



## End of Half Term Parent Bulletin



### A Message from the Headteacher

I would just like to thank you for all your support over this last half term; it has been brilliant to see your children showing real resilience, dedication and enthusiasm in their learning - be it in the classroom or during their Poltair+ activities.

Our Year 11 students have completed their second round of PPEs. Their attitude towards these examinations has been amazing - they have been engaged, focused and our external invigilator team have been full of praise for them.

This is a challenging time for everyone, parents/carers and students, as they approach their main exams, I have been very impressed by the calm, focused and engaged way in which they have been tackling this challenge - well done Year 11!

It was great to see so many of you at the Careers Fair this term, and it was wonderful to have the support of so many local businesses and organisations, who gave up their time to come along and support the event. The feedback from the providers was extremely positive and they were very impressed by the young people of Poltair and their ambitions for the future - this is something that I know, as parents, we want for our children; we want them to have that drive and ambition to succeed, in whatever career or path they choose.

During National Apprenticeship Week, lots of opportunities were highlighted to students through a range of apprenticeship programmes. We have aimed to encourage students to consider all pathways to success, emphasising the value of hands-on experience, skills development and lifelong learning. The Year 9 trip to the Brewery saw your children, once again, demonstrate exemplary conduct and engagement - you can read more about that trip later in this Bulletin.

To end my message, I would like to reflect on this...

When asked to describe Poltair, by an external visitor, one student brilliantly described it as 'One big family'. This speaks volumes about the close-knit, strong sense of community, fostered within the school - Poltair is a supportive environment that we, and our students, are proud of.

I hope you enjoy reading through our latest Parent Bulletin, do take a look at the activities we have on offer over the half-term break. I wish you all a restful half term and on behalf of all the staff at Poltair, we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, 19th February.



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

## Creating a Safer Community

We are thrilled to announce that we have installed a new defibrillator on-site, enhancing safety for everyone.

This is in addition to the one at the front of our building, which was installed back in 2018 following our fundraising campaign. Not only will this new, life-saving piece of equipment be accessible during school hours, but it will also be accessible for community bookings after-school. We hope it will never be needed, but it is reassuring to know that it is here in the event of an emergency - a big step towards a safer and more prepared community.



## Year 9's Brewery Visit

This week, a group of our Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit St Austell Brewery, as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

It was an enlightening experience; our students got to meet and interact with the talented apprentices at St Austell Brewery. They delved into many aspects of the business, including hospitality, finance, marketing, trade quality and engineering.

From learning about the intricate processes behind brewing the perfect pint, to understanding the crucial role of marketing in promoting a beloved brand, our students were immersed in a world of possibilities and career opportunities.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the team at St Austell Brewery, for giving our students this opportunity. This hands-on experience has undoubtedly sparked their curiosity and ambition, as they consider their future paths, post-Poltair.



## Careers Fair is a Huge Success

Last month, we hosted a joint Careers Fair, with Penrice Academy.

Thank you to all the representatives, from the various organisations, for coming along to talk to students about their options, post-16.

There was a fantastic atmosphere, we hope everyone who attended found the evening informative.





# Record Number of Students Learning an Instrument



We are very fortunate to have a fantastic team of peripatetic teachers, from within the local community, who come to Poltair every week, to work with our budding young musicians.

We are seeing an increasing number of students signing up to learn to play an instrument, in fact, we currently have over 80 students on the instrumental lesson register - we haven't seen numbers like this since before lockdown.

Our singing teacher, Anna Minnear, has been working hard with some of the cast from Oliver Jr, our next full-school production, not only helping them develop their vocal techniques, but also boosting their confidence ahead of the live shows which are coming up in July. Anna is heavily involved with the local brass band community, a community of its own within the St Austell area, and Cornwall as a whole. Over the years, numerous Poltair students have joined various local brass bands, and we are delighted to be offering brass lessons with Anna as part of our peripatetic lesson provision.

We are in the process of appointing a second guitar teacher, due to the large number of students wishing to take up the instrument. We are also thrilled to again be offering violin tuition here at Poltair, in addition to the very popular piano and drum kit lessons on offer.



## University Offers for Former Poltair Student



**Congratulations to our former student, George (Class of 2022), on receiving four incredible university offers!**

His top pick is Exeter University, for Business and Management.

Currently studying A Levels in Business, Geography and Media, and an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) at Callywith College, he is certainly making us proud.

Well done, George!

If you're a former student, and would like to share your post-Poltair successes with us, we'd love to hear from you!

