

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

"The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise."

I will tell you who this quote is alleged to be from later.

I thought long and hard about my speech and what I should focus on for this year. I was reminded of an assembly I did this year. I was also reminded of the fact that my house is now full of three 6 foot teenagers. Finally, I was reminded of a chance meeting with an old school friend whilst on holiday in France.

By way of a Facebook post showing off that I was holidaying in the West of France an old school friend from nearly 30 years ago messaged me to point out that I was actually only 20 minutes' drive from his home. So I took the plunge and drove over to see him. I was actually quite nervous of this chance reunion and started to doubt whether we would hit it off or whether we had deteriorated physically and mentally so much that we would embarrass ourselves or that we had nothing left in common. Well it turned out to be no such thing on any account – we instantly picked up where we left off, caught up with each other's lives and reminisced about our teenage life together whilst belly laughing about some of the scrapes we got into. We also realised how things seemed important when we were young which are now have proved trivial and insignificant.

And that is the subject of my speech today – **Being A Modern Teenager.**

I think modern young people get a rough deal with the media:

- They are told:
 - if GCSE results go up – they are too easy;
 - if GCSE results go down – they are less clever than previous generations; and
 - if they stay the same – why are they not improving?
- We are told they are on street corners getting ASBOs
- We are told they are taking drugs and getting pregnant
- We are told they are smoking and drinking to excess

I will return to this theme after a brief report on the successes of young people of the last academic year.

Head Students:

After a rigorous and extensive selection process the following students will form the Student Leadership Team from September:

Head Student – Hannah Hart

Deputy Head Student – Megan Greenwood

Senior Prefects – Chris Matthews, Freya Harding, Will Mahoney



Headteacher's Prize Day Speech (continued)

They have already made a great start – I am certain they will have a positive influence for the remainder of this year. Hannah and Megan certainly intimidate me when they come into my office with pads and sharpened pencils!

This year, as ever, outstanding results were achieved at **Advanced Level**. The school was very successful in helping its A-Level students secure the university places of their choice in a wide range of courses.

Our pupils outperformed figures taken from across all UK state schools, selective and non-selective.

100% of all grades were passes for the 5th year in a row compared to the Welsh average of 97%. This puts us top of all Cognita schools across the world. The pass rate at A-A* was 34% compared with 25% in Welsh state schools. We are now the top performing UK school in the Cognita group by all raw measures.

However, the most important statistic for me is our Value Added (i.e. how much PROGRESS pupils make). This remains at an impressive +0.2 grades per pupil per subject putting St. Clare's 2nd in Cognita Group.

There were excellent performances by students across all subjects. I would like to publically acknowledge the drive and determination of Mr. Davies in History, Mrs. Williams in Textiles and Mrs. Howe for Business Studies for impressive and consistently high Value Added statistics over a three-year period.

At GCSE Level – we deliver English GCSEs at St. Clare's

In unreformed GCSEs:

% A*-C grades = 93% (up from 88% last year)

The new reformed GCSEs with their numbered grades also fared well:

- Maths pass rate (4+) = 81% (cf 71% nationally)
- Eng Lang (4+) = 85% (cf 70% nationally)
- Eng Lit (4+) = 100% (cf 73% nationally)

We have an amazing Value Added:

- (from Y7 to GCSE) of +0.7 and
- (from Y10 to GCSE) of +0.6

This is the highest by some margin of all the Cognita schools and now means that the combined VA at the end of A-Level is +0.9. This means, on average, every student gets just about one grade more than is expected from pupils of their ability: this means BBB rather than CCC, or AAA rather than BBB. This means better courses at better universities and better prospects for employment.

Particular congratulations to Mrs Williams and Mrs Corthine on excellent Art results this year - raw VA of +1.6 and Drama +1.4. It is also noteworthy that Business Studies VA was ranked 7th out of the 167 schools in the UK who returned GCSE data. Mrs Howe continues to produce excellent results for her pupils.

In fact, nearly every subject achieved significant positive Value Added.

