

**Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends of St Clare's**

Today is a turning point in the year – why? – because the daffodils on the school drive have finally begun to bud which signals the beginning of the end of winter. Well let's hope so!

It is also the time when pupils, parents and teachers suddenly realise that the GCSE and A-level exams are not as far off as they had thought. When the pupils return from half term there will only be six and a half teaching weeks until Study Leave begins and the exams begin in earnest.

Study Leave dates are as follows:

Year 11: Monday, 15th May      Year 13: Monday, 5th June

For public exams outside of these dates pupils are entitled to "Exam Leave" as follows:

Exam in the morning:	exam leave for afternoon of previous day
Exam in afternoon:	exam leave for morning of the exam
Exams all day:	exam leave for entire preceding day

Pupils should ensure that their tutors are aware of exam leave they plan to take in order that registers are accurate.

Pupils should also remember that subject teachers can make themselves available with a couple of days' notice for the slot that their lesson would have taken place in. If pupils turn up unannounced staff may be able to help but they may also have been reassigned to exam invigilation which they will not be able to rearrange at short notice.

All pupils **MUST** sign in with Mrs Domachowski whenever they come onto school site during study leave. They don't have to do this if they have an actual exam as registers are taken in the exam hall.

Being the father of a daughter in Year 11, I am fully aware of the stresses and strains that young people feel under at these crucial points in their education. That is why I cannot stress enough the need to start **EARLY** and not leave it all until the week before. The evidence is clear – those pupils who use the holidays to chip away at revision benefit in the end.

I cannot recommend BBC GCSE Bitesize enough as a revision tool or a website to help fill in gaps in knowledge or notes. The website can be found here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z98jmp3>

...or simply Google "BBC Bitesize" – it is an easy way to get into revision and can be done from a phone or iPad instead of watching Netflix for a couple of months. Maybe start this half term?

I have mentioned in a few reports the need to complete the journey from "Good to Great" – many pupils are showing good progress and have reached their minimum target grades. How pupils use the next few months will determine how many can move from "Good to Great" and reach their challenge grades or beyond.

Good luck to everyone!



Simon Antwis, Headmaster



## The Ladybirds and Busy Bees (our Nursery)



## Making repeating patterns



## Taking turns to sort





**Tasting foods together**



**Painting our giant dinosaur!**



# House X-Country on Newton Beach





## House X-Country results

Romans and the Britons tied for first place with 65 points.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Britons ( 65)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Romans ( 65)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Saxons ( 102)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Vikings (117)

**Remember the lowest point tally is the best score in X-Country in a team event.**

Individual places (Top three for each house)

### Girls Y3-Y6

1. Jessica Crawley (Romans)
2. Meera Browne (Saxons)
3. Maddie Curzon (Britons)
4. Izabella Evans (Vikings)

### Boys Y3—Y6

1. Sam Daunter (Britons)
2. Freddie Thomas (Romans)
3. Ben Roberts (Vikings)
4. Jordan White (Vikings)

### Girls Y7-Y9

1. Jasmine Hale (Romans)
2. Carys Lock (Britons)
3. Megan Wakefield (Romans)
4. Tehya Fox (Romans)

### Boys Y7-Y9

1. Lucas Hoven (Britons)
2. Kieran Hamer (Britons)
3. Charlie Bourne (Saxons)
4. Louie Davies (Britons)

***Thank you to Year 11 pupil, Donovan Williams-Hale (below left), who has been coaching the Prep School. He has been passing on tips about the importance of a fast start and then a paced race to follow to which pupils are responding well.***





