

Thursday, 25th May

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

I write to you on the hottest May day in Britain since 1944! I am amazed in equal measure how well Welsh children deal with drizzle and how quickly they want shirt sleeve order at the first sign of the sun!

I have a daughter in the middle of her GCSEs at the moment so I am fully appreciative of the pressures young people are under currently and what it takes from their parents to manage the household atmosphere during these stressful times. I find a well-timed cup of tea and plate of biscuits has a positive effect. I have to say that the Year 11s, 12s and 13s are coping really well with the workload, keeping their sense of humour and being "professional" in their studies. I think modern young people are more driven than, dare I say it, my generation were.

As you know Mrs Hier is going on maternity leave in September for two terms and she will be sorely missed by us all and particularly myself! I am pleased to announce that I have appointed the following members of staff as Acting Deputies in her absence.

Mrs Smart – Acting Deputy (Behaviour & Well Being)

Mrs Parker – Acting Deputy (Teaching & Learning)

We are very fortunate at St. Clare's to have two such accomplished Middle Leaders ready to take on this challenging role and it is testament to the size of the role that Mrs Hier will need two people to replace her! I am sure that they can both rely on the support of their peers, staff colleagues and most importantly, the parents. I would re-urge parents to start any query they have with the day-to-day running of the school, the well-being or the academic progress of their child with the tutor. The tutors are all skilled practitioners and they are able to deal effectively with 90% of what comes their way before referring any issue that falls in the remaining 10% up to their next level. This is the best way you can support Mrs Smart and Mrs Parker in their new roles.

Mrs Lambert will also be leaving St. Clare's at the end of this academic year to travel the world with her husband. I will save my valedictory for her contribution to the school in the summer newsletter but I am able and pleased to announce that Mr Gatt will be succeeding her in her role as Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo). Mr Gatt has built up considerable experience as Designated Safeguarding Lead and in his close work with Mrs Lambert to prepare him for this important role.

To all the exam candidates – use the half term to your advantage. I hope the sun continues to shine.

Best wishes



Simon Antwis, Headmaster



Reception have been extending their love of books....



by sharing stories with each other



Reception have been learning about transport and travel



Taxi for house no. 9



Fun with playdough for "the wheels on the bus"

