



GWYN NEWS

Newyddion y Gwyn



Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig **ST RICHARD GWYN** Catholic High School

THIS IS AN OUTSTANDING CATHOLIC SCHOOL

27 May / Mai 2016

Diary Dyddiadur

Half Term
Hanner Tymor
Monday 30 May

Governors' Finance
Meeting
Tuesday 7 June
5.00pm

Year 8
Parents' Evening
Thursday 9 June
4.00-7.00pm

Governors' Mission &
Ethos Meeting
Tuesday 14 June
5pm

Year 7
Parents' Evening
Thursday 16 June
4.00-7.00pm

WELSH PHRASE

Pob lwc yn eich
arholiadau
Good luck in your
exams

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From the Headteacher Oddi wrth y Prifathro

Thank you for all your hard work and excellent behaviour during our inspection week. The Diocesan and Estyn teams felt very welcome in our caring community and wanted me to pass on their thanks to everyone for their very positive contribution. The parents' meeting was well attended and amazingly supportive. Everyone 'worked their socks off' so we could demonstrate the best we have to offer our learners. The reports from the inspections shall be published on 20 July. I express here my personal thanks for the messages of support over the last days from so many of you.

It is worth noting here that in all aspects of school building provision we met all statutory requirements. We know we occupy an old and tired building, but it is safe and we are vigilant in our duty of care. This summer will see the completion of the refurbishment of all lavatory facilities in the school; a programme which has been a priority for us over many years.

I offer our hearty congratulations to **Ms Hannah Blythyn**, one of our former students, who has been elected as Member of the Welsh Assembly for Delyn. We are delighted to see the success of another student from this school, demonstrating the positive and life-changing influence of our provision. We look forward to welcoming Ms Blythyn back to Saint Richard Gwyn as an honoured guest in future. We thank Mrs Sandy Mewies who retired as AM at these elections for her support of our school over the years, and wish her well.

In addition to this, our congratulations are extended to **Councillor Ian Roberts**, who is one of our governors, and his wife as they begin their year's service of Flint as Mayor and Mayoress. It was an honour to be present at their inauguration in the Town Hall last week, an honour extended annually to this school as an important part of the community. We wish them well in this momentous year starting with the Urdd National Eisteddfod during the coming week. Councillor Roberts is to be thanked for inviting the Eisteddfod here many years ago; all the years of planning have been brought to fruition. This will benefit the status of the Welsh language in our school and wider community. It has also brought economic benefits to the area.

Croeso cynnes iawn i Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd! We welcome the Eisteddfod and are delighted one of the major shows will be staged in our school theatre during the week in which our students have a role.

This half term is not going to be a rest for many of our students who have already started their public examinations. Key Stage 4 and 5 have been working hard and will continue to use the precious time during this half term to revise. Many people are praying for you and have high hopes of your success. Only hard work and dedication will bring what you really want. We wish you well at this very important time.
Ronald M Keating

New Website and Gwyn News Y Wefan Newydd a Newyddion y Gwyn

The launch of our new website, which was long planned, came inconveniently at the same time as the inspections. Our old website licence was up for renewal from the beginning of May and would have cost us £10,000. The new web address has cost less than £100, so you can see why we took the decision for a change. Your patience with the transition is appreciated, together with the obvious fact we have transferred some things wholesale from the old to the new, and these are in need of update over the next months. An experiment to make Gwyn News paperless over five years ago resulted in the School Council's request for us to reinstate a hard copy. This costs us £1,700 a year. With improvements in technology and people's access to it over the last years we are going to try to go paperless again. Gwyn News will still be published most weeks as we have done for nearly two decades; for those of you who still wish to have a paper copy, please ask your child to collect it from reception before they go home on Friday. We shall still be sending paper copies to all the parishes.

Eisteddfod Yr Urdd

During this half term, as many pupils, parents and staff have already seen, the Urdd Eisteddfod is coming to Flint! The Eisteddfod will begin on bank holiday Monday and will continue until the following Saturday and it is an amazing opportunity to experience Welsh heritage and culture, right on our doorstep. Throughout the week, there will be a wide range of activities to suit everyone and it is an event not to be missed.

After the regional and county preliminary competitions, the final rounds will take place during the week, with infants' competitions taking place at the start of the week, and the age ranges gradually getting older as the week goes on. We would like to wish Lauren Edwards and Jessica Edwards a huge *pob lwc* in their competition on Thursday.

An Eisteddfod of any kind is an opportunity to experience Welsh culture, and it is welcoming of all people, no matter their Welsh ability. The Urdd Eisteddfod app is a fantastic tool to help you plan your day and get the most out of your visit. Tickets for entry can be bought at the gate or in advance through the Urdd website, www.urdd.cymru.

Keep an eye out for members of staff and other pupils around the Eisteddfod site (commonly referred to as the Maes). Many members of staff have been involved with the planning stages of different aspects of the Eisteddfod, and many will be volunteering during the week itself. It would be fantastic to see St Richard Gwyn pupils around the Maes throughout the week.

There are also pupils from our school taking part in the *Cynllun Croeso* (Welcome Scheme), so keep an eye out for them too! As well as the Eisteddfod itself on the A5119, St Richard Gwyn is also hosting the youth production of *HerSpré*, a translated version of the musical Hairspray! It's a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase the amazing facilities that we have in this school to people from all over Wales. *Pob lwc* to Rebecca and Jessica Owen who have been working extremely hard in the past few months attending rehearsals for this production!

Pob lwc to everyone from St Richard Gwyn who is taking part in any way during the week. With all of the work that has gone into preparations over the past few years, it looks to be a fantastic week! *Welai chi yno!* See you there!

North Wales Horse Riding Success Llwyddiant Marchogaeth Gogledd Cymru

Year 10 student Bethany Millington achieved success recently at the North Wales Regional RDA Countryside Challenge. Bethany came first in her category for Horse Riding and now qualifies for the RDA Countryside Challenge to be held in Hartbury in July. She has worked hard to be successful in something she really enjoys and we wish her good luck in the next round. Da iawn, Bethany!



Tae Kwon-Do Welsh Championships Pencampwriaethau Tae Kwon-Do Cymru

Well done to Hannah Thomas for winning silver in pattern and sparring at the Tae Kwon-Do Welsh Championships held this weekend in Cardiff. Hannah will also be competing in the World Championships later this year. We wish her good luck!!



Mandarin Day Diwrnod Mandarin

On Wednesday 11 of May two More Able and Talented students from Year 8 attended a Mandarin activity hosted at the Argoed school. The day consisted of learning to know and pronounce Chinese numbers from one to ten

and writing them out, we also learned Tai Chi and how to use chopsticks. Our favourite part of the trip was trying Chinese sweets which we had to pick up with our chopsticks before we were allowed to eat them; fortunately we were good at using the chopsticks and managed to eat quite a few! We really enjoyed the day as it was something completely different and it has boosted our vocabulary and enjoyment of languages.
John Challenger & Ethan Williams 8B



Year 8 More Able and Talented Day Diwrnod Mwy Galluog a Thalentog Blwyddyn 8

On Tuesday 24 May, SRG and nine other schools from Flintshire attended a Year 8 More Able and Talented day. The students made an Airfix model of the Folland Gnat, the kick-start of the jet aircraft we use today. We learnt about the aerodynamics and other interesting facts about the planes such as the Gnat replaced the 'Meteor' and led to the current Eurofighter jet. We also studied Newton's laws and Bernoulli's principle that relate to flight.

Written by Finlay Carney (8Q) and Joshua Dodd (8F)



The Circle of Hope Bike Ride Taith Beicio Cylch Gobaith

On 8 May 2016 Joe Bailey took part in the Circle of Hope sportive with his father. The ride of 50 miles took them around Hope, through Llandegla to Corwen and back through Worlds End to finish in Hope. As the name suggests, Worlds End, was very tough with the biggest climb of the day at 1000ft of ascending in a short 3 miles. The total distance of elevation for the day was just short of 4000ft. It took them 3 hours 6 minutes. This was a sponsored event in which he was able to raise £550 in aid of making the garden wheel chair accessible for his youngest sister. The next event is lined up and ready and he'll be cycling through the Mersey Tunnel around Cheshire and back to Liverpool. Well done Joe!



