



Spring Half-Term Parent Bulletin



A Message from the Headteacher

As we approach the end of a shorter, but intense half term, I would just like to thank you for all of the support that you have given the school and your children.

In the last Parent Bulletin, I talked at length about the importance of attendance at school and the impact that lack of attendance can have on attainment and the development of young people. It is therefore fantastic to see that, across the board, the schools' attendance is 1% higher than the National average for secondary schools and 1.6% higher than the average for schools in the South West!

Due to the Cornwall Education Learning Trust offices moving into part of the school, we do now receive a great deal of visitors. They have all commented on the exceptional behaviour of your children and their developing confidence/character in the way they talk and conduct themselves. You should be very proud of them, the way they are engaging with school, and how well they represent their families and themselves – we certainly are.

Year 11 are deep into their preparations for their forthcoming GCSEs, I have been really impressed by the way they have engaged with extra classes and support sessions. This is a testing time for them, and for parents as well, I am sure many of you are concerned about how best to support your child - I would strongly advise you to contact our Pastoral Team if you have any worries at all.

Finally, we changed the motto of the school to *"Building Confidence & Character"*, for the specific reason that your children not only deserve the best academic outcomes, but also because we need to work together to give them the confidence to succeed in life and the character to adapt in order to overcome any challenges they may face. There are many students in the school who demonstrate Confidence & Character, one of them is Ella in Year 11. Ella is one of five winners of a recent "Global Future Leader of the Year" competition. This is a truly remarkable achievement, and one that shows what can be achieved and what we should expect from the children at Poltair.

You can read more about Ella and her recent success story in this edition of the Bulletin, along with other highlights of this half term.

Some of this Half Term's Highlights...



Year 7 Dance Workshop

On January 12th, we welcomed professional dance practitioner and former Poltair student, Rob Mennear, into school.

Rob delivered workshops to four different Year 7 classes. All students thoroughly enjoyed developing their understanding of movement/dance, and especially loved the opportunity to create their own choreography.

Year 11 History Workshop

Our Year 11 History students took part in a joint workshop with Penrice, focusing on developing their understanding of World War One and Medicine.

The workshop was run by Frontline Living History - experienced historical interpreters with years of expertise in WW1 battlefield medicine and working in education. Students were able to handle objects such as gas masks, helmets and bullets - some were even able to sound an alarm used in gas attacks!

All students were highly motivated by the sessions, which were engaging and informative - this will really assist with their revision for the upcoming Medicine through Time exam paper.



Rugby Trip

Last month, a group of excited rugby fans, from various Year groups, took a trip to Penzance to watch the Cornish Pirates take on Nottingham.

It was a great match, the atmosphere was fantastic and to top it off, the Pirates won, 17 – 6!

Commenting on the Poltair Facebook page the following day, one parent said: "A brilliant thing to do, the boys loved it! A Fab way to fuel their passion. Thank you".

We are pleased to be able to offer extra-curricular activities like this to our students, we look forward to more trips in the coming months.



KS4 Art Trip

GCSE Art students enjoyed an action-packed trip to London earlier this month.

They visited both the Tate Modern and the National Gallery, took in some of the sights of the big city and enjoyed a trip to the theatre to watch Woman in Black.



One Year 11 Student's Bid to be a Future Leader

Last October, Ella sent in her application for the Future Leaders Competition, 2023 - a competition for 15-18 year olds around the world, run by a company called Ivy House, who aim to find leadership skill and potential.

From the initial applications, they chose 20 who they named 'Ones to Watch' – these 20 applicants got the opportunity to take part in a leadership workshop on Zoom... Ella was one of the Ones to Watch!

Here is what she had to say about the workshop...



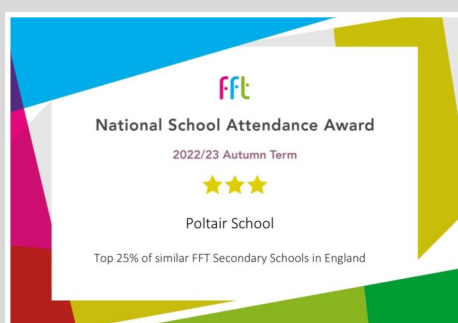
There was an incredible panel of judges chosen for the workshop - Sam Bowerman from NatWest, Ben Mason who is the founder of Globalbridge, Nishy Lall who works for Sky as well as Anna Vila Pouca from M&S and Calvin Akotuah, the co-founder of Loud Speak.

