



# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

ST CLARE'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents,

Sometimes as a headteacher the danger is that you can be bogged down in the leadership of a school and forget the reason you came into education. Writing Strategic Plans, Operational Plans, School Improvement Plans, preparing budgets and constantly thinking about how to improve the school can mean you can sometimes briefly lose sight of the pupils.

However, daily I am reminded of why all teachers and non-teaching staff choose to work in schools with young people. About 11:30am every day, I see a crocodile of Nursery children pass by my window on the way to their lunch. I try to wave at them every day and it always makes me laugh to see them staring all around them wondering where the distant voice is calling from whilst bumping into each other in the line.

I have also enjoyed teaching Year 8 Maths this term and listening to the Infants reading their reading books to me. I really appreciate the daily interaction and miss it when I am not required. It helps me to understand the pressures on the young people and my staff.

It has also been a pleasure to invite pupils who have performed exceptionally well either in terms of effort or achievement to my office to have Morning Tea & Cakes. I am reminded how hard working the pupils are and what nice people they are to talk to. However, it was interesting to compare eating and drinking with Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils (Years 7-10) with Infants. Firstly, the Infants ate far more food than the teenagers did and secondly, they could have talked all afternoon! The teenagers were less forthcoming when it comes to idle chit-chat. I am not sure if they saw a morning with me in my office over cups of tea as a reward or a punishment! Either way, I am very proud of these pupils and all the other pupils who work so hard at their studies and all other aspects of school life.

For the second half term in a row, I find myself at school when all of my family including my wife are on half term and vice versa next week! However, I do not think my wife is convinced either week will be hardship for me personally.

I hope you and your families get to spend time together and the weather is kind to us all.

Simon Antwis, Headteacher





# Nursery News

This half term the nursery topic has been Nursery Rhymes:



We learned about winter weather when doing Jack Frost and made Winter tree pictures.



Our school gardener Eamon made a new path in our nursery garden when we did Mary, Mary Quite Contrary.



Hickory, Dickory Dock introduced old and new clocks, and sequencing of events during a day



During the week of Jack and Jill, we learned about first aid and put bandages on our teddies

- ✚ We mixed colours to paint flowers for the display, and made the Home Corner a Garden Centre.
- ✚ We built duplo walls using a repeating pattern for Humpty Dumpty.
- ✚ We looked at shapes for the Queen of Hearts, and made St Valentine's plaques.



# After School Cookery

Year 4 have learned a variety of new skills and tried some delicious new recipes including Pizza, Crinkle Cookies, Rainbow Couscous, Salted Caramel Fondants and Valentine's treats.





# Senior Transition Day

Year 6 pupils had a brilliant time in the Senior School at the end of January and enjoyed a variety of lessons all on the theme of “Bones”.

At the end of the day parents returned to pick up their children from the Senior Hall and thoroughly enjoyed the dance the pupils had learned in Drama.







Our next Senior Transition Day will be on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March . More details soon!



# Newton Beach clean up

As anyone who has watched Blue Planet will know, at least 8 million tonnes of plastic are dumped in the oceans every year where it chokes, entangles and poisons marine life. St Clare's School in Newton on the outskirts of Porthcawl decided to help clean up the plastic waste we unfortunately now find in our oceans and on all of our beaches / coastal areas due to modern day living.

Despite gloomy grey skies, the Year 11 students armed with litter-pickers had a very successful clean-up and collected 12 bags of rubbish as well as a big fishing crate, all of which had washed up onto Newton Beach after the last few weeks of unusually heavy storms.

St Clare's takes its social responsibility very seriously and outdoor learning is important to the wellbeing of our pupils from Nursery to Sixth Form. We're very fortunate to be so close to the glorious Heritage Coastline and it's crucial that we all play a part in taking care of it. A spirit of adventure and a creative, intuitive approach inspires our learning and yields superb academic and other results. We help our students to better understand the links between the personal and the wider community whether local or global and we are very proud to belong to Cognita, a worldwide group of 67 schools in Europe, Latin America and South-East Asia.





