

SRG NEWSLETTER



February 2024
Issue #2

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MESSAGE FROM MR DUNN



We hope that families, pupils and staff have had restful and enriching half-term breaks.



This term's virtues have focused on being Compassionate and Loving, and whilst it has been an intense and short half term; school life has been as busy and productive as ever. We were delighted to welcome Archbishop Mark to school; the pupils were absolutely fantastic and it was wonderful to welcome members of our wider school community to Mass.

There have been a number of very valuable opportunities for students in this half-term such as Young Enterprise for upper school, the Debate Mate programme for Year 9 as well as the Brilliant Club for Year 8. Educational visits have included a STEM trip and a trip for Business Studies. We were also delighted with the examination results that Year 11 achieved for English and Mathematics; well done to pupils and the staff involved.

Pupils are currently being encouraged to apply for Eisteddford competitions and it has been brilliant seeing a high number of sporting fixtures taking place.

In other news, Governors have formally adopted the proposal to move things forward with the new build; something that we are very hopeful and excited about.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and continued support.

CATHOLIC PUPIL PROFILE

A reminder that this term, we are growing to be:

COMPASSIONATE & LOVING



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

A VERY SPECIAL VISIT

Mrs N Price – School Chaplain

On January 26th 2024, we were delighted to welcome His Grace, Archbishop Mark O'Toole, to St Richard Gwyn.



He celebrated Mass with 3 of our Year 7 classes, and 1 Year 8 class. We were also joined by pupils from St Helen's and St Joseph's Primaries, plus staff and Governors.

After Mass, His Grace had a tour of the school, calling in to various lessons before sitting down with our Student Council to discuss our new school.

He then retired to the Chapel for a question and answer session with our Student Chaplaincy team. Amongst other things, they discovered he was a keen swimmer (when he found the time!), and were absolutely delighted to find out he shared their love of Channel 4's Gogglebox!



STUDENT COUNCIL

During his visit, His Grace met with our KS3 and KS4 student council in our Library.

This article is written by those students.



Our Student Council were lucky enough to meet with the Archbishop at His Grace's visit to school on Friday 26th January. As part of this meeting, the Student Council spoke about their love for the school and the opportunities they are presented with here.

We also spoke about our excitement at the prospect of a new school building and the difference this could make to our learning, both in and out of the classroom. The Archbishop was keen to note the sense of community he could feel at our school and told us about a recent trip he took to Portugal as part of a convention. He said that the first part of this trip was spent in a basic dormitory where a communal spirit was fostered, but that the second part of the trip was spent in a luxurious hotel and this impacted on the sense of community amongst the attendees. Retaining a sense of community and togetherness is something that we, as a Student Council, are keen to retain when we eventually move into a new school building.

Year 11 pupil Evie Johnson said, "It was great to speak with the Archbishop about our experiences at St Richard Gwyn and listen to his ideas about how we can create community amongst our pupils and staff". Ruby Morgan, a pupil in Year 10, said "Listening to the Archbishop speak about the importance of resilience really resonated with me and it's something I'll bear in mind as I approach more exams over the next year and a half".

It was an honour to have the Archbishop visit our school and take the time to meet our Student Council.

SCIENCE

KEY DATES

February 20th Start of GCSE Science revision (after school)

February 27th Year 10 Science progress exam

This month, the Y11 Triple Science Physics group took part in an exciting workshop run by the UK Space Agency. During the workshop, they discovered how astronauts manage day to day life on the European Space Station, along with careers in the space industry.

The students made telescopes and looked at how this basic invention has evolved into a multi billion pound telescope developed in the UK.

Some lucky students also got the opportunity to try on a Russian Cosmonaut helmet!



Since September, Science club has been in full swing with the Year 7's getting stuck into some practicals.

We have looked at the flame test, and the colours of metal ions, rainbows, and colourful rain. In December we made some fake snow using hydrogels to get into the Christmas spirits, and recently set fire to the table.

The favourite so far has been making lava lamps with a choice of colours. This used a neutralisation reaction to create the bubbles.

SCIENCE

USEFUL LINKS

KS3
BBC Bitesize



KS4
WJEC revision resources



Jacques Carre participating in one of our favourite reactions, methane bubbles. We think he was a bit surprised!

WELL Done

Scientist of the Month!

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.

KS3

Olař Szamocki

KS4

Mika Turner

We were very lucky to be invited to an event at Big Pit – Pylon to Power.

BIG PIT

The aim of the day was to encourage more students into STEM subjects at GCSE and further study.

The students had a challenging day; activities included building a pylon and building a wind turbine. They investigated the best combination of gears, blade angle and number of blades for generating electricity. We were also lucky to have a talk from National Grid who focussed on careers in engineering.



