



St Brigid's News

Volume 4 Issue 15
January 29th 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Attendance is always a top priority for us as a school and you may have noticed in the news that the Welsh Education Minister has recently made a statement regarding holidays. This has caused some discussion and confusion on social media sites so I have attached a copy of the press release which Denbighshire County Council have issued to clarify their position.

You may also have seen the categorization for schools came out yesterday which classed us as a **Yellow** school. We have made lots of progress in terms of examination results and end of key stage or phase results and we are justifiably proud of these. Yellow schools are classed as 'Effective schools'. This means that there are good levels of learner outcomes in key performance indicators. Also these schools understand and take action to address most areas needing improvement and finally many aspects of their performance are self improving. The next step for us is obviously to move towards the Green category as we are classed again as a 'strong yellow'.

Kind regards

Rona Jones

Pennaeth/Headteacher

St Brigid's Day Monday February 1st

On Monday February 1st we celebrate St Brigid's feast day.

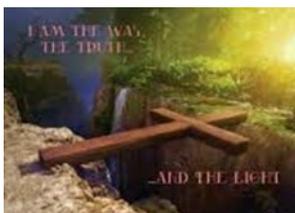
Brigid is named alongside St Patrick as a patron saint of Ireland. She became a nun and founded the first Irish convent. She was known for her compassion and generosity, her charity and humour. She died c.525

Fr John Newman will help us to celebrate this very special occasion with Mass for Yr7 and the Junior School.

We ask God's blessing on us all to help us to live in that light, to make it our own, and to walk in the light of God's love.



Equal and opposite forces rule our lives. We are drawn towards the truth but tempted by evil. We buckle under pressure and snap when tension mounts. But if God is our bridge, stability is assured because he is our load-bearer allowing us to walk free.



May we recognise in our lives the presence, power and light of our souls.

May we realise that we are never alone, that our soul in its brightness and belonging connects us intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

May we realise that the shape of our soul is unique.

May we learn to see ourselves with the same light and expectation with which God sees us in every moment.

YOUCAT & MINCAT: There will be no Youcat or Minicat this Friday January 29th

Pope's Tweet: Every Christian community should be an oasis of charity and warmth in the midst of a desert of solitude and indifference



DATES FOR DIARY

Friday 29th January

CCF Climbing Competition in Cardiff

Wednesday 3rd February

Yr10&11 Drama Trip to Macbeth in Manchester 11.45–18.00

Technique Ecology KS3 Workshop

Thursday 4th February

Oxbridge University Application Talk

Maths Enrichment Sessions for KS3&4

UKMT Maths Challenge Yrs 9&10

Yr9 Options Evening & Parents Evening 16.30–18.30

Air Squadron Trophy—RAF CCF Competition

The Air Squadron Trophy is an annual Air Cadet CCF competition in which schools compete with each other in eight disciplines: drill, uniform, shooting, first aid, aircraft recognition, command task, general knowledge and fitness. At the November 2015 competition our school achieved first place in the shooting competition. The shooting team were Sgt Ryan Harrison, Sgt Emily Clarke, Cpl Aisla Mackenzie, LtCpl Bobo Poh and Lt Cpl Nathan Bewley. Additionally Cpl Aisla Mackenzie won first place in shooting. Well done to all of the cadets and thank you to Flt Lt Roberts for accompanying them.



Sgt Emily Clarke being presented with the trophy by Squadron Leader Roger

Girl Guiding



The Senior Section is for young women aged 14—25. Members of the Senior Section can choose from a wide range of unique and exciting opportunities, including traveling the UK and around the world, volunteering with younger girls within the girl guiding organisation as a Mentor or Leader and working towards valuable qualifications. The Senior Section in Prestatyn will start on February 2nd and every other week after that at Nant Hall Road Church. This Senior Section is the only one in the Clwyd District.

Please see Chloe Ward (Year 11) or go to the website <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/seniorsection/> for further details.

Four pupils went to Bangor University yesterday to take part in a Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench Competition

Two pupils from Year 9 - Jodi Griffiths and Scott Williams

Year 10 - Orla Hesseling Year 11 - Dina Campbell

Eleven schools across North Wales attended, St Brigid's team coming 5th. They represented the school extremely well and their experience bodes well for future competitions.

