

Summer Term 2018



The summer term began with exam season with pupils in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 all working towards **external examinations**. Countless revision study sessions were put on by departments and pupils managed the time well. Since exam season ended, school life has been vibrant. The term has ended with **fun and engaging learning**. Key Stage Three had **Science, PE and Language festivals**. The Languages Department workshops included clog dancing, Welsh Cake Making, a Cardiff Bay treasure hunt and **triple literacy lessons** examining European language similarities and the **celebration of all languages** spoken in school.

Duke of Edinburgh pupils had numerous **expeditions** this term with record numbers achieving awards. The whole school has been active with **sports days** and **house competitions**. Trips have included **Geography field trips**, a theatre trip to **Stratford** and **Technocamp** where the **Archcoders** took second place in a live challenge. There was a further visit to **Wellington College** with Year 11 to strengthen our partnership working and get ready for university applications whilst chemists took part in laboratory working at **Swansea University**. This year, more pupils than ever before will attend study days or weeks in prestigious universities. The school welcomed **Sir David Ramsden**, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, as our guest speaker with pupils getting insight into the financial world.

The **Festival of Learning** was fully embraced. The Learners' day, hosted by our pupils, showcased presentations on **Visible Learning** and the **Lead Creative Schools programme**. The school won prizes for the logo design and the **Archcellists** took centre stage. At our summer concert our musicians shone in the **Going Solomble** concert and the **Eisteddfod 2018** was a fantastic celebration of performance and **Welsh culture**.

Wonderful primary cluster working and transition days culminated in our **Welcome Mass**. Charity work remains vibrant. Fundraising has taken place for **Noah's Ark**, the **Barnardo's Big Toddle**,

Heronbridge School, Bridgend Samaritans and Oshi's World. The **First Give workshops** focused on fundraising and raising awareness for various charities whilst pupils harnessed presentation skills and social action ideas. Sixth Formers also ran the **Y Bont afternoon tea**. In the last three weeks over **£3000** has been raised.

Pupils still achieve huge amounts outside of school. To name a few: **Ioan Davis** took silver in the British Schools Judo Championships; **Esmee Davies** and **Isobella Renn** beat 40 couples in a national dance competition; whilst **Xander Payne** won his Welsh vest for basketball and **Ffion Higginson** gained further Welsh honours for athletics. Music remains vibrant. Many pupils represent the Four Counties and Bridgend Music Service Orchestras and **Abbie Linforth** and **Samuel Finch** are part of the National Youth Orchestra for Wales.

This term is always one of change and there are exciting times ahead with the appointment of five **Heads of House** to strengthen the **Progress and Wellbeing** team in the school. The school says goodbye to some departing staff. Please remember in your prayers **Mr John Barry, Mrs Ursula McPhee, Miss Stephanie Robinson, Mrs Angela Townsend** and **Mrs Julie Stoddart** as they depart our school. We wish them the very best and thank them for many years dedicated service to our school community.

Our last week sees the launch of the Archbishop McGrath Pupil Profile; the school's mission to place **character and virtue education** at its centre. Every year group is involved. Included in the range of activities are sessions on **mindfulness, a gratitude tree, escape rooms, eloquence interpretation** as well as making **hanging baskets, bug hotels** and tackling the **obstacle course!** The vision is 'improvement in **living and learning** for the **greater glory of God and the common good**'. Forming intellectually competent, good and virtuous young people through education is **our mission**.

I am always **grateful** for the support that I experience as Headteacher from the **parental and local community** and am grateful to work with **superb staff** who give of themselves so **generously**. I look forward to the exciting **faith-filled** year ahead in which pupils continue to grow in the virtues of our **Pupil Profile** and we continue to pursue excellence. I pray that this summer they remain **curious and active** whilst staying safe this summer.

Key Information and Dates:

A Level Results	Thursday 16 th August 2018
GCSE Results	Thursday 23 rd August 2018
Year 12 Enrolment	Monday 3 rd September 2018 12.00-14.00
Year 7 Parents Welcome	Wednesday 19 th September 2018
Year 10-11 Expectations Evening	Wednesday 26 th September 2018

Very best wishes and love,

Angela Keller