

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

We reach the end of another term packed full of activity and seemingly over too soon! The rest of this newsletter will give you a flavour of the myriad activities pupils have been involved in and you might even spot a photo of the Headteacher "Dad dancing!"

Inevitably, Headteachers around the country will be extolling the merits of using the Easter holidays to revise for GCSEs and A-Levels and I was trying to think of a different way to get this message across without switching off teenage minds instantaneously.

I thought the best thing to do was to start off by empathising with our teenage cohort by reminding them of an assembly I delivered a few weeks ago. I was telling the Senior School pupils about a scientist called Sarah-Jayne Blakemore.

Sarah-Jayne is Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London. Blakemore's research covers the development of social cognition and decision-making during human adolescence. She turned the general consensus of science up to that point that the brain stops developing in childhood and nothing much changes after that on its head. MRI scans of teenagers showed that the brain undergoes huge developments.

She had some advice for those who wished to heed it:

"The important thing is to cut teenagers some slack....don't write them off. At any point. Someone who is showing no aptitude form learning can still come good: their brain is going to keep on developing, and what is a sieve today could be a sponge tomorrow. Allow them time and space for their brain to do its thing. Don't hurry them. Their adult brains will thank you."

This advice may polarise opinion of her but it is worth remembering that UK children are amongst the most examined in the world. We are asking a lot of our young people and we must ensure we support and understand them as much as we can.

The second interesting person I wanted to tell you about was Andy Buck.

Andy Buck was geography teacher, head of year and head of department, Andy went on to become a Headteacher in East London for thirteen years. In the last year of headship, his school was judged outstanding in all categories and Andy was designated a National Leader of Education. In 2009 he became a Director at the National College for School Leadership. He was responsible for setting up the government's flagship Teaching Schools programme before being appointed as Managing Director at United Learning, one of the country's largest academy groups.

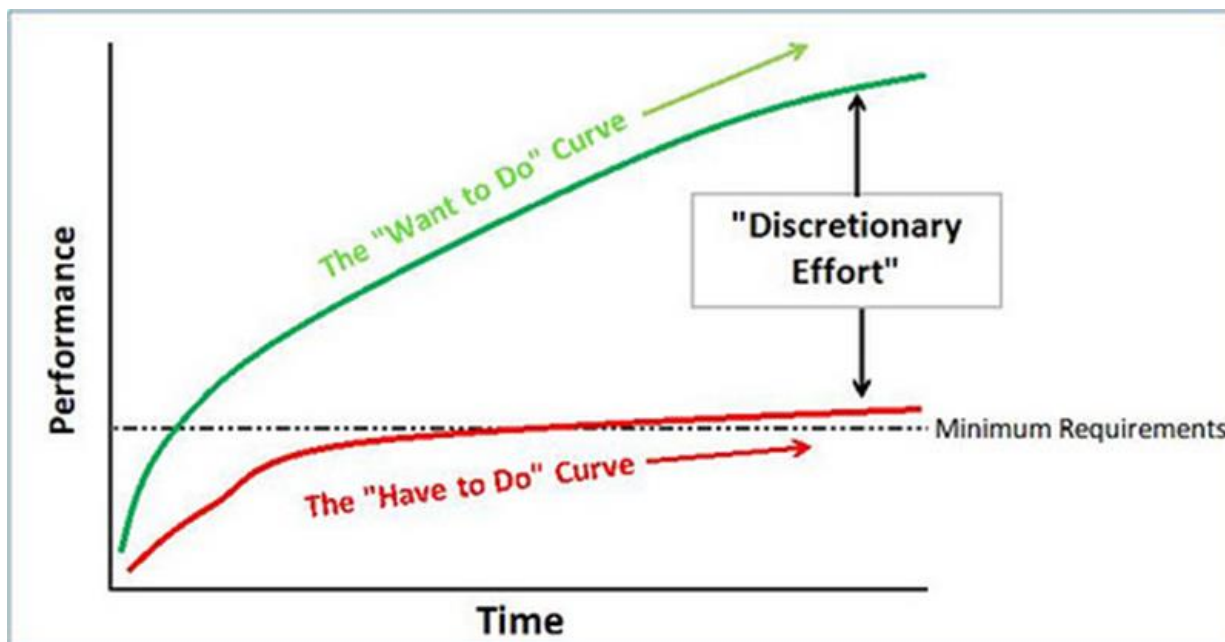
All the Cognita Heads were fortunate enough to have Andy as the Guest Speaker at our Global Conference in November. He spoke to us on many fascinating issues but one observation he shared struck a chord with me in particular. He said the major difference between good schools and great schools is the level of "Discretionary Effort."

