



# SPOTLIGHT



Issue 2 Autumn Term

Week ending 13 September 2013

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

## Welcome to Poltair School

One week back into the school year, it already feels that we are very much 'back in the saddle' and down to business. Even for those of us not new to Poltair School, beginning our association as a member of staff or as a pupil, there is always something very special about the beginning of the year. A time for reflection and resolution. A time to set out our stall and work hard so that dreams can be realised.

Of course, for those pupils joining Poltair for the first time, primarily in Year 7, the sense of anticipation, awe and wonder are considerable. Navigating the site is the first challenge. Remembering all the names the next. Packing the right equipment for the right lessons on the right day is also often a new thing. I would very much like to welcome all our learners (and their parents) to the Poltair learning community. I hope that it is the beginning of an exciting, memorable and special time in the development of their young lives. Remember, we only get 900 days with each child to prepare them for adulthood; each one is precious and we need to work together to make it happen.

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

## Newly configured Leadership Team

Poltair School starts the new school year with a newly configured Leadership Team. This includes some new and recognisable faces as well as a new structure and some new strategic roles. The pupils were formally introduced last week during assemblies, although they were well aware of the changes having been involved in all of the interview processes. Joining Stephen Tong, Headteacher, will be two Deputy Headteachers; Melanie Haselden and Claire White.

Alongside them will be three Assistant Headteachers; Ross Mack and Steve Watkinson will already be well-known to our community as will Tammy Brain in a very short space of time. This is a very exciting moment in Poltair's ongoing improvement journey. We can feel rightly proud of another record-breaking year completed with every confidence that we have some very exciting people in charge of exactly the right elements of the school so that it gets even better still.



# *Poltair School*

*believe & achieve*

## Open Evening

A chance for you and your child to look at Poltair together  
Thursday 19 September (6pm to 8.30pm)

## Parent Information Evenings

Tuesday 17th September 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Tuesday 1st October 7.00pm - 8.00pm

## Open Mornings

A more intimate visit to our school.  
Meet the Head and Senior Prefects

Tuesday 17th September

Friday 27th September

Thursday 3rd October

Monday 7th October

Wednesday 9th October

Please contact the school to book an appointment



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

For more information telephone 01726 874520  
or visit [www.poltairschool.co.uk](http://www.poltairschool.co.uk)

### Year 6 Taster Day – 18 September 2013

On Wednesday 18 September, Poltair School will be welcoming Year 6 pupils from all of the local primary schools for the annual Taster Day. This is a valuable experience for youngsters to see and experience Poltair School, thereby allowing pupils and their parents the opportunity to make an informed decision about the secondary school that they will attend.

Consequently all Poltair pupils will have a 'remote learning day' and will not be in school on that day. Pupils can expect to have work provided for them by the teachers that they would normally see on that day.



**Poltair NAC/ LAC Summer School 2013**

**Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre**

During the first week of the summer holidays some of the new Year 7 Poltair pupils from various primary schools took part in a Summer School. These pupils enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to meet their new peers, staff and student prefects. They undertook a variety of exciting activities, which helped build confidence, boosted their numeracy and literacy skills and most importantly encouraged them to have fun!

The pupils and teachers had a great time completing the challenges and tasks set by the Porthpean staff. Just some of the activities included; archery, mountain biking, orienteering, canoeing, rock pooling, high ropes and loads of team building tasks like ‘The Beast’ and ‘The Gutter Run’.

We plan to offer this amazing opportunity to next year’s new Year 7s and hope to get even more young people involved!

**The School Catering System and Use of Biometric Data & Pin Numbers**

Dear Parent/Carer

In July 2013 we wrote to you and asked you to provide us with written consent for us to use biometric data held on your child for use in the school canteen’s automated (i.e. electronically-operated) recognition system. After processing the returned consent forms, we have a number of pupils for whom we will no longer hold biometric data. This is down to a parent either not giving consent for us to use biometric data or not returning the consent form.

In the absence of consent to use biometric data we have put in place a pin number system to allow pupils to use the school catering system. Instead of using their “finger prints” the pupils will enter a unique pin number which they have been given. They will be asked to keep this number secure and confidential. If lost they can contact a member of the canteen staff to replace the number.

If your child has been issued with a pin number and you wish them to use the biometric system, then please contact school and ask for a copy of the consent form which should be signed and returned.

Pupils for whom we have received consent will continue to use their biometric data as normal.

**Mr I Foy  
Office Manager**

**DIARY DATES**

**Wednesday 18 September**

Year 6 Taster Day—Poltair pupils’ remote learning day

**Thursday 19 September**

Open Evening 6.00 to 8.30 pm

**Wednesday 25 September**

Year 11 Group Photos

**Wednesday 23 October**

Year 9 Parents’ Evening



**Cornwall  
Chess**



**Junior Hub—a club for junior players**

**Truro Library 1005-1205 on Saturdays 14 Sept, 12 Oct**

**My First Chess Tournament**

**Saturday 21st September, Penair School, Truro TR1 1TN**

Details at [www.cornwallchess.org.uk](http://www.cornwallchess.org.uk)  
[contact@cornwallchess.org.uk](mailto:contact@cornwallchess.org.uk) 01872 858602

## MY FIRST WEEK AT POLTAIR SCHOOL BY YEAR 7

**P** – PE is the best. I love all sports; they are great!

**O** – Over excited! I am always over excited to go to lessons.

**L** – Lessons are exciting and I love to learn!

**T** – Teachers are always here to help us learn.

**A** – Art can sometimes be messy, sometimes neat, but always fun!

**I** - Intelligent – we have to be intelligent to get good scores in our GCSEs!

**R** - Remember the Poltair 5P's!

Aimee

"As the first lesson arrived, I felt apprehensive. What would the teacher be like? What would the other children be like? But I was also filled with excitement as I was ready to embrace the challenges that lay before me. As I wandered from lesson to lesson, all my worries disappeared and I was loving my first day at Poltair school!" **Emily**

**"It's so amazing to be with happy teachers and I love how we have got different classrooms with lots of different people. I love my new school and hopefully, I will follow my dreams! It is a delight to be at Poltair School."** Jazmine

"The most awesome thing about my first week was 'Magical Maths'. It was really fun. Although I was a little nervous before I started, I didn't need to be! Maths was great!" **James**

"This week I have made lots of new friends already! The teachers are really kind and caring!" **Mia**

"My first week at Poltair School was brilliant! My first ever lesson was English with Mrs Bond. We had so much fun!" **Bayley**

### Year 10 STEM trip to the University of Plymouth Science and Technology Showcase

Pupils who have an aptitude for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics were invited to attend the Plymouth University Science and Technology Showcase on Tuesday 11 September. The pupils had two hours to visit various faculties at the University, trialling activities they may need to complete if they were a student.



The activities included: finding out what dinosaur they would be in (geology and palaeontology), investigating heart rates (biomedicine), testing computer games (computer science), making a robot play football (robotics), stepping inside a bubble (Mathematics), making snot (biomedicine), saving energy (environmental psychology) and designing using 3D printers (3D design).

The pupils had a fun day and found it incredibly useful in helping them to plan their next steps.

L to R: Ben Philp, Ryan Collins, Anton Barnes & Logan Prove