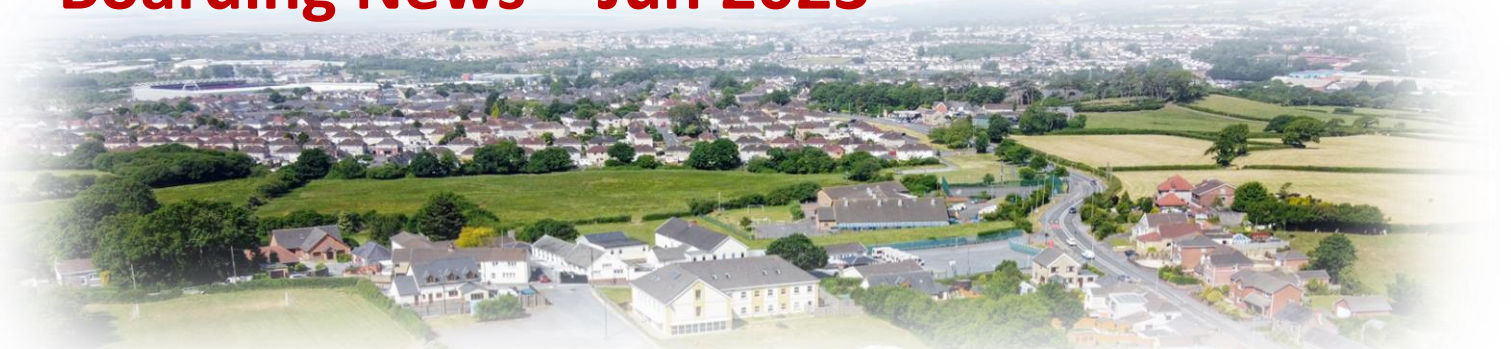
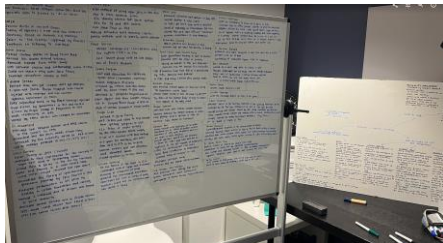


# Boarding News – Jun 2023



**Welcome** to the final newsletter of the 2022-2023 school year. Years 10-13 are currently sitting external examinations and like every year, the benefits of being a boarder are even more evident during these times as our students revise, tackle difficult topics together and support each other.



The summer holiday is fast approaching so please can you send me flight departure and September arrival information (if applicable) as soon as flights are booked. **If your child will be missing more than a day of school, please email the Headmaster's secretary ([jonesa@stmikes.co.uk](mailto:jonesa@stmikes.co.uk)) for approval.**

We look forward to seeing our existing boarders arrive back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you for your support over the year and have a great summer!

**University application help** is always on hand in boarding. Our Year 13's who have gone through the process are happy to help the Year 12's currently applying, and we are fortunate to be able to tap into guidance from St. Mike's alumni studying at some of

the top universities in the UK and around the world.

Our Medic Society run several sessions throughout the year to support those applying for medicine and Mrs Dorrington as you will have seen in the last newsletter is active in inviting those currently at university or in employment to talk about their courses or career.

Below is a group of students considering CUHK, talking online to Percy who graduated from St. Mike's last year and currently studying medicine there.



**Snow day** We experienced some rare snowfall in early March, closing the school for a day due to transport issues.

Our boarders made the most of their day off to play in the snow before it melted:



**Screen time** We are fortunate at St. Mike's that the majority our boarders are not glued to their phones for unhealthy periods of time. Unless there are academic concerns, our older Tenby House boarders are trusted to manage their electronic device time in preparation for university life.

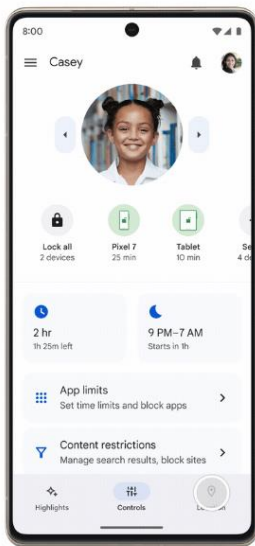


Parc House boarders are not permitted to have any electronic devices in their rooms on school nights (Sunday – Thursday), but our Year 9 and 10 students are

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permitted to have them overnight on Friday and Saturday provided that their academic reports are excellent.

I would like to suggest again that all parents (Parc House parents in particular) investigate using Screentime (iOS) / Family Link (Android) to support us in managing what your child can access and for how long.



