



New School for 2025



Proposed new building for St Richard Gwyn

The proposal for the new school buildings for St Richard Gwyn are incredibly exciting. It is proposed that St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School will move into the new building by Spring 2025. This is an incredibly exciting development in the history of the school.

The new school will be located on the existing school site. The new school building will be in the south-west corner of the school grounds, thus allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction.

The proposed development will be funded by the Welsh Government and Vale of Glamorgan Council under the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. The proposals are supported by the Archdiocese of Cardiff

“The plans look fantastic and the facilities will be superb. It is what the fantastic pupils and the school community deserves. The school achieves superb results, the pupils achieve incredibly well, with the results being the best amongst the Barry schools.

They will benefit enormously and deserve to move into a fantastic new building.

Whilst the buildings will change and be fit for the 21st century, we will retain the sense of community and the gospel values that that make it such a special place to work and learn. The Catholic ethos underpins the school and we always want the pupils to be successful, reliant and develop gospel values.”



Best GCSE results in Barry

The class of 2023 exceeded all expectations and performed superbly. This year group were the first cohort to return to the same examinations as prior to covid. They results were outstanding with 72% of pupils attaining five GCSEs including English and Mathematics.

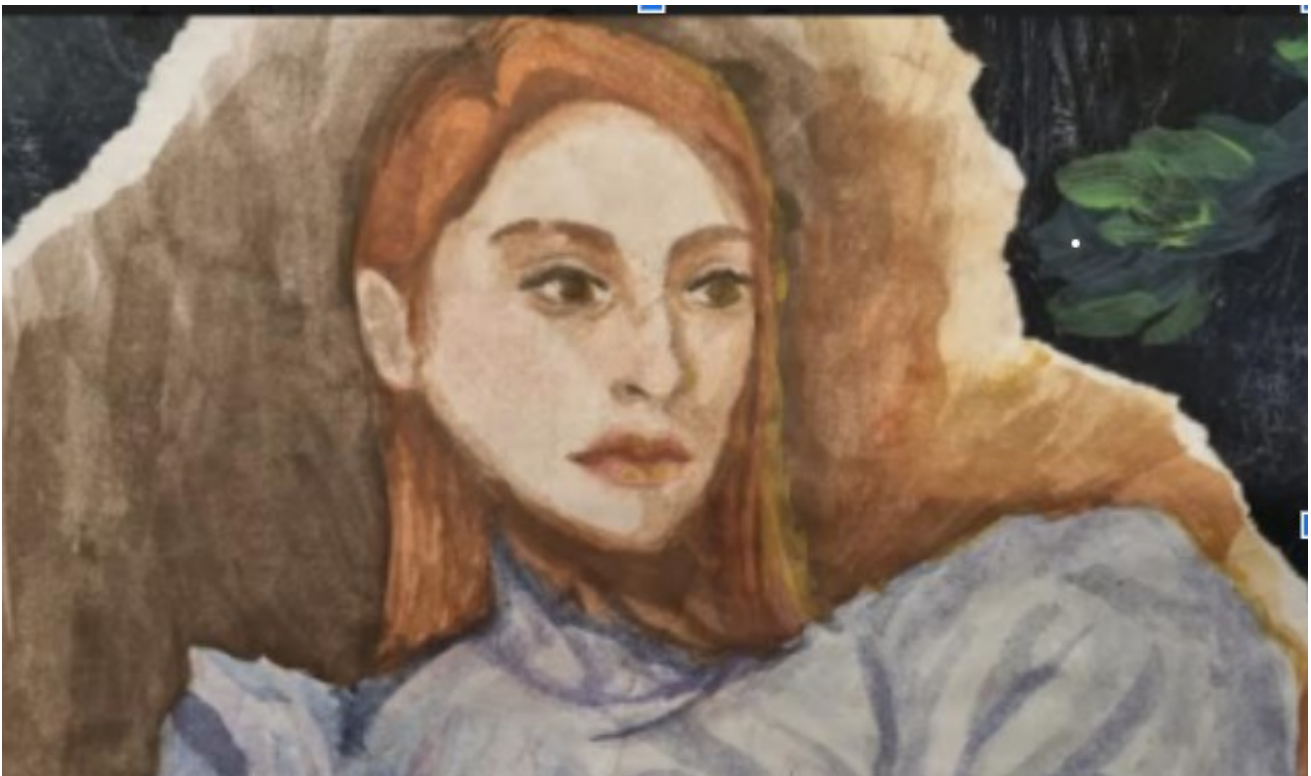
develop our pupils as people as well as achieve results and ultimately hope that they continue to be successful, resilient and live their lives with Gospel Values.”

