

GOVERNORS' REPORT

2024



NEW SCHOOL APPROVED



The planning application for the new school building has been approved. The Welsh Assembly Government has approved funding, and construction is due to start this academic year!



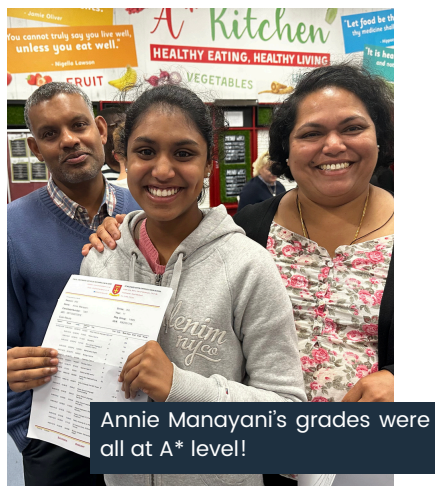
The new school has been designed to transform St Richard Gwyn, delivering a modern environment that puts the needs of the students at its centre. The proposed development will be funded by the Welsh Government and Vale of Glamorgan Council under the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

Project lead Gareth Woodfin said "We are very pleased to hear that planning permission has been granted for St Richard Gwyn High School. The new school will provide a fantastic facility to meet the growing demand for places and bring new life into the existing site, in a highly sustainable way. The expansion will provide students and staff with a state-of-the-art school that intends to foster a nurturing learning environment."

Headteacher, David Blackwell, said "We are so proud of this school. Our pupils and staff are achieving fantastically well with nearly a third of all students achieving five A*/A grades. The school's results continue to exceed projections with results above local and national averages in all areas. This new state-of-the-art building is no less that the fantastic pupils and the local community deserve! The approval is the result of many peoples' hard work in school, amongst our Governing Body and, more widely, in the Local Authority. We are very excited! With building work commencing 2025, both current and future students will soon benefit from a school with state-of-the-art facilities. Prospective families will be able to view more detailed plans of the building on 3rd October 2024 at the School Open Evening between 4pm and 7pm."

GCSE SUCCESS!

Pupils were delighted with the outstanding results on Results Day. The outcomes were achieved after years of resilience and hard work. The cohort's results were highly impressive with exams reverting back to pre-pandemic conditions. There was so much success to celebrate with many pupils attaining extraordinary results.



Annie Manayani's grades were all at A* level!

Nearly a third of all students achieved five A*/A grades or more.

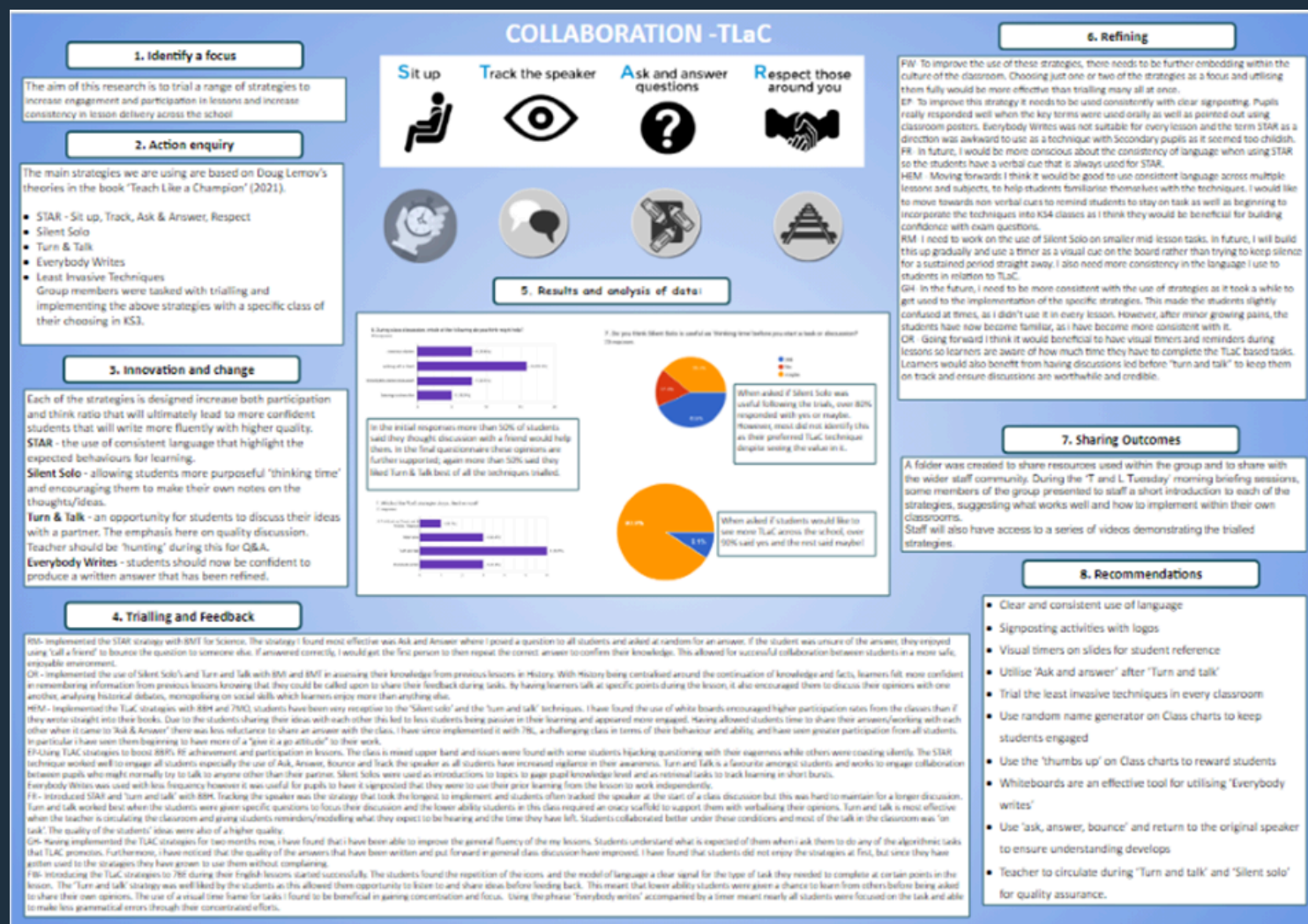
Amongst these results were some superb individual achievements. Deputy Head Teacher Matt Dunn reflected that "Pupils should be so proud, despite the many challenges they will have faced earlier in their school career with the pandemic, the results they have achieved are superb and higher in almost all indicators than pre-pandemic levels. We are extremely proud of them, not just these brilliant results but the fantastic young people they have become. They are also testament to our fantastically supportive community of parents and dedicated staff."