A good number of day and boarding parents (including Mrs Dorrington and I) do use this feature and it compliments the safeguards that we have in place like restricted device time and Wi-Fi filtering to protect your child from inappropriate content.

**Easter report awards** As usual, the Easter reports were excellent and it was nice to recognise those students who demonstrated exceptional performance over the half-term period.

Samhat and Kelly W were recognised in the A-level age group, Kayleigh and Onyinye for GCSE's and Lennox and Janina for Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9)

## Basketball in Parc House

Parc House got a basketball upgrade recently – a fixed post basket to replace the portable one that was showing signs of its age.



Tenby House also got an upgrade:



**Eid El Fitr** To celebrate the end of Ramadan, we treated those who had fasted to a meal in a local restaurant. It was interesting to learn more about their faith and their fasting experience.



**Snooker** There was some interest in the recent Snooker World

Championships in Tenby House so I took a group down to Terry Griffiths' (1979 World Champion) snooker hall in Llanelli one evening in April to try playing on a full size table.



**After-school activities** run on Monday's, Wednesday's and Thursday and these are supervised by teaching staff across the school.

During the summer term, we try and get students outdoors as much as possible and tennis and volleyball in particular are well attended.

Debate club has proved popular this year and boarders and day students from Year 7-10 take part. Topics debated this term have included 'should we have the death penalty?'; 'should books be rewritten to reflect today's society?', and 'should we test on animals?'. Mrs Luckman (English) randomly assigns students to opposing camps and they learn valuable skills in attempting to argue a case that they may not agree with.



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## Rewards and Sanctions

are used at St. Mike's to highlight those students that do well and support those who find aspects of school life more challenging.

All of you as parents will have received emails from the school when your child receives a merit (House Point) for excellent work; scoring highly in a test; taking part in a house or sporting competition etc. Each merit carries a +1 score and some of our younger boarders are approaching 200 points which are regularly totalled and added to the House Points total (Merlin or Caradoc Houses).

Merit badges are awarded in assemblies for those that reach 50 (Bronze), 100 (Silver), and 150 (Gold) merits.



Academic effort, performance and behaviour across the school is generally excellent, but consequences are issued to those students who fail to submit homework on time or behave in ways that we don't expect. Consequence 1 (C1) is a warning recorded by teachers, and I am notified along with their Pastoral Leader (Head of Year). Generally, these don't warrant any further action as we recognise that

homework is forgotten occasionally for example. If however I see a pattern emerging, I may have a conversation with the student concerned and may contact home for additional support.

A Consequence 2 (C2) is issued if a second homework is missed during a term or classroom behaviour is disrupting the learning of others and a warning has been issued. These are much rarer in boarding and will almost certainly warrant a conversation with the house parent on duty and as parents, you are notified by email when the teacher records the incident. A written piece of reflective work must be completed and submitted to the teacher the day after a C2 is issued.

There are Consequence 3, 4 and 5's for more serious behaviour incidents, but these are very rarely used and would involve the Pastoral Leader, Mrs Francis, and Mr Ferrari respectively.

It is worth highlighting here that across the senior school (320+ students), over 21,000 merit points have been issued this academic year.

Special mentions here go to Inas, Lennox, Precious and Esther who are approaching or have passed 150 merits this year (Gold) 😊.

## May half-term holiday highlights:

Quiz night in Tenby House:



Water fight at Parc House:



Parc and Tenby laser tag and picnic:



Vegetables planted at Parc House:





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Volleyball at Parc House:



Parc and Tenby House kite festival at Margam Park:



Foot golf in Swansea:



Day trip to Heatherton:



Quiz night in Parc House:



Pictionary in Tenby House:



Saturday morning bike ride to Mumbles:





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## Summer term highlights:

14 entries for the Tenby House pool competition. Ming beat Daniel in the final:



Parc House tried out the new bowling lanes in Llanelli and a group had a go at electronic darts:



Parc House volleyball competition involved 4 teams of 4 and was won by Janina, Precious, Timileyin and Ahmed:



Tenby House pizza and quiz night:



May afternoon paddle boarding and on the beach in Llanelli



Gardening team in Parc House preparing for planting:



Ninja warrior in Swansea:





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Water balloons at Parc House



Lots of netball:



Tennis at Llanelli Tennis Club:



Les Mills fitness class at Llanelli Leisure Centre:



Marshmallow roasting:



Parc House paddle boarding and beach afternoon:

Tenby and Parc House rounders:



Year 13 in their 'Leavers' hoodies:

