

SRG NEWSLETTER



January 2024
Issue #1

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MESSAGE FROM MR BLACKWELL

“

Thank you for your continued support during the long Autumn term. I hope that you had a restful, happy and joyful Christmas.



Personally, I would like to thank all the staff for the continued support and guidance they give our pupils. We constantly strive to do the best for every child and although we don't always get this right, we will continue to be resilient, and work hard with our ethos at the centre of all we do to achieve the very best for each and every student.

With your support ensuring pupils are in school on time, dressed in full uniform and with a ready-to-learn attitude that will enable them to fulfil their potential, I am sure 2024 will be full of success for all of St Richard Gwyn.

Hopefully we will soon have some amazing news to share about the new school so keep us in your prayers and watch this space!!

I wish you all every health and happiness for the coming year.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'R Blackwell'.

A FOND FARWELL

By Mrs L Burnett

After 16 years teaching at St Richard Gwyn, we say a fond farewell to Mr Leftley. He started with us as an NQT and the only male PE teacher in school. He has been a committed and dedicated member of staff who has always given his utmost to promoting the health and fitness of all our students.



Throughout his time he has spent countless hours running fixtures and teams to support the sporting life of the school. He has become an established curriculum leader within the school, and his promotion to Assistant Headteacher at Pencoedre High School is very well deserved.

We wish him well and look forward to hearing about his successes as a triathlete, and as the Vale Vipers head coach.

Best of luck Mr Leftley!!



“After 16 years teaching at St Richard Gwyn, I undoubtedly leave with forever memories. This school was my first job and as I reflect on this milestone, I remember countless victories both big and small. I arrived at the school with the aim of empowering young people to be brave and bold; to believe the impossible would be possible.

I'm blessed to have worked with some fantastic people and this school will always be close to my heart. I would like to thank current and past colleagues for the wonderful memories I leave with, wishing everyone in the school community the very best of luck and happiness for the future.

Mr A Leftley

CATHOLIC PUPIL PROFILE

This term, we are growing to be:

COMPASSIONATE
&
LOVING

loving hopeful
attentive learned prophetic curious
faith-filled wise
generous grateful
eloquent discerning
intentional compassionate
truthful active

Members of St Richard Gwyn are growing to be compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.

Yn dosturiol tuag at eraill, ymhell ac agos, yn enwedig y rhai llai ffodus; ac yn gariadus drwy eu gweithredoedd cyfiawn a'u geiriau maddeugar.

To be **compassionate** is to experience suffering or change alongside someone else, it is never enough simply to be attentive: we must allow ourselves to be moved by what we see, especially by the plight of those who suffer. At St Richard Gwyn we are striving to acknowledge that empathy is a virtue very necessary for being a good human being. To live successfully in a family, or a school community, or workplace, or in wider society, means being able to see, understand and feel things from other points of view.

Love is something that is learned not by being taught but by having first experienced it for ourselves. It is by being loved that we learn to love.

As a community we constantly strive to show love for ourselves and others through our actions. At St Richard Gwyn we are striving to consciously be aware of the need to stop and notice how others are experiencing their lives, and how they feel, and why they say and believe what they do. Jesus' great commandment is "Love one another." (John 13:34) The more we love others, the more we are truly human and most truly ourselves.



"I give you a new
commandment:
Love one another!
Just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have
for one another,
everyone will know
that you are my disciples."

Gospel of St John 13:34-35

CHAPLAINCY

Mrs N Price – School Chaplain

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.



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.

Weekly Mass has also been restored with the arrival of Canon Mike Evans in Barry, and we are delighted that Year 7 have been able to celebrate with him each week. From January 2024 our 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 lucky form won the right to a "Golden Half Hour", being served hot chocolate and entertained by Mr Dunn and Mr Blackwell!!!

During Advent, our pupils thought about local groups who needed a little Christmas cheer. They donated goods for the Vale Domestic Abuse refuges, Llamau homes for the young homeless, Space4U which works with local asylum seekers, as well as another Foodbank donation and made beautiful gift bags for the residential home Bethel house.



RE

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Mrs Price, our Chaplaincy team, SVP members, SRG staff and our fantastic community for making our events during Advent such a success.

