have been attending my Work Experience with Miss Dunn in the Arts and Crafts department. All this week we have been making all sorts of fun things like designing our own coffee mugs and scented candles; everyone here has been stuck in, enjoying all the different activities. We started the week on a positive note, creating life-size flags supporting our countries in the Olympics, United Kingdom, Portugal and Romania (see pictures).



A Level taster day at Cornwall College St Austell

A group of Year 9 students enjoyed a challenging and unusual learning experience when they spent the day at the A Level Centre of Cornwall College St Austell. They worked with the college A Level tutors and students from the University of Exeter to research and debate the topic: 'What is the greatest challenge to humanity in the 21st century?'

Students had to put their thinking skills to the test as well as manage their own time and teams. A variety of issues were explored including the threat to human rights, the emergence of a homogenised global culture, consumerism, childhood obesity, the freedom of the press, the increase in the world's population and computer hacking.

Many students spoke of relishing the independence the challenge offered them and the opportunity to think and debate as if they were real A level students. The experience certainly gave them a taste of the potential offered by Further and Higher Education and was a great success.



POLTAIR YEAR 11 Leavers' Ball

Over 100 Poltair students dressed in their finery to attend the Year 11 leavers' ball at the Seahorse Centre Pentewan. A range of elegant and quirky vehicles ranging from stretch limousines to a Thai tuk-tuk transported the students to the fantastic venue where they were greeted by teachers delighted to meet them on the red carpet. A host of special awards were given out to students voted for by teachers in categories such as 'most sophisticated student' (Katie Cooper-Matthews), 'most enthusiastic dancer', (Gina Hide) 'most co-ordinated couple' (Whitney Bennett and Alex Boothby).

Stephen Tong thanked the staff of Poltair who had organised the event, especially Gemma Owens, and the very helpful staff of the Seahorse Centre. 'It was a wonderful evening and we feel very proud of our students. We wish them all well for the future.'



Balloon Race results

WINNER:- Emily Job

RUNNER UP:- Playtime Nursery

Balloon tickets will start going on sale from September 2012 as the Balloon Race will now be an annual event at Poltair School.

**SCHOOL
UNIFORM
REMINDER**

A navy “v” neck sweatshirt with an embroidered school logo.

This is not optional. All pupils are expected to have a sweatshirt.

No hoodies or alternative sweatshirts are allowed. If worn, they will be confiscated.

A plain white shirt

White slips, t-shirts or vests can be worn under the shirt. They should not be visible below the hem of the shirt, at the neck or at the sleeve.

No coloured or patterned undergarments can be worn under the shirt. Shirts must be tucked in.

Black trousers

These should be of a standard material and pattern.

Jeans or tracksuit style trousers are not allowed.

Trousers should not contain any designer buttons or studs.

Trousers should sit smartly at the waist and on the ankle/shoe line.

Socks should be black, white or natural.

For full information regarding uniform please go to:-
<http://www.poltairschool.co.uk/Information/Uniform.html>

School tie

The ties are clip-on and therefore school shirts need to have a top button for the tie to be worn properly.

House ties must be worn by all students.

Black footwear with black laces

Black plain shoes which should be made of leather, or look as if made of leather. All the following are unacceptable; coloured laces, high heels, canvas, coloured trim, trainers with logos and boots.

Black pleated skirt

The skirt should be of a length appropriate for school. A guideline would be for the hem to be no more than one credit card length from the top of the knee.

With skirts, black opaque or natural tights or white socks can be worn.

Coats and jackets

We advise all pupils to have an appropriate outdoor coat to bring to school during cold and/or wet weather.

A hoodie does not count as an outdoor coat. Coats should not be worn inside classrooms.

Pupils can obtain a waterproof jacket with the embroidered school logo.

School Uniform Suppliers

**Cornwall Screenprint & Embroidery
72 Stennack Road
Holmbush Industrial Estate
St Austell PL25 3JQ**

Tel: St Austell 01726 68689

IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP	
Thursday 23 August Reception/Cyber Café 10 to 12 noon (Year 11) 11 to 12 noon (Years 9 & 10)	SUMMER 2012 GCSE RESULTS Years 9, 10 & 11 to collect in person Year 11 results not collected will be sent home by 1st class post. Years 9 and 10 results not collected will be put into registers for distribution in September.
Monday 3 September	Staff Training Day - No pupils in school
Tuesday 4 September	Year 7 start at Poltair (Team Building Day) and Year 11 return to school
Wednesday 5 September	Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school.
Thursday 6 September	Year 11 College Courses start today (remember boots and overalls)
Friday 7 September	Year 10 College Courses start today
Wednesday 12 September	Individual School Photos
Wednesday 19 September	Year 6 Taster Day – Poltair pupils remote learning day
Thursday 20 September	Open Evening 6.00 to 8.30 pm

**CORNWALL COUNCIL
SCHOOL TERM DATES
2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR**

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AUTUMN TERM 2012 (75 days)

3 September – 21 December
(Half term 29 October – 2 November)

SPRING TERM 2013 (54 days)

7 January – 28 March
(Half term 18 – 22 February)

SUMMER TERM 2013 (66 days)

15 April – 23 July
(Half term 27 – 31 May)

No pupils in school

STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Monday – 3 September
Monday – 5 November
Friday – 21 December
Monday – 22 July
Tuesday – 23 July

YEAR 6 INTAKE (Open) DAY

Wednesday – 19 September



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Christmas Day	25 December 2012
Boxing Day	26 December 2012
New Year's Day	1 January 2013
Good Friday	29 March 2013
Easter Monday	1 April 2013
Early May Holiday	6 May 2013
Spring Bank Holiday	27 May 2013
Summer Bank Holiday	26 August 2013