

St Brigid's School, Denbigh.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS 2010 – 2011

Introduction

The school was founded in 1939 by the Congregation of St Brigid, at the request of the Bishop of Menevia, and was located in Park Street, Denbigh. In 1943 it moved to the present location, taking boarders after 1945. With the reduction in the number of vocations for Nuns, a Trust was set up in 1990 to continue the work of the Congregation, and the school became an independent boarding school. In 1996 the Governors were successful in gaining Grant status as the only State Boarding School in Wales. As a result of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the School became a Voluntary-Aided School on 1st September 1999.

The Trust Body, St Brigid's School Limited is a charitable company, registered at Companies House (No 02572420) and The Charity Commissioners (No 1003157) This Company holds the land and buildings in trust on behalf of the School.

The principal activity of the School is set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Trust Body, being "the advancement of education of children between the ages of 3 and 19 by making provision for a Voluntary-aided Roman Catholic School or School for the education of Roman Catholic Children, either with or without other Christian or non-Christian children." In consequence of this the School is an All-through Denominational School having a co-educational Primary Department. From September 2009, it became fully co-educational.

During the period there was a total of 496 pupils including 26 boarders. 146 pupils in the primary department, including 12 Nursery, and 341 senior pupils. It offers a boarding education for up to 30 girls from 7-19.

1 Membership of the Governing Body

Foundation Governors and Directors of St Brigid's School Limited. Term Ends

J David M Jones LIB FRSA	Resigned 10/2010	
Doreen Eyton-Jones ALCM	Resigned 10/2010	
Fr Anthony McDowell, OFM Cap	Resigned 6/2010	
Dr Elizabeth Oliver		Sept 2013
Maria Hamersley		Sept 2013
Anthony Hannigan	(Vice-Chairman)	Sept 2013
Judith Corbett	(appointed Sept 09)	Sept 2013
Philip McGreevy	(appointed Sept 09)	Sept 2013
Dr Mick Kumwenda	(appointed Sept 10)	Sept 2014
Meiriol Meredith Jones	(appointed 10/2010)	Sept 2014
Philip Eyton-Jones OstJ, TD, DL, RIBA, MRTPI, FRSA (Chairman)		Sept 2013
Mathrafal, Bodfari, Denbigh LL16 4BS 01745 710249		

Headteacher Mrs Catherine Simpson, BA (Hons) MA (appointed Sept 2009)

LEA Governor	Jane Kennedy, LIB	Sept 2012
Parent Governors	Dr Markus Hesselning	Sept 2013
	Dr Sally Tansley	Sept 2013

Teacher Governors	Stuart Ayres	Sept 2011
	Barbara Hughes	Sept 2013
Staff Governor	Karen Morris	Sept 2013
Pupil Governor	Tara Moorcroft (Head Girl)	July 2011

Clerk to the Governors Anne M H Spiller St Brigid's School Denbigh LL16 4BH Tel 01745 816139

2. Financial Performance

2010/2011

2.1 The School's financial performance for the Financial Year 2010/11 and for the previous year is set out below.

	2009/10	2010/11
INCOME		
Denbighshire CC	1,744,597	1,782,515
Other Income	174,743	178,395
Total Income	1,919,340	1,960,910
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs	1,649,438	1,629,837
Other	254,289	306,343
Total Expenditure	1,903,727	1,936,180
Surplus (deficit) for the year	15,613	24,730
Parental Contributions inc Gift Aid & In Rev	28,907	32,516
Refund Paid to the Charitable Trust		

2.2 **Gifts to the School** School received substantial donations from the School Association and from individual Parents during the year, many giving us the advantage of Gift Aid. Much of this has been committed to funding the contribution to the Changing and Toilet Block.

2.3 **Governors traveling Expenses** Claims for Governors traveling and subsistence expenses during the period amounted to £141.00 in 2009/2010 and £137 in 2010/11

3 Action taken by the Governing Body

3.1 **Comments from the last Annual Meeting.** Concern over the introduction of boys in year 7. The introduction of boys had gone very smoothly, with numbers growing each year.

3.2 **Progress on the Development Plan.** Following successful Solution Orientated School training the whole staff became involved in renewing the School Improvement Plan in preparation for our Estyn Inspection in May 2010. Parents received a précis of the Report, which graded the School at Grade 3. A follow-up visit in May 2011 comment that progress had been made, and that no further support was required.

3.3 **Development of Links with the Community** Several Fund-raising events took place during the period, the proceeds of which were given to local charities. The School hosted the Poppy Appeal Presentations to North Wales Cadet Forces in April 2011, attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Gwynedd.

Two teams took part in the Rotary Public Speaking Competitions in the Spring of 2011, the under 15 team comprising Jacinta Bollard, Beth Johnson, and Erin McGough won their way through the District rounds to compete in the National Finals held at Cranleigh School in Surrey, becoming runners-up in the Finals.