Headteacher's Prize Day Speech (continued)

Prep: their results show that they are half a year ahead for a child of their ability in Maths, English & Science – which means they hit the ground running in Year 7. I should like to congratulate Mrs Davies (our Y3 teacher) and her pupils in particular for much higher than expected progress in both English and Mathematics.

By any criteria one might wish to apply, these were excellent results.

Our thanks go to all of our pastoral and academic middle leaders for the thorough work they do and advice they give to our young people.

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire school community for their part in our successes this year: Cognita, the teaching and support staff, the Friends of St. Clare's who do so much to improve the environment for the children, you the parents and of course the pupils.

So I return to my earlier quote:

"The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise."

That sounds pretty damning. However, I like to deal in facts.

According to government statistics:

- Teenage pregnancy rates since 1971:
 - in U20s has halved;
 - in U16s has fallen by 33%;
- Teenage alcohol consumption in 11-15 yoy fallen from 61% in 2003 to 38% in 2014;
- Teenage smoking rates have fallen from 18% to 5% in 11-16 year olds between 2001-14;
- Teenage drug consumption in 11-15 yoy between 2001-14:
 - "ever taken drugs" DOWN from 29% to 15%;
 - "taken in the last year" DOWN from 20% to 10%;
 - "taken in last month" DOWN from 12% to 6%;
- Teenage arrest statistics in U18s from 2006 – 2016:
 - Average youth custody population DOWN from 2,800 to <1,000;
 - Arrests down by 75% since 2007.

There are similar figures for declining racist / homophobic / xenophobic incidents in this generation.

You also need to take into consideration that this generation of young people:

- Are the most over examined cohort of pupils in the World;
- Are having to deal with the most disruptive change to their exams/and curriculum since the 70s;
- Are having to cope with pressure inducing university offers that turn out to be over inflated come results day;

Headteacher's Prize Day Speech (continued)

- Are having to cope with being told they are 'underperforming' according to PISA leagues tables when they are not;
- Are coping with being under 24-hour scrutiny through social media with seemingly no let-up even when they are at home;
- Are under more pressure and stress than previous generations; and
- Are more likely to suffer mental health issues .

I know St. Clare's pupils are less likely to have contributed negatively to any of the types of statistics I have quoted but the point I am making is clear. They are the best behaved, most enlightened, most cohesive, most tolerant and most accepting of any generation.

I would remind the young people in this room that they have more influence than they realise. If the 18-25 demographic had turned out in greater numbers than voted at the last General Election and EU referendum, then we may have had very different outcomes.

It is evident from the extensive list of academic, artistic and sporting achievements you can read in this newsletter from our own young people that we as adults continue to underestimate them and shame on us for doing so.

Adults should take heed – we need to really cherish this generation and continue to support them to fly. It is possibly not too controversial to add that the statistics I gave are also due in part to an improvement in the quality of parenting over the generations.