Head to the Alumni section on our website to find out more information:

<https://www.poltairschool.co.uk/alumni>





# Poltair Sport



## Poltair Sports Leaders



We are thrilled to share some fantastic news about our Year 7 Girls' Netball Team's outstanding performance at the East Cornwall Netball Tournament, held here at Poltair last week! Our A Team secured an impressive 3rd place, showcasing incredible teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Their hard work has earned them a spot at the County Finals Tournament, taking place at the end of the month!

**So far this term, PSSP have run a variety of events for local primary school children. These events include: KS1 Dance Festival, School Games Sports Hall Athletics Qualifier, Cross-Country and Dodgeball.**

Studio4Dance ran our dance festival for KS1, with the Disney theme 'Bear Necessities'. We also had the pleasure of delivering gymnastics/fundamental movement skills at both Charlestown Primary and Carclaze Primary. This not only gave the children the chance to try something new, but it also acted as CPD, to up-skill the primary school staff.

On Wednesday evenings, the PSSP have been running a Girls Netball Club, for children in Years 5 and 6 - we have seen over 30 participants attend the sessions so far, not only have they improved their knowledge and understanding of the sport, but they have also met and made many new friends in the process.



Poltair Sports Leaders are integral to the successful delivery of activities every Monday. Not only do these students actively participate in activity planning, to ensure events run smoothly and safely, but they also demonstrate leadership skills - whilst fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere. Their commitment to promoting physical activity, contributes to the overall well-being and development of our school community.

These special young people acquire and develop many skills during their time as Sports Leaders. These skills, which will set them up for their futures beyond Poltair, include: Teamwork and collaboration, problem-solving and decision-making, organisational and planning and communication and interpersonal skills.

Our Sports Leaders also gain recognition through the Countywide Leadership Programme, Time2Lead. This programme gives them the tools to become excellent leaders, which means being able to:

- **Communicate effectively with a team/audience**
- **Have an awareness of mental-health and how it affects people**
- **Plan, prepare and work as a team**
- **Challenge themselves to go the extra mile**



# What's Happening this Half Term?




## POLTAIR HOLIDAY CLUB FEBRUARY 2024

**Monday, 12th - Friday, 16th February  
10am - 2pm**



A week of free sports activities for  
Year 7 & 8 Poltair students!  
Children must bring a packed lunch &  
refillable bottle.

[CLICK HERE to sign up](#)



England Netball's official Netball Youth Camps provide young players the opportunity to take to the courts during the school holidays for a brilliant netball experience.

We've got a fantastic camp taking place at **Poltair School in St Austell, Cornwall** on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024** from 10am to 3pm.

To book on please use a PC or laptop and follow the below instructions:

- You must log onto your **child's** Engage account (<https://engage.netball.co.uk/>) (if they don't have one, please create one for them)
- Once logged in, scroll to the bottom of the page and select **Find a session**
- Pop in your postcode and how far away you think St Austell is (50 miles is probably more than sufficient)
- Find **Poltair School Netball Youth Camp (NYC)** on the list and click on it
- **Book** is on the top right-hand side of the page

Packed full of top-quality coaching, a range of match play opportunities and tonnes of brand-new games, activities and team-building sessions, it's the ultimate day for netball lovers aged **11-14 years**.

Spaces are limited so book your spot now to avoid delay.

**£35** for England Netball members, **£40** for non-members.

(Please note this is not a performance camp).

Any questions, please contact Fern Noott, Cornwall Netball Development Officer - [fern.noott@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:fern.noott@englandnetball.co.uk) or 07540 126593



## POLTAIR HOLIDAY CLUB FEBRUARY 2024

**Monday, 12th - Friday, 16th February  
10am - 2pm**



A week of free sports activities for  
Year 6s!  
Children must bring a packed lunch &  
refillable bottle.

[CLICK HERE to sign up](#)



# SARACENS BASKETBALL CAMP

**U12: 10-11.30  
U14: 11.30 - 1**

**12/02/24**



## POLTAIR SCHOOL

**BOOKING DETAILS**  
[CORNWALLSARACENSBASKETBALL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CORNWALLSARACENSBASKETBALL@GMAIL.COM)



Keep up-to-date with  
all the latest news, events  
and success stories:

[facebook.com/poltair.school](https://facebook.com/poltair.school)

## Term Dates



### Return to School

Monday 19th February

### Easter Break

Thursday 28th March - Monday 15th April