Discretionary Effort is defined as:

"The difference in the level of effort one is capable of bringing to an activity or a task, and the effort required only to get by or make do."



For those that like a graph (like me!) then see below:



At St. Clare's we are lucky to have staff who exhibit discretionary effort in abundance: extra revision sessions after school and at lunchtimes. Revision sessions in the Easter holidays. Making themselves available at the drop of a hat to help pupils. Extra past paper marking to name a few.

I think the level of discretionary effort also applies to pupils and their attitude towards their revision. If you can follow the green line on the graph then that is where you find your "Value Added" and that possible extra grade.

What is also important to consider is **WHEN** you decide to ramp up your discretionary effort. The earlier you start on the "want to do" curve, the bigger the difference between the green and red lines and the bigger the difference in performance come the first GCSE or A-Level exam.

Good luck to all pupils next term in your public exams and best wishes to parents with children in their households working hard. I have a daughter in Year 11 so I can appreciate the pressures on your children and yourselves. Just think of the end of June, sunshine and being home free!

Best wishes,

Simon Antwis, Headmaster

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.

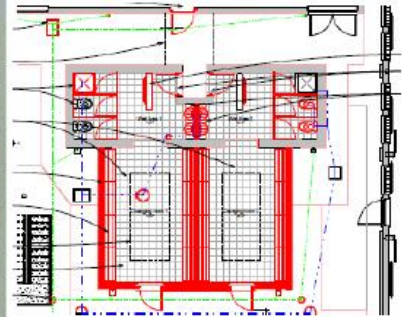


Boys & Girls changing facilities—work starts next week

STARTING NOW— PLANNED EXPANSION BOYS AND GIRLS CHANGING FACILITIES



Proposed Artist's Impression



Existing Area



Science block refurbishment starts July 2017



St Clare's scores 9.8 on Daynurseries website

Nursery staff were delighted to receive a framed certificate confirming that St Clare's Nursery had scored an amazing 9.8 from parents' reviews on the www.daynurseries.co.uk website.

Headmaster, Simon Antwis, surprised the staff with bouquets to thank them for all their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm.



Places at St Clare's are much sought after, particularly in the Nursery where we have limited places available. We are already enrolling as far ahead as Summer 2019! Registrations are considered in the order in which they are received.



Learning to recognise shapes in the Nursery



Gardening in the Nursery



Making crispie cakes in the Nursery



Red Nose Day in the Prep School



St David's Day celebrations in the Prep School



Disney Day in the Prep School for Cancer Research

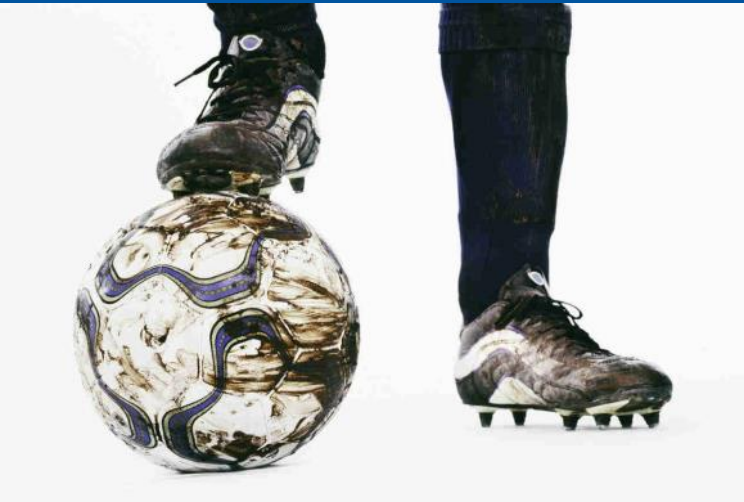


Easter Egg Appeal for Ty Hafan children's hospice



Thank you to everyone for your amazing generosity!

Easter Soccer School



Tony Morgan of Porthcawl United FC will once again be running the Easter Soccer School here at St Clare's from 9:00am - 3:00pm on the following days:-

- Monday 10th April
- Wednesday 12th April
- Thursday 13th April.
- Tuesday, 18th April
- Wednesday, 19th April
- Friday, 21st April

Open to boys and girls aged 4 to 11 years.

If you are interested please contact Tony Morgan direct.

Mobile : 07803-079-548

Tel: (01656) 783638

ypsoccers@aol.com

Tony is also planning to run football classes at St Clare's School during the evenings throughout the spring and summer months. These will be starting about mid-May until September and during the Whitsun/Summer Holidays.

