



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

ST CLARE'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy and exciting term. I know that the pupils and staff will all be looking forward to the Christmas break and it is very well deserved. A lot has been accomplished this term and I am very proud of the pupils, how hard they work and how well they represent the school.

We are a small school but the talent within St. Clare's never ceases to amaze me. The achievement of the pupils is evident all around the school. We have fantastic artists, musicians, sportspeople, linguists, scientists and mathematicians and it is important that each of these talents is celebrated.

We have been very fortunate to have a number of prominent guest speakers at the school this term. Mrs Madeleine Moon MP came in to speak to the pupils in the senior school and she then stayed for a question and answer session, during which pupils asked her questions about NATO, defence, security and Brexit.



On 13th December, Mr Carwyn Jones AM and former First Minister of Wales came into school to meet our Shell Bright Ideas team who were the Welsh Regional winners. He

presented them with the winning cheque for £2,500, which they won for the school thanks to the sustainable energy source prototype they created.



Mr Carwyn Jones then officially opened our New Sixth Form Centre and stayed for a question and answer session with the Sixth Form. It was fantastic to see how engaged the pupils were with current affairs and politics and to listen to them asking questions about tuition fees, careers in STEM and future funding for the NHS and schools in Wales.



I have also been very fortunate to see the pupils from Nursery to the Sixth form perform on stage in Christmas concerts this month.



The first concert was at All Saints Church in Porthcawl. It is part of the Christmas Tree Festival organised by the Rotary Club of Porthcawl. St. Clare's Prep School designed decorations for a tree and we were one of over 50 trees on display in the church. The children had made beautiful decorations and I was extremely proud of the time and effort they had put into making them. On 6th December our Prep School and Senior School Chamber Choir sang in the church as part of the festival. They were one of several local schools and choirs to participate and I have to say that their performance, appearance and behaviour were outstanding. I was extremely proud to be there as Headteacher. I would like to thank the pupils, Mrs Laidlaw and Mrs Layland. Their hard work was evident as they performed to such a high standard.



The success continued with the Nursery, Infants, Juniors and the Prep and Senior combined Christmas concert. Christmas is my favourite time of the year and I have to say that this has been the Christmas that I have enjoyed the most in school. There was a lovely atmosphere throughout

the school and in all of the concerts. All of the prep school staff worked extremely hard preparing the children for the concerts and they were a great success.



In the senior school it was the first time that Mr Staddon, Mrs Laidlaw, Mrs Butler and Miss Williams had worked together and the evening was fantastic. Pupils from the Infants to the Sixth form sang and performed together beautifully and the ethos of the school was evident to all. I have to also add a big thank you to Mr Martin and the brave parent 'volunteers' for the drama production!



Thank you to the pupils, parents and staff for the support you show St. Clare's. I wish you all a fantastic Christmas with your families and loved ones and a very Happy New Year!

Kind regards

Helen Hier
Headteacher



St. Clare's Award-Winning Day Nursery

You can read the reviews at www.daynurseries.co.uk

Come and see what makes us so special!

- ✓ Small class sizes
- ✓ Full-time Qualified Teacher in the Nursery
- ✓ Healthy hot lunch provided free for all Nursery children
- ✓ Spanish taught weekly
- ✓ Bridgend Early Years Grant available
- ✓ Morning sessions available *
- ✓ Informal visits available all year round



Why choose St. Clare's Sixth Form?



A-Level Options Evening

Tuesday, 12th March

- ✓ Newly refurbished state of the art Sixth Form Centre
- ✓ Excellent A-Level results. St Clare's results outperform all other schools in the area
- ✓ Small, tutorial type classes
- ✓ Regular feedback on individual progress
- ✓ Friendly and supportive environment

St. Clare's Key Stage 3 Art



Year 9 have been studying pattern, influenced by portrait artist Gustav Klimt. Each student developed their own printing block and created background patterns to reflect their personalities. They overlaid these with a mixture of self-portraits and portraits of each other to create effective montages. They can be really proud of the results!



Year 8 have been studying seascapes through multi-media artist Kit Johns. Here are the beautiful watercolours they created this term, framed and ready to go home.

Well done, Year 8!

St. Clare's Art trip Arts Academy Cardiff

Year 12 and 13 artists and designers worked hard



St. Clare's Cross Country medal winners

A fantastic set of individual team performances in the most recent X-Country event held at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.



Our Year 3 & 4 boys came third and are pictured with Mr Lewis, wearing their bronze medals.

Top performer was Ben R who achieved a podium 3rd place finish in the Year 5/6 boys race. Other top 10 finishers were Max J 9th in the same race as Ben . Unfortunately, due to illness we did not have a full team in the 5/6 boys event. Hopefully, Joe will make a speedy recovery before the next race in January. Other 5 & 6 Boys are of course welcome and the team still have a great chance of finishing as the best team in the district.

