

SRG NEWSLETTER



December 2025
Issue #7

IN THIS ISSUE



Message from
Mr Blackwell

Page 2



Information
for Families

Page 14

MESSAGE FROM MR BLACKWELL



As we reach the end of the term, we are grateful for a positive and successful start to the academic year at SRG.



At St Richard Gwyn, we often remind ourselves that education is about much more than results alone. Our responsibility is to help young people grow into confident, compassionate individuals, equipped with the skills and values they need to succeed and to live lives rooted in Gospel values.

As we look back over the term, there is much to celebrate. Our learners continue to show determination, kindness and a real commitment to their learning. Across classrooms, activities and the wider life of the school, they consistently rise to challenges and support one another – something we are incredibly proud of.



This term has also been one of progress and looking ahead. Work continues behind the scenes as we plan for the future of our school, and it has been encouraging to see staff involved in shaping these developments and contributing their ideas and expertise.

We are very grateful to our families for the ongoing support you give to our learners and to the school. Your encouragement and partnership make a real difference, and we value this greatly.

As we enter the Christmas season, we are reminded of the importance of slowing down. The gift of time – time to rest, to reflect, and to be present with those we love – is perhaps the most meaningful gift of all. In these moments, we find the true spirit of Christmas.

Wishing you all a peaceful, joyful Christmas and a well-earned break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, refreshed, Curious and Active, and ready to learn!



CATHOLIC PUPIL PROFILE

CURIOUS & ACTIVE

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

Next term our focus will be
Curious and Active

Tymor nesaf bydd ein ffocuws ar
Ymholgar ac Egnïol

Curious and Active are the virtues that encourage young people to engage fully with the world, to explore, question, and seek understanding, and to grow as thoughtful, independent learners.

Curiosity is more than simply asking questions — it is a desire to notice the world around us, to challenge ideas, and to make sense of what we encounter. In our classrooms, it drives pupils to think deeply, participate actively, and take responsibility for their own learning. Beyond school, it inspires them to explore the wider community, to notice opportunities to serve, and to reflect on how they can contribute positively to the lives of others.

Being active is not only about physical energy, but about being fully present in our learning, our relationships, and our communities. It is about connecting our knowledge and talents with our Gospel values, seeing God in all things, and responding with action, service, and care. Curiosity and activity together shape young people who are not only lifelong learners but also compassionate, engaged, and reflective members of society.



“

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

Jane Goodall

TEACHING & LEARNING

From January 2026, we will be relaunching our 5Cs as a whole-school Teaching and Learning focus. The 5Cs outline our teaching priorities and reflect how we support all learners to make strong progress while developing the whole person. The 5Cs are: Challenge, Clear Instruction, Constructive Feedback, Collaboration, and Catholic Ethos.

- **Challenge** encourages learners to think deeply, build resilience, and develop confidence by engaging with demanding but achievable work.
- **Clear Instruction** helps learners understand what they are learning, why it matters, and how to be successful.
- **Constructive Feedback** supports progress by showing learners how to improve and take responsibility for their learning.
- **Collaboration** allows learners to develop understanding through discussion, shared problem-solving, and learning from one another.
- **Catholic Ethos** underpins all learning, promoting respect, compassion, service, and community, and ensuring every learner feels valued and supported.

 Challenge	• 'Do Now Task' to activate prior learning • High Expectations for all learners • Questioning which enhances progress • Extended independent practice • There is a consistent focus on Core Skills
 Clear Instruction	• Activate prior learning • Precise instructions • Utilise a WAGOLL to support success criteria
 Constructive Feedback	• Structured feedback • Address misconceptions • Re-teach concepts
 Collaboration	• Learners articulate their understanding • Responsive teaching ensures that all learners make progress (MAT, ALN, EAL, eFSL) • Contribute throughout the lesson • Create a collaborative learning environment
 Catholic Ethos	• Meet and Greet/Prayer • Emphasis on positive attitudes to learning • Foster strong, respectful relationships

Together, the 5Cs help us maintain high expectations, strong learning, and a values-led education at SRG.