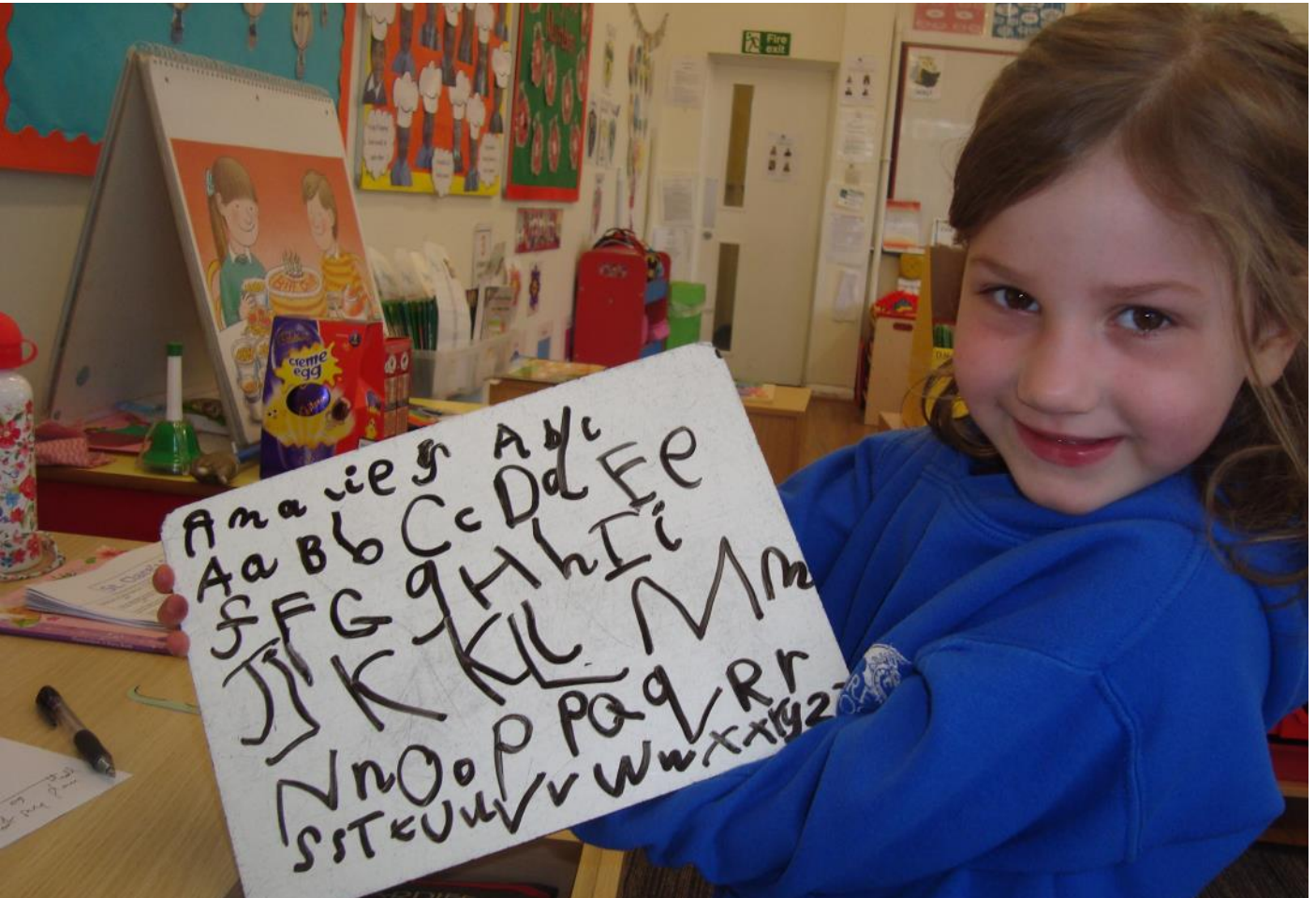


Travelling by boat



Land, sea or air?

I can write my alphabet by Amelie in Reception



As part of their topic "People who help us in school our Nursery pupils interviewed Headmaster, Mr Antwis



Our Nursery pupils also interviewed our Secretary, Mrs Domachowski



Wearing Class of 2017 hoodies, Y11 start Study Leave



We wish you all the best for your GCSEs



Year 9 pupils win Shell's Bright Ideas Challenge



St Clare's are national winners of Shell's "Bright Ideas Challenge" for the second year running. We also won third place in the UK. Our winning team called Chipachapachino, comprised four Year 9 boys pictured above. From left to right, Dylan Walker, Dan Wigglesworth, Theo Quantick (Team Captain) and Ben Jones.

As well as winning £3,000 to super-size STEM learning, the winning students have also won a tablet computer each and a **fully funded trip to London!** The boys flew up to London last Wednesday with their Physics teachers, Mr Gatt and Mr Jones. They attended Make the Future Live, Shell's festival of ideas and innovation at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. As well as catching up with all the exciting hands-on activities, science shows and Shell Eco-marathon, as winners they also got access to a range of exclusive VIP experiences.

Team Captain, Theo Quantick, said, "The Bright Ideas Challenge really got us thinking about the future we'll be living in. It's inspiring to see how the things we've learnt about in Science can change the world. The whole school is excited about the money we've won and the difference it will make to our Science lessons".

See next page for more photos of the boys' trip ...

Team Chipachapachino flew off to London City Airport

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Make the Future Live at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park



At the Make the Future Live festival our students had the opportunity to explore how people use and create energy in everyday life through a series of science shows, hands-on activities, interactive exhibits and engaging careers experiences. As competition winners, they were also treated to a VIP experience of the festival, including queue-jump wristbands for the exhibits, a free lunch, and an opportunity to meet and speak to maths expert, TV celebrity and Bright Ideas Ambassador, Rachel Riley!