Headteacher, David Blackwell, was also keen to emphasise the achievements of all the pupils. "We are thrilled. The pupils should be very proud. As a year group, they were outstanding. Our highest achieving pupil achieved an astonishing 15A*s and there are some of the best results I have ever seen but I really want to emphasise the efforts of all the pupils. Beyond the overall statistics there are so many personal stories of reliance, hard work and many individuals who have overcome adversity. We are as proud of those pupils who have strived to get to the next step in their education and worked incredibly hard to achieve their own personal best. All of these pupils have worked through some difficult times and most importantly, we hope that they leave St Richard Gwyn, not only happy with their results, but as happy, fulfilled people with the characters to take on the new adventures and challenges that they will face."



TEACHING & LEARNING



Our Teaching and Learning focus 2023/24 was on Collaboration. This means both organising learners to be more collaborative and encouraging staff to collaborate with teachers in SRG and in other educational establishments. In order to demonstrate that this is a school priority we ensured that it was a school wide performance management target. We utilised half on an inset day for staff to visit with other schools, colleges, the WJEC in order to gain insight into specifics that would move their Teaching and Learning forward.

Staff fed back to each other in Teaching and Learning Tuesday briefings. They shared resources and described the successes and challenges of becoming more collaborative rather than organising group work in a classroom.

It was illuminating and edifying to hear from all AoLEs on how they hope to ensure that learners benefit through working with others towards a shared goal.

RADY



Celebrating Diversity through Cultural Appreciation Day!



RADY

This year SRG started working with an organisation called RADY (Raising the Attainment of Disadvantaged Youngsters). The purpose of RADY is to support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in achieving their potential. RADY begins in schools with the RADY catalyst which means that, at the start of a Key Stage, the school is tasked with flagging up a pupil as having untapped potential and ensuring everything is done to close that gap as early as possible.

RADY is a long-term hearts and minds approach, helping support equity in all aspects of the education they provide and making sure that those learners who need it most get the extra that helps them to get there. We're excited to be working with RADY as we aim to support all of our pupils during their time at SRG.

Diversity & Anti-Racist Professional Learning (DARPL)

Welsh Government has an ambition of being 'an anti-racist country by 2030'. Guidance on how this is to be achieved is outlined in the Anti Racist Wales Action Plan (ARWAP, 2022). The plan acknowledges that 'Racism has been ingrained into all our structures and processes for decades and so will need sustained, purposeful effort to eradicate.'

As part of our work with DARPL we have enrolled in their advocacy network and written our action plan with a number of objectives for the year ahead.