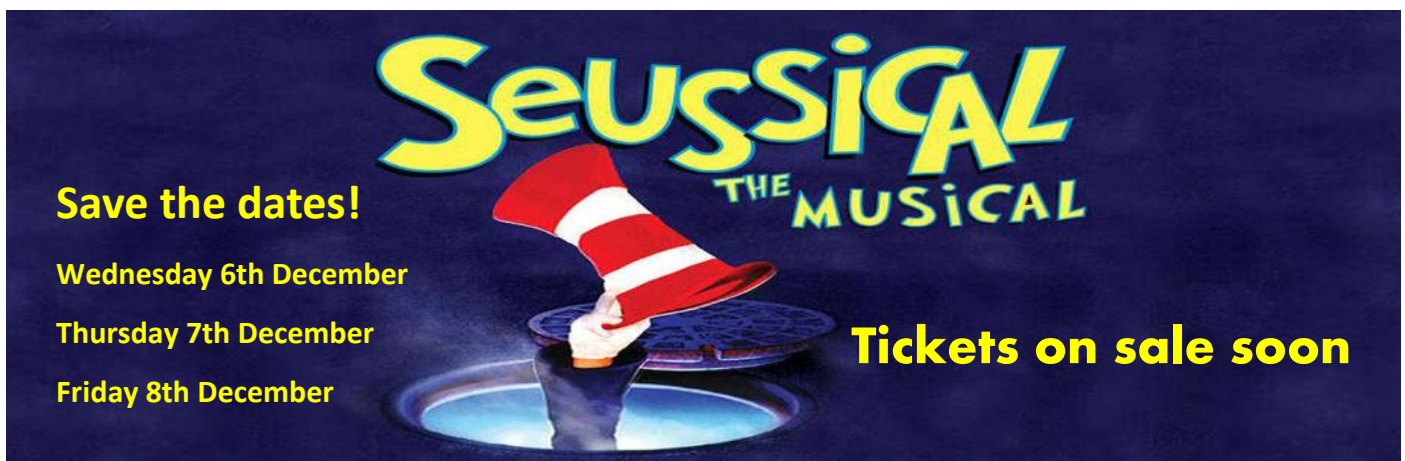
The quote I gave you earlier was from none other than Socrates allegedly spoken circa 400BC. It would seem underestimating young people is nothing new! Our young people continue to progress and adapt – the elders continue to stagnate and see the glass half empty.

I would urge young people to try to buck this trend as they themselves grow into adults and care for teenage children.

Kind regards



Simon Antwis
Headteacher



Seussical
THE MUSICAL

Save the dates!

Wednesday 6th December

Thursday 7th December

Friday 8th December

Tickets on sale soon

The poster features a red and white striped hat (the Cat in the Hat) on a blue circular base, set against a dark blue background with a glowing blue circle at the bottom.

St Clare's welcomes British International School Boston



St Clare's Annual Prize Day at the Grand Pavilion

Porthcawl's famous Grand Pavilion provided the perfect stage to celebrate the achievements of the past year and reinforce ambitions for the coming year for St Clare's which continues the tradition of rewarding our young achievers with our Annual Prize Day Ceremony. Boys and girls from the Prep School right up to Sixth Form received prizes for academic excellence and sporting achievements.

This year St Clare's welcomed the Mayor of Porthcawl, Cllr Lorrie Desmond-Williams, Mary Emment-Lewis the outgoing Chair of Porthcawl's Town Twinning Association and Barbara and Bill Stubbs from Porthcawl Rotary Club.



Left to right: Dr Sally Pugh-Williams (alumna and mentor), Porthcawl Town Mayor Cllr Lorrie Desmond-Williams, Guest of Honour Rhys Jones, Mary Emment-Lewis from PSSTTA & Headteacher Simon Antwis

St Clare's Prize Day at the Grand Pavilion (continued)

Our Guest of Honour was Rhys Jones, a former pupil and who since 2012 has been part of Morgan & West - a stage magic duo who travel the world with shows and who have appeared on BBC and ITV with Penn and Teller.

Rhys was a student at St. John's and then moved to St. Clare's Sixth Form to study A-Levels and was privileged to be Head Boy at both establishments. After a gap year he went to John's College, Oxford to read Physics where he met now friend and business partner Rob Tay. In 2008 they mounted their first show as magicians and within year they had a name for their act, Morgan & West, and took their first duo show to the Edinburgh Fringe **Bamboozlement!**

Enjoying relative success, they decided to make a go of this possible magic career and now tour the country on a regular basis and are currently touring with **More Magic For Kids** their second kids show and **Time Travelling Magicians** a full evening show. They are known nationally and indeed throughout the magic community for the quality and originality of their shows and are pleased to be able to call both Derren Brown and Dynamo friends and fans of theirs.



Addressing a full house at The Grand Pavilion, Rhys kept the audience on the edge of their seats with his inspirational talk, interspersed with some jaw-dropping mind-reading and a hilarious video "What advice do you wish you'd had when you were at school?" featuring clips from his magic colleagues including Penn and Teller, Dynamo and Derren Brown.