WELSH

KEY DATES

20th February	Criw Cymraeg meeting - 1:40pm in room 108
W/B 26th February	Year 10 Mock Week begins
1st March	Eisteddfod
16th, 17th & 18th April	Year 10 GCSE Speaking exam
22nd, 23rd & 24th April	Year 11 GCSE Speaking exam

Eisteddfod

This year's Eisteddfod will be taking place on Friday 1st March 2024. There's a designated Google Classroom that students can join, where they can see all of the competitions and how to upload entries. They can enter as many as they like and the more they enter, the more points they'll gain for their house.

POB LWC!!

Design a Love Spoon (you will need to research what the symbols on Love Spoons mean).	Bake/ Decorate a cake / cupcake with a Welsh theme.	Design a new emblem for Wales - we already have the daffodil, leek, dragon and 3 feathers.	Design a 3 course Welsh menu - starter, main and dessert. You should consider Welsh foods and local produce.
Create your ideal/ fantasy Welsh rugby team - you can include any Welsh players from any era.	Video yourself eating as many Welsh cakes as you can in ONE MINUTE.	Film yourself saying Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwilllanty siliogogogoch ☺	Best dressed leek - dress a leek (the vegetable) in an outfit of your choice - think creatively.
Write a poem about life and living in Wales. You can include some Welsh if you like!	Take a photo of yourself in your most patriotic Welsh outfit.	Create a storyboard of the story of Dewi Sant (Saint David).	Write a short piece in English or Welsh about what being Welsh means to you.
Design a poster advertising a Welsh castle - include information about the history of the castle and its significance.	Who is your Welsh hero and why? You can write this in English or in Welsh.	Create a poster advertising Wales as a tourist destination.	Design a banner or a mascot for your house (Belmont, Caldey, Ewenny, Llantarnam, Mangam, Whitland, Penrhys)

Year 11 only: Fy hoff atgof o Ysgol Richard Gwyn Sant - My favourite memory of SRG.
A written piece - IN WELSH.

WELSH

USEFUL RESOURCES

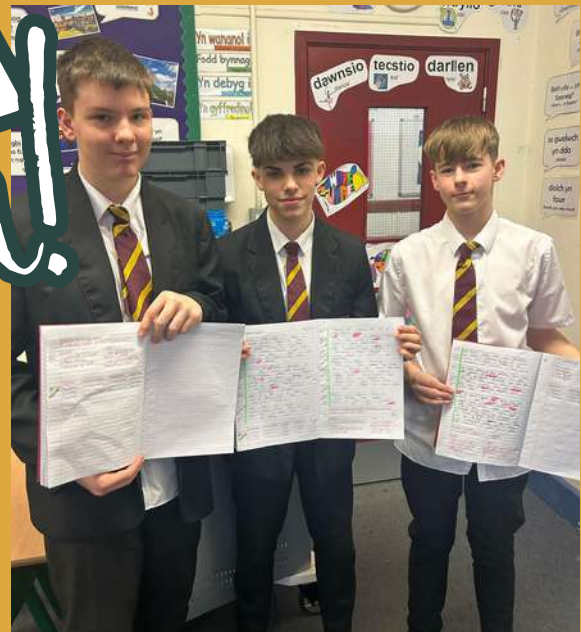
Google Classroom	All lessons and any revision material will be posted on here for each class
Ap Geiriaduron	A free and really useful Welsh dictionary app
WJEC	Past papers with solutions and other free resources
BBC Bitesize	Homework, revision and learning help

**Disgyblion yr wythnos
ym mlwyddyn 10!**

**Pupils of the week in
year 10!**

Da iawn to Harry Vella-Jones, Luca Hemmens and Sam Greening who are working so brilliantly in Cymraeg at the moment, and are really proud of their recent core tasks marks!

DA Iawn!



Clwb Cymraeg



We are fortunate to be able to welcome Heledd from the Urdd! She'll be taking the Welsh club in room 108 at lunch, where there'll be fun, games and competitions!



Students are encouraged to keep using Cymraeg around the school in order to earn a Tocyn Iaith merit on ClassCharts, as well as a sweet treat!

SPANISH

KEY DATES

W/B 11th March

Year 7 Assessment – Reading – Mi Tiempo Libre
Year 10 Assessment – Writing – Mi Instituto

W/B 18th March

Year 8 Assessment – Reading – La Comida

Every Thursday

Year 11 Revision after school – 3.20pm to 4.20pm

USEFUL RESOURCES



GCSE Quizlet Revision

Scan the QR code to access dozens of vocab lists

ESTRELLAS DEL Español

Spanish Stars!!