Students enjoying Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions and activities during Enrichment Week



CHAPLAINCY NEWS



The Chaplaincy Team's role is to guide and lead the rest of the school and last year, they carried out 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 arrival of Canon Mike Evans in Barry, and we are delighted that pupils have been able to celebrate with him each week.

The Team provided to those in need during the year. The raised money and food was donated to the Foodbank after our Feast day fun. 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 as well as made beautiful gift bags for the residential home Bethel house.

In January 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.



Archbishop Mark O'Toole visits SRG

The school charity group, SVP or St Vincent de Paul Society, spent Refugee Week thinking about those who are forced to leave their homes because of war or persecution. They decided to tell everyone in school about how it feels to be a refugee by writing and delivering an assembly, and to raise funds for a local drop in centre - Space4U - who provide a warm welcome and practical help for refugees and asylum seekers who find themselves in the Cardiff area.



Handmade quilted blanket donated to SRG by Project Linus UK

It is the mission of Project Linus UK to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children, who are sick, disabled, disadvantaged or distressed, by donating gifts of new homemade washable quilts and blankets. St Richard Gwyn was so lucky to have been the recipient of some of these stunningly beautiful quilts. Each made with a child in mind, all but one were donated to some very appreciative students who, we're sure, will treasure them for many years to come.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MOBILE PHONES

Following significant research and consultation with staff, pupils and parents we identified that mobile phone use was having a negative impact in school. After Whitsun half term we introduced restrictions around mobile phone use on the school site, bringing in our 'Not seen, not heard, not taken away' policy. This meant that phones could not be used at all on school site, and if they were seen or heard, they would be confiscated.

This has seen a very positive change. Phone use around school is almost non-existent. Feedback has been generally positive from pupils and overwhelmingly positive from staff, with 100% saying they feel the restrictions have had a positive impact in school. We have been so impressed with how the students have taken to the new rules. It is pleasing to see the increased interactions at break and lunchtimes, with students having in-depth conversations, playing a variety of sporting games and reading books during these times.



NEW QUALIFICATIONS

The school is preparing for the roll out of GCSE qualifications in 2025 year. Curriculum areas will have a full academic year to prepare for first teaching of the new GCSEs being introduced in September 2025. These qualifications seek to align with the core purpose of the curriculum in Key Stage Three. 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.

TERM DATES

Autumn 2024

Monday 2nd September – Friday 20th December
Half Term – Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

Spring 2024

Monday 06 January – 11th April
Half Term – Monday 24th February–Friday 28th February

Summer 2024

Monday 28th April – Friday 21st
Half Term: Monday 16th May–Friday 30th May 2024

INSET DAYS

Monday 2nd September
Friday 4th October
Friday 29th November 2024
Monday 17th February 2025
Wednesday 26th March 2025
Monday 21st July 2025

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FINANCIAL NOTES

Income and expenditure were in line with those forecasted in April 2023. We were able to secure grant funding which aided a number of pupils to attend STEM learning trips and also a visit to UK Parliament. Due to the new school build process being considered and the contribution of a challenging financial situation of increasing supplier costs and high energy price rises, we did not undertake large building projects. Minor repairs and refurbishments were carried out as needed.

Vale of Glamorgan St Richard Gwyn School Outturn Report 2023/24 Balance Sheet Summary				
COST CENTRE	BSLEVEL3	OPENING BALANCE	MOVEMENT	CLOSING BALANCE
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	Reserve Debtors	3,377.46	4,107.27	7,484.73
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	VAT	8,661.91	-6,173.47	2,488.44
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	Secondary Schools Petty Cash	380.27	-225.29	154.98
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	Reserve Creditors	-112,853.55	76,456.75	-36,396.80
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	Receipts in Advance	-1,123.92	1,123.92	0.00
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	Schools Creditor Control Account	-1,316.99	1,316.99	0.00
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	Cash Balances Held by School	395,680.34	-238,851.84	156,828.50
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	Schools Balances-Total Held	-292,805.07	162,245.74	-130,559.33
910005 - St Richard Gwyn	Cheque Book Schools misc adjs	-0.45	-0.07	-0.52

THE GOVERNING BODY

Foundation

Mr Paul McLoughlin (Chair)
Dr Martin Price
Mr Steve Trigg
Mrs Emma McGivern
Mrs Kate Harris
Mrs Sharon Saju
Mrs Louise Mills
Mrs Annmarie Fulgoni

Parent Governors

Mr Daniel Hillier
Mr Noel Clawson
Mrs Emma Turner

Teaching Staff

Mrs R Ellis
MS Lyndsey Evans

Non Teaching Staff

Mrs Kate Clark

Local Authority

2 x Vacancies

Headteacher

Mr David Blackwell

Please contact by emailing: info@strichardgwyn.co.uk