However, there was also a serious side to his speech too which highlighted the importance of discussing mental health issues and Rhys reminded students to "Be kind to yourself", "Be kind to others" and "Never be afraid to ask for help".

What a show!



Nursery pupils enjoying the newly resurfaced play area



Now we have "grass" all year round and no more grazed knees!



Nursery theme this term is "All About Me"



As part of the theme, the children have been looking at shapes in their environment. Don't forget to check the whiteboard outside Nursery to see what your child will be learning every day.



Reception news

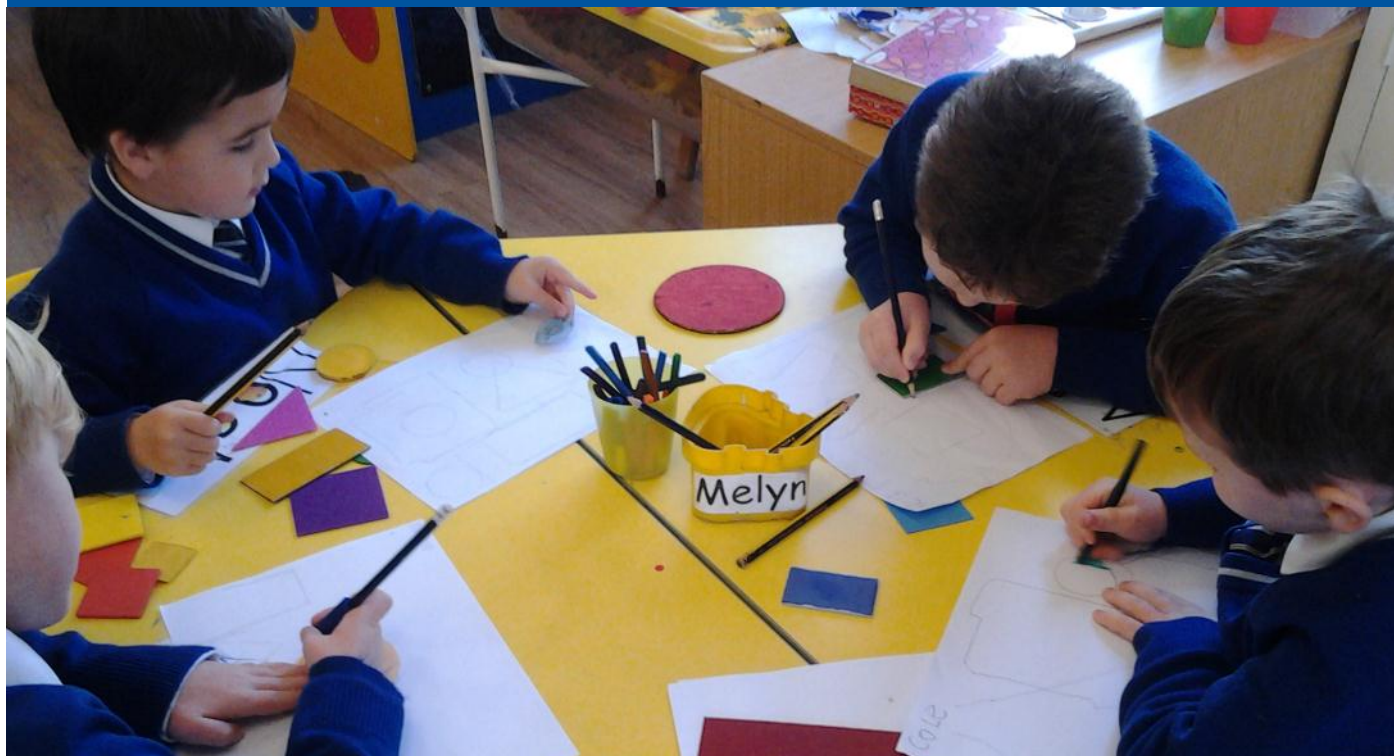


Sequencing the life-cycle of a butterfly



A real life caterpillar to observe!