Year 11 Presentation Evening Noswaith Gyflwyniadau Blwyddyn 11

Year 11 students recently celebrated their Thanksgiving Mass, Record of Achievement Evening and Prom. During the day, Fr Luigi Morrone, the School Chaplain celebrated an inspiring Mass, with the students choosing the readings and hymns. The following evening, parents, teachers and students filled the Sports' Hall to witness presentations from musicians, singers and readers, before Mr Keating presented the students with their Record of Achievement folder. He said 'All the staff would like to wish our Year 11 students the very best for the bright futures ahead of them. They will be in our thoughts and prayers'. The second part of the evening took place at the Mountain Park Hotel in Flint where the students enjoyed a wonderful buffet meal and danced the night away. There was laughter and tears as friends remembered the great times they had shared together whilst watching a presentation of photographs of their journey through school. It was a night that will be remembered for a long time.



St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Sant Richard Gwyn www.strichardgwynflint.co.uk

We are very proud to announce that the new look St Richard Gwyn Website is now LIVE!

Several months work has been undertaken to produce our new site that we believe will enable the viewer to get up to date information about our school and celebrate all the wonderful things that happen here. This site will be a work in progress for the time being, new, up to date elements and design features will be brought to the website over the coming weeks and months.

Jones Environmental Laboratory tour
Taith Labordy Jones Environmental



Last week Mrs Ecob and the Year 12 BTEC pupils visited Jones environmental laboratory as part of their studies. Students had the opportunity to view a presentation about the management of a large scale laboratory gaining a valuable insight into the world of work and industry. This was followed by a fascinating tour of the laboratory. As well as being able to access the analytical and forensic testing areas,

pupils were shown how to use industrial equipment. We appreciate the efforts of all at Jones Environmental Laboratory who worked hard to provide this invaluable tour.



PSHE Dove Self Esteem Workshop, Year 7, 8 and 9
Gweithdy Hunan-Barch Dove ABCI, Blwyddyn 7, 8 a 9

All Year 7, 8 and 9 students participated in a Self Esteem and body confidence workshop run by Dove. The aim of the workshop was to inform students about the power of having low and high self esteem and how it can be affected by people/factors around us. Students discussed how Social Media, advertising companies and our modern world affect the way in which they feel about themselves and they were challenged to look at how they play a very important role in raising or lowering the self esteem of others. The presenters were really impressed with our school and in particular how positively, enthusiastically and maturely our students responded to this important issue. I was part of all sessions and was very proud as I watched them throughout the day. Dove has an excellent website that has resources for parents to access if they wish to explore self esteem and body confidence further.



PHSE Year 8 Health Day
Diwrnod Iechyd ABCI Blwyddyn 8

Health and Safety were the words of the day on Wednesday for Year 8. They took part in six sessions during the day aimed at enhancing their knowledge and skills in key areas of Health and Safety. They took part in a Zumba or tennis session, first aid from St John Ambulance, internet safety awareness and a healthy eating omelette challenge. Thank you to Aironas, Rhys, Jay, Joe and Dagmara for their skilful prep work and for helping the students make their first ever omelette.

Four teams of Peer Educator sixth form students also delivered very powerful and engaging presentations on the topics of smoking, alcohol and drugs after working with our Drugs and Alcohol Key Worker, Sean Regan. It was wonderful to see them presenting so confidently and adapting their presentations throughout the day. The students really enjoyed the fun way in which they delivered very serious messages.

Our visitors were full of praise for our students and commended their manners, engagement, team work and enthusiasm in each session. It was a wonderful day that left me also feeling very proud. Da iawn pawb!

Mrs V Lane



11am - 4pm
Saturday 2 July
Dydd Sadwrn Gorffennaf 2

SUMMER
FAYRE
FFAIR
 HAF

£1 for adults, 50p for children and under 5s free.

Stalls, crafts fayre, activities, face painting, entertainment and much more!

Work Experience Year 10 and 12 FINAL DEADLINE FOR ORGANISATION OF PLACEMENTS
Profiad Gwaith Blwyddyn 10 a 12

To enable the vetting / health and safety checks to take place at potential placements, all documentation for proposed placements must be given in to Miss Hunt (Year 12) and Mrs Middleton-Patel (Year 10) by Friday June 10 2016. If any further assistance is required, please contact school as soon as possible. Please see our school website for important information about work experience.