# Music workshop

Mr Staddon arranged for music specialists to come in to deliver performances and workshops for GCSE and A-level Music students to help them with their compositions.



# PSE Day

Mrs Rehorn arranged a brilliant PSE day for Key Stage 4 (Y10 & Y11) and Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form) with guest speakers to run a Dragons Den inspired event. This year's theme focused on 'Saving the Planet'. There are a number of issues which are affecting the future of our planet including climate change and pollution, with waste material being one of the biggest threats to the Earth.

Their challenge in teams of up to 8 students was to come up with a business plan for a product or service that will have a positive effect on the environment and also result in a profitable business.

The teams had to think about what we can do at home, in school and in our communities to promote eco-friendly practices, recycle more materials and reduce waste.

They had to research and develop their idea, showing how their product or service would work, who it would be aimed at and how they would market it.

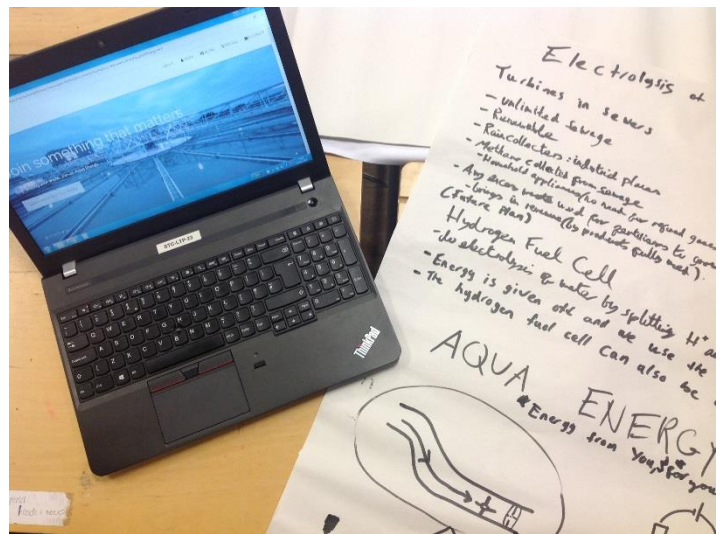
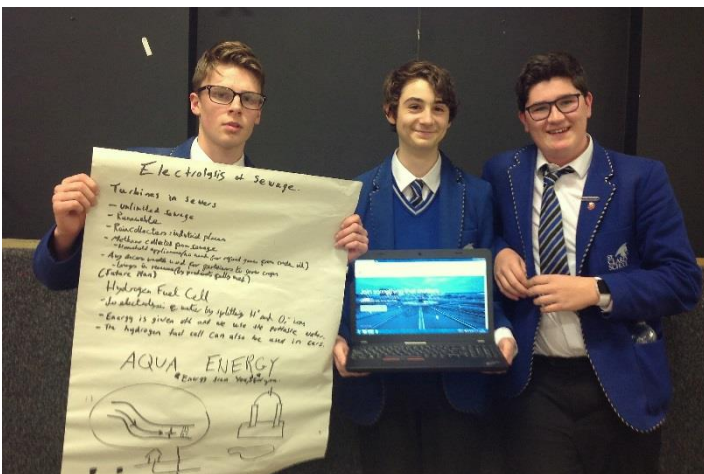
They also had to consider how much capital they would need to raise in order to set up their business and what their product/service might cost.

Business Mentors were be on hand throughout the day to advice and guide the teams.

At the end of the day each team presented their idea to a group of judges..



The winning team was Aqua Energy: Ben Martin, Joe James, Jake Bromhead, Charlie Bale, Huw Tucker and Lloyd Ashdown. Their idea was excellent. It was essentially using "poo power," taking energy from sewerage to create electricity. Mr. Cole confirmed the science worked out and Joe James also created a website from scratch to accompany their work.