3.4 **Changes to the Prospectus** Changes to the Prospectus include updated Staff Lists and current Examination performances. Any information needed to comply with National Assembly requirements was included as well as the Admissions Policy for the coming year. First priority for admission to boarding is now for 'Looked-after children' as a State Boarding School.

3.5 **Review of School Policies** This review is ongoing, through the Governing Body, and parents will be able to view these on the School Website.

3.6 **Implementation and review of specific school strategies** The School Improvement Plan includes the following strategic priorities: -

- Introduction of the Solution Orientated Schools Programme
- A full review of the teaching staff

- A new approach to subject/phase self-evaluation
- Introduction of whole-school target setting, tracking and intervention strategy
- Introduction of strategic self-evaluation and development planning
- Improve the quality of teaching and pupil learning
- Development of 21st Century facilities
- Establish the pupil voice throughout the school
- Improve attendance in all phases
- Introduce performance management and workforce development
- To review bilingualism and *Curriculum Cymraig*
- To ensure the school is meeting the 14-19 Measure
- To maintain and develop the Catholic Christian Ethos
- Further develop cross-phase working
- To meet the skills requirement for local business and the Welsh Agenda

4 Organization and Policies

4.1 *Special Educational Needs Policy*

St Brigid's School as a community reflects and celebrates the diversity of Christ's Kingdom where the able and gifted can learn from and with those with disabilities of whatever order. Our commitment is to the needs of every child admitted into the School, and this policy addresses our responsibility for those children with special educational needs whether long or short term, related to physical, emotional or behavioral difficulties or learning needs. We aim to be partners with parents who are the first educators of their children.

Mrs. June Morris has taken over as the Special Needs Coordinator who will ensure that for new pupils, existing statements of need are made known to all who will teach the child and that appropriate provision within financial constraints is available in all curriculum areas. A review of progress will involve both child and parents so that realistic targets can be set and monitored. Our aim is to build on the child's strengths to allow maximum participation in all school activities. Special attention will be given to the child's spiritual development and preparation for the Sacraments to reinforce the sense of dignity and value established in the individual child.

It is the professional responsibility of every teacher to be alert to the onset of a special need in any pupil including the needs of more able and talented pupils, and to liaise directly with the SENCO and the parents of the child. Assessment of, and provision for the child's needs may require assistance from outside agencies including the Educational Psychologist, Medical Officer, or Advisory Services of the Local Education Authority. Staff will have regard to the WAG "*Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs*" in addressing special needs.

4.2 *Arrangements for Disabled Pupils*

The School prides itself in trying to ensure the needs of all disabled pupils admitted to the School. A spirit of inclusion into all year groups is encouraged, and all pupils are required to be fully supportive of their fellows. Whilst there are still spaces that are difficult to access, every effort is made to accommodate the needs of the disabled, and level access to the Main Hall has now been improved.

4.3 *Term Dates and Session Times 2011/2012*

Autumn Term	2011	3 rd	September 2011	to	16 th	December 2011
Spring Term	2012	4 th	January 2012	to	30 th	March 2012
Summer Term	2012	17 th	April 2012	to	18 th	July 2012

Times of Sessions

Nursery	8.50 am to 11.30 am	Key Stage 1	8.50 am to 3.20 pm
Key Stage 2	8.50 am to 3.20 pm	Secondary Department	8.50 am to 3.35 pm

4.4 *Sporting Aims and Achievements*

There was no Ski Trip planned for 2010/2011 but preparations are in hand to arrange a visit to Bulgaria in Easter 2012. Football is increasing in popularity in both Primary and Secondary Departments. Congratulations go to the Primary Cricket Team which came second in the Denbighshire League at St Asaph. Credit is due to Mr Andrew Madog, and Mr Ivor Lloyd for additional coaching at St Asaph.

4.5 Combined Cadet Force The Combined Cadet Force continues as a strong community within the School as the small team of 7 staff provides a wide range of exciting activities in two sections, Army and RAF. **Cadet numbers have risen** from 37 to 53, with none of the sixth formers leaving and a new cohort from Year 9 joining the fun.

At the start of the year, 35 cadets, mostly from the new recruits of Year 9, spent a cold and chilly night in a wood on Kimmel Training Area, near Bodelwyddan, but soon warmed up the next day on the obstacle course. In September, Army teams took part in the **all-Wales Cadet Cambrian Patrol competition**, the UK's premier cadet endurance event, and in November, an RAF team took part in the **RAF Air Squadron Trophy** at RAF Cosford (near Wolverhampton). A small team of enthusiastic climbers were successful in the **all-Wales Cadet Climbing Competition** held on Anglesey, with second and third places in both Senior and Junior Girl competitions. Finally, a small team of selected senior cadets went to Nesscliffe Training Area on a **leadership training exercise with Ruthin School CCF**. The young people of St Brigid's show that they do remember those who have gone before, as 32 smart cadets paraded on **Remembrance Day** in November at Denbigh. The new cohort from Year 8 had an afternoon's fun in Spring Term, including abseiling off the School's roof, and over 50 have signed up to join in the new academic year.

