



# GWYN NEWS

**ENRICHMENT WEEK  
SPECIAL EDITION**

## Headteacher's End of Academic Year Letter Llythyr y Prifathro ar Ddiwedd y Flwyddyn Academaidd

Visitors to our school often pick up on things we tend to take for granted. Comments tend to sound like this: happy students, engaged in learning; polite and considerate behaviour; calm and purposeful movement around school; welcoming and enthusiastic, a joy to behold! Ymddygiad ardderchog, a phleser i'w gweld. This is our normal, daily default position. On some occasions, such as our whole-school Mass for the Feast of St Richard Gwyn, we excel and are collectively, massively impressive! One purpose joins us: Learning Together in Christ – Dysgu â'n Gilydd yng Nghrist.

The end of an academic year brings with it a sense of having worked hard. We have all put in a tremendous amount of effort, Staff, Students, Governors and Parents. Thanks to all for making this another wonderful year of learning! Enrichment Week would not happen without the amazing, selfless regard our staff have for their profession and our young people. The reports, year-on-year, about this extra-curricular extravaganza speak about how much our students are valued. Over 270 students went on residential visits last week: out of 400 this is a staggering achievement. Those who did not go on residential visits took part in day visits with something on offer for everyone. We also had over 200 students on Work Experience placements.

This is a time to say our 'farewell' to students who are going on to new things: our Year 13 (and 14) who look forward to bright futures in university or in the world of work; our Year 11 who will go on to other courses at neighbouring colleges. May you take with you not only happy memories, but also the strong values we proclaim through the Gospel of Christ. We look forward to celebrating examination success with them in August, where we have the expectation that these shall be our best results ever.

Our 'farewell' to Staff is tinged with sadness because they shall be missed for their valuable contribution to the life of St Richard Gwyn. They have given a great deal to our community over the years and we wish them well as they go to new posts in other schools and to pursue their careers in education. Pob lwc, a dymuniadau goreu am ddyfodol disglair!

Miss Catrin Hardy	PE Teacher	Miss Emily Fair	Science Teacher
Miss Emma Whittaker	Cover Supervisor	Mr Shaun Roberts	Teaching Assistant
Mr Sam Welch	Teaching Assistant	Miss Amy Hulley	Teaching Assistant
Miss Sara Andrews	Science Technician		

Staff do not always move away from schools, and I must put on record our debt of gratitude for many years of sterling service to Mrs Gwen Jones and Mr Andrew Lunt who are stepping down as Directors of the Sixth Form; Mrs Jones will also step down as Curriculum Leader of Business. Their careful guidance has helped large numbers of students in their journey to excellence. Mrs Tracy Jones shall be taking up the appointment as sole Director of the Sixth Form from September, and will be presiding over our re-located Sixth Form Centre in the heart of the school, which will have much better facilities in line with expectations for a modern and academic Sixth Form, in collaboration with Flint High School as 6. There will also be a new Sixth Form Common Room to be used only at break and lunch times.

I wish to put on record my immense gratitude to parents who help make our partnership strong for the benefit of our children. Thank you for supporting the school and by helping us develop our outstanding standards. Keep your child in school and avoid any attendance gaps: stick to set holiday times, and we shall see greater success.

Bendith Duw arnoch trwy'r gwyliau! May God bless you in your summer holidays: stay safe and return refreshed for another wonderful year of learning at St Richard Gwyn!

Ronald M Keating  
Prifathro/Headteacher

## Journey of Faith

Are you interested in knowing more about the teachings of Jesus? Do you want to know more about the Catholic Church and what Catholics believe? Are you curious about what you need to do to be a Catholic Christian? The Parish of Flint runs a course: you may contact Fr Adrian Wilcock the Parish Priest for friendly and impartial advice and information. The next course begins in September. You may make enquiries through the school, or direct: 01352 732245

## Confirmation Dates for the Parish of Flint

A meeting took place on Monday this week for parents and children to register for this year's Confirmation programme. If you missed this meeting and still wish to be a part of the programme, please contact Fr Adrian Wilcock as soon as possible on 01352 732245. The following table gives the dates for the meetings in September.