Congratulations to Olivia Millington (Year 8) who has been chosen to represent Wales in the Dance World Cup in Jersey in June. Her dance teacher was asked to submit dances for consideration by a panel of adjudicators who reviewed dances from all over Wales. Da iawn!



Llongyfarchiadau Ysgol Santes Ffraid

Congratulations to the Year 3/4 Girls Medley Relay team who represented St. Brigid's and Denbighshire at the National Urdd Swimming Gala. After winning their heats in Rhyl for backstroke and medley relay Harriet, Maci, Holly and Faye from Year 3 and 4 headed last weekend to Cardiff International Pool to take part in the finals.

The team performed magnificently and gained invaluable experience, even if though they didn't win a medal.

Individually, Holly Bunn won the silver medal for the school and county in the backstroke. Fantastic effort! Congratulations Holly. A special thanks to Maci Jones and Harriet Goodall for stepping in as last minute replacements due to unforeseen circumstances. A huge thanks to all the parents who helped organise and transport the girls.



CCF Camps for 2016

Every year we try to arrange a residential camp for both CCF sections, to develop our cadets in team-work and leadership, and have a great time.

Army Camp (Pembrokeshire): Sat 26 Jun 16 to Fri 1 Jul 16

RAF Camp (RAF Honnington, Suffolk): Sat 9 Jul 16 to Sat 16 Jul 16

The letter for Army Camp was distributed today (Fri) and places are limited (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED). The RAF Camp letter will go out soonest and the same will apply. Please note that these dates are NOT ideal and overlap with many of the other wonderful opportunities at St Brigid's School. Educational requirements always take priority, and the exam timetable drives much of our Summer Term planning.

The following will NOT be able to go on Army Camp:

Year 10 cadets completing Duke of Edinburgh at Silver level (Practice weekend is Sat 25 Jun 16 to Mon 27 Jun 16).

Year 9 students on planned trip to Madrid/Spain.

The following will NOT be able to go on RAF Camp:

Year 12 students on Duke of Edinburgh Gold Assessment canoe expedition (River Wye).

Cadets (Year 11 & Year 12) going with Group 1 to South Africa.



Ysgol Santes Ffraid

Plas-yn-Green, Dinbych,
Sir Ddinbych, LL16 4BH, Gogledd Cymru
Ffon: 01745 815228 Ffacs: 01745 816928



St. Brigid's School

Plas-yn-Green, Denbigh,
Denbighshire, LL16 4BH, North Wales
Tel No: 01745 815228 Fax No: 01745 816928

29th January 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers

Please find below a recent press release from Denbighshire County Council concerning holidays in term time. I hope this will clarify any questions that may have arisen. At St Brigid's we remain committed to improving our attendance rates to allow every pupil full access to education.

Council re-iterates stance on unauthorised absences from school following national debate

Denbighshire County Council is re-iterating its stance on unauthorised absence from schools, following comments made by the Welsh Government's Education Minister, Huw Lewis earlier this week.

Mr Lewis has written to councils, stating that a decision on whether or not to authorise holidays during term time is at the discretion of individual headteachers.

Denbighshire has already confirmed to the Minister's office that this is exactly the stance taken by the Council. Headteachers can authorise absences from school, at their discretion, during term time strictly on a case by case basis. However Headteachers agreed a common stance not to approve term time holidays unless in exceptional circumstances.

Letters and leaflets have been issued to parents through the schools, to inform parents of the Council's stance and to encourage greater attendance from pupils, in line with Welsh Government guidance.

Fixed Penalty Notices may be issued if a child has had 10 unauthorised absences from school during term time (without the permission of the school). If parents /guardians have been given permission from the headteacher, the absence would be classed as 'authorised'.

Councillor Eryl Williams, Cabinet Lead Member for Education, said: "Our key focus is on engaging with parents and schools, to make sure that we provide a full time education to our pupils. Regular attendance at school is vital to the educational well-being of pupils and all schools monitor and track absences. The focus on improving attendance in Denbighshire's schools has resulted in a significant improvement which should lead to improved standards. Parents will be made aware at an early stage if there are concerns about unauthorised absences. It is not about issuing fixed penalty notices as that is very much a last resort - we want to tackle the issue at an early stage before it develops into a problem".

Kind regards

Rona Jones
Pennaeth/Headteacher