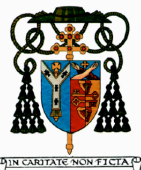


# Middle School Newsletter



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

27th April 2006  
R12 Careers Day

28th April 2006  
R13 History trip to  
Cyfartha Castle

1st May 2006  
May Day Bank Holiday

11th May 2006  
R13 Careers Day

26th May 2006  
INSET day

29th May – 2nd June  
2006  
Half Term

4th June 2006  
Confirmation  
celebration for R13

19th June 2006  
R12 Welsh trip to the  
National Assembly for  
Wales and Millennium  
Centre

27th June 2006  
Internal examinations  
begin

5th July 2006  
Senior Sports Day

11th July 2006  
School trips and end of  
term

Trips are also being  
planned by the Science  
and Geography  
departments for the  
summer term.

*Welcome to the first edition of the Middle School Newsletter. You will receive a copy of the newsletter every term to keep you up-to-date on developments in R12 and R13. Please let us know if you have any information that could be included in future issues.*

*Rosemary Hart, Assistant Head teacher*

## Middle School Charity Work

The Middle School has been involved in a number of charity projects over the past few months.

In October, the annual Harvest Festival resulted in over fifty food parcels being donated to the local community including churches, a nursing home and individuals.

In November many pupils participated in a cake sale and raffle for Children in Need. This year an impressive £550 was raised and donated to the Noah's Ark Appeal, handicapped children, Pilgrims Trust and Childline Cymru.

Before we broke up for the Christmas holidays, pupils participated in the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal. Children were asked to fill a shoebox with small gifts that the Samaritans could pass to children who would not be lucky enough to receive presents at Christmas. By the beginning of the holidays, 110 boxes had been donated to brighten up many Christmas mornings. Also, in December, through the St Vincent de Paul Society, 10 Christmas hampers were distributed to the local community.

More recently, pupils in R13 have helped Jabur Khan in R14 to sell raffle tickets in aid of the Pakistan earthquake victims.

So far, pupils have collected over £70 from friends and staff. The raffle for this appeal will take place very soon and details will be in the next newsletter.

We are often visited by charity speakers during assembly and the Middle School will be involved in many more charity projects over the coming months.

## Pupil Achievements

There have been many achievements by R12 and R13 pupils over the past few months, both in and out of school.

Kelly Link R12C has recently received a certificate from Cwmpas Theatre for public speaking and stage make-up.

Ying-Lun Teng R12C achieved joint first place in the Welsh under-13 Chess Championships.

Alessandro Calliva R12C completed a successful trial for Cardiff Football Representatives.

Michael Prentice R12C completed a successful trial with Blackburn Rovers Football Club.

Jamie Griffiths R12W came second in the Division Four Junior category of the European Championships for Line Dancing.

Hannah Blyth R12W won second place in her ski school on a recent family holiday.

Isobel Thomas R12W took part in the Cardiff Orchestra and Choir Concert at the Festival Hall on 15th March 2006.

Marysia Thompson R13P is a regular player for the Cardiff and Vale netball team and Welsh Cricket under-13 team.

Kieran Amin R13P plays county cricket for Cardiff and Vale and is half way through trials for the Welsh team.

Toby Hunt R13P regularly plays golf for Wales and Gwent Academy.

The R13 netball team (Chloe Williams R13P, Sophie Regan R13P, Marysia Thompson R13P, Taylor Micallef R13P, Rebecca Dixon R13P, Jivan Bhogal R13C, Harriet Stone R13P, Sophie Lewis R13C, Katie Westlake R13C) came third in the Cardiff and Vale netball finals on Wednesday 29th March.

The R13 cricket team (Kieran Amin R13P, Robin Price R13C, Mike Howe R13C, Tom Jones R13H, Joshua Tindal R13H, Abhinav Gandhi R13P, Toby Hunt R13P, Tom Slocombe R13P) came third overall in a cricket festival held at Sophia Gardens on Thursday 26th February.

Well done everyone!

## School Council

A school council involving pupils from R8 to R13 has recently been appointed. Each form voted two representatives to join the council and council members elected Rory Morrison

R12W chairperson, Rebecca Stevens R11L vice chair person and Michael Newman R12T secretary. Council meetings are held on a Monday morning with Mrs Peruffo and Mrs Brown as the link teachers.

Over the coming months the council will be involved in many tasks, including helping to evaluate teaching strategies preferred by pupils.

Members of the council will be playing a vital role in communication between pupils and staff and will be actively aiding the decision making process in the school.

## Press Pack Club

Many pupils in R12 and R13 have joined the Press Pack Club which meets every Thursday lunchtime with Miss Weaver to research, collate and edit articles for a pupil newspaper. Pupils can expect to enjoy the first copy of the paper after the Easter holidays.

## Merit System

Mrs Crowley-Davies has recently revamped the middle school merit system.

Pupils have now received merit cards in their house colours: blue for De La Salle, yellow for St Davids, red for Mostyn and purple for Bute. These cards should be secured into homework diaries so that pupils have them at all times.

Merit points achieved by pupils will contribute to their house points total. When pupils achieve 20 merits they will be awarded a certificate, as well as having the opportunity to work towards small prizes such as cinema vouchers and book tokens.

At the end of the year,

points will be totalled for each house and the results posted on the new merit notice board in the front corridor.

## Careers Days

Miss Rowlands has organised two Careers Days for R12 and R13 pupils. These will take place in the summer term and will give pupils the opportunity to practise their interpersonal skills, as well as providing them with information and ideas for future careers.

The R12 Careers Day will take place on Thursday 27th April and the R13 Careers Day will take place on Thursday 11th May. Both days promise to be packed with exciting activities such as 'you shall go to the ball' and 'spaghetti tower' designed to develop pupils' communication and team-building qualities.

See the next newsletter for a report on the Careers Days.

## Homework Diary Reminder

Please could you ensure that you check and sign your child's homework diary at the end of each week. These are checked in form periods and countersigned by the form tutor. If you have any concerns about homework please do not hesitate to contact your son's or daughter's tutor, or write a short note in their homework diary.

Finally, we wish you all a very happy Easter holiday.

*From all the teachers in the Middle School.*