



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

ST CLARE'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents

It is difficult to believe that we have come to the end of the first half term of the academic year. I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of being Headteacher at St. Clare's.

Over the years, people have said to me that they would never want to be a teacher and more recently people have said that they would never want to be a Headteacher. My answer has always been the same, 'It depends where you teach.' St. Clare's is a very special place and that is why I, like so many other teachers and members of staff have worked at St. Clare's for many years. I am fortunate to work with an excellent team and to have motivated, hardworking and courteous students and supportive parents.

I officially started the role on 1st June 2018. Since then there has been so much that I am proud of. The performance of our A-Level students was amazing again this year. 78.4% of grades were A*-B compared to 52% nationally and 16.2% of the grades were A*, almost double the national results.

The GCSE results were also excellent, almost a third of grades were 8/9

(A*+), 51.3% were 7+ (A*/A) compared to 18.5% in Wales and 95.6% were 4+ (A*-C) compared to 61% in Wales. These pupils are now our new Year 12 and are able to enjoy our fantastic new Sixth Form Centre with Year 13.

To celebrate the launch of the new Sixth Form Centre our Year 12 pupils attended an all-expenses paid trip to another Cognita School 'The British School of Barcelona.' They studied in Barcelona for a week and participated in cultural activities with the students from the school. I would like to thank Mrs Smart, Mr Cole and Dr. Rathkey for taking this trip and making it such a successful and memorable trip for Year 12.

The good news continued when I received a letter from Mr Shillaw, the Chairman of RNLI Porthcawl Fundraising and Events Group to say that one of our Year 4 pupils Chloe had raised £1,000 for the RNLI. We are a small community and the work of the RNLI is extremely important in Porthcawl. I was so proud that one of our pupils had given their time to raise money for such a worthy cause. Huge congratulations, Chloe!

I would also like to mention our Prep School Cross-Country Team. The last race was at Brynteg Comprehensive School. The cross-country runners, parents and staff give up their time on a Saturday morning to represent St. Clare's and I am delighted to say that the last race was the best attended race to date and the runners did extremely well. There was another reason however, why I was so proud of our pupils. I always check the updates to see how we have performed and on the cross-country page for Bridgend Schools, our pupils had a special mention and were thanked for staying behind after the race to help the organisers collect the equipment and clear the area. That to me says everything about our pupils!

Finally, I would just like to say thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents for the overwhelming support you have shown me since June. I hope you all enjoy your half term break and I look forward to seeing you after the holiday and for the countdown to the Christmas festivities!

Kind regards

Helen Hier
Headteacher



St. Clare's A-Level Success

St. Clare's students celebrated another year of excellent A-Level results that trumped the national picture



A superb 78.4% of grades achieved were A*/B compared to 52% nationally while 16.2% were A*. (almost double the national results).

Straight A students were Freya Harding and Megan Greenwood who both went to top university destinations.

Deputy Head Prefect, Megan, achieved A* in Biology and A in Maths and Chemistry and is now at Cardiff University reading Dentistry. She joined St. Clare's in Year 10 and attributes her fantastic results to the school's small class sizes which she said were "extremely helpful in bridging the academic gap between GCSE and A Levels."

"The Sixth Form also provides many opportunities throughout the two years which help to build a strong personal statement, ready for university applications," added Megan.

Senior Prefect, Freya, achieved an A* in History and French as well as an A in Spanish and is now reading Spanish and Italian at St. Andrews. Freya joined St. Clare's at Year 12 and recommends St. Clare's Sixth Form. "The small Sixth Form is a benefit in classes as well as during free lessons as there is a lot less distraction for independent study."

Head Student, Hannah Hart achieved an A* in Art and B in Spanish and Psychology and is now at Exeter University reading Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish and Italian). Hannah was a pupil at St. Clare's from Nursery and her mother and grandmother are also alumnae.

Our 2018 A-Level grades build on the excellent results seen in previous years and continue the theme with a 100% pass rate for five consecutive years.

A*	16.2%	Almost double the national average
A*/A	40.5%	(UK 26.4%)
A*/B	78.4%	(UK 52%)
A*-C	92%	(UK 76.3%)

100% pass rate for 5 consecutive years

100% pupils went to university including many in the Russell Group

New Sixth Form Centre

Newly refurbished and bespoke Sixth Form Centre is result of a huge amount of ongoing investment by Cognita.



In order for our students to be able to manage their work life balance in school, they can benefit from their own newly refurbished and bespoke Sixth Form Centre for study and relaxation.