Perry Uniform Fitting—Saturday, 20th May

Perry Uniform will be at St. Clare's School on Saturday 20th May between 09.00 and 14.00.

Their advisors will be available to assist parents of new children, joining the school in September, with sizing and ordering their child's school uniform.

Measuring appointments for pupils

Should you wish to book an appointment to have your child measured for uniform on **Saturday 20th May** please follow this link and book your appointment online now: <http://www.perryuniform.co.uk/appointments>

If you have questions about any aspect of the uniform, please email info@perryuniform.co.uk and one of our advisors will be able to help you.

Perry Uniform strongly recommend that you place your order before the end of July.

Don't forget to order your summer uniform

All Prep School pupils should be wearing their Summer Uniform after the Easter Holidays.

Please make sure you allow enough time to order your summer uniform from www.perryuniform.co.uk



Share the Secret and get £500 off your fees *

As valued parents, we know that you already recognise the importance of a first class education and the benefits that this can bring for your child both today and in the future. For many parents, choosing a school is one of the most important decisions that they will make for their children and by choosing the right one, the benefits can last a lifetime.

Many parents who come to St Clare's School tell us that they first heard about us from a friend who already has a child at our school. We very much value and appreciate the recommendations that our existing parents give and believe that such positive reinforcement deserves recognition.

With this in mind, I would like to remind you that we will reward any introductions from our existing parents that result in a new pupil joining St Clare's School at the start of the Autumn Term 2017.

How it works

If you refer a friend or colleague to St Clare's School and their child(ren) are admitted to St Clare's by the start of Autumn Term 2017, we will give you a reward of £500 for each pupil introduced. This will take the form of a credit against your termly fees and there is no limit to the number of introductions you can make.

Making an introduction

If you would like to introduce a pupil to and benefit from this reward, simply contact Holly Fowlkes our Registrar and Marketing Manager directly holly.fowlkes@stclares-school.co.uk or (01656) 789966 and tell her that you will be making a referral. Please make sure that the person you are referring also tells Holly that they have been introduced by you. We will take care of everything else.



* Subject to terms and conditions

Prep School extra-curricular clubs

Please note that Performance House Drama will re-start w/c 24th April.

However, all other clubs will start w/c 1st May.

Y ball will be running on Mondays instead of football.

Please remember to book After School Club

Parents should try to call the After School mobile or email Mrs Layland before 12pm in the first instance if they wish their child to go to club and they have not pre-booked.

Thank you.

Teddy Bears Picnic for Nursery to Year 6 pupils

“If you go down to St Clare's today,
you're in for a big surprise ...

Teddy Bears Picnic

Friday, 19th May

3:15 - 5:00pm

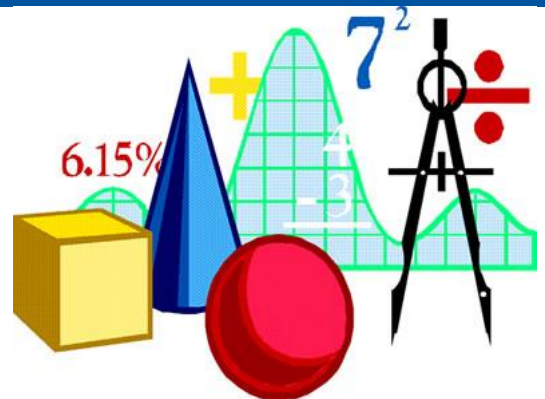
Admission £5
per child



Save the date—more details to follow soon

Maths Challenge of the Week

- ◆ Open to everyone
- ◆ Green cards for all
- ◆ Prizes for the winners
- ◆ See Blackboard outside Mr Evans' classroom for details each week



Monday lunchtime Chess Club in Mr Evan's classroom



Welsh Primary Schools Chess Championship



The Welsh Primary Schools Chess Championship was held at Bishop Hedley School in Merthyr Tydfil.

Ben, Morgan, Oliver and Joel acquitted themselves very well!!!

Well done, boys!



Senior School Ski Trip—March 2018—SOLD OUT!



The Senior School Ski trip will take place in the ski resort of Bardonecchia in Italy. It will be a great opportunity for pupils to experience the cultural charm of an Italian ski resort.

We will be travelling via coach to Italy on Friday 23rd March 2018.

House Swimming

The Year 7 and Year 8 House swimming trials organised by Mr Gatt were really popular.



Year 9 will have their House swimming trials once we return after Easter.