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

Jonah Shrubsole
Milana Vaskevicius

Year 8

Dylan Leek
Iqra Adeyinka

Year 9

Samuel Shrubsole
Betty Lewis

Year 10

William Rees
Ruby Morgan

Year 11

Wiktoria Sliwinski
Jasmine Surringer

GCHQ Languages Competition

November saw Year 9 pupils pit their wits against pupils across the UK as they took on a variety of code-breaker tasks, riddles and other linguistic challenges designed by members of the UK's intelligence agency. Our winning team of Bastien Angeles, Marc Edullantes, Zoe Sevillano and Emily Harris finished in an incredible 2nd place in Wales and in 90th place across the UK as a whole. A total of 5 teams from SRG finished in the top 20 in Wales, all demonstrating a great deal of resourcefulness, determination and no end of linguistic ability.

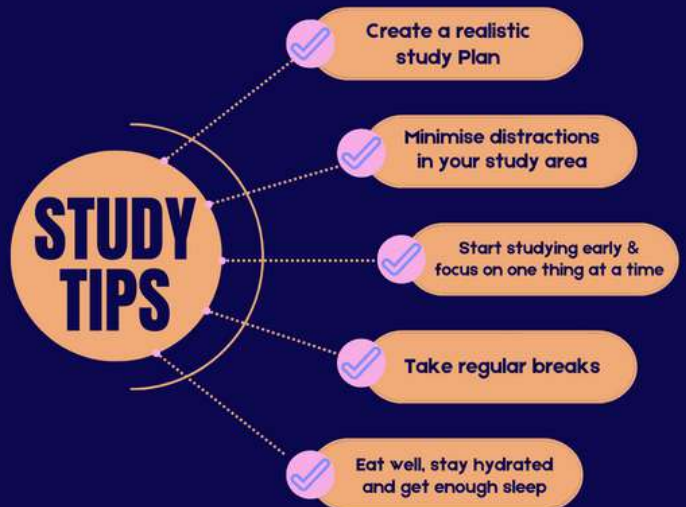


KS4 EXAMS

Year 10 mock week begins on Monday 26th February.

Here you can find some links to resources students can access ahead of their exams.

STUDY ADVICE AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS ABOUT TO SIT THEIR MOCK EXAMS



GOOGLE CLASSROOM



HWB



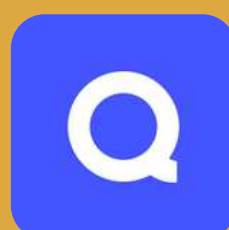
WJEC



REVISE.WALES



WJEC QUESTIONBANK



QUIZLET



BBC BITESIZE



SENECA



STUDENT VOICE!

The Progress Centre
By Maisy Wells and Chloe Sumsion – Year 11



At St Richard Gwyn, we have a wellbeing Progress Centre. The Centre consists of 5 staff members; Mr Swain, Ms Coyle, Ms Clark, Ms Cleak and Mrs Souter. There is also Bentley, our school's wellbeing support dog.

Mr Swain, Progress Centre Lead and Mrs Coyle, Student Wellbeing Support Worker, work alongside each other within the Progress Centre providing daily support to students for physical and mental wellbeing. Mr Swain and Ms Coyle also provide 1:1 mentoring sessions and groupwork with students if we feel we would benefit from it. These sessions aim to help with anxiety, anger management, relationships with others and academic progress.



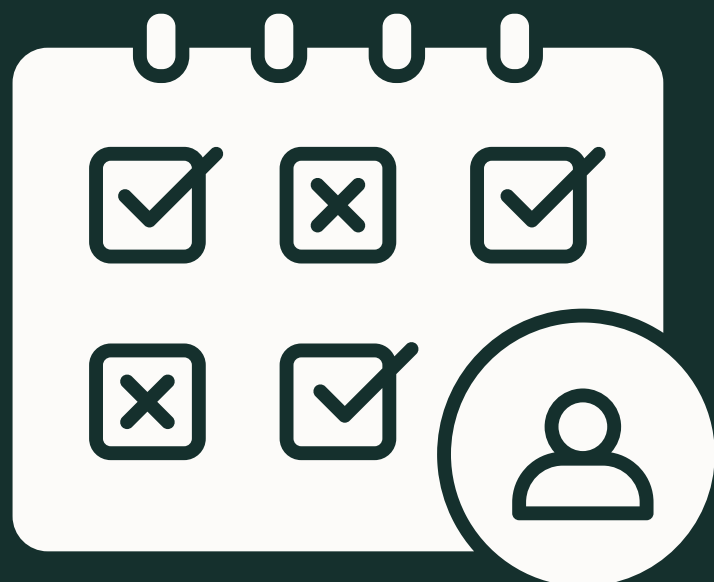
Ms Clark and Ms Cleak also work alongside each other. Ms Clark's job is to keep track of students' attendance, figuring out why students aren't in school, working with families and presenting data to the Vale of Glamorgan. She carries out home visits for those who need that extra support at home. Ms Cleak provides mentoring support to identified students and liaises with a number of outside specialist support agencies. The final member of the team is Ms Souter, Assistant ALNCo, who works supporting all the students with Additional Learning Needs in school. She works closely with teachers, teaching assistants and outside agencies to ensure all students are able to get the most out of their school experience.



