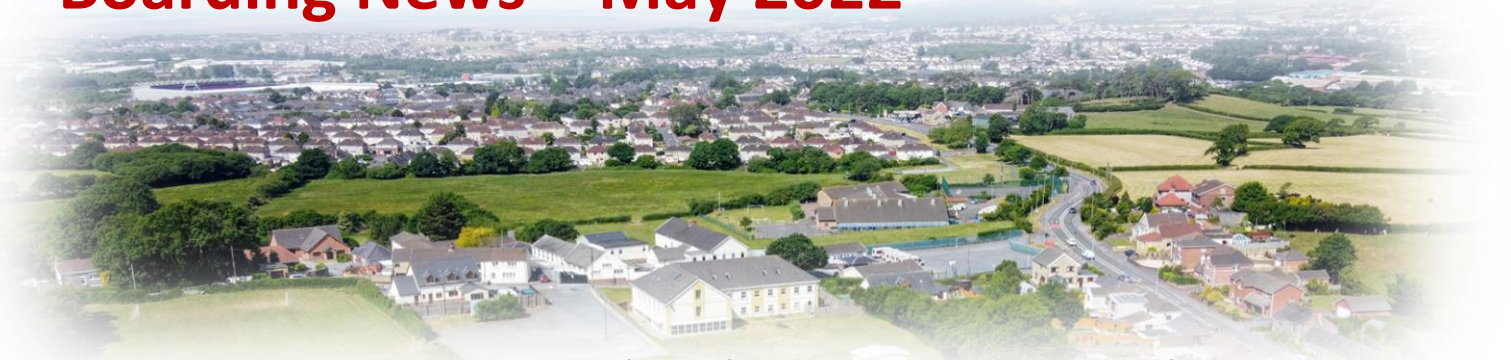


Boarding News – May 2022



Welcome to the May edition of Boarding News.

The end of the school year is fast approaching and it is only a matter of days now before our Year 11-13 boarders start their study leave. This is a period where being a boarder pays dividends as students have the option of forming study groups, learning from each other and those particularly gifted in different subject areas.



It is important however that our boarders balance their study time with exercise and some down-time, and we will continue to arrange and promote activities after school and at the weekend to encourage this.

Summer flights The summer term is a short term and I have started to collect information regarding summer travel arrangements.



As a family of schools, we have been asked to collect this information as quickly as possible to make arrangements to provide alternative accommodation if the need arises.

Boarders have been asked to submit their exeat forms for the summer holiday as soon as possible so that airport transfers can be arranged in good time. Like in previous years, **I am unable to make these transport bookings without flight confirmation emails/screenshots. I will also need information regarding the return flight in September for those returning to school.** Please ensure that you email this information to me (boarding@stmikes.co.uk) as soon as you have it.

Please encourage your child to talk to others about travel plans so that where possible, students can travel together to save transport costs.

Email addresses It has come to our attention that a small number of boarders have access to their parent email addresses that were provided when your child enrolled at the school.

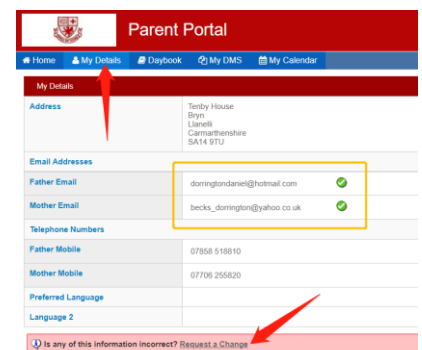
Like all schools, we rely on e-mail to pass on both positive news (House Points) and concerns (consequence notices) to parents and in boarding in particular, for

approval for high-risk activities or permission to leave campus for extended periods of time.

I understand the challenges that language barriers pose when communicating back and forth (I spent 7 years in China regretting not learning some Mandarin in my first year when I had the time), but Mr Ferrari has asked me to address this with all boarding parents to stress the importance of having a secure email address that your child does not have access to.

Your email address can be checked in the Parent Portal and requests can be made to change this and to prioritise one email address only for school communication if preferred.

We are in the process of combining parent accounts so if you find that you cannot access your account, please let me know and I'll send you new login details.





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Recent highlights Park Runs along the Llanelli sea front on a Saturday morning at 9:00 are growing in numbers – we have 12 out this weekend!



Staff and students are competing with each other for the best times and others are taking part just for fun and some exercise.



Parc House boarders enjoyed a morning out at Plantasia in Swansea recently and an afternoon at the Trampoline Park.



The improving weather means that we're able to get outside between dinner and prep for activities such as rounders.



A new find recently was Penllergaer Woods where we bumped into Mrs Holbrook our Welsh teacher and her new baby.



After-school volleyball at Tenby House led by Success:



And a new volleyball net has arrived at Parc House:



The boys and girls in The Cottage and The Farm continue to impress us with their cooking skills:



Parc House demonstrated their cookie and cake decorating skills for a recent bake sale and by all accounts their efforts were in the highest demand on the morning of the sale:



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Snacks Just a polite request to some parents to limit the amount of snacks being sent to boarding. Students are welcome to keep a small quantity of dry food in their rooms, but some have huge boxes delivered which are difficult to store and can lead to problems with vermin and insects.



We provide three nutritious meals a day and salad is always an accompaniment option. Biscuits and fruit are always out as snacks and occasionally, crisps and chocolate bars are out on the worktops.

Easter opening Over 25 students opted to stay in Tenby House over the Easter holiday as many couldn't get home. It was lovely to receive so many emails of appreciation from parents grateful that staff had given up part of their holiday to help out.

It was a quiet holiday, the common room often deserted as most took the opportunity to study for the upcoming GCSE and A-level exams.

The catering team kept the dining room open and a trial starter of dumplings and won ton were devoured in seconds on Easter Sunday.

The weather was good, and it was nice to spend some of the evenings outdoor playing a range of sports including football,

rounders and volleyball. It was lovely to see some of our older boarders treating our younger ones so nicely during these games.



Birthdays Being away from family is not easy when it is your birthday and in a slight change to what's happened in the past, boarders are now asked to choose a birthday dessert from a list prepared by the catering team.

Happy Birthday is sung in the dining room and everyone benefits from the choice the 'birthday boy/girl' makes. Below, Natapat uncovers the fruit platter that he chose for his birthday dessert:



Upcoming events This weekend we are taking our younger boarders (Year 7-9) to Pen-Y-Fan (the highest peak in South Wales – 886m). The trip is optional for our Year 10's and

Tenby House boarders as they have exams coming up, but we hope a few will sign up to get some benefit of being outdoors.



The following weekend we are planning a trip to Heatherton for a day of activities. Boarders will be given tokens and can choose their own activities.



Please keep in touch with the boarding team at boarding@stmikes.co.uk with any questions, suggestions, or concerns that you may have. We are always happy to chat by video call if easier.

Best regards,

*Dan Dorrington
Head of Boarding*