Thursday 05 September	6.00pm – 7.15pm	St Mary's Club, Flint
Thursday 12 September	6.00pm – 7.15pm	St Mary's Club, Flint
Thursday 19 September	6.00pm – 7.15pm	St Mary's Club, Flint
Saturday 21 September	Parish Day and Reconciliation 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Church Hall
Thursday 26 September	6.00pm – 7.15pm	St Mary's Club, Flint
Saturday 28 September	Practice (parents and sponsors to attend) 2.00pm	Church
<b>SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION 10.30am</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>

## London Trip

On 9 July a group of very excited students set off for a cultural visit to London accompanied by Mrs McNally, Miss Taylor, Mr Carter and Mrs Kelly. The party stayed for two nights at the Premier Inn, Wembley. A range of activities were undertaken including a performance of **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, a flight on the London Eye, a visit to the London Dungeon, The Tate Modern and the Natural History Museum. All students were excellent ambassadors for SRG and a fantastic time was had by all.



## Crosby Hall

Over thirty Year 7s and four staff had a brilliant time on a residential at Crosby Hall Educational Trust (CHET). After visiting Formby Beach for lunch, the pupils immediately got stuck into the assault course. The pupils then excelled in activities like Archery, Zip-Wire, Shelter Building and (their favourite) Raft-building! The glorious weather and positive atmosphere ensured an enjoyable time was had by all. Diolch,



## France Tour 2013 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. Finally Enrichment Week had 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. There were plenty of simulators and rides to enjoy, including the Dancing Robots and an exciting journey escaping Aliens on a motorbike! 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 into the coach on time for our journey to Paris. A cruise down the Seine, a visit to the Eiffel tower, dinner in a French restaurant, a trip up the Arc de Triomphe... 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. There seemed to be an informal competition between the pupils as to who could go on Space Mountain the most times (I believe the record was four!) There was plenty for all to see and do and we left the parks feeling thoroughly thrilled and delighted.



## 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 of 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 whole-heartedly and had great fun. This proved to be an extremely rewarding experience for both staff and students.



## Sustainable Science

Pupils in year 8 and 9 were treated to an interactive Science and Music Technology show hosted by Rob Wix of Sustainable Science. The children were able to learn about how sound travels, how objects around the home can be turned in to powerful speakers, and explored the links between mobile phone ringtones and computer games. They were able to explore how modern music came to life using the latest computer and keyboard technology, including the legendary Korg Triton Extreme synthesiser! The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and even had the chance to make some bottle music and straw kazoots afterwards, in a competition to create their own ringtone!





### Go Below Underground Adventure

Thirty-two Students spent most of Thursday in the cooling temperature of approximately 12°C underneath the mountains of Snowdon. Go Below Underground Adventure was a trek through an ancient slate mine, without the safety of barriers and stairs. We started by ascending to the mine shaft opening and following the mine cart track until we reached a flooded chamber, we then proceeded by boat, zip line, rock climbing, abseiling and eventually clambering waterfalls to another opening further up the mountain. In all we ascended six levels of the mine and enjoyed all the challenges it presented us with.



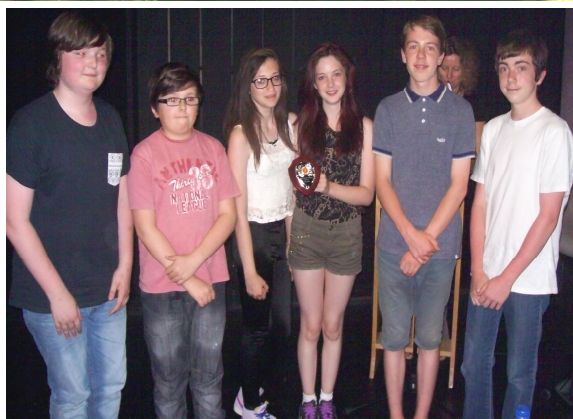
### Jodrell Bank.