With Bright Ideas ambassador, Rachel Riley



Bridgend Junior X-Country report by Mr Gatt



A fantastic turn out for the final Cross Country Race of the season at Bryntirion Comprehensive School. St. Clare's had three pupils who qualified for the mixed Elite races. Grace J. and Freddie T. ran very well in a highly competitive Year 3 & 4 Boys and Girls Race. Similarly Jessica C. finished 6th in her Elite Race for years 5 & 6. The other children ran very well in their races Louis P. and Jordan W. set personal best performances in the 5 & 6 race finishing just outside the medals in 4th and 6th respectively. The rest of the squad enjoyed the freedom of running for the school for fun. We have a squad of runners who have all improved over the course of the season and this bodes well for next year. Well done!

Year 9 House Swimming Trials report by Mr Gatt



The final House Swimming Trials took place on Friday 28th April. Several very close races. Individually, Sam B had three 1sts and two 3rds. Ben J had two 1sts one 2nd and two 3rds. New pupil Alice had two 1sts and three 2nds. The best House were Britons with 91 points, 2nd Vikings with 54 points, 3rd Saxons with 47 points and 4th Romans with 29pts. Well done!

Millie wins the City Cup

At the Bristol Dance Eisteddfod, Year 9 pupil, Millie J. won the City Cup, presented for the highest score in song and dance from 13-18 years of age. Millie was registered in the youngest age category eligible for the cup, so an excellent achievement!

On Sunday, Millie was interviewed by BBC Wales, whilst rehearsing for the newest Welsh musical production at Wales' Millenium Centre. Millie is attending a series of workshops for the children's roles in the musical. Millie is currently the only confirmed child cast as a 'Waterboy' in the musical Tiger Bay which will be performed in November at Wales' Millenium Centre. The making of the musical will be aired sometime in June on BBC Wales. The lead cast member is the very famous West End and Broadway star John Owen-Jones.

Here is the link for the WMC: <https://www.wmc.org.uk/Productions/2017-2018/DonaldGordonTheatre/TigerBay/>



Emily is champion of the show pony class



Reception pupil, Emily T rode at Bicton County show where she was champion of the show pony class, qualifying for the Royal International horse show in Hickstead, this is the largest outdoor show in the country. She also rode in the show hunter pony class and came third.

Hickstead has hosted the Longines Royal International Horse Show (Patron: Her Majesty The Queen) since 1992. Having celebrated its centenary in 2007, the show the official Horse Show of The British Horse Society is now the venerable age of 109, and one of the oldest horse shows in the world.

Considering Emily's age this is a huge achievement as she is competing against older children.

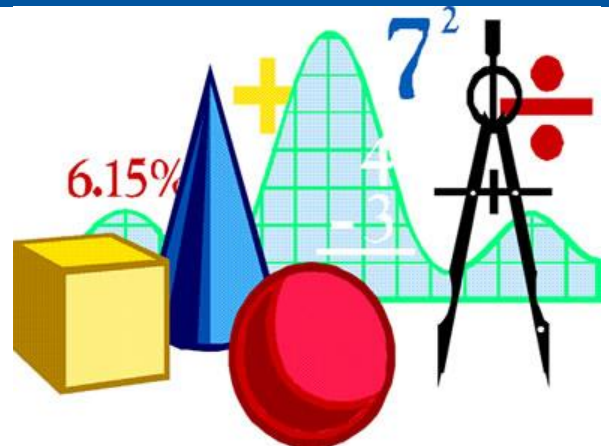
Well done, Emily!

The Friends of St. Clare's Teddy Bears Picnic



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



It has finally been warm enough for pupils to try out the new outdoor seating area which was paid for by the Friends of St. Clare's. Definitely gets the thumbs up!



U13 Football team made it through to the final!



The boys just lost out to Maesteg 4-2 in Y8 final. Frantic last 10minutes: hit bar twice & 2 near misses but wouldn't go in. Hard luck & well done boys! Dylan W. scored both goals and we hit the bar twice. Great team spirit. [Report by Mr Martin]

Bridgend Kwik Cricket cricket day



Lovely photo just as the team returned from Bridgend Kwik cricket. Great day - fielded 3 teams - 1 team won their final so will play in South Wales Finals in June. [Report by Mr Martin]

Chris Matthews' cricketing career news

Year 12 student, Chris Matthews (front row, 3rd from left) in India with Glamorgan Academy for training. They played two games, one against Hindu Gymkhana Club Academy and a second against Air India Club Academy. Chris scored over 50 in both games and was also named man of the match in both. During their time in Mumbai the boys spent an afternoon on a walking tour through the Dharavi slum, something Chris found very humbling as he saw the conditions the local people have to live and work in.