Thank you!



to the following students who have demonstrated the virtue
COMPASSIONATE and LOVING:

Year 7

Amelia Shaji
Fiona Roy
Lellie Jones

Year 8

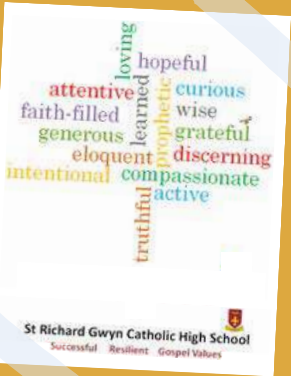
Emilia Sliwinska
Zain Behardien
Jacob Prosser
Maci Crickmay
Iqra Adeyinka

Year 9

Elisha Placio
Tilly Lloyd
Oliee McCafferty

Year 11

Wiktor Sliwinski
Bethan Barnsley
Jerom Samuel



GET INVOLVED!

YEAR 7:

CAFOD club every Tuesday
lunchtime, Week 1

YEAR 8 - 11:

Debate Club every Thursday
lunchtime in 204

SVP every Monday lunchtime
in the Chapel – see Mrs Price

YEAR 7 Students will be completing and unit of work called “Galilee to Jerusalem”. We’ll be exploring who Jesus was and what the titles given to him mean and why he was given so many titles.

YEAR 8 Students are developing knowledge and understanding of how people celebrate in different ways, and the reasons why. We’ll also be exploring what it means to “live as a covenant of people”.

YEAR 9 Students are continuing to explore big questions society faces today, including the “sanctity of life” and issues that arise from this Catholic belief. Using their research, they will respond to questions such as “How do I respect the sanctity of human life”?

YEAR 10

Students are completing the “Jewish beliefs and practices” topic of the Unit 1 Religious Studies GCSE course. Once completed, they will sit an assessment before moving on to the next topic. They will also be preparing for the Mock Exams w/c 26th February 2024.

Suggested podcast:
Important features of a Synagogue



YEAR 11

Students are completing the “Catholic beliefs and practices Q1” topic of the Unit 3 WJEC Religious Studies GCSE course. They will also be preparing for the Mock Exams being sat W/C 22nd January 2024.

Suggested podcast:
Catholic beliefs and practices
Q1 – Pilgrimage



ENGLISH

SPRING KEY DATES

January 10th	Year 10 English Literature: Unit 1 external exams – 9am
January 11th	Year 11 English Language: Early entry results
W/B February 22nd	Year 11 English Language mock week
W/B February 5th	Year 11 Group Discussion oracy – 10% of the GCSE mark

Year 8 Woman In Black theatre visit:

September saw a lucky 90 or more Year 8's head to the New Theatre in Cardiff to watch a production of Susan Hill's Woman In Black. A frightening and captivating performance, which tied perfectly to their studies of Gothic Literature this term.

Year 9 Hunger Games cinema visit:

In November, Mrs Walker took over 50 students to a screening of the new Hunger Games movie 'The Ballad of the Songbird and Snakes'. Students have enjoyed reading the Hunger Games novel in their Dystopia unit and found the experience very enjoyable.

Year 7 Author Visit – Rebecca King:

Also in November, Year 7 were fortunate enough to have a workshop and private reading from author Rebecca King. Students showcased their creativity and imagination, as well as being able to have copies of her new novel 'Ember Shadows and the Lost Desert of Time'. Many thanks to Ms King and Griffin Books, Penarth for this opportunity.



Year 11 English Language Early Entry

Over 80 Year 11 students have shown incredible resilience and determination in their English studies. Undertaking the qualification of English Language in just a few short weeks, students attended after school and half-term revision. Relentless completion of work and feedback about key skills were acted upon and we eagerly await the results on the 11th January 2024.

MATHS

SPRING KEY DATES

W/B 15th January

Year 9 Assessment 1
Year 10 Assessment 2

January 24th

Year 11 progress exam: mathematics non calculator

W/B February 26th

Year 7 Assessment 1
Year 8 Assessment 2
Year 10 progress exam: numeracy non calculator

W/B March 11th

Year 10 progress exam: numeracy calculator

W/B April 8th

Year 11 progress exam: mathematics calculator



CAVC Aerospace Challenge

St Richard Gwyn were the winners of the CAVC Aerospace challenge 2023, competing against 18 other teams from Cardiff and the Vale. They were presented with their trophy and prize money to be spent on STEM projects for the school.



Faraday Challenge

This year, 12 year 8 students represented the school in the Faraday Challenge. Their team work was put to the test when they needed to design, develop, build and present a new safety feature for the road. The students had a great day and had an insightful experience into the world of engineering.



Techniquist

Year 8 students were given opportunity to take a trip to Techniquist in Cardiff. They had a fantastic day exploring the hands-on scientific exhibits.



National history museum

Year 7 students visited the National history museum where they were looking at the links between the circumference of the tree and the tree's age. The students had a great time and really got stuck into the challenge.

