

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

I write to you at exciting times for St. Clare's School.

The academic reputation of the school is at an all-time high within the Cognita group and beyond. We have the best Value Added data at A-level and GCSE. Let's hope this continues this summer. We are rolling out a new assessment system using the Language of Mastery and Age Related Expectations from Nursery to Year 9 that is going to be mimicked and rolled out to many other schools in the group. We have teachers being invited onto many Cognita Steering Groups such as Digital Learning and Post 16 Learning. Many teachers from other schools have chosen to visit St. Clare's to gather ideas and collaborate. Some of our teachers are visiting other schools to help them roll out some of the new systems we are using so effectively here eg Firefly Parent Portal and VLE.

We are also investing in the fabric of the school. The changing rooms are coming along nicely and will be ready for the new academic year. Phase 2 of the science labs will be completed also in time for the new term. Staff have been filling skips with the junk from the last 20 years that has accumulated in the labs on the top floor! The new floor plan will improve the learning environment for children and adults alike.

We are also pleased to announce that the Nursery playground is going to have soft surfacing introduced to make the environment safer for the little ones.

There are also many other works which are less interesting but just as important to ensure we are more than compliant with Health & Safety regulations and to ensure safeguarding children is embedded in our culture.

This isn't a shameless attempt to "show off" but more to give you, as parents, reassurance that you have chosen a great school for your children and that we are doing everything we can to enhance outcomes for them. There is still much to do and I do listen and try to respond to the views from parents, pupils and staff both formally through surveys but also informally.

I am very proud of the children but I am also proud of the entire staff. This is a great school to lead.

New appointments / staffing news

St. Clare's has been able to attract high quality staff to join the team this year:

Dr Rathkey joins the as the new Biology teacher to replace Mr Gallagher. She was previously a Research Fellow at the University of Wales where she also completed her PhD. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Biology from St. Mary and Westfield College, University of London. She was a teacher of science and Biology to A-level at Cynffig Comprehensive School.

Mr Staddon joins as the new Music teacher to replace Miss Beale. He is currently and will also remain our Peripatetic teacher for guitar. He has a degree in Guitar Studies from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and a Masters degree in Music Composition from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He was a teacher of Music to A-level at Churchill Academy in Somerset.



Headmaster's letter (continued)

Mrs Cheverton joins as a temporary teacher of Spanish to cover Mrs Hier's maternity leave. She has taught to A-level at Bryn Celynnog and Lliswerry Schools. She has a BA (Hons) in French and Hispanic Studies from the University of Nottingham. She is an ex-pupil of St. Clare's and a parent.

Mrs Trenoweth joins as the new Art & Graphics teacher to replace Miss Evans. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art & Graphic Design from Camberwell College of Art, London. She was Head of Art at Ffynone House School.

Mr Gatt is to be our new Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo).

Mrs Smart is our new More Able & Talented Coordinator (MATCo).

Mrs Phillips is Young Enterprise Coordinator.

Mrs Parker (Teaching & Learning) and **Mrs Smart** (Well Being & Behaviour) will be Acting Deputies for two terms next year.

Mr Martin and **Mrs Smith** are to exchange pastoral leadership roles as from September. Mr Martin will be Head of KS4 (Y10/11) and Mrs Smith will take on the role of Head of KS3 (Y7-9).

Results Days

I should like to congratulate our Year 11, 12 and 13 students on getting through their extensive exam diets this summer. My thanks also to parents for supporting their children with cups of tea, lifts, moral support and more! Results days will soon be upon us:

A2 and AS: Thursday August 17th
GCSE: Thursday August 24th

The school will be open from 9:00am for pupils wishing to collect their exam results. Myself, Mrs Hier, other senior leaders and Mrs Murphy will be around to advise and assist where required with higher / further education issues or curriculum discussions for new Year 12 students.

Best of luck to everyone.

Leaving staff

Keith Barnard is leaving St. Clare's after 14 years of service to join his wife Cath in retirement. Keith has seen St. Clare's through the change of ownership from the nuns to Cognita and overseen a revolution in how the site is maintained and developed over the last 11 years. It is fair to say that his job has become increasingly complex in line with health & safety changes and compliance regulations. Keith has mastered all this change with his usual good grace and sense of humour and perspective. He will always be remembered for his gentlemanly approach with everyone in the community even in the most challenging of circumstances. We wish him well.