Grace James was 4th in the 5/6 girls race even though she is in year 5. Lucas Crawley was 7th in in the Year 3/4 boys race and it was great to see some new novice runners taking part. Well done to Theo and Jack!

Well done to all for taking part and a big thank you to Mr Tom Lewis for the additional training in After School Club on Thursdays.



Next event: Saturday 19th January at Pencoed

Christmas at St. Clare's began with our Christmas Fayre



St. Clare's Christmas Tree at All Saints



Prep pupils took part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church in Porthcawl which is organised by the Rotary Club of Porthcawl.

Every child in the Nursery and Prep School brought in a Christmas decoration they had made at home. Each one was as individual as the child that made it so our tree was wonderfully unique. School Council pupils decorated the tree at the church and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. We brought the tree back to the Prep Hall for everyone to admire during the Christmas Concerts.



St. Clare's Nursery Christmas Concert



All our Nursery pupils took part in a traditional Nativity play, even the youngest ones in The Ladybirds, our Rising 3s class.

Nursery parents and grandparents really enjoyed watching their child perform on the stage in the Prep School Hall.

It was a marvelous opportunity for the Nursery pupils to get used to performing in public at such an early age.



St. Clare's Infants Christmas Concert



We hope you enjoyed the show!

St. Clare's Juniors Christmas Concert

"Dr Who and the search for the meaning of Christmas"



Showcasing Christmas music from the fifties right through to the noughties.

Nursery visit Abbots Kitchen at Christmas



What did the children think?

"I thought the trip was amazing, I have a Mrs Clause dress in my house just like hers!" (Anwen)

"I loved the big Christmas tree!" (Oliver)

"I think the best bit of it was when we had the stories and the treat!" (Alba)

Lewys plays in the Truce Cup!

Year 7 pupil Lewys B who plays for Cardiff City's U12 side took part in the Truce Cup Finals, which were held in Ypres, Belgium. The young Bluebirds came away from the tournament victorious, beating Sunderland in the final of the competition 4-3 on penalties.

The Truce Cup forms a part of the Premier League Games Programme, and is dedicated to the Christmas Day Truce in 1914, where soldiers from both sides played a game of football in No Man's Land during an unofficial truce.



Year 9 receive letters from the famous

Pupils in Year 9 put their non-fiction writing skills into practise by sending out formal letters to a 'person they admire/ a person who left a profound or lasting impression' on them. Solomon R received a letter of response from JK Rowling (who sent her message on personalised owl paper via an envelope with bespoke Harry Potter stamp). Jasmine H was sent an autographed photograph of Dame Jessica Ennis.



Proposed Ski Trip to Passo Tonale, Italy

Year 7 to Year 12 students - December 2019



As a result of our previous successful ski trips to Italy in 2013 and 2017, the school intends to run another ski trip from Saturday 14th December to Saturday 21st December 2019.

The proposed trip will take place in the ski resort of Passo Tonale in Italy. This is a great opportunity for pupils to experience the cultural charm of an Italian ski resort.

We will be travelling by plane. The total cost of the trip will be approximately £1100.00-£1200.00 dependent on numbers. This includes the cost of 6 nights full board with hot lunches at the hotel, 6 x 4 hours lessons, ski/boot hire and evening activities.

The number of places available will be limited and are open to Year 7 – Year 12. We are looking for a firm expression of interest to establish numbers. If you wish for your son/daughter to reserve a place, please send a deposit of £75.00 to Mrs Brown in the Admin Block on the first day of term – **Monday 7th January 2019**, so that a decision can be made if the trip is viable or not. Please be aware that deposits once the trip is confirmed are non-refundable as they are retained by the Ski Company.

Dates for your diary

Date	
Monday, 7 th January	Spring Term begins
Wednesday, 16 th January	Open Morning – please book on 01656 789966
	Senior Transition Day
Thursday, 24 th January	GCSE Options Evening/Year 9 Parents Evening/Careers Evening 4-6pm
Tuesday, 29 th January	Year 12 & Year 13 Concerns Evening 4pm
Wednesday, 20 th February	INSET Day # 4
Wednesday, 20 th February to Friday, 1 st March	Spring Half Term
Monday, 4 th March	School re-opens
Tuesday, 5 th March	Year 7 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Tuesday, 12 th March	Year 11 Parents Evening and A-Level Options Evening 4-6pm
Thursday, 28 th March	Year 8 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Friday, 12 th April	End of Spring Term
Monday, 29 th April	Summer Term begins

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 September 2019, **written notice** must be received in school on or **before Monday, 29th April 2019.**
- ✚ 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.

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