



## Mid-Lent: we anticipate Mothering Sunday...

Mother's Day is the contemporary version of the original name 'Mothering Sunday'. The occasion has a long history, which dates back to as far back as the year 1600. During that time, the poor used to send their children to work as domestic servants or trainees in the homes of wealthy people. Once a year, these children were given leave for a day, so that they could visit their Mother Church as well as their own mother. The day coincided with the middle Sunday of the fasting period of Lent. It was known as 'Refreshment Sunday' or 'Mid-Lent Sunday'.



The children would visit their Mother Church and then head straight to meet their own mother, with some fresh flowers. While the boys would present their mother with flowers, girls would go a step further by presenting them freshly baked handmade cakes, which were also called 'Simnel Cakes'. With time, the holiday came to be known as 'Mothering Sunday'. How lovely that this year's Mothering Sunday falls so close to the feast of the Annunciation, celebrating Mary, Mother of us all

It is an opportunity for all our children and young people to let their mother know that she is special, cared for and loved; to thank their mother and honour her contribution in their life. They can all let their mother know that she is very special and holds a very important place in their life, which no one can replace.

Mrs Rimmer

*All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.*

*We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.*

*We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.*

*We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.*

*We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. Amen*

### St Richard Gwyn School Prayer : Can you help?

We need and deserve a School Prayer, which we can pray at home and also invite parishioners to pray with and for us. We are inviting **YOU** to offer a contribution: students, staff; former students, former staff: Governors, former Governors; Parishioners of Flint Deanery.

The following OPTIONAL template might get you started. **Thank you, Mrs Rimmer.**

St Richard Gwyn parent, teacher, martyr, be to our school an example and a friend

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## Daniel's Success at the National Brass Band Championships Llwyddiant Daniel yn Pencampwriaeth Band Pres Cenedlaethol

Congratulations to Daniel Edwards in Year 7 who competed with the Buckley Brass Band in the National Brass Band Championships last weekend. Daniel explains more about the experience:

*"I play a Bb Cornet for Buckley Brass Band. In November 2016, we won the North Wales Contest in our first ever competition. Last weekend we competed in the National Brass Championships. It was an amazing experience to play at Brangwyn Hall in Swansea. We had excellent feedback from the adjudicators and the audience. We all felt very proud of our band."*

Daniel is also a member of the School Band and we are very proud of his musical achievements.  
Da iawn Daniel!



Miss L Thomas

## National Cross Country selection for Rheagan. Dewisiad Cenedlaethol Rhedeg Traws Gwlad i Rheagan

Congratulations to Rheagan Edwards on being selected to represent Wales at SIAB, next Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>, at Margam Park, Port Talbot. This selection was as a result of Rheagan coming in 6<sup>th</sup> in the National Cross Country Championships, held in Brecon last Saturday. Bethan Dowsett, also performed exceptionally well despite being under the weather. She came in a very positive 15<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately Megan Woodcock was unable to attend due to an injury.

## North Wales Knights Basket Ball Success Llwyddiant Pêl-fasged i Knights Gogledd Cymru

Congratulations again to Anastasia Blease. Last weekend, her basketball team, North Wales Knights, carried on their unbeaten record of twelve games to win their regional round. This means they are now through to the finals, to be held in Worcester on 22 April, where they will compete against teams from Central and Southern England. Good luck Ana!



## 10p Tower Challenge

Once again the Youth SVP in St. Richard Gwyn are asking each form to take part in a 10p challenge to help educate children in The Sudan. Dig out those 10 pence pieces and on the 4<sup>th</sup> April each form will try to build the tallest tower and the winner will be rewarded with a tin of sweets. This small amount of money will make a huge difference.



## Easter Eggstravaganza Apêl Pasg

Apologies for the spelling of extravaganza but once again we are asking pupils to bring in Easter eggs of all sizes in the final weeks of this Spring term.

The eggs will be collected by the Religious Education department and then the Saint Vincent de Paul society will distribute them to families in need and we will donate some to food banks.

Jesus said, *"Whatever you do to the least person you do to me!"*

The eggs could make a small difference to a family in need.