Year eight pupils had recently expressed an interest in seeing how Maths and Engineering could be applied in real-life situations and decided that we should go to Jodrell Bank's Discovery Centre in Cheshire. We were able to experience the night sky in the planetarium session – exploring the planets, stars and galaxies and even created our own Mars Rover landing craft in a workshop designed to explore the engineering behind the original Mars Rover landing craft. The children had the opportunity to see the famous Lovell Radio Telescope and take part in a number of hands-on activities in the Discovery Centre. The children had a wonderful, albeit hot day and hope to return again in the future.



### Global Rock Challenge Year 9

The whole of Year 9 were involved in a Global Rock Challenge on Friday. This was led by Lynn and Suzie from Business Solutions. The students worked in teams to promote a new Rock or Musical Band. The activities developed many skills and in the afternoon all the teams presented their ideas to a group of four judges from local businesses and industry.



### Caerdydd – Blwyddyn 9



Forty-one Year 9 students spent two days in the capital city at the start of the week. The first day was spent in Cardiff city centre including lunch by the castle, a tour of the Millennium Stadium and the opportunity to go shopping around St David's 2 Shopping Centre. Wednesday was spent down at Cardiff Bay, starting with a boat trip around the bay and up to the barrage. We then went walking to the spectacular Welsh Millennium Centre to learn more about the history of Cardiff and the bay area. After lunch at the Senedd building, pupils then went around the bay – many returning with an assortment of ice creams – before heading to Technquest to finish the visit with some science experiments and activities. Diolch yn fawr iawn to all pupils and staff who made the visit so enjoyable and memorable.

### Red Cross

We welcomed representatives from the Red Cross to work on leadership and survival skills. Pupils had to erect tent shelters and to make it more difficult they had to imagine they had hurt a hand. They could only use their 'uninjured' hand!! They also undertook a 'Stepping Stones' activity which helped them develop trust and initiative.



### Puppet Making

Students were involved in a drama workshop led by Mrs Fitzjohn. They were introduced to puppetry by watching a DVD showing how the effects were achieved in War Horse. They, then produced a paper puppet and created a short sketch based around the puppet they had made.







### Totem Pole Building

Children in year seven learned all about sustainability, reusing, recycling and reducing waste as part of a project designing and building a school totem pole! The children decided that elements of the totem pole should reflect their perception of life at St Richard Gwyn school and included symbols of friendship, learning, peace, the Flint community and of course, their faith. The children created the totem pole out of completely recyclable materials in keeping with the sustainability theme and learned lots about the history of totem poles too! It was a fabulous day and the children are very proud of their achievement!



### Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!

Fifty two of our young ladies had a salon experience during enrichment week at Mirror Mirror in Flint. The girls spent half a day finding out how a salon works and being treated to a pamper session. Surrounded by girly magazines, pink cupcakes and sweet treats they had a whale of a time!



### Sports Day Results

Sports Day Results			
2013	Gwen 1 <sup>st</sup>	Beuno 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dewi 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 7 Q	Year 8 S	Year 9 Q	Year 10 B
Victor Ludorum			
Matthew Tulloch	Rhys Williams	Mitchell Thomas Gareth Hughes	Joe LLOYD
Victrix Ludorum			
Esther Williams Ffion Austin Lucy Jones	Victoria Zemantyte	Kinga Daciuk	Ffiona Jennings

### Victor and Victrix Ludorum and Form Winners



### Portrait Tiles – Year 7 & 8

Much fun was had during the Portrait tile/falconry activity with Year 7 & 8. Students created a self portrait in clay and constructed a stand for them to be displayed. Mrs Lane was very pleased with the standard of tiles completed in a short space of time. Eve Ellis – 7Q is pictured with her final tile. Pupils went onto enjoy a falconry session with Mr Jones where they were able to handle and fly a variety of owls and hawks.

