



Headteacher's End of Academic Year Letter 2013-14 Llythyr y Prifathro ar Ddiwedd y Flwyddyn Academaidd

This has been another year of tremendous activity in the life of St Richard Gwyn. We have had a huge learning journey, every one of us, and have come to the end of our academic studies in class. Examinations are completed, and results are eagerly awaited. Some of us already have our results, and we know what we have to do to improve in the next year with a brilliant start in September. I put on record my thanks to Parents for their contribution to our collective responsibility. Thanks, too, go to Staff, Governors and Learners for all they do to make this school successful.

Last week's activities for Enrichment Week show how fortunate we are in this school to have dedicated staff who are willing and able to look after young people on all types of activity. The educational opportunities last week were inspirational. In addition to this, Year 10 and Year 12 students went on Work Experience. We wish to put on record our gratitude to all those who provided the placements and for their readiness to help our young people in learning more about the world of work.

Each year we say a fond farewell to teaching staff and wish them well as they leave us for new challenges.

Mrs Gwen Jones	Business	To retirement after 37 years' service
Mr Martin Craddock	Head of Technology	To retirement after 32 years' service
Mr Andrew Riddell	Religious Education	To Lymm High School
Miss Louise Williams	Science	To St Nicholas' Catholic High School, Hartford

For those who are retiring we say an even bigger THANK YOU/DIOLCH YN FAWR for their joint contribution of sixty-nine years' service to this school community. This school has been a huge part of their life, and we assure them that they are a huge part of our life and history; wishing them health and happiness in years to come and assuring them of a warm welcome back whenever they join us for celebrations.

We have weathered some storms in the last year, real (if you recall January/February) and metaphorical. Helping Flint High School retain its Sixth Form provision was a wonderful example of our working in collaboration for the benefit of our immediate local community. As a school with excellent provision in our Sixth Form, where departments are in the top 5% in England and Wales, our future is bright. Students go on from here to study at the best universities in the world, including Oxford.

We are still working hard to deal with the transport issue and that has impacted badly on numbers coming to our school this September. We are recognised as a centre of excellence by many, which is a reason we are full in all other year groups. Do not be tempted to think anything other than this school's excellent record in gaining examination results which count for so much in helping our students achieve their goals.

This is our DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR. 60 glorious years of Catholic Education in St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. All our events in the coming academic year shall be focused on this important fact. Dathlwn y ffaith bod ffydd yma'n eglur ac yn fyw! We celebrate our clear vision with a living faith! May God bless you during the holidays: stay safe, and return refreshed for the start of another wonderful year of learning in September.

Ronald M Keating
Prifathro/Headteacher

Trip to Llandudno

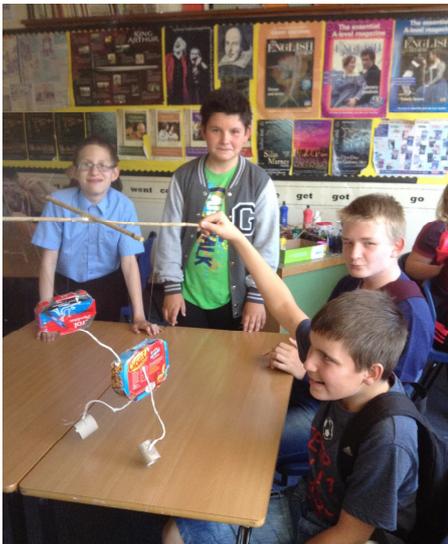
On Thursday of enrichment week a group of year 7 & 8 pupils headed to Llandudno. Our day begun with a journey from Llandudno town up to the Copper Mines upon the famous tram. At the mines we journeyed deep underground through ancient mines to see how they were mined thousands of years ago. This really was a fascinating experience helped by the excellent guidance of Mr Lunt.

We then travelled once again to the top of the Great Orme by tram. Once there we enjoyed the magnificent scenery of the North Wales coastline, explored the mountainous ground and watched the grazing goats. It really was a magnificent day. Bendigedig!



