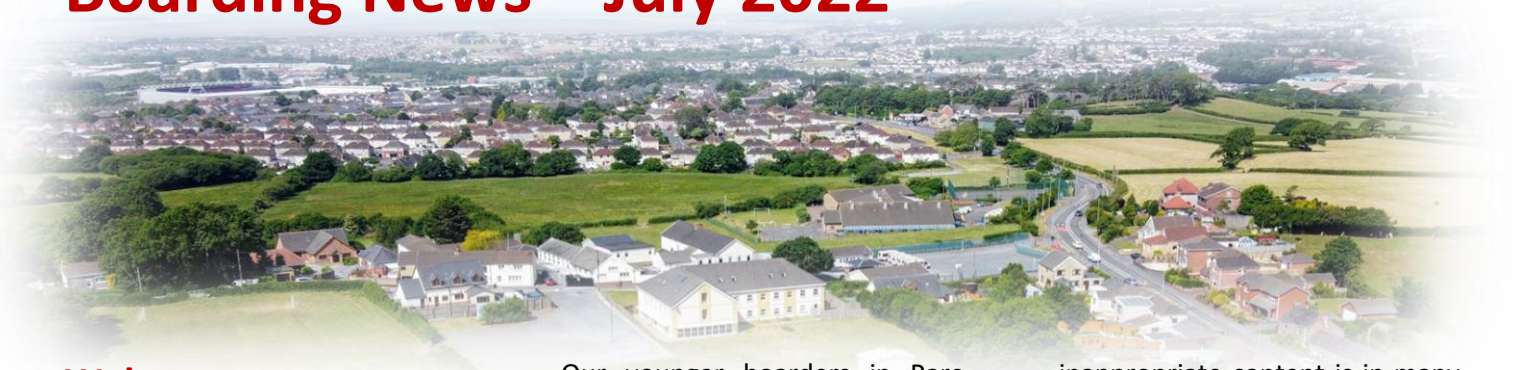




Boarding News – July 2022



Welcome to the July edition of Boarding News, the last of the 2021-2022 school year.

School and life in general is back to normal and almost everyone is getting ready to leave for the summer (or have already left).

External (and internal) exams are complete, and it has been wonderful to see boarders revising with each other before exams – a real benefit of being in a boarding environment.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Parc House Year 10's to Tenby House in September alongside a large number of new Year 12's, 10's and younger students joining us from around the world including students from Israel, Japan, South Korea, and Malaysia.



Electronic devices Can I take this opportunity to remind you of our rules regarding the use of electronic devices (phone / laptop / tablet) in boarding at St. Mike's.



Our younger boarders in Parc House (Year 7 and 8) hand in their devices before bedtime on school nights and at the weekend. Our older boarders (Year 9 and 10) hand in devices on school nights, but on condition of good behaviour, grades and effort scores, can keep devices in their rooms on Friday and Saturday nights.

To prepare our Tenby House students (Year 11-13) for unsupervised life at university, they are permitted to keep devices in their room again on condition again of good behaviour, grades and effort scores.

I strongly suggest that all parents of returning students take the opportunity to use features such as Screentime (iOS) and FamilyTime (Android) to monitor device use remotely. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, a number of parents of both day and boarding students have this set up to restrict unsuitable content and control access to social media and games.

The school has a strong firewall to protect all students from inappropriate content, but we cannot control what students of all ages are accessing if they have a data package on their phone.

At a recent conference I attended, an expert in e-safety highlighted how highly

inappropriate content is in many cases, just one click away and strongly recommended that all families of school-age children use features such as Screentime and suggested simple things like device free mealtimes (practiced in both Parc and Tenby House) to limit the time children spend on their devices.

Medication We have a well equipped medical room at St. Mike's with a good supply of over the counter medication including but not limited to paracetamol, ibuprofen and anti-allergy tablets.



Unless your child has specific medication (**that we must be informed about**), there is little need to send over any other medication. We understand that some of you will want to, so ask that we are informed beforehand and that any medication not in English, is accompanied with a full translation.

With the exception of a small amount of vitamin tablets if needed, **boarders must not have any medication in their room.** This, like every year, will be reinforced in September and if during random room searches,

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medicine is found, serious consequences will apply and will in most cases be dealt with by the Headmaster.

If unsure about what is or is not permitted, play it safe and let me know before your child arrives at school. Thank you for your support.

May half-term holiday

Another busy half-term thanks to the efforts of Mr Jenkins.

Activities included archery, cycling, horse riding and a visit the local heritage centre and cinema evening.



Saturday Park Runs

Park Run continues each Saturday morning at 9:00. A small but dedicated group of students drag themselves out of bed early to run a 5K along the Llanelli waterfront. Everyone has seen their times improve and we meet up with members of the school catering and maintenance teams who also compete.

Percy has (unsuccessfully) tried to beat my time all year, and below you can see Percy, Ebrima and Ryan all trying in vain to catch me.