YR10 WBO CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Our Year 10 students delivered a fantastic Christmas Fayre this year as part of their Enterprise WBQ coursework, and it was one of our most successful yet! The Barn was buzzing with friends, family, and members of the wider community, all coming together to support our students and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Over the past few months, our Year 10 learners have worked incredibly hard, developing a wide range of skills along the way. From planning as a team, presenting business ideas to Dragon's Den, and sourcing and creating products, to finally selling them at the Fayre, the pupils demonstrated creativity, organisation, and resilience throughout the process.

The Enterprise Project gives our students a chance to shine in a completely new way, and this year was no exception. Their dedication and enthusiasm were evident in every stall and interaction, bringing festive cheer to the whole school community.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 pupils for their hard work and commitment — well done to all of you for making this year's Christmas Fayre such a memorable event!



TRIPS & EVENTS

YR10 VISIT STEM CAREERS EXPO

Our Year 10 students visited the STEM Careers Expo in Cardiff, one of the UK's largest sustainability-themed careers festivals. The event offered an exciting opportunity to explore future pathways, learn about the skills needed to thrive in the green economy, and see where STEM and sustainability could take them!



OPEN EVENING

Earlier this term, we welcomed Year 5 and Year 6 pupils along with their families to our annual Open Evening. The event gave visitors the chance to explore the school, meet staff and students, and gain a real sense of life at St Richard Gwyn as they consider their secondary school options.

The evening was extremely well attended, making it one of our most popular Open Evenings to date. Due to the high level of interest, additional tours were arranged the following week to ensure all families had the chance to visit and ask questions.

A huge thank you to the staff and pupils who helped make the evening run so smoothly. The feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive, and it was a pleasure to showcase our school community.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Our KS3 and KS4 students came together for a reflective Remembrance Service, led by our Prefect Team. The service offered a thoughtful moment to remember and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In addition, each form group created their own poppy prayers, and students planted poppy crosses in the school's memorial garden as a lasting tribute to those we remember.

TRIPS & EVENTS

KS4 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Our KS4 Geography students took their learning beyond the classroom during a fieldwork investigation to Wick and The Knap. As part of their GCSE coursework, students compared access to services in rural and urban environments, applying their knowledge while developing valuable real-world and enquiry skills.



YR7 RETREATS

Our Year 7 students took part in a retreat, attending form by form during the month of October. During the day, pupils explored our school values and reflected on what it means to be Faith-Filled and Hopeful. It was a positive and reflective experience, full of discussion, laughter and growth — a wonderful start to their journey at SRG.

CAREERS DAY

A huge thank you to our local partners, including Morgan Sindall, St David's College, and Careers Wales, for supporting our Annual Careers Day. Their talks, workshops, and shared experiences gave Year 11 students invaluable insight and inspiration as they start thinking about their future pathways. It was fantastic to see our students engaged, asking questions, and exploring the exciting opportunities ahead — your support truly makes a difference to our school community!



TRIPS & EVENTS

DRAGON'S DEN SUCCESS

Our students took part in this year's Enterprise Challenge, pitching their business ideas in a Dragon's Den-style event. They impressed with their confidence, creativity, and teamwork, tackling the challenge with determination and professionalism. The experience gave them a fantastic opportunity to develop communication, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial skills, and showcased the ambition and talent of our young entrepreneurs.



WELSH TOURISM TRIP

Our students had a fantastic time at Infinity Trampoline Park as part of their Welsh Tourism, Leisure and Activities course. They threw themselves (literally!) into the experience, learning about the leisure industry while having plenty of fun, and their impeccable behaviour was a real credit to themselves and to SRG.

WAR HORSE THEATRE TRIP

Our KS4 History students enjoyed a memorable evening at the Wales Millennium Centre, watching the powerful stage production of War Horse.