Chris (pictured front row, 3rd from left again) has captained this year's Wales U17's team through two games so far. The team has beaten both Nottinghamshire U17's and Northamptonshire U17's in the ECB U17's County Cup with Chris scoring 76 and 47 runs respectively. He will be captaining the team over half term when they will play Staffordshire U 17's and Warwickshire U 17's. Let's hope they do well.



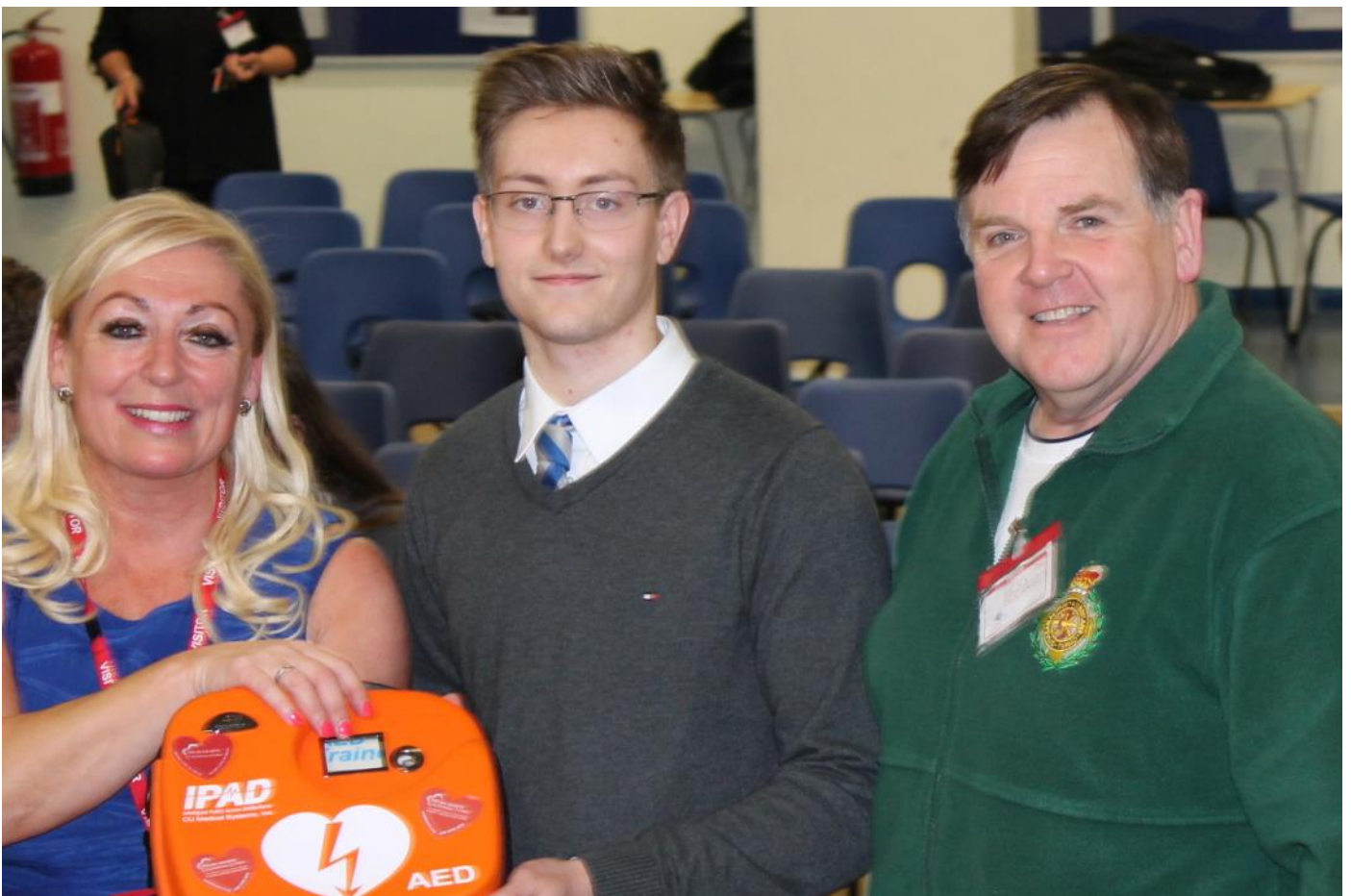
Welsh Hearts present defibrillator to Head Boy Tom Hood