MATHS

USEFUL RESOURCES

Google Classroom	All lessons and any revision material will be posted on here for each class
Corbettmaths	Additional worksheets and helpful videos
DIY Maths	Past papers with solutions
Maths Genie	Revision questions and solutions
BBC Bitesize	Homework, revision and learning help
SRG Website	Worksheets and videos to use at home (About us -- Useful links -- Maths portal)

WELL DONE

Mathematician of the Term!

Awarded to the following students who continuously worked hard and put 100% into every lesson, have made significant progress or have done exceptionally well on assessments.

Year 7

Alex Richards
Mary Stacey

Year 8

Caleb Pranglely
Emily Alger

Year 9

Ben Richards
Betty Lewis

Year 10

Thomas Bellamy
Islamiat Adeyinka

Year 11

Paul Reid
Mia Richardson

After School Maths

Tuesday

Year 11 (MA1, MA5)
Year 11 Additional maths (MA2)

Thursday

Year 10 Numeracy (MA1, MA2, MA4, MA5)



Board Games Club

Year 7 - Wednesday 12:40
MA5/MA2

Year 8 & 9 - Tuesday 13:40 MA2

ANY YEAR 7, 8
AND 9
WELCOME



Games available include: Uno, Scrabble, Dominoes, Chess, Cluedo, Cards, Battleships and many more...

EXPRESSIVE ARTS



Year 7 and Year 8 Music classes have this term been competing to win themselves a Christmas party!

Students were challenged with playing Mr Fitzgerald as many songs as possible from the SRG Christmas Keyboard Songbook.

Competition was fast and furious with each song played scoring one point for the class.

After two lessons the scores were in....

7MG and 8MT were crowned victors and treated to a lesson full of festive fun, Christmas crackers and just a little bit of chocolate too!

Mr B Fitzgerald - Music



The Year 10 and 11 Drama classes went to the Wales Millennium Centre to watch a production of Disney's 'Aladdin' in December.

The set, costume and props were fantastic and we were very impressed with the strength of the vocalists and dancers.



Year 11 will have plenty to comment on when they write about this in their exam in the summer term.

The students had a great time and were excellent representatives of our school community.

Mrs F Wright - Drama

YEAR 10 WELSH BACCALAUREATE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Mrs L Evans



Our Christmas Fayre this year was a triumphant success! Every year, the Enterprise Project always brings out the best in pupils. It also gives us teachers a chance to see a completely different side to them!

Some of our prefects ran a stall writing letters to Santa so they could raise funds for an educational trip to Parliament, and all teams, for the first time that we can remember, SOLD OUT, and in record time too! The students were excellent and got to have a great deal of fun preparing and hosting the event, and also gained valuable life skills in the process!

Well done year 10!!



KS3

Year 7 pupil, Max Jones, was entered by his drama group PQA for the Coram Shakespeare competition earlier in the year. This involved picking, writing and performing a piece from a former non-speaking part. Max made it through all stages and was a finalist! He was invited to perform his piece at the Criterion in London on Monday 27th November. Max was incredible, having the audience in stitches and Harry Potter actor, Alfred Enoch, in tears of laughter backstage. Max was introduced by Horrible Histories/Ghosts star Ben Willbond. getting to share the stage with him.



Congratulations and a huge well done to the pupils in KS3 who have displayed excellent behaviour and positive choices throughout the autumn term. A total of 76% of the KS3 cohort received five correctives or less, with 49% of pupils receiving zero correctives during this time period. In Year 9, 70% of pupils received five correctives with 45% of the year group receiving no correctives whatsoever. This is a similar story in Year 7 with 75% of the year group receiving five correctives or less, with 43% of the year group receiving no correctives at all. However, Year 8 have blown these extremely positive figures out of the water with a whopping 85% of the year group receiving five correctives or less with 60% being given no correctives at all. The benchmark has been set for the remainder of the year and I hope that pupils can return after the Christmas break to improve upon these impressive figures during the spring term. Da iawn pobl!



The first edition of the school learning journals have been introduced to Year 7 pupils with further journals being released during the spring and summer terms. The journals should provide the central point for homework for Year 7. The tasks seek to align with the topics and tasks that are covered in school. In the past, we have often had enquiries about homework. If your child says they have no homework, the journal is a resource for them to use! It seeks to encourage independence as well as prepare the pupils for the demands of Key Stage Four qualifications.

Parents and carers are able to continue to help support their child with their academic progress through the following means:

- Monitoring of homework.
- Ensuring that pupils have access to Google Classroom resources for each subject.
- Ensuring that parents/carers have access to, and monitor, ClassCharts for information regarding behaviour, achievement and attendance.

If you cannot access ClassCharts, please contact the school to obtain the relevant login details.