Recognising 2D shapes



We're practising our letter M

St Clare's Prep pupils "Speak Out—Stay Safe"

Prep pupils got involved in an exciting fundraising event to raise well over a thousand pounds to help the NSPCC be there to keep even more children safe. Sara Phillips from the NSPCC has been into St Clare's with mascot Buddy as part of the Speak Out. Stay Safe programme specially developed so that a whole generation of children have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe.

By the end of Sara and Buddy's interactive assemblies and workshops, the children felt empowered, knowing they could speak out and stay safe so they decided to take part in a sponsored Danceathon to raise money to help NSPCC continue their amazing work. Sara and Buddy came back in last week to collect a fantastic total of £1,142.50!

An NSPCC Wales spokesman said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to St Clare's School for all their fundraising efforts. Every penny raised will make a massive difference to the work that we do as a charity. It will help go towards our Speak Out Stay Safe schools service which sees us visiting schools across Wales to teach children about how to stay safe from abuse and how to report it, as well as our Childline service, which supports children when they need it the most."



Madeleine Moon MP presents Shell winners with cheque



Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend visited St Clare's to present a cheque for £3000 and a trophy to the national winners of Shell's "Bright Ideas Challenge" competition. Team Chipachapachino comprised four boys now in Year 10: Theo Quantick (Team Captain), Ben Jones, Dylan Walker and Dan Wigglesworth.

Madeleine Moon addressed the senior school in a special assembly and reminded them what a fantastic achievement it was for the team to have won 1st in Wales and 3rd in the UK. Team Captain, Theo, explained that Shell's "Bright Ideas Challenge" had really got them thinking about the future they'll be living in one day. Their winning idea was an energy smart home of the future being built from blocks that absorb carbon dioxide and reduce global warming. They were really inspired to see how the things they are learning about in Science could change the world. The boys were proud to show their local MP their newly refurbished Science labs as well as the new boys and girls changing rooms which had been completed over the summer. Mrs Moon has also promised to put the boys in touch with Cennin Renewables' "Solcer House" on Stormy Down designed by the Welsh School of Architecture at Cardiff University.

Madeleine Moon MP presents Duke of Edinburgh Awards



National Debaters receive award from Madeleine Moon

This year is the first year that we have entered the CEWC School's Debate Championships. Molly Jones (Y11) and Sam Chumley (Y12) were chosen to represent their school. The competition was divided into various rounds that took place over the entirety of Wales, with six schools battling it out at a time. Competition was fierce: as it was a parliamentary-style debate, schools were not given the chance to choose as to which motion they were allowed to debate or which side they wanted to represent. Rather than it be a straight-forward presentation, pupils could face being interrupted with questions every 15 seconds! Both Molly and Sam did a superb job, but unfortunately, we were pipped to the post by an experienced team from Olchfa School.

Report by Miss Rolls, English Teacher



“When I competed in the National Debate Championships, my eyes were opened as to how much work was necessary to put forward a strong, well-developed argument. It also boosted my confidence massively. Speaking in a room full of people sounded extremely daunting. However, after the training day and a lot of support from Miss Rolls, I felt as though I spoke well and help my own when debating in front of everyone.”

Sam Chumley, Year 12

“Taking part in the National Debating Championships was an enjoyable experience, and I feel that I learned a lot. Me and my partner put a lot of hard work into our arguments and I'm glad that I competed. Miss Rolls was very supportive and despite how nerve-wracking the experience was, we both enjoyed it and I would love to participate again in the future.”

Molly Jones, Year 11

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.

Junior X-Country at Bryntirion

Junior X-Country at Bryntirion went well in tough conditions.

Grace J. was 4th in Y3/Y4 race, new runners Chloe C. and Agatha D. had very good first runs for St Clare's. Jamie B. ran well with Y6 boys and Jess C. and Maddie M. were good finishers for the senior girls. Brothers Max & Oscar J. were joined by new runner Lucas C. who ran for the school when his football match was called off! Excellent effort from all who took part.

