



ACHIEVEMENT
CHALLENGE
EXCELLENCE

WHITSUN NEWSLETTER

ST CLARE'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Farewell from Simon Antwis

It is with much sadness that I write my last entry into a St. Clare's newsletter.

I would just like to thank the entire community; parents, pupils, staff and friends of St. Clare's for their incredible support and camaraderie over the last five and a bit years. St. Clare's has been a wonderful experience that I will never forget.

I have always said that Headship is not a 'proper' job like my friends have. And for that reason I love it! I move on to a new challenge and I am very excited about that of course. Akeley Wood and St. Clare's are in the same 'team' of schools and so I shall be able to follow its progress from Buckinghamshire.

I know the school will be in great hands with Helen Hier at the helm. I wish her the very best and ask that you all support a young Headteacher with a very young family as you have supported me.

St. Clare's is a very special place. I know all Heads say that about their schools but I could show you a graph to prove it!!

Best of luck to all of you in your ventures – I have no doubt the future is bright for every single one of you.

Welcome from Helen Hier

It is a privilege to teach at St. Clare's and to be able to contribute to my first newsletter before I take on the role of Headteacher after the half term break.

I have worked at St. Clare's as a Spanish teacher for fifteen years. I have also been a member of the Senior Leadership Team for ten years and Deputy Head for the last five years. I have thoroughly enjoyed all of my time at St Clare's but the last five years have been particularly enjoyable, as I have been involved in developing the Teaching & Learning at the school. I am very much looking forward to continuing with this work as Headteacher.

One of the strengths of St. Clare's is that being a small school, you get to know all of the pupils. My time at St. Clare's has been predominantly in the senior school, and although I already know many of the Prep School children, I am looking forward to spending more time with them.

As a language teacher, I am passionate about the teaching and learning of modern foreign languages. Teaching a child a foreign language at an early age results in better fluency than if they learn later in life. Developmentally their brains are ready

to learn a foreign language and fluency comes easily, rapidly and without accent. Learning a language will also improve their problem solving and critical thinking skills and improve their memory.

After half term, each class from Nursery to Year 6 will have one lesson of Spanish a week. I will teach their first class, as this will allow me to learn all of their names, and to get to know a little more about each of them. Ultimately, I hope that as many of the children as possible will become excited and enthused about learning a modern foreign language.

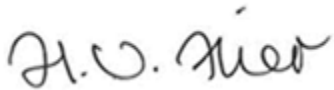
I am delighted to announce that after the half term break, Mrs Cheverton will be returning to join the Modern Foreign Language Department at St. Clare's. Mrs Cheverton was my teaching replacement during my maternity leave. She is a gifted linguist and an experienced and talented teacher. We are very much looking forward to her return. Mrs Cheverton will be responsible for the delivery of language teaching in the Prep School.

There are many exciting developments ahead for St. Clare's over the next few years. One such development is our new **Enrichment Programme**. Within the Senior School, we are in the process of developing an extra-curricular and enrichment programme for a Wednesday afternoon. The structure of the week has been changed slightly, so that curriculum and teaching time will remain the same, but on a Wednesday afternoon we will be working with external agencies such as **BushCraft, Duke of Edinburgh, John Muir Trust, St. John's Ambulance** and many others, so that the pupils can pursue an interest or achieve a skills based qualification. The programme of activities will be sent to parents later in the Summer Term in preparation for September.

The Prep School will also be planning **Enrichment Days** similar to the Senior School throughout the academic year and their after school extra-curricular activities will resume in September.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Antwis for all he has done for St. Clare's over the last five years. I have really enjoyed working with him and we will remain good friends. He will not be a stranger to St. Clare's and he will be returning for our **Annual Prize Day** on Wednesday, 26th September. On behalf of everyone at St. Clare's, I would like to wish him every happiness and success at Akeley Wood School.

Kind regards



Helen Hier, Headteacher

Voice of the Parent survey coming soon

All staff at St. Clare's recognise the importance of having a well-informed understanding of how satisfied our parents are, what parents would like to see altered and indeed listening to any parental concerns and suggestions. To build a strong school community requires a partnership between home and school. Subsequently, asking parents for their feedback we hope shows each and every one of you a responsive and open outlook.

Parents have a voice. We'd like to hear yours...