Summer camp is the highlight of the cadets' year and not just because it takes place towards the end of Summer Term. 23 Army cadets and four staff went to **Penally Camp** in Pembrokeshire, taking part in a mix of military and fun activities: shooting and an overnight fieldcraft exercise, kayaking and sea cliff climbing, quad biking and archery. Highlights were a low-level flypast by a Hercules flown by a friend of Capt Ann Bunn, and a section attack in front of VIPs, including North Wales AM, Mr Darren Millar. A smaller team of 10 cadets and one adult went to **RAF Wittering** in Cambridgeshire, but all had a great time and everyone took the controls of a Grob Tutor training aircraft. In July, a few more cadets took the controls of a Grob Vigilant powered glider at **RAF Woodvale** in Formby, Merseyside.

Over the year, 13 young people have passed their **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award**, with another 26 working towards Bronze and 8 towards Silver. Expeditions have taken place along the Clwydian Range, along with a Spring trip up Snowdon. In addition, 19 Year 9s and 25 Year 10s are completing additional work to compliment their cadet activities, which all goes towards the **BTEC in Public Services**, a vocational award worth 4 GCSEs.

5 **Performance and Target Information** **Summer 2010 and 2011**

5.1 In the External Examinations and National Curriculum Teacher Assessments for 20010/2011, our results were excellent as shown below.

		2010			2011		
		School	LEA	Wales	School	LEA	Wales
A Level	Level 3 threshold	100%	98%	96%	95%	97%	96%
GCSE	5 or more GCSE's at A* to C	93%	56%	57%	95%	71%	67%
	5 or more GCSE's at A* - G	100%	90%	87%	96%	91%	90%
	Core Subject Indicator	78%	46%	46%	75%	51%	49%
Key Stage 3	English Level 5 or Higher	89%	73%	72%	88%	74%	76%
	Mathematics Level 5 or higher	98%	72%	73%	90%	77%	78%
	Science Level 5 or higher	93%	74%	76%	88%	78%	80%
	Core Subject Indicator	84%	60%	64%	83%	66%	68%
Key Stage 2	English Level 4 or higher	90%	82%	82%	90%	85%	83%
	Mathematics level 4 or higher	100%	82%	81%	93%	87%	85%

	Science Level 4 or higher	100%	87%	86%	93%	90%	87%
	Core Subject Indicator	96.4%	77%	77%	90%	82%	80%
Key Stage 1	English 2+	100%	86%	83%	91%	81%	84%
	Mathematics	100%	89%	87%	91%	87%	88%
	Science	100%	90%	90%	91%	89%	90%
	Core Subject Indicator	100%	83%	81%	91%	80%	83%

5.2 *Destination of School Leavers during the Period 2010/2011*

Year 11 (56) 37 returned to Sixth Form, 19 to Further Education/ Training.
Year 13 (24) 20 to Higher Education, and 4 taking Gap years.

5.3 *Attendances for 2010/11*

	Secondary (up to end of May 2011 and excluding 6th form)	Primary (excluding nursery)
Attendances	91.6 %	94.2 %
Authorised Absences	7.1 %	4.4 %
Authorised Educational Activity	1.3 %	1.4 %
Unauthorised Absences	0	0

5.4 *Applications for Admission in September 2011*

There were 105 applications and 77 who did sit the Entrance Examinations to the Secondary School in January 2011. Of those, 57 were deemed to have passed, with only 28 being offered and accepting places.

In the Primary Phase, almost all places were awarded to siblings of existing pupils.

There were 58 pupils still on the waiting List for Year 3, and 54 for Year 5.

6 **Future Developments**

We are advised that the Local Educational Authority have begun to develop a 'Modernising Education' Strategy to be in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's '21st Century Schools' Programme and have a vision for an 11-16 Faith School in North Denbighshire. Governors have been invited to discussions to explore whether our aspirations would be met by this initiative. Recently we have been informed that Finance has been set aside for Feasibility Studies for bids to come to fruition some time after 2014- 2015.

7 **Thanks**

The Governors would like to thank all Parents for their support and co-operation in the education of their children, and in achieving the results highlighted in this Report. In particular, the efforts of the School Association for their tremendous efforts in raising funds and for the great amount of work carried out in improving the grounds in the run up to the Inspections.

Signed **Philip Eyton-Jones**

Philip Eyton-Jones
Chairman of the Governing Body.

October 2011