Head Boy, Tom Hood 's ambition is to be 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 Sixth 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.



Summer Exhibition Wednesday 28th June 6-8:30pm

St. Clare's School

Summer Exhibition 2017



Deputy Head Boy , Sam swimming for Diabetes UK



Sam Mahoney is swimming to raise awareness and money for research into diabetes. He has chosen to raise money through the Swim22 programme as it is fun and challenging way to raise awareness as well as improving his fitness while doing so.

Sam joined St Clare's in the Nursery. He is currently studying Psychology, Biology and PE and has been offered a place at Southampton to read Applied Sports Science and wants to continue in the Sports Science field in terms of Physiotherapy or join the Police Force.

Sam would really appreciate any sponsors and donations to help reach his goal for Diabetes UK. If you would like to make a donation please go to Sam's Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Samuel-Mahoney>. Thank you so much.

Amy wins gold for Team Wales



Congratulations to Y13 student Amy Osborne who represented Team Wales in the ICU World cheerleading Championships and won a gold medal in the Paracheer Freestyle Pom!

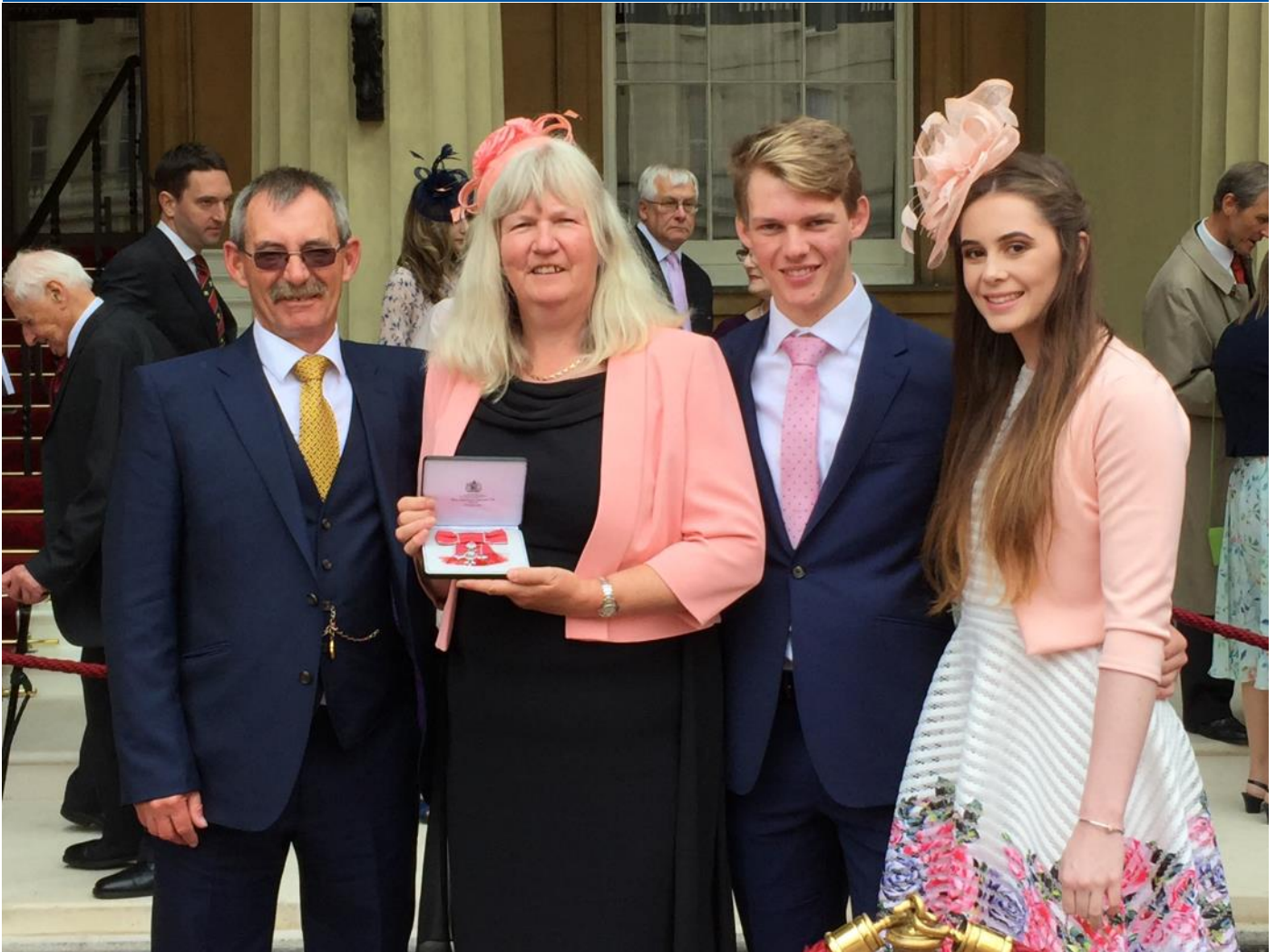
Amy also gained 6th place in the Team Wales Jazz and 9th place in the Team Wales Pom.