Our highly regarded and experienced Sixth Form tutor team is fundamental to the good relationships we form together, and our in-house counsellor is available every Tuesday afternoon for informal drop-in sessions for those who want a friendly chat with some impartial advice.

“Excellent reputation with results to support this.”
“The dedication of the teachers is faultless.”
“A very good supportive and friendly school.”
“Very good standard of behavior and excellent academic results.”

Parent Survey, June 2018

Sixth Form trip to Barcelona



Our Year 12 students thoroughly enjoyed their all expenses paid trip to British School Barcelona (“BSB”). They followed their A-Level timetables during the day and went sightseeing in the evenings. Trips included the city tour bus, the gothic quarter and Camp Nou.

Students and staff had a great welcome from the BSB staff.



St. Clare's GCSE Success

Pupils celebrated excellent GCSE results, having significantly outperformed their peers nationally



A staggering 95.6% of grades achieved were 4+ (A*/C) while 51.3% of grades awarded were 7+ (A*/A), compared to 61.6% and 18.5% respectively across Wales.

Almost a third of all grades at St. Clare's were 8 or 9, the latter being the equivalent of an A** to show exceptional performance.

A number of individual pupils excelled including Alys R and Ben M. Alys's grades included eight 9s, two 8s, two 7s, an A* and an A* with Distinction, whilst Ben's included five grade 9s, two 8s, two 7s and A* with Distinction. Sarah D, Molly J, Jake B and Huw T also performed superbly.

St. Clare's delivers the English curriculum for GCSE examinations and not the Welsh which means that students sat the new reformed GCSEs last summer in all subjects apart from Psychology, Business and Further Maths.

The new GCSEs are more exacting and the examinations are sat at the end of Year 11 with very little or no coursework and rely on the performance of the pupil on the day. They cover more challenging content and are designed to match standards in the strongest performing education systems elsewhere in the world.

A*	(8+)	30%	Almost a third of all grades were 8 or 9
A*/A	(7+)	51.3%	(Wales 18.5%)
A*/C	(4+)	95.6%	(Wales 61%)

Our excellent GCSE results follow our outstanding A-Level results where students achieved 78.4% at A*/B. Please see page 2 for more details.

Our next Open Morning starts at 9:00am on Wednesday, 14th November

St. Clare's Senior Transition Day

Year 6 pupils were invited to spend a day in our Senior School on Thursday, 18th October. We understand how unsettling it can be for children to move schools. Our welcoming family environment, dedicated staff and friendly pupils ensure new children settle in with

minimum disruption and quickly make new friends. Our close pastoral care also gives new pupils the confidence they need to progress their education without significant interruption, and to achieve their full potential.



Our next Senior Transition Day will be on Thursday, 31st January 2019

Senior Enrichment Programme

At St. Clare's School, we endeavour to educate the whole child. Our aim is to send young people out into the world of work as responsible, balanced young citizens. Developing life-skills and character education have always been at the forefront of our day to day pastoral care at St. Clare's but this year, we are explicitly addressing their development through our new enrichment programme.

Our hope is to offer activities that will form an essential part of promoting employability and enhancing academic attainment, whilst teaching our young people essential life skills that will have benefits well beyond the classroom.

In the Senior School, we have adapted our timetable so that all pupils will take part in the enrichment programme every Wednesday afternoon.

The Senior School Enrichment Timetable for the autumn term is on the next page. Alongside the planned activities, the PE department will be running sporting fixtures and a variety of tournaments, minimising the impact on the academic curriculum. The Maths Department will also offer additional Statistics and Further Maths GCSEs to their more able Year 10 mathematicians.