## Fantastic Y6 Transition Day & Y7 Team Building Day



**CSI Miami find a clue!**



**CSI Las Vegas find a skeleton in the polytunnel!**





Measuring up and bagging the evidence



Learning how to dust for fingerprints



## Harry wins silver



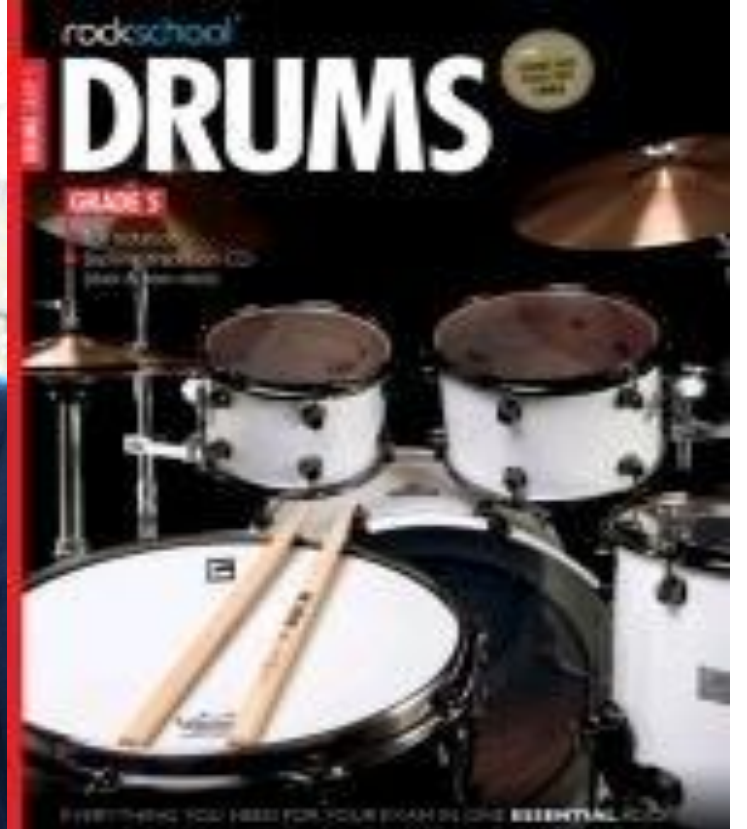
Congratulations to Y9 pupil Harry from Cowbridge who won a silver medal in the Junior Male Bare Bow Unsighted Recurve section, shooting 20 yards. Harry is a member of Llantwit Major Archery Club .

## Jasmine wins gold



Congratulations to Y7 pupil Jasmine who won gold in shotput and bronze in sprint at the Junior Welsh Athletics Championships.

## Jake gets a merit at Grade 5



Congratulations to Y10 pupil Jake Bromhead for getting 79% in his Grade 5. He was awarded a Merit!



## St David's Day in the Prep School

Prep school children should come to school wearing one of the following:-

- Traditional Welsh costume
- Plain black joggers (no leggings please) and a Welsh rugby top **or** a red top.
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Boys who do not have black joggers should wear their grey school trousers and girls should go to see Mrs Layland so that she can find a suitable pair.



## St David's Day in the Senior School



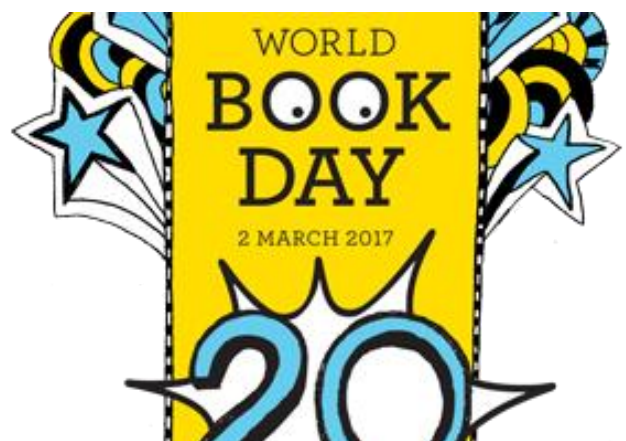
Interact Club (the junior branch of the Rotary Club) are fundraising for Wales Air Ambulance and asking the Senior School pupils to wear Welsh colours (red, white and green) or anything Welsh related e.g. rugby tops, daffodil hats etc. Please bring £1 donation.

They will also be selling Welsh Cakes and BaraBrith at breaktime.

## World Book Day—Thursday, 2nd March

Prep School children should come to school dressed as a character from a book of their choice.

Please bring the book to school for our parade.





## Important dates for your diary

Monday, 27th February	First day back after half-term
Wednesday, 1st March	St David's Day (please refer to page 9)
Thursday, 2nd March	World Book Day (please refer to page 9)
Friday, 3rd March	Y7 Academic Scholarship Day
Tuesday, 7th March	A Level Options/Careers Evening 4:15pm
Friday, 10th March	Open Morning (booking essential)
Wednesday, 15th March	Year 12 Concerns Evening
Tuesday, 21st March	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday, 27th March	Sixth Form Academic Scholarship Day
Tuesday, 4th April	Last day of Spring term
Wednesday, 5th April	Inset Day # 5
Monday, 24th April	Summer Term begins
Monday, 1st May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday, 19th May	Teddy Bears Picnic
Saturday, 20th May	Perry School Uniform Fittings
Friday, 26th May	Last day before half term
Monday, 5th June	First day back after half-term
Tuesday, 11th July	Last day of term

## Reminders

- ⇒ **If you change your details, please inform the Secretary immediately.**
- ⇒ **If your child suffers from sickness and/or diarrhoea, they must be kept off school for 48 hours after the last bout of illness.**
- ⇒ **Don't forget to tell us your news from outside of school. Whether it's on or off the sports field, we want to hear about it! Please email [holly.fowlkes@stclares-school.co.uk](mailto:holly.fowlkes@stclares-school.co.uk) so that we can give our talented pupils the recognition they deserve.**

**For the latest news and photos from school, don't forget to follow us on Twitter @stclares\_school and 'Like' our Facebook page: St. Clare's School, Porthcawl.**