World War I – Edwardian Toys

On Tuesday and Thursday pupils from Year 9 and Year 7 were given a small insight into life for children at the beginning of the war. They looked at the nature and impact of the British Empire, watched interviews with the longest surviving veterans and then watched either 'War Horse' or 'Private Peaceful', both film adaptations from Michael Morpurgo novels. In the afternoon children enjoyed making string puppets – an insight into a typical toy made and played with by children at that time.



Caerdydd – Blwyddyn 9

38 year 9 pupils spent 2 days in the capital city at the start of the week. The visit started with a boat trip around the bay and up to the barrage. Pupils were given the opportunity to see how much they bay area has changed over recent years simply by looking at the spectacular sights and comparing the old part of the bay to the new. Then we headed into town for a chance to go shopping in one of the largest shopping centres in the UK – St David's 2. Wednesday saw the group splitting into 2 groups to start with; one group went to the Doctor Who Experience, whilst the other group went to the new International White Water Rafting centre, the only one of its kind in Wales. After a good soaking and lots of laughs, the group met back up and had a tour of the iconic Millennium Stadium before leaving to return to school. It was a very packed 2 days and everybody really enjoyed! Diolch yn fawr iawn to all pupils and staff who made the visit so enjoyable and memorable!



London Trip

During Enrichment Week Mrs McNally, Miss Taylor, Mr Carter and Mrs Leonard along with a number of Year 7,8 and 9 pupils went on a cultural visit to London. The party stayed at a Premier Inn for two nights. The group engaged in a number of exciting activities including The Bank Of England, a Thames river cruise, London Eye, Natural History Museum and a performance of the hit musical Matilda. The pupils were fantastic ambassadors for the school and a great time was had by all.



France Tour 2014

Futuroscope, Paris & Disneyland Paris

There was excitement in the air as the pupils arrived late Sunday evening for the long coach journey from school to Poitiers. Enrichment Week had finally arrived and we were off to France for five days! The coach journey there was tiring but broken up by DVDs and plenty of chatter from the years 7's! Upon arrival at our first hotel – aptly named the 'Jules Verne' hotel, with underwater themed rooms to match - we settled in and then had our tea at the Pirates Restaurant. Games and free time followed before we all collapsed into our beds for a much needed sleep! An early start on Tuesday meant we had a long day in Futuroscope. Despite the weather, pupils enjoyed plenty of simulators and rides, including the Dancing Robots! The day was finished off with a spectacular laser show and we all crawled into our beds that night, exhausted but exhilarated.

Wednesday morning arrived and the pupils were excellent at packing their bags and getting onto the coach on time for our journey to Paris. A cruise down the Seine, a visit to the Eiffel tower, a trip up the Arc de Triomphe where the pupils were able to see the Eiffel tower lit up... what am I forgetting? Oh of course! The Year 7 pupils were extremely lucky in getting the chance to see the enigmatic smile of the Mona Lisa! Another very busy day and we were on our way to our second hotel.

One more excited day was left before the long journey home and I think most pupils will agree we saved the best for last. Disneyland Paris was our next stop! A whole day of enjoying the rides and shows at Universal Studios and the Disneyland Park lay ahead and the pupils were buzzing with excitement. This year, we stayed late in the Disneyland Park and were able to see the Disney show and fireworks at the castle after dark! Another very long but fantastic day!

I am sure I speak on behalf of all the pupils who attended the trip when I say this was a fabulous experience for all and we made memories that will last a lifetime!



Survival Camp

Two groups of Year 8 students took part in a survival camp. They were greeted off the bus with the barking sound of Mr Roberts dressed in full military attire bellowing out instructions. Soon after they took part in a number different activities testing their teamwork, leadership and problem solving skills. This involved lighting fires, building bridges to cross a stream, a full army assault course, shelter building and a water slide. The children took part wholeheartedly and had great fun. This proved to be an extremely rewarding experience for both staff and students.