Developing life skills and character education

Wednesday	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	6 th Form - Lead by Mr. Cole
September 5 th	First Day of Term – Time with form tutors					
September 12 th	Race For Life – Whole School Activity					
September 19 th	Domestic Science Afternoon* Cooking a simple meal for yourself in 1 hour – Mrs. Farmer Needlework skills – Mrs. Bessell	School Newspaper – Content Mrs. Burns School Newspaper – Create/Format – Mr. Yamm	Debating Skills – Miss. Rolls Higher order thinking – Mrs. Smart	Higher order thinking – Mrs. Smart Debating Skills – Miss. Rolls	Beach Clean – Mr. Gatt, Mr. Jones and Mrs. Phillips	ACADEMIC 12. 6 th Form Study Skills 13. UCAS – Personal Statement
September 26 th	House Sports Afternoon – Whole School Activity					
October 3 rd	School Newspaper – Content Mrs. Burns School Newspaper – Create/Format – Mr. Yamm	Domestic Science Afternoon* Cooking a simple meal for yourself in 1 hour – Mrs. Farmer Needlework skills – Mrs. Bessell	Years 9 – 11: Enterprise Afternoon, run by Big Ideas Wales Staff to help supervise = Mr. Yemm, Mr. Gatt, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Phillips			WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS Brainstorming afternoon Merit/Sanction and Reward system – Mrs. Smart to lead the first hour
October 10 th	Beach Clean Years 7 and 8 – Mr. Gatt, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Phillips and Dr. Rathley		Film Club – Mr. Davies/Mrs. Smith (To coincide with film studies with Mrs. Burns in the Spring Term)	Enterprise Trip to the Motorpoint Arena Cardiff – Years 10 and 11 – Trip Lead by Mr. Yamm		Higher order thinking – Mrs. Smart Year 12: 2 – 2.50 Year 13: 2.50 – 3.40
October 17 th	Debating Skills – Miss. Rolls and Mrs. Smith Higher order thinking – Mrs. Smart	Higher order thinking – Mrs. Smart Debating Skills – Miss. Rolls and Mrs. Smith	School Newspaper – Content Mrs. Burns School Newspaper – Create/Format – Mr. Yamm	Years 10 – 11 Duke of Edinburgh Afternoon – Hosted by Mrs. Hodges Staff to help supervise the afternoon t.b.a.		NUTRITION AND WELLBEING Cooking skills for university – Mrs. Farmer Nutrition with Mrs. Raohom
Half Term						
November 7 th	Film Club – Mr. Davies/Mrs. Smith (To coincide with film studies with Mrs. Burns in the Spring Term)	Music – Christmas Concert Preparation – lead by Mr. Staddon	Art Competitions – Mrs. Trenoweth	PSE Activity with PC Nick Williams: Years 10 – 11		ACADEMIC File Amnesty Exam Prep Study Skills
November 14 th	Children in Need – Whole School Activity					
November 21 st	Internal end of term exams – Years 7 -10				Domestic Science Afternoon* Cooking a simple meal for yourself in 1 hour – Mrs. Farmer Needlework skills – Mrs. Bessell	CHALLENGE Talk Debate Good Citizenship - Mr. Davies
November 28 th	Art Competitions – Mrs. Trenoweth	Film Club – Mr. Davies/Mrs. Smith (To coincide with film studies with Mrs. Burns in the Spring Term)	Music – Christmas Concert Preparation – lead by Mr. Staddon	Domestic Science Afternoon* Cooking a simple meal for yourself in 1 hour – Mrs. Farmer Needlework skills – Mrs. Bessell	School Newspaper – Content Mrs. Burns School Newspaper – Create/Format – Mr. Yamm	BODY AND MIND Student Experts – teach me a skill
December 5 th	Music – Christmas Concert Preparation – lead by Mr. Staddon	Art Competitions – Mrs. Trenoweth	Domestic Science Afternoon* Cooking a simple meal for yourself in 1 hour – Mrs. Farmer Needlework skills – Mrs. Bessell	School Newspaper – Mrs. Burns School Newspaper – Create/Format – Mr. Yamm	Revision Skills Focus preparation for Spring Term mock GCSE examinations – lead by Mrs. Parker	Whole School Focus – House Events - Planning for last day of term.
December 12 th	End of term activities, plus enrichment showcase for parents: 3.10 – 3.40					

St. Clare's Charitable Causes



This term has been a successful one in terms of fundraising by St. Clare's School.

Our year 13 students started off the year by organising an event to raise money for **Jeans for Genes**; a charity that provides help for those who struggle with genetic disorders. In addition to this, after our successful **Cancer Charity Day** at the end of the previous academic year, students went on to raise additional funds via a whole-school-wide **Race for Life** event for four charities based around supporting those with cancer: Cancer Research UK, Breast Cancer Care, Cost of Cancer and Macmillan Cancer Support. This event saw students and staff of all ages being sponsored to walk, jog and run distances of 1km, 3km and 5km. We also had a tremendously successful **Macmillan Coffee Morning** where

parents, grandparents, students and staff attended to raise further funds over some delicious cakes, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

These events have made us proud of the community that all of us in St. Clare's are part of, and we are so proud of the compassion shown by all those involved to give money to supporting those that face, or know those who face, difficult times in life related to their health. St. Clare's students, parents and staff raised just over £4000 in total through these events... what a fantastic community effort!

