

St Illtyd's Newsletter



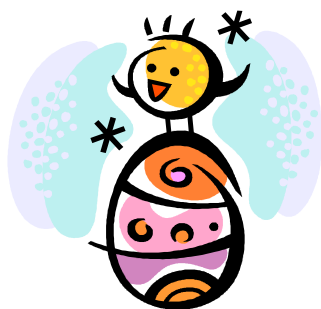
Together in Christ we can make a difference Gyda'n gilydd yng Nghrist, fe wnawn wa-

Welcome & Estyn Update

Welcome to all parents, carers and students and to our latest round up of school news.

I am pleased to report that the revisit from the ESTYN inspection team went well. The Team recognised the good work that is going on here at the school and were full of praise for many aspects of our continued improvement. Particular praise was reserved for the behaviour and attitude of our students. The Team found them engaging and possessing a positive attitude to the school. It is also pleasing to note that teaching is improving. Although it is recognised that there is still a long way to go it is heartening to know that we are doing the right things. We await the publication of the report with interest.

This follows on from very encouraging results from early entry exams in Maths and English. The School is definitely on the up and we can view the future with confidence. Mike Clinch, Executive Head



Spring Fair at St Illtyd's

A Spring Fair is being held at St Illtyd's Catholic High School on Thursday 10th April, 4.00-6.00pm. Come along for lots of fun family activities that will help improve literacy and numeracy as well as to prepare students

for the tests in May alongside a variety of stalls selling cards, gifts, cakes and much more. Phil Davies, ex Cardiff Blues coach will be giving a presentation plus there will be the chance to enjoy the delights of Spring by cuddling chicks and a bunny. Free entry, all welcome.

Student Voice gets heard

This term has seen more regular School Council meetings taking place. Representatives from whole year groups have met, as well as whole school meetings. The topic for discussion at these meetings was "Improving the public image of St Illtyd's". All students contributed well to the discussion and put many ideas forward which have been communicated back to the senior leadership team. The Student Council is a way of giving students a "voice" and taking their opinions into consideration whenever decisions are made within the school. Special thanks to Mr Moriarty who has been instrumental in getting this project off the ground. Next meeting is lunchtime on Tues 8th April in room 39.

Attendance Update

A new initiative was introduced in March in order to tackle attendance at St Illtyd's. Lessons now start promptly at 8.30am, with form time now taking place at 10.30am. We hope to see a marked improvement in attendance with this new timetable. Whole school attendance for the period Sept-March is currently 93.7%.

Facebook Update

The number of parents and students using our Facebook page is steadily rising, but we still need your help to help spread the word. Please invite fellow parents, carers and students to "Like" our page and receive regular updates from the school. To find the right page, type "St Illtyds Catholic High School" then search. The Parent Forum page has got the school badge on it and a photo of St Illtyd's front gate.

Award Winners

We would like to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the following twenty students who have made the most progress in the past term:

Megan Williams 7DR	Celina Carter 10SK
Nadine Johnson 7AH	Soraia Robalo 10JE
Liberty Chivers 7DR	Faye Edwards 10JE
Jack Perkins 7DF	Rhys Payne 10OC
Caitlin Burr 8RH	Megan Barker 11MHE
Nicole Collier 8KN	Olivia Mountstephens 10SKJ
Christopher Hau 8RH	Megan Parry 11LW
Laura Swain 8RS	Anthony Hau 11MDM
Marlene Robalo 9GM	
Kennjosh Labalan 9PT	
Bethan Linbourn 9PT	
Anjali Vino 9GM	

St Illtyd's has continued to make steady progress towards improving pupils' skills in literacy and numeracy to ensure they make good progress in lessons. (Estyn, November 2013)

Whats On

Trowbridge Community "Green" Carnival

Carnival is coming to Trowbridge! One of our feeder primaries, St John Lloyd RC Primary School, has been running workshops where students can learn Samba dance, Samba drumming and make carnival costumes from recycled materials. Year 7 St Illtyds students have been taking part. Everyone is welcome to come along and watch the Carnival on Friday 11th April, departing St John Lloyd at 3.45pm approx.

Film Club meets every Tues, Weds and Thurs lunchtime in room 25 with a £1 fee per term going to CAFOD. They watch all kinds of films, ranging from comedy to Disney to action. On Thursday after the film of that week has ended, they discuss the film, giving it a review. The Film Club is an opportunity to make new friends and develop oracy skills that are useful both in school and in the workplace.

Fishing Club continues to meet Tues and Friday lunchtimes in T4. Family members are very welcome to join the students on weekend fishing trips. It's a great way to get more involved with the school and meet other parents and carers.

St Illtyd's Rugby Success

On Friday 4th April, four year groups represented St Illtyd's in the Cardiff Schools Rugby finals at the Cardiff Arms Park winning three and narrowly losing one. Our Year 8 won 42.0, Year 10 won 58.5 and our Year 11 won 22.17. Year 9 lost 12.10. The players and supporters of all year groups were outstanding and made St Illtyd's proud with some fantastic rugby being played. We would like to thank all the parents and teachers who have been very supportive this season.

Reflection of the Month

"The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist."- Pope St Gregory the Great

ASDAN Success

All pupils in the Year 11 ASDAN group passed their course- Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) at Level 2 which is equivalent to grade B. They are the first group to have followed the course for all of the two year option and all have passed early, following external portfolio moderation. This is a huge achievement for the pupils who should now be confident going into their other exams. Well done all!

Over to You

A corner for St Illtyd's parents and carers to have their say.....

"A jump back to the top level for the school is not going to be easy and will take some time I guess. My daughter is in year 10 and I'm hoping that the positive improvements I have seen since Mr Clinch's arrival will mean that all is not lost for her in these final important years. The programme last night touched on the new rewards system that has been introduced. Prior to this pupils were not rewarded or allowed to participate in school trips and there was no incentive to be there or be good. As a result of her good behaviour and attendance my daughter has been chosen to go on a free boating weekend with crew of Challenge Wales. I know various trips and incentives have also been awarded to numerous other pupils. This can only lead to them enjoying being part of St Illtyds and wanting to do well."

Helen Nelson (posted on Parents Forum Facebook page)

"Saw the programme last nights and was impressed with the efforts of Mr Clinch. He really seems to understand what is needed to raise the morale of teachers and pupils alike for the improvements required."

Ruth Nelson (posted on Parents Forum Facebook page)

"I have learnt different techniques and recipes which I can use at home with my family. Great course."

Denise Waldron (on Family Cookery at St Illtyd's)

"Really have enjoyed this accredited course. Would do it again."

Ursula Mahwuto (on Family Cookery at St Illtyd's)

Congratulations to all the pupils that took part at the Cardiff Arms Park yesterday....As a parent it was an absolute pleasure watching and supporting them. Their behaviour and performance was excellent. Every one of them should be proud of themselves.

Theresa Anderson (posted on Parents Forum Facebook page)