As students we are able to access the Progress Centre when we need extra support or someone to talk to, and all staff make sure to check up on us and make sure we are ready to start the day positively. Having a whole team of people available to us as students is invaluable. We know that no matter how our days go, the ups and the downs, there are people we can turn to for support that helps us on a daily basis.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

ATTENDANCE – January 2024



Year 7 – 88.1%

Year 8 – 89%

Year 9 – 89.5%

Year 10 – 87.2%

Year 11 – 89.5%

For students to succeed during their time at SRG, they need to be in the classroom, experiencing first class teaching and learning 100% of the time.

To enable your child to reach their full potential, we expect students to aim for at least 97% attendance. This figure still allows for almost 2 weeks off with illness per academic year.

Moving forward, your child's form tutor will be discussing their attendance with them on a fortnightly basis.

Attendance at SRG is everybody's responsibility. If you know your child is going to be absent, please contact the school. There's a few ways you can do this:



01446 729250



www.strichardgwyn.co.uk/contact



info@strichardgwyn.co.uk



ClassCharts app

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



St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School
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Barry
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St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School



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FOR THE CALENDAR:

Spring Term 2024

Start of Lent in school:	Mon 19th February
GCSE PE Internal moderation:	Mon 19th February
Yr 11 English group discussions:	Tues 20th February
Yr 8 Scholar's Trip to Bristol:	Tues 20th February
KS3 Chaplaincy Retreat:	Wed 21st February
SEREN students Bath Uni trip:	Frid 23rd February
YR 10 Mock Week begins:	Mon 26th February
KS4 Chaplaincy Retreat:	Wed 28th February

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant:	Frid 1st March
Yr 11 Form Tutor reports published:	Frid 1st March
Eisteddfod:	Mon 4th March
Yr 11 Food Exam (Pt 1):	Tues 5th March
Chaplaincy SVP Day:	Wed 6th March
Yr 11 Food Exam (Pt 2):	Thurs 7th March
World Book Day:	Thurs 7th March
Yr 9 Options Evening:	Thurs 7th March
Book Look fortnight:	Mon 11th March
Yr 11 Progress Evening:	Thurs 14th March
GCSE PE Internal moderation:	Thurs 14th March
Year group Lent Service week:	Mon 18th March
Prefects trip to London:	Wed 20th March
Yr 8 & 10 Reports out:	Frid 22nd March
KS3 & 4 rewards trip:	Frid 22nd March
Ski trip:	Frid 22nd March
SPRING TERM ENDS:	Frid 22nd March

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

SRG
LUNCH
TIMES
WITH...

the BIG
FRESH
Catering
company



The Big Fresh Catering Company provide a nutritionally balanced and compliant menu for the students in our school. The kitchen follows a 4 week cycle, designed with the help of the WLGA (Welsh Local Government Association) to create healthy, exciting meals and to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The team here at St Richard Gwyn work hard to offer mid morning break provisions, as well as a full lunch.

They are Allergen Aware, and work with parents and carers to make sure they can provide further for any other allergens the students may have. If students are unsure of the ingredients, all Big Fresh staff have a full list of the 14 major food allergens for the food that's delivered to the kitchens.



VOGC FSM info

**BREAK
TIMES:**

Year 7
Years 8 to 11

11.10am - 11.40am
11.20am - 11.40am

Art block area
Main yard

**LUNCH
TIMES:**

Year 7
Years 8 & 9
Years 10 & 11

12.40pm to 1.15pm
1.40pm to 2.15pm
1.40pm to 2.15pm

Canteen
Canteen
Street



ParentPay FAQ's

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Have you had your spring clean yet? Don't forget - we now have a clothes bank in the front car park for all of your unwanted clothes, shoes, bags and belts!



CLOTHES
SHOES
BAGS
BELTS

For every kilo of clothing collected, the school will receive 40p which will go towards providing essential supplies for the students.



FABRICS
SHEETS
TOWELS
CURTAINS
ETC



FAMILIES FIRST



MIND CYMRU



CAB CYMRU

Provided above are links to some external agencies that can provide advice and support to any family in need.

The **FAMILIES FIRST** advice line is the first point of contact for parents, carers and professionals who have, or are working with children aged 0 to 18 and are residing in the Vale of Glamorgan.

CITIZENS ADVICE are free, independent and totally impartial, and can assist families with problems that may seem complicated or intimidating.

MIND CYMRU makes sure that everyone in Wales has access to the mental health information, support and services they need.