**Positively MAD Making a difference at SRG**  
**Positively MAD yn Gwneud Gwahaniaeth yn SRG**

All Year 9, 10, 11,12 and 13 students took part in wonderful presentations by Lisa Jones and Shenaz Matador of Positively MAD this week. The sessions gave students many practical examples of strategies that can be used to help with revision, examination preparation and the development of their skills. They were fun, informative and extremely useful to the students. A twilight session was also held for parents. This enabled parents to experience many of the things that their child had experienced during the day and provided material to be used and discussed at home. Shanaz Matador and Lisa Jones both stated, *'The school can be really proud of its students. They all entered into every part of the process with enthusiasm and Interest. It was a pleasure to be here'.*



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Governors' Finance Meeting**  
**Governors' Standards & Performance Committee Meeting**  
**Governors' Termly Committee Meeting**

Tuesday 28 March 5.00pm  
Monday 3 April 5.30pm  
Tuesday 4 April 6.00pm

**Attendance Matters!** Attendance for this week for whole school is **94%**.

Year	H	Q	M	S	F	B	Year Group
7	90%		98% 😊	92%	95%	87%	93%
8		99% 😊	97% 😊	94%	96% 😊	96% 😊	96% 😊
9	99% 😊	98% 😊			96% 😊	95%	97% 😊
10	98% 😊	95%		86%	96% 😊	93%	94%
11	88%	95%	97% 😊	92%	95%	94%	94%

Our overall attendance has dipped below our target which is disappointing following the improvement noted last week. Come on everyone- we can do it!

Well done to 7M, 9H, 9Q and 10H who are our Star Performers this week. **FANTASTIC!!**

Mrs Green



### Headteacher's Message

The last time I said farewell to the school community at St Richard Gwyn was so long ago that not one of the current pupils had even been born! I remember well the day that I left as an emotional one, albeit I was moving on to a position in education that I very much wanted and which, combined with my experience at St Richard Gwyn, was to become the platform for my subsequent three Headteacher posts before I took early retirement in August 2016. On that day there was a whole school assembly and after our Act of Worship, I was invited to say a few words in farewell to the community. It was an emotional occasion for me, so that I can barely remember what I said, but I do remember quite clearly that I shared with the children and young people my commitment to gospel values and urged them to keep and develop these values in their lives. In particular, I quoted the Gospel where Christ tells us that we should always "travel the extra mile". Little did I imagine that I would end up travelling an extra mile in retirement, let alone that the extra mile would be journeyed at St Richard Gwyn!

In the last 5 months, some weeks that extra mile has seemed like an extra marathon! The joy of this is that I have not been a lonely long distance runner, but I have been travelling accompanied by the staff who show on a daily basis an outstanding commitment to everything that the school stands for, striving for excellence in everything we do, and, above all, Learning together in Christ. I commend the staff to you and ask you to keep them in your prayers.

Likewise, the students here for the most part have stepped up to the plate and shown themselves capable of travelling the extra mile. We have seen step change and improvement in the attitude of almost all, taking ownership of their own learning and their own progress, and they too are to be commended for this. Again, I ask you to keep the students of this school in your prayers, and thank you for your steadfast support and loyalty across the years, many of you having been pupils here yourselves.

I would also wish to commend to you the Governors of this school, the Diocesan Director of Education, Mrs Rita Price, and senior officers of Flintshire County Council, not least Mrs Claire Homard and Mr Ian Budd. Often in unseen ways, all of these people have made a difference and a positive one at that. I thank them and in thanking them will keep them in my prayers, as I will the entire staff and community here.

It seems to me, (and to Mr Rimmer too) that there appears to be a little SRG in my DNA! It is people like you, the parents and carers, with your commitment, contributions and great good support who have helped to maintain a dynamic involvement in the school. I am absolutely certain that St Richard Gwyn will in due course be restored to become the great school that we all know that it can be. I would assert, as of March 2017, we are well on our way back up where we belong.

As I leave, I launch possibly the most important initiative of all: that of generating for this outstanding community a fitting **School Prayer**. Whilst we have prayers for each of our house patrons, Beuno, Dewi and Gwen, we lack a whole school prayer, a deficit which we now are determined to address. I would urge you to consider making your contribution and certainly to encourage your child or children to do the same. Details of this initiative are contained within this week's Gwyn News.

Thank you so much for the lovely messages, prayers and good wishes which I received upon my arrival, have from time to time received over the last 5 months, to buoy me on in my work, and to cheer me as I leave. I move on Monday to warmer climes, confident that St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School itself will soon see sunnier times on every front.

**Diolch o galon ~ Thank you from the bottom of my heart.**