On Thursday and Friday I went to Survival Camp. This was the best trip I went on. It was fun and enjoyable. There were a lot of activities to complete and you had to earn a tent. As proof we had been, we received a top which said "SURVIVOR" on the back.
Eve Ellis 8Q



Trip to Llangollen

On Tuesday of enrichment week a group of year 7, 8 & 9 pupils headed to the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. From the moment the coach left the school grounds the excitement for a glorious day was obvious. The sun was shining and a day of music, dance and celebration lay ahead of us.

Once arrived and upon the Maes (field) we were treated to wonderful singing and dances from every corner of the world. The national costumes of different countries filled the maes with all kinds of colour and festivities. Also there were the many stalls selling goods from all over the world. Many of us enjoyed the sharing of different cultures.

We all had a great day and look forward to returning once more in July 2015! Bendigedig!



Paintballing

On Thursday and Friday of Enrichment Week over 120 Year 8 and 9 pupils were brave enough to get involved with paintballing on the Wirral. Masks were fastened, camouflage was worn and guns were loaded as SRG pupils fought valiantly through various different strategic games throughout the day, with the teachers taking a bit of a hammering! Despite the bruising, an excellent time was had by all and the SRG pupils were a credit to the school.



More Able and Talented Leonardo Da Vinci Workshop – Year 8

An enthusiastic group of Year 8 pupils spent the day using their 'Higher Order Thinking' skills. They explored the contributions of inventors, in particular, the multi-talented Leonardo Da Vinci. The children learnt about world problems of their future, deciding which one they wanted to try and solve. Finally, they had to make a 'Pitch' for their invention or idea to a Welsh Dragons' Den panel.

Sports Day 2014 Mabolgampau

On the 4 July, under rain threatening, cloudy skies the school's Track Sports day was held. Following on from a very successful 'Field' events day, competitions were officiated by our current Yr 10 GCSE Physical Education students. Many of them were highly praised by teachers from other secondary schools as they officiated at all of the Flintshire athletic events this year. Over 300 pupils from Yrs 7-10 took part in this year's event, demonstrating real talent and determination. Two highlights were Justin Romero-Edwards who broke the Yr 7 Triple Jump record (9.28m) and Mitchell Thomas who continues to improve in the Javelin, also breaking the Yr 10 record (44.42m). The Form, House and Victor and Victrix Ludorum winners are seen below:

Year Winners	7 H	8 H	9 M	10 Q
House Winners	1 st Gwen (1124)	2 nd Dewi (1080)		3 rd Beuno (973)
Victrix Ludorum	Adele Jones	Ffion Austin	Lydia O'Neill	Shannon Hobbs
Victor Ludorum	J. Romero-Edwards	Matthew Tulloch	Rhys Williams	Mitchell Thomas

Year 10 Flintshire Rounders Champions

Congratulations to the Year 10 Flintshire Rounders Champions! The girls have worked very hard all season to perfect their skills and understanding of the game. They play with outstanding teamwork, a fantastic attitude and a desire to win. We are very proud of the improvement they have made this year as a team, a well deserved win. Well done Girls!



Harry Potter Studio Tour

On Thursday several budding wizards from Year 8 and 9 visited 'The Making of Harry Potter' at Warner Brothers Studios. After a class on how to pitch for a new film we explored the amazing sets, phenomenal special effects, sampled 'Butterbeer' and Mrs Granger got to try Hagrid's motorbike!

The children were amazed by the attention to detail on the costumes and particularly enjoyed the animatronics section. Diagon Alley with all its wonders did not disappoint overall it was a magical day.



Circus skills

Our Year 7&8 had a whale of a time learning a variety of circus skills. From juggling to stilt walking, plate spinning to Diablo. Led by Melanie and Angelo they made amazing progress. The staff were treated to a performance at the end of the day.

Well done everyone!!



Spaghetti Tower Challenge

Students had a great time constructing towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows as part of their Year 9 Challenge Day. The winning team from the whole day was Insert Name Here. The highest tower was constructed by Max Webb, Jo Woodhouse and David Tanti.

It pains me to report that they beat my personal best of 95cm. Their tower measured in at an impressive 115cm. Well done to all that took part.