The performance brought key themes of history to life in a vivid and engaging way, helping students deepen their understanding beyond the classroom. It was a fantastic opportunity to see learning come alive through theatre and shared experience.



TRIPS & EVENTS

PARLIAMENT WEEK

Our Year 11 Sociology class got an amazing visit from Kate Gronow, Head of Constituency for the Vale, as part of UK Parliament Week!

Students asked brilliant questions about politics, Parliament, and how decisions affect our community. We're very grateful to Kate for helping to inspire the next generation of thinkers and leaders!



JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD

A group of our Year 10 MAT (More Able & Talented) students visited Jesus College, Oxford. The trip offered a fantastic opportunity to broaden aspirations and explore what university life has to offer. Our students represented SRG brilliantly – curious, engaged, and full of ambition – and we are so proud of the way they embraced this inspiring experience.



SEREN DEBATE TEAM BEGIN THEIR TRAINING

Our Year 9 Debate Team had the fantastic opportunity to visit Barry Civic Office for a special training session ahead of the Seren Network National Debate Competition. During the session, students developed their confidence, honed their arguments, and learned key strategies for debating at a national level. Their enthusiasm, focus, and teamwork were outstanding, and it was wonderful to see them rise to the challenge with such determination.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and can't wait to see them put their skills into practice at the Vale heats in January 2026!

LITURGICAL LIFE

BETHEL HOUSE VISIT

Our SVP students enjoyed a lovely visit to Bethel House in Dinas Powys, where they delivered Christmas gifts, sang carols and shared festive cheer with residents.

The visit was a wonderful example of our students' kindness and commitment to service, and we look forward to strengthening this special connection in the year ahead.



WELCOME MASS 2025

Our Year 7 pupils were warmly welcomed into the SRG community at a special Welcome Mass led by Mgr Boardman. The service offered a calm and reflective start to their journey with us, bringing students together in prayer and music as they begin their secondary school life.

It was a meaningful occasion that celebrated our shared faith, community values and the sense of belonging that lies at the heart of SRG.

ADVENT MASS 2025

Our school community gathered for this year's Advent Mass, a prayerful and uplifting celebration focused on hope, peace and joy as we prepared for Christmas.

We were delighted to welcome pupils from St Helen's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools, whose singing enriched the service. Thank you to our chaplaincy team, choir, drama group, and all who joined us for this special celebration.



FUNDRAISING & CHARITY

JAM FOUNDATION

Year 11 student Niamh did an amazing job organising a Basketball Hoop Shootout Challenge to raise money for the Jamie Adamson Memorial Fund (JAM), a charity supporting young people with disabilities. Niamh explained her motivation: "JAM has supported me with essential physio and equipment that will help for years. I hope one day to meet Paul to show how much their fundraising has helped me."



This term, our students have gone above and beyond to support others, raising funds for CAFOD, Macmillan, local foodbanks, vulnerable families, and next year's Year 11 Prom. Highlights include 9CD's break-time hot chocolate stand raising nearly £50 for Cancer Research UK, and our Luxury Hamper Raffle, with prizes for Isabelle R's family (Yr9), Harrison S's family (Yr11), and Mrs Gledhill. These efforts show the incredible generosity and community spirit of our students and families.



Students have also taken part in meaningful projects such as "Homeless 2 Hopeful", working with Vale Youth Service and the Vale of Glamorgan Council to create rescue blankets, awareness posters, and share their message on Bro Radio. Coupled with form group Christmas hamper donations for those in need, it's been a term full of empathy, teamwork, and living out our Gospel values — making a real difference in our school and wider community.

SPORT

It's been an exciting term for sport at SRG, with students across all year groups getting involved and achieving great things. Our Year 7 rugby team played their first ever match for the school, and several players were experiencing rugby for the first time — a brilliant start for our newest team.



Meanwhile, our Girls' Football team took on Pencoedtre High School, with many making their debut and showing fantastic skill and determination on the pitch.