Whether it's the excellence of our teaching, the individualised attention or the family atmosphere, we want to create an outstanding experience for your child that they will recall fondly throughout their life. Naturally, we hope that yours is a positive impression and that we're meeting or exceeding your expectations of our school, but we'd like to find out for sure, giving us the tools to help uphold our core value of continuous improvement.

What happens next?

All parents and guardians will soon receive an e-mail invitation to participate in our next parent survey. We very much hope that you will take the opportunity to tell us your views and make your voice count. If you have more than one child at the school you will only receive one survey, but it will contain questions specific to each child.

Shell Bright Ideas winners for 3rd year

St. Clare's School are Welsh Regional Winners of Shell's "Bright Ideas Challenge"

For the third consecutive year, St Clare's Year 9 scientists are **Welsh Regional Winners!** This year the pupils have won £2,500 prize money for the school, individual prizes and a trip to London next week to compete against the other regional winners with the chance to win another £2,500. The team is called '**Straight Outta Science**', their captain is Jaynee Winslade-Gregory and team mates are Susmita Dutta, Dylan Bebbington and Izzabel Woodward. The team's idea is based on the Seebeck effect and the pupils have to produce a 3D Model prototype when they visit the Imperial Colleges White City London next week. The hope will be that a public vote will select their idea to become UK champions.

Previously, in 2016 'Roller Squad' led by Joseph James were Welsh regional winners collecting £1500 for the Science department while in 2017 'Chipachapachino' led by Theo Quantick won £3,000 for suggesting that all newly built houses be designed to absorb carbon dioxide. They not only won the Welsh regional award, they also came 3rd across the UK.



In fact, this year we had three teams shortlisted for the final which is an incredible achievement. The two other teams who were also shortlisted were **-3 Degrees** and **We'll Think of it by Friday** for their ideas involving magnetic levitation in a vacuum and solar panels in roads.

Photo left of the three shortlisted teams:

-3 Degrees

We'll Think of it by Friday

SOS (Straight Outta Science)

Jayne Winslade-Gregory, Team Captain from the winning team SOS ("Straight Outta Science") commented:

"Seeing our ideas come to life today has been amazing. I'm excited everyone at the festival will be able to see our idea on display. I hope we get lots of votes! It's been really interesting to think about real world issues that will affect how we live and see how STEM can change the world for the better. It hasn't sunk in that we are winners! Our school is going to spend the money on our science block."



**Welsh Regional Winners' SOS Straight Outta Science':
Izzabel Woodward, Jaynee Winslade-Gregory (Team Captain),
Susmita Dutta and Dylan Bebbington.**

Style Academy Workshop!!!!

Thank you to Mrs Burns, Head of English for arranging for Shannon Pitson (Style Academy) to come in to run a Dance & Drama workshop for Years 5 to 10 in celebration of Disney's 25th park anniversary in Paris and in conjunction with World Book Day.



It was also another great transition opportunity for the prep school pupils to spend time in the Senior School.





Style Academy by Shannon Pitson

Undefeated Welsh champion in solo dance for five years.
Triple star distinction graded graduate of performing arts.
Teaching dance from ages 4 to adult classes for over 5 years.

You had a dance and drama session today for World Book Day.

If you are interested in further dance lessons then contact

Shannon Pitson on:

07792903084

(if you are under 16 then please arrange for parents to call or text).



- Jazz
- Contemporary
- Lyrical
- Commercial
- Conditioning
- Hip hop
- Street!



We dance for laughter,
we dance for tears,
we dance for madness,
we dance for fears,
we dance for hopes,
we dance for screams,
we are the dancers,
we create the dreams.

-Albert Einstein

We're a Top 20 Award-Winning Nursery

We are absolutely thrilled that St Clare's School Nursery has been awarded a 'Top 20 Recommended Nursery (Wales) 2018'

The Daynurseries.co.uk Top 20 Nursery Awards 2018 highlight the most recommended nurseries in each region of the UK. The awards are based on over 50,000 reviews from parents/individuals responsible for a child who attends a nursery. All the 2018 Award Winners can be seen at the following link:

<https://www.daynurseries.co.uk/awards/>



Monkey Music Party in the Nursery



Our Nursery pupils loved their Monkey Music Party with Donna at the end of April. It was also a great opportunity to welcome visitors who were really impressed with what they saw.



Out and about searching for mini beasts



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice



Mrs Hodges, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator, Mrs Phillips and Mr Rees accompanied our Year 10 students on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice on 18th/19th May.