Cath Lambert is also leaving St. Clare's after 6 years of service to semi-retire with her husband and travel the World in their huge RV! Cath was (is) an amazing teacher of biology and has been extraordinarily successful in helping huge numbers of children gain a GCSE or A-level in a vital core subject.

Headmaster's letter (continued)

Many of these children were not natural scientists and she was particularly skilled at supporting lower ability children to pass their exams. It was no surprise that she became ALNCo and again she demonstrated her skills at identifying children's needs very quickly and being a positive influence on adapting the school curriculum to cater for children with ALN. She was also very talented at intervening when there was upset or emotion and being a very calming and reassuring influence. We will miss her dreadfully.

Laura Evans leaves to start her Masters degree and later on her PhD. She joined St. Clare's in 2011 and it is fair to say that she has completely transformed the delivery of Art and Graphics in the school. In fact, Graphics has grown from a couple of students to nearly 20 in just a few years. The results of the students in both subjects are the best in the school in terms of Value Added and the Art Department is recognised as the best in the Cognita group. It is also highly regarded by the Exam Board who have used our pupils' work as exemplars to other schools. She has had a significant impact on the school's overall success.

Jo Coles leaves to dedicate more time to her young family. She has been at St. Clare's since 2012. I first met Jo Baker (as she was then) when I was Vice Principal at Bristol Cathedral School. She was a part of the team on the Project Steering Group that was helping the school to convert from a small independent into a large state academy. I remember how effective she was in her financial role then and she soon became a favourite of the SLT at the school amongst a sea of empty suits and overpaid consultants. When I got the role at St. Clare's it was pointed out to me by a colleague that "you would be pleased with your future Business Manager." Not until I turned up on my first day did I realise Jo Coles was Jo Baker! She proved to be as impressive a School Business Manager as she was academy advisor and performed wonders to improve how the financial side of the school operated. She will be sorely missed.

Aodhan Gallagher leaves after 3 years at St. Clare's to return to Ireland to be closer to his family and re-join his old school. Aodhan has been a huge character in the school and is popular amongst staff and pupils alike. As well as being an excellent teacher of biology he was also a great House Leader. He has also helped to reshape and regenerate PSE in the school which is now delivered in an imaginative and effective way to the pupils. He was also our Charities Champion for Cognita's charity Global Fund for Children. He was so effective at this that our little school raised the most money for GFC out of all the Cognita schools two years running. We wish him the very best for the future.

Lauren Beale leaves to teach music at The Dorcan Academy, Swindon. She has been a huge personality at St. Clare's and has revitalised music both in and out of the classroom. She achieved great success with Mrs Corthine with the musical "The Lion King." She was also pivotal in the emphasis on choral singing and it has been great to see our pupils performing beautifully in local venues. We wish her well in her new role.

Graham Hyman is retiring. His passengers on the Vale route minibus will miss his gentlemanly and kindly way. He is looking forward to spending more time on his garden and booking a holiday during term time!

Helen Hier leaves us for two terms for the birth of her and Richard's second child. I can't tell you what it is like to lose your "right hand woman" for this length of time but I know her role will be ably covered by Mrs Smart and Mrs Parker. We wish her and her family the best for the birth of Ava this summer.

Headmaster's letter (continued)

I wish the St. Clare's team (Mr Gatt, Mrs Phillips, Mr Yemm and Miss Milling attempting the Three Peaks Challenge the best of luck over the next few days. They are raising money for Global Fund for Children. Please try and donate at their JustGiving page if you can.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stclares-school-porthcawl>

I hope you all have lovely holidays too. See you all in September.



Simon Antwis, Headmaster

Our Nursery pupils have been harvesting their potatoes



Over to Sian in the dining hall to cook them for lunch!