U13 Football team make it through to the final!



Well done to the u13 football team who have made it through to the final of the Bridgend Schools football tournament.

Summer sports programme



We're looking forward to the summer term of tennis and athletics.

Don't forget that Year 3—Year 6 pupils will be at Leckwith Stadium on Saturday, 17th June for the Junior Athletics Championships.

Please make sure you are on time for the minibus

Please make sure you are on time as the minibus can only wait 2-3 minutes past the departure time.

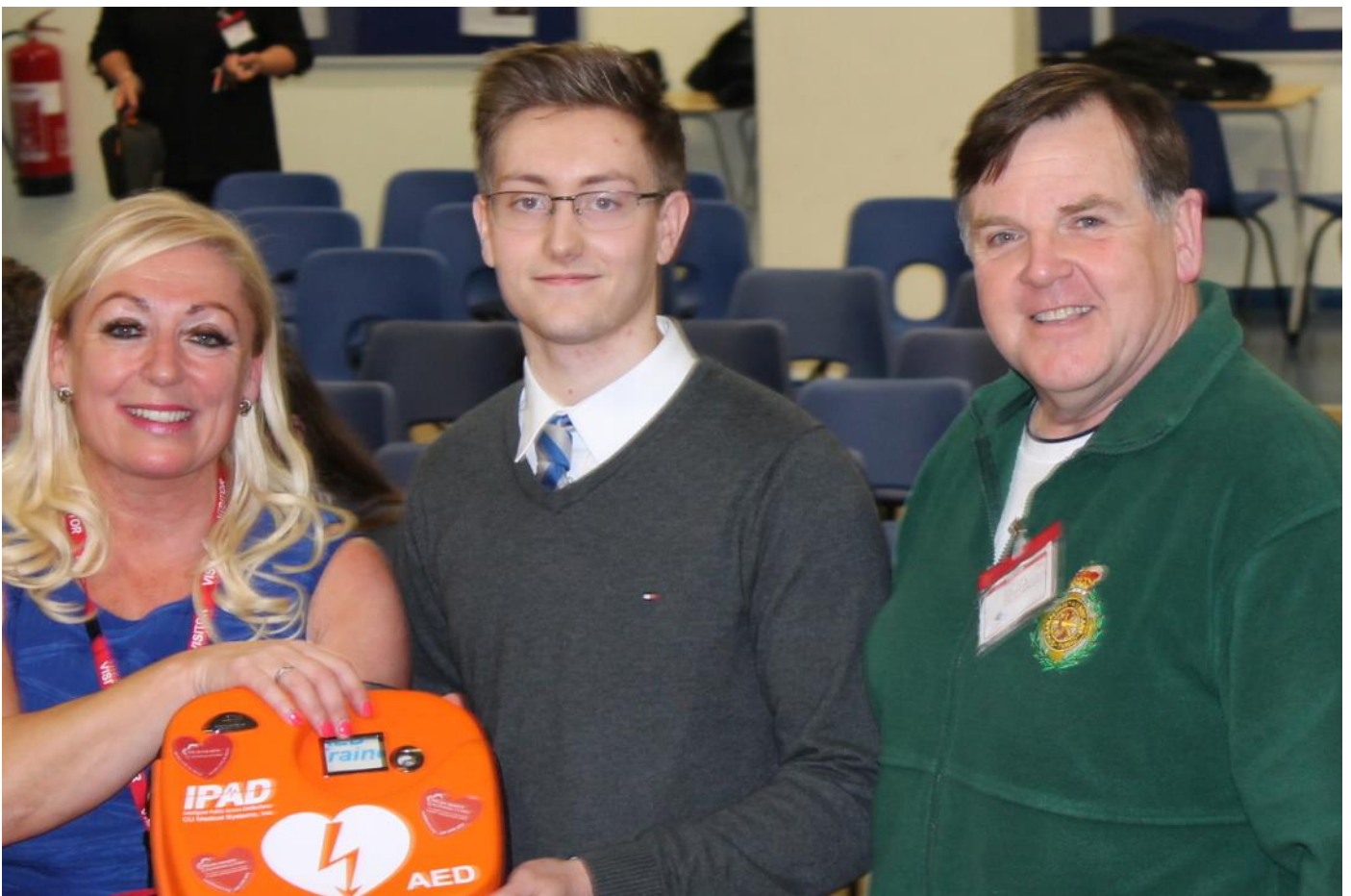
Welsh Hearts present defibrillator to Head Boy Tom Hood

A former pupil of Oldcastle Primary School, Tom Hood is now Head Boy at St Clare's and his ambition is to eventually become an orthopaedic surgeon. Currently studying A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, Tom has applied to read Medicine. He has organised his own unpaid work experience placements during the summer holidays for the last two years at the Princess of Wales and Santa Maria hospitals where he observed life-changing orthopaedic operations.