St. Clare's School Nursery

We are 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 llparents/individuals responsible for a child who attends the nursery. Click here for more information.

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



We are already enrolling nursery pupils for September 2020. Please contact Admissions to check availability in your child's year group.

St. Clare's Junior Cross-country success



**Our best ever turnout for Cross-country last Saturday at Brynteg Comprehensive!
We had 4 full teams.**

Ben R even missed football to join us and he finished 8th.

Year 5/6 boys great team score!

-  Lucas C. best performing Y3/4 boy
-  Chloe C. best performing Y3/4 girl
-  Ben R. best performing Y5/6 boy
-  Agatha D. best performing Y5/6 girl

Led their teams, following pacing drills from Mr Thomas in Cross-country Club on a Thursday evening.

[Race report by Mike Gatt]

Blood Brothers (what our Y11 pupils said)



"It really helped me understand the play for English literature and made me think of staging ideas for my devised drama piece too." (Jessica)

"Really good! The songs will help me remember quotes for my exam." (Dylan)

"A good opportunity to experience the text from another perspective and not just on a literary level." (Millie)

"I enjoyed the comedic aspects of the play. It was good to see children (played by adults) evolve throughout the play." (Harry)

"Hearing the tone of voice of the actors will help me know the mood of the key scenes. It was a pretty good musical!" (Ben)

Art trip

Mrs Williams and Mrs Trenoweth recently took the Year 12 and Year 13 Art/Textile/and Graphic Design students on a trip to Swansea University. They took part in a taster workshop for the Surface Pattern Design degree course where they experienced 'A day in the life of a Surface Pattern Student'. They had a busy day, pupils explored pattern and hands-on printing and cutting. Course leaders and current students discussed the programme and living and working in Swansea. They were able to work with students, and were lucky enough to see our past pupil Juliette Mckay who is currently on her 3rd year of the Surface Pattern Design degree course.

Students were able to look at what employment their graduates go on to do after their degrees and had a tour around the inspiring Faculty. Students were able to take home something lovely that they had designed and made!



Good luck, Florence



Year 8 pupil, Florence P, is standing to be a member of the Welsh Youth Parliament. To offer Florence our community's full support, we need as many of you as possible to register to vote and you will be sent a voter pack in November.

<https://www.minomination.com/wypregis.../.../landingpageenglish>

Congratulations, Ben



Congratulations to Year 6 pupil, Ben R who passed his Grade 1 guitar at the end of the summer term. He was delighted.

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 2019.

How it works

If you refer a friend or colleague to St. Clare's School and their child(ren) are admitted to St. Clare's by the start of Autumn Term 2019, we will give you a reward of £500 for each pupil introduced. This will take the form of a credit against your termly fees for the following autumn term 2020 and 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 and 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	
Monday, 5 th November	School re-opens
	Deadline for Prep Christmas Card Competition
Friday, 9 th November	Friends of St. Clare's Meeting at 2:15pm in the Dining Hall
	Year 6 Enterprise Club activities at break time (details to follow)
Wednesday, 14 th November	Open Morning starts at 9:00am Book here https://bit.ly/2izMW2p
	Year 12/13 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Friday, 30 th November	Christmas Fayre in Prep School at 2:30pm
Thursday, 6 th December	Prep Choir singing at All Saints Church (details to follow)
Tuesday, 11 th December	Infants Christmas Concert at 11:00am and 2:00pm
Wednesday, 12 th December	Juniors Christmas Concert at 11:00am and 2:00pm
Thursday, 13 th December	Nursery Christmas Concert at 2:00pm
	Prep Choir singing in Senior School Hall at 6:30pm
Friday, 14 th December	Break up for Christmas
Monday, 7 th January	Spring term begins
Thursday, 24 th January	GCSE Options/Careers/Year 9 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Tuesday, 29 th January	Year 12 and Year 13 Concerns Evening
Thursday, 31 st January	Senior Transition Day # 2
Tuesday, 5 th March	Year 7 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Wednesday, 13 th March	Year 11 Parents Evening and A-Level Options/Careers Evening 4-6pm
Thursday, 28 th March	Year 8 Parents Evening 4-6pm

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 September 2019, written notice must be received in school on or **before Monday, 29th April 2019**.
- ✚ If you change your address or telephone/mobile 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.