In the USASF Dance World Championships, Amy gained 10th place in the RSD Leading Ladies open Lyrical and 10th place in the RSD Leading Ladies Open Pom.

Amy joined our Sixth Form from Porthcawl comprehensive. She is studying Biology, History and PE and is going to Cardiff Met to read Dance and PE. She wants to be a professional dancer.

Well done, Amy!

Margaret Matthews, MBE



Lucky Year 13 students Chris Matthews and Amy Osborne went to Buckingham Palace two weeks ago when Chris's mother, Margaret, received her award from HRH Prince Charles.

Margaret received an MBE in the 2017 New Years Honours List for services to Manufacturing in Wales. She is a Chemical Engineer and worked for Dow Corning for 35 years. Only the second female engineer hired by Dow Corning in Barry (the first left after about a year) she was also the only woman to serve as Site Manager, having done that twice (2004 - 2009 and 2015 - 2016).

She served on numerous groups supporting the manufacturing and chemicals industry:

- represented Welsh businesses on the Welsh Assembly Government's Climate Change Commission for 2 years
- served as a Governor of the Wales Quality Centre between 2011 and 2014,
- active member of the CBI Wales Council between 2004 and 2010, serving as both Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Council during that time
- active member of the Chemical Industries Association Council from 2004 to 2009 and again from mid 2015 to my retirement in 2016. Chaired the CIA's Chemicals Management Strategy Group and served as a member of the CIA Executive Committee and the Responsible Care Strategy Group

Congratulations! Looks as if you all had a lovely day.

Important dates for your diary

Monday, 5th June	First day back after half-term
Friday, 16th June	Senior House Golf Tournament
Saturday, 17th June	Junior Athletics at Leckwith Stadium
Friday, 23rd June	Open Morning at 9:00am (please pre-book)
Monday, 26th June	Senior School Sports Day
Monday, 26th-Weds 28th June	Year 5 & 6 PGL trip, Brecon
Wednesday, 28th June	Summer Art Exhibition 6:00-8:30pm
Monday, 3rd—Friday, 7th July	UCAS Week (Y11 invited on 5th July)
Tuesday, 4th July	Prep School Sports Day
Tuesday, 4th—5th July	Y10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition
Friday, 7th July	Y6 Transition Day (to be confirmed)
Friday, 7th July	Sixth Form Ball
Tuesday, 11th July	Last day of term
Monday, 4th September	INSET day # 1
Tuesday, 5th September	First day of term

Reminders

- ⇒ If you change your details, please inform the School 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.