Tom had done all the usual volunteering for his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, but determined to help save lives even before he becomes a surgeon, he joined St John's Ambulance in Bridgend last summer as a regular volunteer. It was there Tom learned to use a defibrillator and realised the incredible difference it could make to saving lives. Inspired by a Welsh Hearts campaign poster, Tom then set about single-handedly organising a whole school event at St Clare's to raise enough money to get this life saving equipment (despite being in the middle of his important sixth form studies).

Tom also arranged for Welsh Hearts to come in and teach important life-saving skills to his fellow 6th Form students. Tom hopes that it may inspire other pupils to follow a career in medicine.

Tom's other love is music. He started piano lessons at 7 and has passed his Grade 8 at the same time as his GCSEs. Tom has played in numerous concerts and musicals at school but is hoping to find a local bar or restaurant who'll want a part-time pianist once he's studying at university.



UCAS week is 3rd–7th July 2017

Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Parker, has been busy putting the final touches to our UCAS week programme which will be packed with guest speakers and in-house workshops.

Year 11 invitation—Wednesday, 5th July

As announced at the Sixth form evening, Year 11 are going to be invited to come to join us for one day of events as part of the Bridging the Gap Initiative. Mrs Parker would like to invite Year 11 to attend on Wednesday 5th July as the sessions on that day will be most beneficial to them.

UCAS

Would you like to come and talk to our Sixth Form?

Mrs Parker would like to extend an invitation to parents to come in and give a little presentation to the Sixth Form about their own career path. It would be very beneficial for our Sixth formers to hear from experts in their own field. If this is something you might be interested in doing during UCAS week please contact our Registrar & Marketing Manager, Holly Fowlkes on 01656 789966 or email her at holly.fowlkes@stclares-school.co.uk

Exceptional Textiles units

We were very proud of our Textiles department who received the following letter from WJEC :

Dear Mrs Williams,

On behalf of the WJEC/Eduqas Art and Design team, we would like to thank you, your colleagues and your students for the generous loan of GCSE work for our CPD events during this term.

Without your support and the loan of the exceptional Textiles units you have provided the events would have been far less interesting, valuable and informative; and I can assure you that every teacher who has attended our courses across England and Wales appreciated the quality and diversity in approach of the work from your centre. Please convey our gratitude to the students whose work was shown and also our compliments.

I aim to be return the work safely to St Clare's, so please let me know when is most convenient for you and I will pop over to see you then. We are hoping to publish a selection of the units on our website very soon.

Many thanks once again both for your continued support and wishing you every success with your GCSE, AS and A level submissions this year.

Kind regards

Mari Bradbury
Subject Officer – Art & Design



Millie wins gold!



Congratulations to Year 9 pupil, Millie Jenkins who won a gold medal at the Bristol Dance Eisteddfod this week, in the song and dance category.

Her score puts her in contention for the City Cup.

Millie has also qualified for the All England regional finals with a score of 89.

Millie has only just joined St Clare's—what a great start!

It must run in the family!



Congratulations to Year 6 pupil Florence Pritchard who took the lead role in her Stagecoach demonstration of I was a Teenage Super Hero. Florence also sang and performed a dance routine with her Stagecoach class. Florence is now working towards auditioning for the lead role for the Summer production.



Well done to Joseph Pritchard (Year 3) who played for Cowbridge under 8s recently in a rugby tournament which proved very successful playing against 8 teams.

Important dates for your diary

Monday, 24th April	First day of summer term
Friday, 28th April	Year 9 House Swimming Trials
Monday, 1st May	May Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday, 3rd May	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Friday, 5th May	Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Friday, 19th May	Teddy Bears Picnic & Mini Fete
Monday, 15th May	Year 11 Study Leave begins
Saturday, 20th May	Perry Uniform fittings in school
Friday, 26th May	Last day before half-term
Monday, 5th June	First day back after half-term
	Year 13 Study Leave begins
Saturday, 17th June	Junior Athletics at Leckwith Stadium
Monday, 3rd—Friday, 7th July	UCAS Week (Y11 invited on 5th July)
Tuesday, 11th July	Last day of term

Reminders

- ⇒ All Prep School pupils should be wearing their Summer Uniform after the Easter Holidays.
- ⇒ 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 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.