Report by Mr Gatt



Emily and Ronald at the Horse of the Year Show

Emily (Rec) and Ronald the Reception class bear went to the Horse of the Year Show. Emily had an amazing experience and enjoyed every minute of it. They didn't win but that didn't bother Emily as it was big smiles all round!! Well done, Emily.



Lidia wins even more Archery titles

Congratulations to Lidia, who has recently joined Year 7 from Porthcawl Primary and who has won the Welsh & Open Archery Tournament which makes her the Welsh Metric V Champion for 2017 Junior Ladies Under 12.

Lidia also holds the UK record for this round as well.

Lidia has also won the Junior Windsor Bare Bow Tournament at Cambria Bowmen. She also had another five records to add to her name:

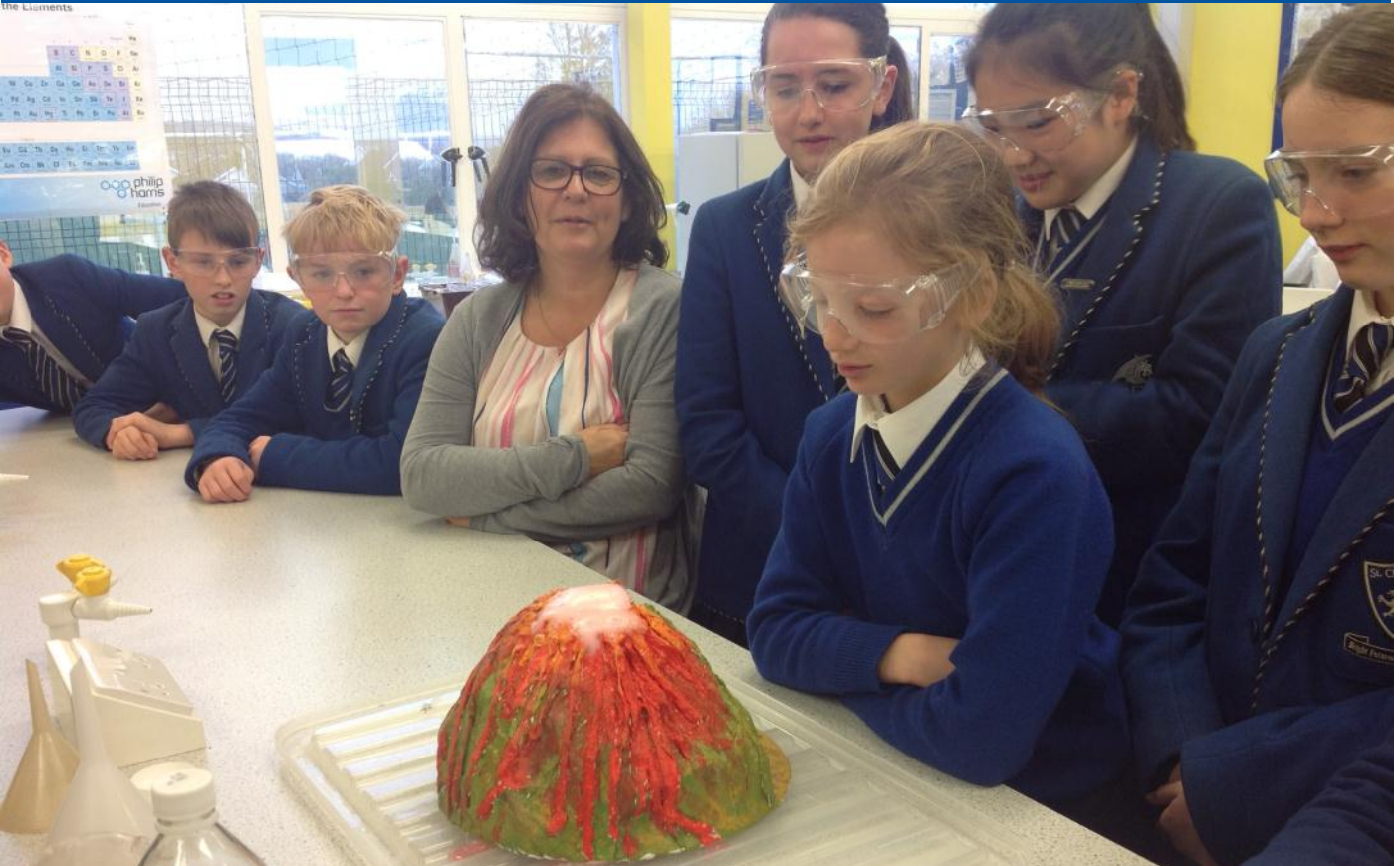
- Welsh Junior Windsor, Junior Ladies Under 12
- Welsh Junior Windsor, Junior Ladies Under 14
- Glamorgan Junior Windsor, Junior Ladies Under 12
- Glamorgan Junior Windsor, Junior Ladies Under 14
- Glamorgan Junior Windsor, Junior Ladies Under 16