Our Year 10 Netball team also had a standout performance, beating Fitzalan 4-2 in a thrilling match, with Holly B earning Player of the Match for her outstanding effort. Sport at SRG has also been boosted by the return of former student Joe Gatt, who joined us as Community Officer for Cardiff Rugby. Joe has been inspiring our students — especially girls — to develop new skills, try new sports, and experience all the benefits that being active brings. With so many firsts and achievements this term, it's been wonderful to see our students enjoying sport, building confidence, and representing SRG with pride.



STUDENT VOICE!



Introducing our New Student Council!

We are excited to announce this year's Student Council — a team of dedicated pupils who will take on important responsibilities within the school and act as ambassadors in the wider community. Throughout the year, they will work to ensure that the student voice is heard, lead initiatives across the school, and represent our values with pride and commitment.

Congratulations to all our new student leaders! We look forward to seeing their energy, ideas and leadership in action, and can't wait to celebrate the incredible achievements they will bring to our school community this year.



Student Council
2025/26

“

This year, the Student Council is giving us the chance to have our voices heard and make a real difference across the school. Split into Ethos, Learning, and Development committees, we focus on wellbeing, classroom life, and the future of SRG.

The Development Committee is especially excited about the new school building! We're helping plan how the space will be used and exploring eco-friendly ideas, making sure our new classrooms and facilities will benefit all students. The Council is determined to make SRG an inspiring, welcoming, and sustainable place for everyone!

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

At St Richard Gwyn, we pride ourselves on high standards for uniform and student presentation.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students look smart and ready to learn.



Expectations

- All students must attend school in the correct uniform, as outlined in our school uniform policy.
- Blazers and ties are essential, and jogging bottoms or leggings are not allowed.
- Hair, makeup, nails, and piercings should be appropriate for school. Excessive makeup, false nails, or inappropriate piercings will need to be addressed promptly.

Managing Issues

- On the first occasion a uniform or appearance issue is noticed, the form tutor will record it on Arbor, with the expectation it is corrected quickly.
- If issues continue, a uniform detention may be issued.
- For support or to discuss uniform matters, please contact your child's form tutor or Progress Leader. They can help arrange replacement items or advise on next steps.
- Persistent non-compliance may result in further sanctions, including confiscation of the item and a meeting with parents to resolve the issue.



Support Available

- We have a supply of spare uniforms for both KS3 and KS4, which students can access if needed.
- If you need assistance with uniform, your child's Progress Leader will be happy to help.

Thank you for helping us maintain high standards — a smart, uniformed student body supports learning and reflects the pride we have in our school community.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



Arbor app



info@strichardgwyn.co.uk



01446 729250

Strong attendance remains a key priority at St Richard Gwyn, as being in school every day plays a vital role in learning, wellbeing, and belonging to our community.

Our consistent approach to supporting attendance continues through regular check-ins with Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Key Stages, our Attendance Lead Mrs Clark, and ongoing work with Local Authority partners. We will remain focused on addressing persistent absence and encouraging positive routines, as we work together towards our whole-school attendance target of **92%**.

When students attend school regularly, they are more likely to maintain positive friendships with their peers, enjoy their learning, achieve better results and increase future life opportunities.

Supporting Good Attendance – Working Together

- Use the Arbor app to inform us of any appointments that take place during the school day
- Contact Reception only for emergency appointments. Please book holidays outside of term time
- Ensure they arrive on time, encourage them to attend every lesson and celebrate good attendance at home
- Let us know as early as possible if your child is feeling reluctant or unwilling to attend school

We want to work with you to support your child's attendance and wellbeing. If you would like to discuss any attendance concerns, please contact:

Mrs K Clark – Attendance Lead

Mrs A Walker – Associate to Leadership

Mrs L Burnett – Senior Assistant Headteacher

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

We run a variety of clubs and enrichment activities both during and after school.

We have some new ones added this year, and students can sign up via their form tutor or the person running the club.

We encourage all students to get involved!



