

## **World Champion Training For Pupils At Polwhele House**

A school in Truro hosted three time Olympic medalist Mary King MBE for a special riding clinic yesterday, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Polwhele House near Truro invited the champion sportswoman to give a riding clinic to some of the pupils, allowing Mary to impart specialist advice and expertise.

Mary King is one of our most successful equestrians and has represented Great Britain at six Olympics from 1992 to 2012, winning bronze and silver medals - Mary and team GB won silver at London 2012.

She has also won two World Championship gold medals alongside one team bronze and four team gold medals at the European Eventing Championships.

King was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2013 New Year Honours for services to equestrianism.

Jo Lyall, Riding Instructor at Polwhele House, was delighted with the visit. "Mary is one of the most successful event riders in the history of the sport so to be able to have her deliver a riding clinic was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils. Despite being slightly star struck, the children loved it, learned lots and will never forget this experience. It was such an honour to have her here at school."

Polwhele House in Truro is the only school in Cornwall to have riding facilities on site and offers riding lessons to all its pupils from Nursery up to Year 8, holding many riding events and competitions including dressage, show jumping and beach rides.

The riding clinic involved two 45-minute sessions with three riders in each one. They were put through their paces by Mary on both the flat and over jumps. The spectators, including parents, friends and other pupils, were able to watch and also learn from Mary's skill and expertise.

Alex McCullough, Headmaster at Polwhele House, was thrilled to be able to host the event, saying:

“We are fortunate to have such excellent equestrian facilities at Polwhele House and hosting a riding clinic with Mary King is just another way we can enhance children’s opportunities in this area.

“Alongside regular events and lessons, we have also recently launched our new equestrian scholarships, meaning we can provide opportunities and development for talented young riders in Cornwall.”

Further information about Polwhele House’s riding facilities, plus their new Equestrian Scholarships, are available on the school website [www.polwhelehouse.co.uk](http://www.polwhelehouse.co.uk).