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We will lose many of our Year 13 runners next year, so I'm hoping that others from both houses will fill the spaces they leave behind.

Year 8 & 9 Fieldwork

Year 8 and 9 boarders joined me and Mrs Prickett (Head of Geography) for rivers and coasts fieldwork on the Gower Peninsula. The weather was glorious and they learnt a lot about collecting data in the field.



Community Some of our boarders are active members of the local community and this is something we encourage and promote.

Leeroy plays for a local football team (top scorer this season), Success plays for a local lady's football team, and some of our Parc House students volunteer their time to help set up and take down Saturday fairs at the local community centre. We are hoping to get more involved with local groups, charities, and schools next year as I have a good relationship with the local county councillor.



Llangennech AFC
The Askus Home Improvements Reserves Top Scorer is Leeroy Bakasa.

Platinum Jubilee Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Platinum Jubilee in early June and became more recently the world's second longest reigning monarch (first if you count active service).



Our catering team were keen to celebrate this achievement with a 'street party' lunch over the bank holiday weekend and invited both houses to enjoy it. Ebrima, Tega, Success and Sophie were a great help in setting up the tables and the catering team went all out to prepare a delicious assortment of food including the specially commissioned 'jubilee pudding'.





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Drama and Art. Many other boarders won subject prizes or were recognised for their GCSE, A-level and effort success.



Returning alumni It's always a pleasure to welcome back our old boarders back to St. Mike's. At the end of June, Reece and Sophia (2020) who are studying at UCL and Imperial respectively, spent the day at Tenby House, met up with old friends and teachers and gave talks to Year 12 students considering degree courses in electronic engineering and biomedical sciences.



Prize Giving Boarders were well represented at this year's Prize Giving Ceremony. Pictured below are Success and Precious with their Leadership in Boarding and Young Boarder's awards, Minas receiving his Outstanding GCSE's award, and Bowen and Onyinye collecting awards for





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As has become a tradition now, Year 13 were treated to a dinner in Swansea towards the end of June where they shared their final thoughts on the school and boarding.



international travel will in 2022-2023 get back to normal.

All the very best,

*Dan Dorrington
Head of Boarding*

End of term During the last meeting of the year with both houses, it was lovely to recognise the hard work of our boarders. I averaged out the effort scores of all in each of the five reporting periods of the year to date and congratulated the following students who had the top effort scores for their respective years:

- Year 13 – Percy
- Year 12 – Xhoia
- Year 11 – Ian
- Year 10 – Onyinye
- Years 7-9 – Precious

Almost all of our boarders have excellent effort scores throughout the year and this is something I will continue to monitor next year. Those that work hard are rewarded with enhanced privileges and those that don't find themselves under tighter restrictions.

Mr Tanner set up a lovely end-of-year activity for Parc House students whereby they were encouraged to write a positive note to one of their housemates. Over 180 notes were posted and sorted into individual envelopes designed by Kayleigh.



Covid concerns for those flying back to Hong Kong meant a few were missing, but it was nice to hear again this year that our boarders would choose St. Mike's if they had the choice again.

Goodbye Mr Tanner It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Tanner, our resident houseparent at Parc House this month.

Mr Tanner joined us in March 2021 and leaves us for new experiences overseas. He has enjoyed his time with our boarders in both houses and will miss those he has got to know well. We wish him all the best in his new adventures.

We are actively recruiting for a replacement and have a couple of teaching staff who have expressed an interest in boarding, so I'm looking forward to seeing the boarding team grow next year.

And finally, my I take this opportunity to wish you all a great summer. Most of you will have your children at home, some for the first time this school year! Some I know are still constrained by covid restrictions and I'm hopeful that

May & June photos

Success and Elan discovering the 'joys' of Ikea furniture building:



A fantastic day out Pen Y Fan – South Wales's highest peak with Mr Jenkins (PE), Ms Gates (Physics), and Mr Tanner:





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Parc House day out at Heatherton adventure park:



FA Cup final evening:



Year 13 leaving day:



Big screen games night at Parc House:





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Musical performance at the Brangwyn Hall in Swansea:



Squash at the local leisure centre:



After-school athletics:



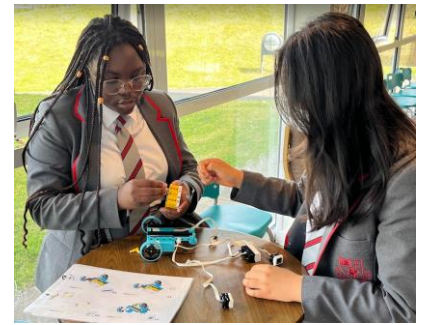
After-school rounders and volleyball:



Lots of group revision in the lead-up and during GCSE and A-level exams:



Technocamps visit from Swansea University students:



Stand-up Paddleboarding at North Dock:

