



## End of Term Parent Bulletin



### A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

With Christmas and the New Year fast approaching, and with it being a busy time of year, it is easy to forget what's important - but days where I see our school community coming together and celebrating, like at the Christmas lunch, are really special.

The past two weeks have been filled with a variety of activities, but central to all of them, as always, is the sense of purpose and learning that carries on throughout.

You should be really proud of the way that your children have engaged with learning this term, whether they have just begun their journey with us or are approaching its end. All of them have engaged, had high expectations of themselves, and others, and have worked extremely hard; they are a true credit to you and the school.

Our Winter Concert took place on Tuesday evening, a brilliant event that showcased the exceptional talents and collaborative spirit of our students. It was fantastic to see the children shine on stage, and lovely for the performance to be enjoyed by a full-house of parents and members of our local community. You will see more about this event later in this Bulletin.

There have been some brilliant achievements from your children over the past term. The effort they've put in, be it in the classroom or on the sports fields, has been admirable. Their dedication to making the best of their school experience is clear to see, as is the growth in their confidence and character.

I would like to thank you for the generosity you have shown with the Christmas Hamper initiative. It is really heartwarming to see the care that you, as families, have for our community - the difference these hampers will make to families is immeasurable.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the term's highlights in this Bulletin, we look forward to many more success stories and celebrations in the new year. On behalf of all the staff and the governors, I would like to wish you all a restful Christmas and a Happy New Year - we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on 8th January.



# Some of this Half Term's Highlights...



## CYCLING FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, members of our School Council took on a mammoth challenge, all in aid of Children in Need.

The challenge – a 24-hour Cyclathon! The students were joined by various staff members throughout the day/ night, including our amazing canteen team. Taking it in turns to do 30-minutes on the bikes, students pedaled continuously, day and night - this was no mean feat. Well done to everyone who took part.



## "SUCCESS EVENING" IS A SUCCESS!



On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, we welcomed our current Year 10 students, and their families, to attend our GCSE Success Evening.

This was an opportunity for them to gain an insight in what the next year will look like, and what they can do to help maximise their chance of success in the forthcoming exams.

We were fortunate enough to be joined by former student, Ella, who spoke about her Poltair journey, in addition to the talks from members of our staff.

## OLIVER JR.



The cast of Oliver Jr. have shown real enthusiasm and commitment to this term's rehearsals.

The cast have been bringing the workhouse scenes to life with their fantastic energy, singing and dancing. The principle characters have been working hard on their songs and dialogue, and we can't wait to see it all come together. We will share more information in the new year about the performance dates, but one thing we can tell you now is that this is going to be a fantastic production and one not to be missed!





# Poltair Sport



It has been a busy term for our PE department, with numerous sporting fixtures (77 to be precise) and events taking place. Here are some of the recent sporting highlights:

We are pleased to say we have qualified for the Winter School Games finals, in both Basketball and Netball, as well as qualifying for the indoor cricket finals day in not one, but three categories.

Last month, our Year 9 Netball team (plus four Year 8s) competed in the U14 County Netball tournament.

We have seen some excellent rugby playing from both our Year 7 and Year 9 teams this term. The Year 7s came 4th in the East Cornwall competition and the Year 9s made it to the last 8 in a recent County Rugby competition.



THE DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Earlier this term, we launched the Bronze DofE programme to our students, inviting them to sign up for what is undoubtedly a challenging but highly rewarding opportunity.

Over 60 students have signed up, a fantastic uptake, we look forward to following their DofE journeys in the new year.

As part of our Poltair + enrichment programme, students have the opportunity to attend numerous sports clubs each week, in addition to the array of academic and artistic clubs on offer.

**This term, an average of 275 students have been accessing sports clubs every week!**

It is great to see so many of our students engaging with the fantastic sporting opportunities available to them!

*Healthy Body = Healthy Mind*

2024 is already shaping up to be a great year for sport at Poltair, we already have 65 fixtures booked in for the Spring term alone and a new Cross Country Club ready to introduce.



2023 has been another action-packed year, with lots to celebrate!

As is tradition here at Poltair, the Autumn term ended with a week of festive happenings...



## A DAY OF CELEBRATION

On Friday 8th December, we held Celebration Assemblies for each Year group, led by their Head of Year.

This was an opportunity to acknowledge student successes from across all subject areas, based on progress and attitude to learning from September.