**Aqua Energy - Energy from you, for you**



# Art trip

Here are some photos from the art trip to the National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff. We had an inspiring day in the museum. We had a workshop on 'what is art?' and a tour of selected areas, which included 'performance

art'. We were delighted with the students and their impeccable behaviour! A treat in Wagamama's to complete the day! Mrs Williams



The Art Department now has an Instagram account. Please follow

St Clare's Art Department



Instagram



# Auschwitz visit



On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February two Sixth Formers, Will Goodall and Bethan Williams, along with Mrs Smith went on the Holocaust Educational Trust trip to Auschwitz in Poland.

It was a physically and emotionally draining day, starting at 5:00am at Cardiff Airport, with a visit to the town of Oswiecim, Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau camps, before returning to Cardiff at 11:30pm.

The trip was part of the HET (Holocaust Education Trust) "Lessons from Auschwitz" programme that St Clare's has taken part in for a number of years.

All sixth formers are invited to apply for a place. Over 200 Welsh sixth-formers were chosen for the course which included a preliminary and follow up conference as well as the day trip. Will and Bethan will give an assembly to the whole school on their experiences after half term.

It was a very cold and very snowy day in Poland which gave us some small insight of the awful conditions the prisoners there would have faced. We all took something away from the trip, whether that was a better understanding of what had happened, or a more personal connection with some of the victims of the Holocaust, it was very individual.

The most poignant moment for me was after a short service at the end of the day we lit candles and placed them on the memorial next to the remains of the gas chambers and then walked back along the railway tracks to the famous Auschwitz gate. As we turned back we could see the candles glimmering in the snow.



We were the lucky ones who got to leave, but will take the memories of those who did not with us.

**Mrs S Smith**



# After School Club

We offer an After School Club for all pupils at the school. This means that your child can be supervised in a safe and secure environment every day of the school week until 5:30pm.



*"I work full-time. It's such a godsend picking the children up from After School Club, knowing that their homework has been completed properly." [Prep parent]*

## Independence and Safeguarding

As you are aware, at St Clare's Prep School we encourage the development of independence as it is an essential life skill. We also consider the safeguarding of each child and member of staff to be of paramount importance.

Therefore, we politely request that in the case of all pupils from Reception to Year 2, parents/carers say their morning farewells in the cloakroom and allow the children to make their own way to their classrooms unless there is an urgent need to see the class teacher.

We would like to see pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 dropped off at the main gate and they can walk to their classrooms independently. This will also help us to secure the school site at 9am sharp ready to start the school day.

To enhance the enjoyment of the extended school day, various multicultural and play-based activities are provided by the staff to create a relaxed yet stimulating environment for holistic development.

For **Infants** these include; table top and floor games, which develop the imagination and helps the children to communicate with one another; creative activities that help to develop their manipulative and design skills; role-play opportunities which enable them to re-enact familiar stories and practise their social and imaginative skills. The children sometimes also relax by watching a DVD on the large flat screen TV.

For **Juniors** these include; board games such as 'Monopoly', 'Snakes and Ladders' and Connect 4 which enable the pupils to develop their understanding of number, tactics and co-operative play; socio-dramatic opportunities in which the pupils select from an assortment of props to enhance their play and interaction with one another; quiet areas where they can complete homework, read books or just relax.

At the end of the school day, please can all parents wait outside for the children?

There will be the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher at the end of this term and you are always welcome to arrange an appointment should a concern arise at any time.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation and please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have a query.

Thank you.

Mrs Layland & Mr Gatt



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	
Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February	First day back after half-term
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Open Morning starts at 9:00am
	Monkey Music Party in the Nursery
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day (Senior School)
	St David's Day (Prep School)
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day (Prep School)
Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March	A-level Options and Careers Evening 4:00pm
Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Open Morning starts at 9:00am
Ski Trip to Italy	Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> March to Saturday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Senior School Transition Day for Year 6 pupils (internal/external)
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up for Easter holiday
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Summer Term
Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET day # 4

## 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](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.