Jack & the Beanstalk theme in our Nursery



Growing their own beanstalks



Drawing Jack & the Beanstalk pictures



Three Peaks Challenge (11th July—14th July)



Fundraising for Global Fund for Children Trust UK



**Three Peaks Challenge Team at Scafell Pike
Mr Yemm, Mr Gatt, Miss Milling and Mrs Phillips**

Stunning views from the top of Scafell Pike



www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stclares-school-porthcawl



Snowdon completed and on their way back down ...



www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stclares-school-porthcawl

Congratulations to Martha P (Year 1 pupil)



St John's Church Summer Fayre 2017 winner (4-6 years)



Infants end of term trip to Margam Park



Reception pupils had a brilliant day out



Infants end of term trip Margam Park (continued)



Year 1 had a great day out too



Year 3's end of term trip to Cardiff Castle



to support their History topic of the Romans



Junior Athletics at Leckwith Stadium



Smiles all round after winning Small Schools Trophy!



Sporting news outside school

Congratulations to Hali Richards (Year 8) who came third in her age group in the under 14 girls ski race in the West Wales Schools Ski Event which was held at Pembrok.



Congratulations to Emily Smith (Year 9) who has represented Wales twice in Girls Basketball this season. She played for the U15s in a tournament in Surrey and also for the U14s squad in a tournament in Gibraltar where Emily was Vice Captain of the team.



Emily played really well, scoring but mainly driving and assists as that is her role.

Emily is also part of girls U16s squad for her local team, the Cynffig Cougars, who became South Wales Champions this season.

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.

Year 5 and Year 6 trip to PGL Brecon



PGL Water Challenge!



Prep Sports Day



Reception pupils in the classic "sack" race



Year 3 girls take a break in the shade

Prep Sports Day



Summer Exhibition attended by the Mayor of Porthcawl



Stunning display of A-level and GCSE Art & Design



Our new library is ready and open to the students



inspiring environments
for working & learning

bof



The library will be open weekly on a lunchtime for pupils to take out books and will be run by a team of pupil librarians: Grace Shared, Millie Robinson, Nikki Zhang, Carolina Marques, Agnes Pottage, Jaynee Winslade-Gregory, Lucy Baynham, Millie Jenkins, Theo Quantick, Alys Ridsdale, Molly Jones. Lead librarian Alice Tucker Y13 will oversee their duties. Many thanks go to Mr Parrish and BOF office furniture for their very kind donations.

Continuing investment in the fabric of the school



New changing rooms will be ready for September



Artist's impression of Science block (it's been gutted so nothing to take a picture of just yet)

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition—July



Fifteen Y10 pupils and a Y11 Charles C, successfully completed their Bronze expedition on the Gower



Summer Soccer School

Tony Morgan of Porthcawl United FC will once again be running the Summer Soccer School here at St Clare's from 9:00am - 3:00pm from 24th July. 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

Performance House Fun Days and Summer School



The Performance House will be running Fun Days and Summer Schools and St Clare's pupils are eligible for the TPH member rate.

Contact The Performance House for more details or to book your place. Find them on social media or email them at theperformancehouse@hotmail.co.uk

Superstars Multi-Sports Holiday Courses



SuperStars and Sammy the Star are coming back to St Clare's over the summer holidays to run their exciting Multi-Sports Holiday courses. The course is suitable for all children aged 4-11 and runs from 8.45-15.30 Daily (Mini Stars - 4 year olds finish at 13:00, SuperStars - aged 5+ finish at 15:30). To check dates and availability please get in touch with SuperStars directly via their website <https://bookings.super-stars.org.uk/> or call Hannah on 0845 2413 682.

Don't forget to order your winter uniform

All Prep School pupils should be wearing their Winter Uniform after the summer holidays.

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



Important dates for your diary

Thursday, 17th August	A2/AS results (school open from 9:00am)
Thursday, 24th August	GCSE results (school open from 9:0am)
Monday, 4th September	INSET day #1
Tuesday, 5th September	First day of autumn term
Wednesday, 6th September	Year 7 (and new Senior School parents) Cheese & Wine Engagement Evening
Wednesday, 13th September	Year 12 & Year 13 Cheese & Wine Engagement Evening
Monday, 25th September	UCAS Evening Year 12 & Year 13 (Pupils and Parents)
Wednesday, 11th October	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Wednesday, 25th October	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Friday, 27th October	INSET day #2
Monday, 30th October to Friday 3rd November	Half-term
Wednesday, 15th November	Year 12 & Year 13 Parents' Evening
Friday, 15th December	Last day of autumn term
Monday, 8th January	First day of spring 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.