Almost a third of pupils achieved 5A*/A grades at GCSE



David was delighted; “ I am absolutely over the moon and so proud of the achievements of all our pupils. These results are evidence of the outstanding work of pupils and the dedication of our staff. At St Richard Gwyn, staff, pupils and parents work extremely hard collegiately as a community to help achieve the best results possible. It is a testament to everyone working together and I am very grateful to our families and staff. We want to prepare the pupils to successfully move on in the next stage of their lives. We wish the pupils leaving us every success. Supporting wellbeing is integral to the school and helps to achieve these outstanding outcomes. We strive to

The pupils of the class of 2023 did fantastically well and there were many outstanding results. The results were on par with the best results of recent years, despite marking returning to pre-pandemic levels. 27.5% achieving 5 A-A* grades. Milly Jorna (6A* 4As) was so glad she was “persistent and relieved that the hard work paid off and was so pleased with her A* grades”. Joe Yipp (6A* 6As) thanked the “teachers for providing him with the support he needed to be successful” whilst Abbie Cutting (6A* 4As) felt she would will “miss the welcoming nature of the staff”.



Art work by Zuzanna Zagrodzka (Year 11)

Wellbeing Award



St Richard Gwyn school, meanwhile, has been shortlisted the Outstanding Impact in Education award in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Awards. The school's work to support the wellbeing of both pupils and staff was highlighted in the media earlier this year and it is great to see it now receiving wider acclaim. The judges noted that they were hugely impressed by the work that St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School are doing.

We have had huge focus on pupil and staff wellbeing as a school. The needs of young people cannot be met without meeting the needs of the staff. This year, our school has worked on a Wellbeing Project in collaboration with Mind in the Vale. This has been a huge success. Their recent report highlighted that it provided support to and staff saw a "significant rise in wellbeing". This was qualified by the following statement, "being able to access the service has improved how valued I feel by the school as it helps to know that they really care about staff and our wellbeing".

New Curriculum for Wales Starts for Year 8

The school is excited to continue the roll out of the New Curriculum for Wales with the Year 8 cohort after starting with Year 7 last year. We hope that the pupils' experiences are memorable and purposeful. Richard Gwyn's curriculum seeks to place goodness and academic success at the centre of what we do. The curriculum seeks to offer learners experiences that are exciting, engaging and implement the purposes of the New Curriculum for Wales.

The four core purposes aim for a St

Richard Gwyn pupil to be: an **ambitious, capable learner**; an **enterprising, creative contributor**; an **ethical, informed citizen**; and a **healthy, confident individual**.

Virtues Education

Alongside these key purposes we also seek to promote the pupil profile that aims for pupils in our school to grow up to be:

- **Grateful** and **generous**
- **Attentive** to their experiences and **discerning** about the choices they make

- **Compassionate** towards others and **loving** by their just actions and **forgiving** words
- **Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future
- **Eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves and others
- **Learned** and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good
- **Curious** about everything and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better
- **Intentional** in the way they live and **prophetic** in the example they

set to others.

We believe these virtues support our young people. "An important part of growing up successfully is to create an identity – to imagine your grown-up self and then do what is needed to become that person in a conscious and deliberate way." Our profile suggests what a good person looks like and invites young people to make its virtues their own, shaping the fantastic characters that they will become!

Teaching and Learning

In the last academic year, our whole school focus was on Constructive Feedback. Staff needed to be mindful that the previous year our focus was ensuring that there was 'Challenge' in all lessons which ensured that learners were engaged in their learning without being anxious. Challenge in lessons should be embedded and so now we moved onto Constructive Feedback. Staff were tasked with

working within Areas of Learning in order to research what model of feedback was going to prove effective and efficient for the learners in their subject. This was a substantial project which began in October and was finalised in June. Staff knew that their outcomes would develop our new assessment policy. We wanted to move away from a 'one size fits all' approach to feedback. Staff were given time and suggested research documents to discover what effective feedback might look like.

Staff elicited learners' perceptions through questionnaires pre and post action research. It was evident that we needed a consistent approach to feedback in learners' books: What Went Well (WWW) and Even Better If (EBI). This translates across all subjects and ensures that learners are receiving a consistent approach. All departments have produced Research posters to demonstrate empirical evidence for their decisions

1. Identify a focus
The aim of this research was to trial a range of strategies that can be used to promote constructive feedback in lessons across the school.