During the assemblies, in addition to the subject awards and the prestigious Head of Year Awards, the top 30 merit earners from each Year group were announced - these students were rewarded with a trip to the White River Cinema.

Well done to all of this year's award winners!



## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Following the success of the 'Christmas Box Appeal', that we have run for the past few years, December saw a similar collection taking place.

Over the last few weeks, we have been collecting donations of food items that are typically enjoyed on Christmas Day. Working alongside Short & Strong, Charlestown, we have created food hampers, that are being distributed to families in need within our community – we hope this will help make Christmas a happier and less stressful time for them.

## RUN RUDOLPH, RUN!

In true Poltair style, the final day of term saw our students dashing around the school in fancy dress.

However, unlike previous years, where the students have dressed in Santa suits, this year's Santa Run was replaced by a Reindeer Round-Up! This annual tradition raises a fantastic amount for Cornwall Hospice Care.





# STUDENTS TAKE TO THE STAGE AT THE WINTER CONCERT



On Tuesday night, our hall was filled with music, smiles and people, for our annual "Winter Concert"; a showcase of talent from Poltair Music and Drama students.

The audience were treated to an array of instrumental and vocal performances, not just from students, but also from some of our talented staff!

Well done to everyone who took part, to the staff who coached and coordinated the students and to everyone who worked behind the scenes, be it providing technical support, sound/light effects, or helping with the refreshments.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who came along to support the event. It meant a lot to our students to see so many people in the audience, we hope you were as proud of them all as we were.



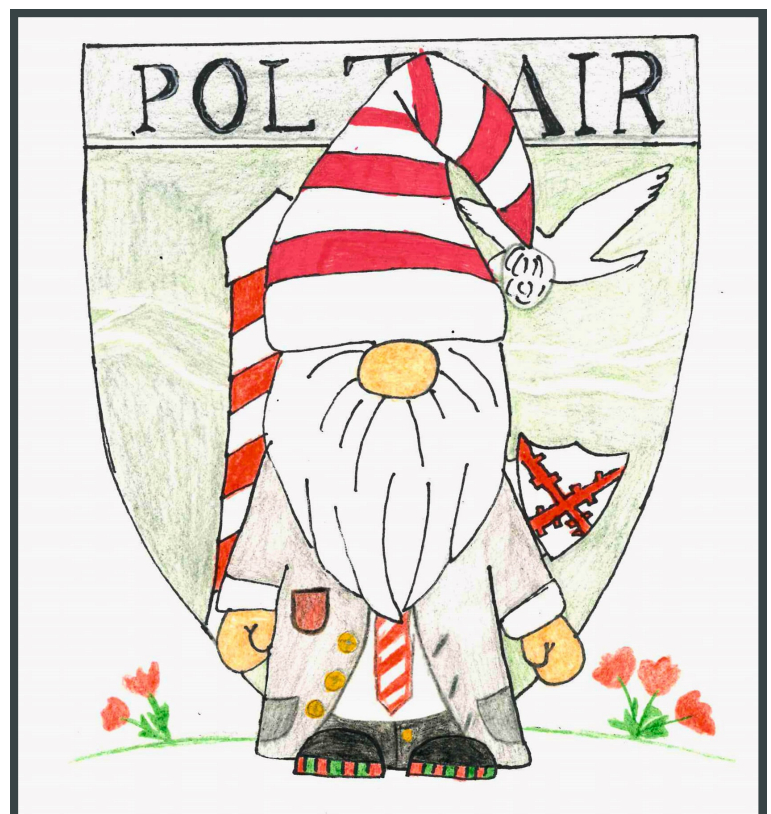
## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Last month, we launched a competition, inviting students to design the Poltair 2023 Christmas Card.

There were some fantastic entries, but the winning card (pictured right) was designed by Year 8 student, Myya.

Well done to everyone who entered and special congratulations to Myya!

Myya's design has been turned into a Christmas card which our Year 8 students have sent to our International Partner School in Spain.





Our popular “Super Camp” will be running daily,  
from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Between 10:00am and 2:00pm, we will be running a variety of sporting and creative activities. This is open to any children aged 8 –12, and costs £10 per day (free for students in receipt of free school meals).

Included in the price is a light breakfast and lunch.

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/poltairchristmassupercamp>



## Term Dates



### Return to School

Monday 8th January, 2024

### Half Term

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February, 2024