To create our pitches, initially, we listened to Elke Edwards, the founder of Ivy House. She taught us how to structure a pitch, the main components you want to include and why they are important. This was a truly fascinating talk as it gave us skills which are so incredibly important. We were split into groups of 4 to form our pitches, with each group having a coach to support them. Later, the groups were mixed around and one of the judges was added, we each then delivered our pitch to the judge before Elke gave a second talk – this time on the importance of feedback; not just on receiving it, but how to properly give constructive external feedback. Everything we learnt there was then used in the second judged section. Getting back into our groups, we gave feedback to the other members and received feedback from each other, as well as from the judge and coach. It was interesting to think on a deeper level about the importance of giving equal feedback and the impact that it has on someone - Elke referred to feedback as "Always being a gift".

Finally, a ceremony was held where each of the five judges announced their winner, the top 5 – I feel so unbelievably honoured to have been chosen as one of those 5!

The judges told Ella that her understanding of leadership and the importance of empowerment was mature beyond her years. They also told her that her composure in the final showed that she could be presenting to a hall full of people, yet she'd make them feel like they were in her living room. Alongside the achievement of being selected as a Future Leader of the Year, Ella wins mentorship from industry leading experts, work experience with top employers and £1000 in prize money!

As a school, we are incredibly proud of Ella and the determination, commitment and passion she shows for journalism/media. Her ambition, initiative and drive are admirable – we are happy to see that others are recognising her leadership potential too – well done Ella!



**We are extremely proud to have been presented with
An FFT National School Attendance Award!**

FFT collect daily attendance figures from over 10,000 schools nationally and we are in the top 25%!

At Poltair, we believe that all students benefit from outstanding school attendance.



The Poltair School Sport Partnership strives to provide as many opportunities as possible to support young people in St Austell.

The Partnership supports schools in delivering high-quality PE, School Sport & Physical Activity, as well as promoting healthy lifestyles. This term, as part of the PSSP, we have run:

- Cross Country Races
- Tri Golf Festival
- Girls Football festivals
- Netball Coaching

Primary Transition Project

We are visiting our partnership Primary Schools and delivering both theory and practical sessions about the Rugby World Cup, 2023. Following these sessions, we will be hosting a Rugby Festival, which will give pupils the opportunity to meet coaches from local community rugby clubs - which some of them may be interested in joining!

Poltair Holiday Programme

Over the Christmas Holidays, we welcomed over 30 young people to Poltair for 3 days' worth of activities, as part of the Time2Move Holiday Programme. Activities included Dodgeball, Football, Basketball and Arts & Crafts. Students were also given recipe bags to take home, each containing the instructions and ingredients needed to create gingerbread with their families. We received such great feedback and were proud to see what the children had created (see below).



Our next Holiday Club, which is for children in Years 5, 6, 7, & 8, will be running during the February Half Term.

The cost is £5 per child, per day, which includes breakfast and lunch - there is no charge for children in receipt of free school meals.

To book a place, please click [HERE](#).

Young Enterprise Programme

Some of our students have been participating in the Young Enterprise Programme. On Tuesday 31st January, they took part in a “Dragon’s Den” type event at Truro Penwith College. This was a brilliant opportunity for the students to showcase themselves, and their products, to the professional business community.

The two student business companies presented their ideas, including some prototypes, to four professional businesspeople. Each businessperson gave them a score out of 10 for different aspects of their presentations/products and the scores were averaged.



Each company was interviewed by three dragons...

Here are some of the comments from our students' written feedback:

Sahalo

Great teamwork. Very polite. Clearly thought through the answers and were well prepared. Lovely to see prototype, packaging and business cards! Not necessarily original, but a good idea with plenty of potential.

Celestial

Great Idea, lots of applications. Introduced themselves coherently. Answered all questions well. Great to see the story so far, including mistakes made and learning from them. Ryan was a great spokesman.

Teacher, Mr Hull, was informed that they were possibly the youngest groups at the event, however, their presentation skills were some of the best!

Well done, teams!

Term Dates



Half Term:

Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

Return to school:

Monday 20th February