2. Action enquiry
The main strategies we are using in constructive feedback are:

- Using verbal comments in Google classroom to provide personal feedback following assessment
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3. Innovation and change

- Staff have selected classes for trialling constructive feedback strategies
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4. Training and Feedback

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5. Results and analysis of data

- Over 50% of students who responded to the questionnaire said they preferred feedback following assessment
- When asked about grades on feedback, 60% of S10 students said they preferred feedback when completing a minor task in lessons
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6. Reflection

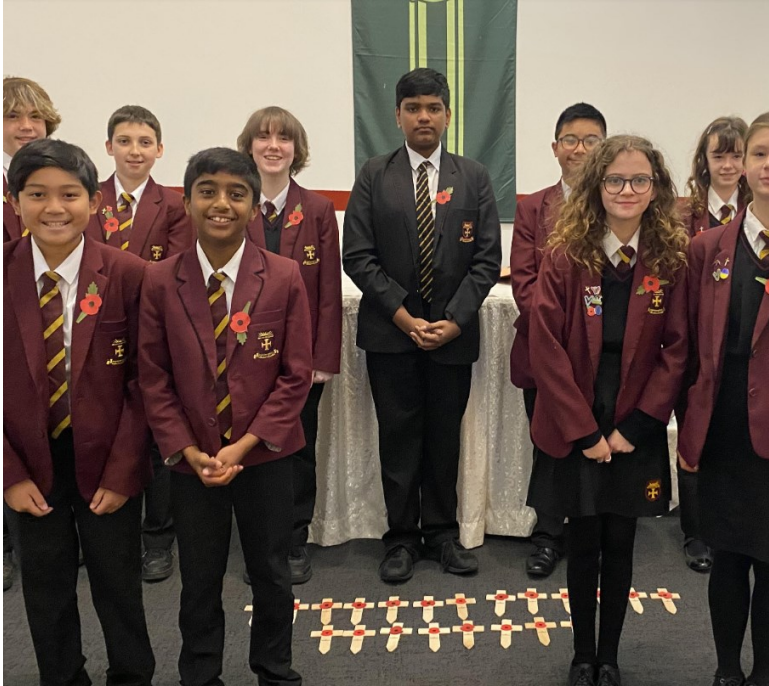
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7. Sharing Outcomes

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8. Recommendations

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The Autumn term is always a busy one in the chapel and this year was no exception - From the Welcome Mass in September through Remembrance services in November and a full programme of Advent adventures, our pupils were creative and prayerful. The chaplaincy team's role is to guide and lead the rest of the school and they are doing great work whether cutting out stars or poppies for every form to create their own prayers or proclaiming the liturgy each week in Mass. !

Weekly Mass has been restored with the coming of Canon Mike Evans in Barry and we are delighted that Year7 have been able to celebrate with him each week. Next term other year groups will also join us

Outreach to those in need was also a highlight of this term with £800 in cash and a similar amount in kilos of food donated to the Foodbank after our Feast day fun- one luck form won the right to a "Golden half hour " being served hot chocolate and entertained by Mr Dunn and Mr Blackwell !! Then in Advent pupils thought about local groups who needed a little Christmas cheer and donated goods for the Vale Domestic Abuse refuges, Llamau homes for the young homeless, Space4 U which works with local asylum seekers as well as another Foodbank donation and beautiful gift bags for the residential home Bethel house

Financial Notes

There were a number of projects that took place in the last financial year. These included large investment in groundworks to the main entrance car park in order to provide a safe vehicle route from to the back of the sports hall. Meeting room spaces have been revised with the creation of a more accessible conference room. The school received a grant for 16 new windows in the English block as well as for new outdoor basketball nets. Further investment went into new computers, laptops, chrome books and smart televisions for classrooms, much of which has been funded through the Vale.

The Governing Body

Foundation

Mr Paul McLoughlin (Chair)

Dr Martin Price

Mr Steve Trigg

Mrs Emma McGivern

Mrs Kate Harris

Mrs Marcia Gittens

Parent Governors

Mr Steve Farugia

Mr Noel Clawson

Mrs Emma Turner

Non Teaching Staff

Mrs Kate Clark

Teaching Staff

Mrs R Ellis

Ms Amanda Gledhill

Local Authority

Mr Danny Williams

Mrs Karen Evans

Headteacher

Mr David Blackwell

Clerk

Mrs Claire Price

Term Dates

Autumn 2023

Monday 4th September - Friday 22nd December

Half Term - Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November

Spring 2024

Monday 08 January - 22nd March

Half Term - Monday 12th February-Friday 16th February

Summer 2024

Monday 8th April - Friday 22nd July

Half Term: Monday 8th April-Monday 22nd 2024

INSET DAYS:

Monday 4th September

Friday 6th October

Monday 4th December

Wednesday 31st January

Friday 14th June

Please contact by writing to
info@strichardgwyn.co.uk