Well done, Lidia.

Very impressive!



Year 8 Geography class 'explode' model volcanoes



Year 8 made volcano models and posters as part of our topic on Natural Hazards. Pupils peer marked each other's efforts after coming up with their own criteria and marking scheme. Mrs Andrews kindly help us to 'explode' our volcano models in her biology lab. Apologies for the smell of vinegar that remained for the following days! Niamh Hill had the best overall volcano model with a special mention to Millie Robinson and Nikki Zhang. Everyone had worked very hard and Mrs Smith was 'blown away' with the effort made by all.

Mrs S Smith, Geography Teacher and Head of KS3

Year 11 Geography Field trip to Orielton, Pembrokeshire



The Year 11s went to Pembrokeshire for 3 days to carry out their fieldwork section for their upcoming exams. We had a fantastic (if wet) three days looking at the impact of flooding on Haverford West and the changing services between rural and urban areas. We even managed to find time to carry out some hydrology experiments at the centre, all of which will help pupils in their new style exams this coming summer. Great fun was had by all despite the conditions and the pupils were a huge credit to the school. A special thank you to Mrs Phillips for coming with us.

Mrs S Smith

Skills Cymru Careers Event at Motorpoint Arena

On 11th October, we went to Skills Cymru Careers Event at the Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff. The event was to help guide students into their future careers. This opened many opportunities for us as it offered a range of careers we hadn't thought of. Once we entered the Arena we were greeted with many stands that provided information on universities, colleges, apprenticeships and the armed forces. There were many employers on hand too such as the NHS, the emergency services and JP Morgan, investment bankers. We discovered the many different job opportunities available within the NHS other than in



health care.

We were also able to try practical activities and problem solving skills by welding, cooking and using virtual reality headsets. We even had a go at making mocktails at the Celtic Manor Resort stand!

We thoroughly enjoyed our day.

Report by Year 11

Laura Reynolds—Textiles Workshop

The Art and Textile department would like to say a huge thank you to Laura Reynolds from the Fashion and Textile degree course at Coleg Sir Gar. Laura provided a textile bag making workshop with Year 10! All enjoyed it thoroughly!!! Happy shopping!

We would also like to thank Laura for donating several mannequins, magazines and fabrics to our ever growing collection!

Mrs L Williams, Head of Art Faculty



Important dates for your diary

Tuesday, 14th November	Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening 4:00-6:30pm
Friday, 17th November	Friends of St Clare's Meeting 2:45pm
Friday, 24th November	Christmas Fayre 3:30—5:30pm
Wednesday, 29th November	Open Morning (please book) 9:00am
Thursday, 30th November	Prep Choir singing at All Saints Church
Wednesday, 6th December	Seussical the Musical 7:00pm
Thursday, 7th December	Seussical the Musical 7:00pm
Friday, 8th December	Seussical the Musical 7:00pm
Tuesday, 12th December	Infants' Christmas Concert
Wednesday, 13th December	Juniors' Christmas Concert
Thursday, 14th December	Nursery Christmas Concert
Friday, 15th December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday, 8th January	First day of Spring Term



Our catering team up to no good at Halloween!

