

NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to you all

Dear Parents and Guardians, because of the skills which the children acquire.

I should like to wish you all a very happy new year. I am just thinking at the moment that the drama production this year is in keeping with the weather, but hopefully the snow will be just a memory by the beginning of March.

Pupils enjoyed their activities of last term.

The **Book Sale** was very successful and we were able to buy books to the value of £300 for the library.

Reading is the very best preparation for the senior school and we are willing to buy any good literature that your child enjoys. Please let us know if there are any books or authors which we do not have in our library.

Lucy Blyth wrote: "During Book Week the Welsh storyteller came in. Her name was Enid. She had loads of stories to tell in a short time. I really liked her visit."

Enterprise Week again was a resounding success not only because around £500 was raised for the Children's Hospital in Wales but

Michael Lingham wrote: 'I learnt how to sew, decorate jars and thread beads onto string. I learnt that to make a good business you need teamwork. I was the quality controller. R11 enjoyed the experience very much and we hope that the year below will enjoy it as much.'

Gabrielle O'Sullivan enjoyed the strict discipline of the **Victorian School Day**. 'When we got to Maestir School, we started with Drill. After we went inside we had hand inspection. After we did reading, writing, History and singing. It was a fun afternoon and I really enjoyed it.'

R10 found their visit to the New Theatre to see a live production of *Horrible Histories* First and Second World War thought provoking and an excellent introduction to the History that they will study in R11.

The **R8 and R9** Parents' Assemblies were a delight with so many children reading confidently and playing musical instruments. Their many achievements cannot all be fitted on their certificates.

Well done everyone!
Mrs E C Loveland

From the Headmaster: "Not a lot of people know this" but when R11 are having PE, science, music etc Mrs EC Loveland teaches A level Latin. Oxford University has offered her brilliant student Aymenn Jawad a place to read Classics at Brasenose College (alumni David Cameron / Archer). Aymenn would be qualified to study Law, Medicine, Music, Chemistry or a number of other major subjects but he is inspired by the Classics. Government Ministers of the past had just such a background. Well done Mrs Loveland and good luck Aymenn (who joined us from the Cathedral School in his junior years.)

Dates for the Diary:

Monday, 18 th Jan.	R9 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm to 8.15
Thursday, 21 st Jan.	R8 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm to 8.15
Monday, 25 th Jan.	R10 and R11 Parents' Evening 4.00pm to 8.15
Tuesday, 9 th Feb.	Junior Swimming Gala 9.30am to 1.00 pm Pentwyn Leisure Centre
Friday, 12 th Feb.	INSET – school closed.
Mon 15 th to Fri, 19 th Feb	HALF TERM
Friday, 26 th Feb.	Eisteddfod
Thursday, 4 th Mar. and Friday, 5 th Mar.	Junior Production of the SNOW QUEEN
Tuesday, 23 rd Mar.	Cathedral Choir Easter Concert, St David's Hall, 1.00pm
Friday, 26 th Mar.	END OF TERM.

Sporting Achievements

At the Sports Assembly in October, Z Martin (rugby), KT Bourge (football), Soi Kikuchi (cricket) and C Williams (athletics) received individual awards for Boys' sport.

Hope Tranter, Andrea Mizzen, Gabrielle O'Sullivan and Lucy Blyth respectively received awards for netball, rounders, gymnastics and athletics.

Parents' Questionnaire

Thank you to all the parents who filled in the questionnaire subsequent to 'Meet the Teacher'.

With very few exceptions the columns strongly agree / agree were filled in – 100% in most cases. Some questions were perhaps a little ambiguous or parents did not feel that they had a strong opinion.

I shall deal briefly with some of the points raised:

i) Parents are always welcome to make alternative appointments to see teachers, if an arranged time is not convenient. Teachers are also in their rooms from 8.30 and a quick word is usually possible. At the end of the day, it is also normally possible to see the form teacher. I can also be contacted by e-mail.

ii) In addition to the Parents' Assemblies, we are seeking to celebrate achievements in more informal ways. It is a good idea to look at your child's merit card.

iii) We are currently updating the curriculum booklet so that you have a clearer idea of the areas of study in each subject. You will be sent this in due course.

iv) The school is very aware of current health issues and the food in the canteen is in line with these. The canteen is overseen by Cardiff Council and information on the menus is available online and also in their newspaper. In addition, teachers supervise the choices made by the pupils.

v) The toilets are staffed, refreshed and cleaned throughout the breaks and at additional times throughout the day. There are now also two toilets that are solely for the use of girls.

vi) At the present time two / three quotes have been obtained to significantly upgrade the afternoon waiting area. We have also to plant some deciduous trees there to replace the ones removed. This may take some time but I do assure you that the matter is in hand.

vii) At the moment we are preparing the songs for the Snow Queen during music lessons.

viii) There is a great deal of diversity and equality of opportunity in the curriculum. I would refer you to the report on the school produced by ESTYN in 2006.

ix) We are very happy to encourage parents to take an active part in the school. The most important way to do this is by supervising homework and checking carefully the diary which is our channel of communication. We have a very open communication with parents. Please also, if you can, support school and charity events. Parents have come in to support the library and Enterprise Week. We do though need to be very aware of confidentiality of pupil information and also that adults coming into school need a full CRB check. This can take some time to achieve.

x) A Suggestion Box is to be placed in 3.1 for any points which you may wish to raise. You may also reach me by e-mail.

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