LUNCH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS4 Weightlifting GYM	Darts Club Barn	KS4 Badminton Sports Hall	All Years Basketball	KS3 Badminton Barn
All Years Dungeons & Dragons Week B - 203	YR7 Debate Club 203	All Years Dungeons & Dragons Week A - 104	YRS 8 - 11 Debate Club 203	YRS 8 - 11 Pokemon Club ICT2
All Years Chess & Games Club Week A - MA2	SVP Club Chapel (Form Time)	YRS 8 - 11 Homework Support WB1	YR8 Games Club MA5	YR7 & 8 Games Club MA5
YR7 & 8 Games Club MA5	YRS 8 - 11 Homework Support WB1	YR7 Choir Music Room		
	YRS 8 - 11 Choir Music Room	YR7 & 8 Games Club MA5		

AFTERSCHOOL

YR7 / 8 Boys Football Astro	YR9 / 10 Netball Barn	All Years Rugby Club	All Years PE Fixtures	KS4 Geography Revision 201
YR7 / 8 Netball Barn	Girls Football Astro	YR11 Maths Revision MA Block	All Years Rock Club Music Room	
SVP Club Chapel	All Years Rock Club Music Room		All Years Skateboarding Barn	
KS3 Dodgeball Club Gym	All Years Drama Club EX2		YR10 Maths Revision MA Block	
	KS4 Additional Maths MA1			

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES



We would like to remind all families they ensure their child's ParentPay account is topped up no later than 10am each day to avoid students being refused service in the Canteen and The Street.

TO SET UP LOW BALANCE ALERTS:

- Log in to ParentPay and click the menu button (3 lines)
- Click on the Communication option
- Click on Alert Settings
- Enter the amount at which you would like to receive an alert notifying you of your child's low balance, then tick the email or text box.



LABEL EVERYTHING!

To help us keep students' belongings safe and avoid items being lost or claimed by someone else, we strongly advise that all uniform and personal items are clearly labelled.

This includes:

- Ties, jumpers, and blazers
- Coats and PE kits
- Pencil cases, water bottles, and stationery

Without clear labels, it can be very difficult – if not impossible – to return expensive or personal items to their rightful owners. Taking a few minutes to label belongings saves time, money, and frustration for everyone!

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
Argae Lane
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 1BL



St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School



[strichardgwynbarry](https://twitter.com/strichardgwynbarry)



[strichardgwynbarry](https://www.instagram.com/strichardgwynbarry)



FOR THE CALENDAR:

Spring Term 2026

TERM STARTS:

Epiphany Mass:

Mary Poppins Theatre Trip:

Seren Debate Competition:

YR10 GCSE Expectations Evening:

YR11 Assessment Week:

YR10 English Oracy Week:

YR11 Art Trip - National Gallery:

YR10 Assessment Week:

YR9 Reports Published:

YR9 Options Evening:

YR11 Reports Published:

Mon 5th January

Tues 6th January

Thurs 8th January

Frid 9th January

Thurs 15th January

Mon 19th January

Mon 19th January

Frid 23rd January

Mon 26th January

Frid 30th January

Thurs 5th February

Frid 13th February

HALF TERM:

Mon 16th February

INSET DAY:

Mon 23rd February

GCSE PE Moderation:

YR7 Reports Published:

Eisteddfod:

YR11 Progress Evening:

YR10 Welsh Orals Week:

Joint Lent Service (St Helen's):

Joint Lent Service (St Joseph's):

School Lent Services:

GCSE PE Moderation:

YR11 Welsh Orals Week:

Drama Exam Rehearsals:

Drama Exam:

YR8 & 10 Reports Published:

Frid 27th February

Frid 27th February

Tues 3rd March

Thurs 5th March

Tues 10th March

Wed 11th March

Thurs 12th March

Frid 13th March

Frid 13th March

Tues 17th March

Thurs 19th March

Frid 20th March

Frid 20th March

INSET DAY:

Mon 23rd March

YR10 Progress Evening:

Thurs 26th March

TERM ENDS:

Frid 27th March