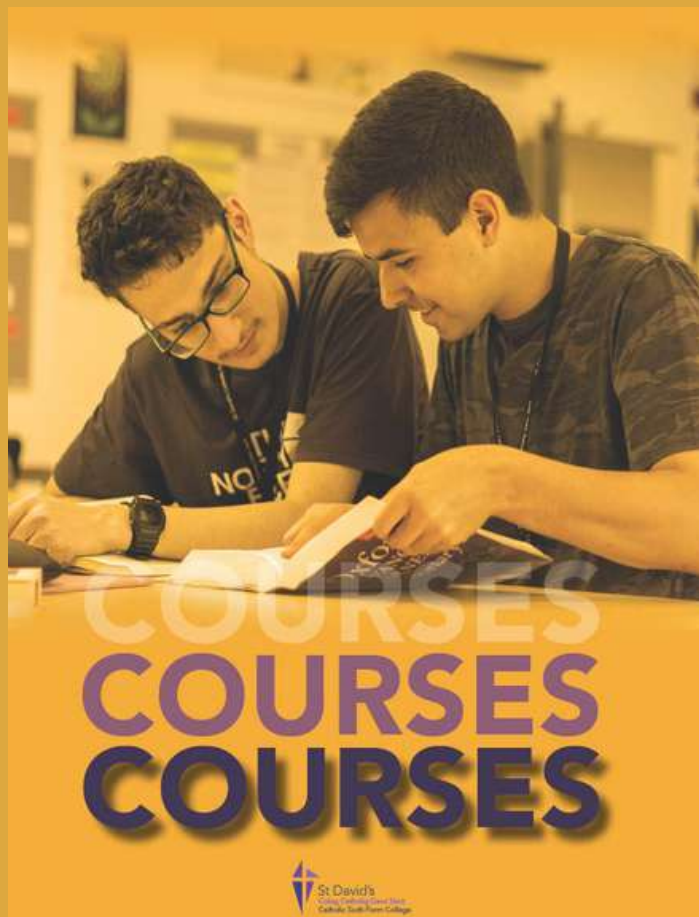
KS4

SPRING KEY DATES

January 9th	Positively You will be coming in to deliver a revision techniques workshop for all year 11 students
January 10th	Year 10 GCSE English Literature exam, starting at 9am
January 15th	Year 10 & 11 Science practical exams start (until February 9th)
W/B January 22nd	Year 11 Progress Exams week
February 1st	Colorfoto are in to take Year 11 school photos. Please ensure full and correct uniform is worn

Life after St Richard Gwyn

There are many options available to students when considering what to do when they finish Year 11. Below is just some of the further studying opportunities available at St David's College, Cardiff.



LEVEL 3: A LEVEL

Art & Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
DT: Product Design
Drama and Theatre
Economics
English Language & Literature
English Literature
Film Studies
French
Geography
German
Government and Politics
Health and Social Care
History: Modern
Law
Mathematics
Mathematics (Further)
Media Studies
Music
Philosophy
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Spanish
Welsh (2nd Language)

LEVEL 3: BTEC

Applied Science
Business Diploma
E-Sports
IT: Extended Certificate
Performing Arts – Musical Theatre
Sports Coaching & Development

LEVEL 2: BTEC

Creative Digital Media Production
E-Sports
Health and Social Care

LEVEL 2: GCSE

English Language
Mathematics
Science

APPLY:

www.stdavidscollege.ac.uk

LEVEL 3: WJEC DIPLOMA

Criminology
Medical Science
Health & Social Care



St David's
Coleg Catholig Dewi Sant
Catholic Sixth Form College

STUDENT VOICE!



Interview with Mr M Bryon
By Ruby Morgan and Elle Eyao

Ruby: What would your ideal classroom look like?

Mr Bryon: Like room 202 but a bit more organised.

Ruby: Who is your favourite colleague?

Mr Bryon: My favourite colleague? I like all my colleagues, but I've worked for an awfully long time with Mr Donoghue who is my next door neighbour, and I probably see more of Mr Donoghue than I do my own wife!

Ruby: What is your favourite scary film?

Mr Bryon: What's the one where they're in the woods with... oh I can't remember what it's called now but I jumped about 10 feet tall. It's an old one where they're in the woods... it's about 15, 20 years old now. Blair Witch Project! That's the one. It's horrible.

Ruby: What is your favourite thing about your subject?

Mr Bryon: My favourite thing about my subject... that I get to bore people with lots of meaningless facts that I find incredibly interesting but they don't necessarily think that.

Ruby: Where do you see yourself in the school in 10 years?