As Mrs Hier mentioned in her welcome message, we will be introducing Duke of Edinburgh from Year 9 in September 2018 as part of our Enrichment Programme so that students have the opportunity to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award before they leave at the end of Sixth Form.



Junior Cross Country medallists

A fantastic finale to the season for the St. Clare's Cross Country team at Bryntirion Comprehensive School



We were successful on the day in a number of races. In the three Year 3 and 4 girls' and boys' novice race Joe finished 2nd and in the Elite race Max finished third.

In the Senior 5/6 Elite race Jessica was pipped on the finishing line for 1st place. Unfortunately, the finishing line was crowded with spectators and Jess had to slow to avoid running into the spectators.

We had a wonderful surprise in the overall competition with Grace J finishing third as an individual and her team of Juliette, Chloe and Agatha finished 3rd overall for the season. They have a lovely trophy to share for their efforts.

A big thank you to all parents for supporting your children in this event, we are always out -numbered but the children always rise to the challenge. Well done! See you next season.

Report by Mr Gatt

Sneak peak into the Art Department

Some snippets of GCSE and textile work 2018



Teddy Bears Picnic and mini fete

The picnic starts at 3.15pm. There will be a variety of stalls and activities including a raffle, the Money Tree and Rainbow Stall. Please book by Friday, 8th June latest.

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

**Admission £5
per child**



Admission costs just £5 per child and includes a picnic box and souvenir.

All children must be accompanied by an adult but there is no admission charge for adults.

We would be most grateful for new/nearly new items for the Rainbow Stall:-

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| * Red | * Green |
| * Pink | * Purple |
| * Yellow/Gold | * Blue |
| * Orange | * White/Silver |

Royal Wedding Celebrations

A massive thank you to the **Friends of St Clare's** who organized such a wonderful party for everyone in the Prep School from the Nursery pupils all the way up to Year 6.

It was a really lovely afternoon and our Nursery grounds were the ideal spot for the disco and crown parade as you can see.



Good luck Year 11

With most of them wearing their Class of 2018 hoodies, this is Year 11 on their last day before their study leave started.

We wish you all the very best of luck with your GCSEs and look forward to seeing you back in the Sixth Form.



Year 13 Afternoon Tea

Despite the torrential rain, Year 13 students, their parents and families enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea with staff. Some very emotional speeches and heartfelt thanks to our wonderful staff. Good luck with your A-Levels everyone!



Kwik Cricket at Newbridge Fields

All 3 teams got through to the semi-finals and all 30 pupils played. Our first team won the whole competition.



Girls in the Kwik Cricket finals in Nottage – mostly in the pouring rain!



Extra curricular news



Year 2 pupils Rowan, Alexander & Theo took part in Kilgetty Football Festival recently, playing for Bridgend Town Jnrs u7s.

They all played excellently against opposition from all over South Wales. They showed great teamwork and sportsmanship throughout and were well worthy of their medals.

Share the Secret -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, we 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 2018.

How it works

If you refer a friend or colleague to St Clare's School and their child is admitted by the start of Autumn Term 2018, we will give you a reward of £500 for each pupil introduced. The new pupil will need to satisfy the normal entrance requirements and stay for at least three whole terms until the end of the next school year. The 'reward' will be given to the recommending parent at the end of the school year by including the reward as a credit against the following Autumn Term's fees. 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 & 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. For a copy of the referral scheme please contact Holly Fowlkes, as above.

*** Subject to terms and conditions**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	
Monday, 4 th June	First day back after Half-Term
Friday, 15 th June	Teddy Bears Picnic and mini Summer Fete 3:30-5:15pm
Wednesday, 20 th June	Open Morning starts at 9:00 with Headteacher's talk
Thursday, 21 st June	Barnardo's Big Toddle (Nursery and Reception)
Wednesday, 27 th June	Senior Transition Day
Monday, 2 nd July (week)	UCAS Week
Tuesday, 10 th July	Last day of Summer Term
Wednesday, 11 th July	INSET Day
Monday, 3 rd September	INSET
Tuesday, 4 th September	INSET
Wednesday, 5 th September	First day of Autumn Term

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ✚ As per Section 9 of the Parent Contract (Terms & Conditions), **the School requires a full Term's Written Notice.** For example, if your child is not going to be returning to the School in January 2019, **written notice** must be received in school on or **before Wednesday, 5th September 2018.**
- ✚ 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.

Please follow us on Instagram

StClaresPorthcawl