Mr Bryon: That's a good question because I'll be 65 in 10 years, so I might well be nearing retirement.

Ruby: If you weren't a teacher, what would you be? And you can't say historian.

Mr Bryon: Well, I'm still having to face up to the fact that I'm not a Welsh football international yet. Maybe I would've been, right?

Elle: Always a chance!

Ruby: The last one, if the world was ending in 24 hours, what would you do?

Mr Bryon: Ooh, what would I do? I'd probably want an incredibly wild party!

Elle: That's all the questions, thanks sir!



STUDENT VOICE!

Student to student support and advice on "how to deal with drama"!



If someone is arguing online, it's best to take a step out and evaluate the situation.

It's best to not get involved.

Space yourself away from the drama while getting on with everything else in school, and disengage from it outside of school.



If you are involved in the drama, try to resolve it peacefully amongst yourselves.

If this doesn't work, try and find someone to talk to and advise you on the best course of action.

If all else fails, remember that there's always a teacher you can talk to.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

We understand the importance of keeping in touch.

Here's where you can find us and how you can contact us:



01446 729250



www.strichardgwyn.co.uk



info@strichardgwyn.co.uk



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FOR THE CALENDAR:

Spring Term 2024

TERM STARTS:

Yr 11 Art Mocks:

Yr 10 & 11 Science practicals:

Yr 11 Mock week starts:

Yr 11 Colorfoto:

Yr 9 Reports out:

HALF TERM:

Start of Lent:

Yr 11 Reports out:

World Book Day:

Yr 9 Options Evening:

Yr 11 Progress Evening:

Yr 8 & 10 Reports out:

TERM ENDS:

Monday 8th January

Thursday 11th January

Monday 15th January

Monday 22nd January

Thursday 1st February

Friday 9th February

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th March

Monday 19th February

Friday 1st March

Thursday 7th March

Thursday 7th March

Thursday 14th March

Friday 22nd March

Friday 22nd March

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

We now have a clothes bank, located in the front car park behind the large bins.

For every kilo of clothing collected, the school will receive a small payment which will go towards essential supplies for the students.



CLOTHES
SHOES
BAGS
BELTS



FABRICS
SHEETS
TOWELS
CURTAINS
ETC



MESSAGE FROM OUR SITE MANAGER

PARKING:

Please use the visitor spaces only in the front car park during the day. The driveway to reception is reserved for pre agreed arrangements only. The grass is being driven over and is now damaged as a result.

DROPPING OFF / COLLECTING STUDENTS:

All drop offs are to be made in the rear car park, unless your child is late and can then be brought to reception.

All collections are to be made from the rear car park unless otherwise agreed.

TRAFFIC:

We understand it can get a little congested with the volume of children being collected. We need to give priority to the buses in the turning circle and whilst this can be frustrating, we ask that you are courteous and kind at all times to both staff and fellow parents and carers.

NEIGHBOURS:

We share Argae Lane and the surrounding streets with long standing neighbours who have a right to access their property at all times of the day. Please do not park in front of entrances / exits or block driveways at any time. Even if you think you will only be a moment, it may be that moment that causes the most inconvenience to someone else.

TURNING CIRCLE

For the safety of our students, please do not park or wait on the turning circle at any time.

NEW SCHOOL PROPOSAL

ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Mae cynigion yn cael eu cyflwyno ar gyfer ail-datblygiad Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Richard Gwyn Sant. Gan nad yw'r adeiladau ysgol presennol bellach yn addas i'w bwmpas, mae'r cynigion hyn yn darparu adeilad ysgol newydd o fewn ffin safon ysgol bresennol. Bydd yr ysgol newydd bydd lle i 1,050 o ddisgyblion ll-16 mlwydd oed yn ogystal ag uned 60 lle Sylfaen Adnoddau Arbennig (SRB). Bydd yr ysgol newydd wedi'i lleoli yng nghornel de-orllewinol safon yr ysgol, ac felly'n caniatáu i'r ysgol bresennol barhau i fod yn weithredol yn ystod y gwaith adeiladu.

O dan raglen Cymunedau Dysgu Cynaliadwy bydd y datbulgiad arfaethedig yn cael ei gyd-ariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Proposals are being brought forward for the re-development of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. As the existing school buildings are no longer fit for purpose, these proposals provide a new school building within the boundary of the existing school site. The proposed school will accommodate 1,050 mainstream pupils aged 11-16 as well as a 60 place Special Resource Base (SRB) unit. The new school will be located in the south-west corner of the school grounds, thus allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction. The proposed development will be joint-funded by the Welsh Government and Vale of Glamorgan Council under the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

