



# Boarding News – Mar 2023

**Welcome** to the first newsletter from boarding at St. Mike's for 2023.

The Christmas holiday seems a very long time ago as we approach the Easter break, but it has been nice to hear how much our international students enjoyed a slightly longer holiday than normal over December and January. I hope that you enjoyed your time together as a family if your child was at home, enjoyed the UK if you spent the holiday here - despite the train strikes, and didn't miss your child too much if they were unable to travel home.

The upcoming Easter holiday is an important one for our older students to use to consolidate their learning in preparation for the external exams (alongside a little time to recharge and relax).

A reminder to inform Mr Ferrari through his PA, Mrs Jones ([jonesa@stmikes.co.uk](mailto:jonesa@stmikes.co.uk)) if you would like your child to miss anymore than a day of school to travel home early. For those boarders in Year 11 and Year 13, summer flights can be booked after their last exam – please confirm this with your child. For those in Year 12, teachers start the Year 13 syllabus after external exams have finished so students are expected to be in school until as close to the end of term as possible.

## Foodbank volunteers

Most Friday evenings, up to 16 of our boarders forego an evening of relaxation/socialising to help those less fortunate at the local foodbank. Here they help sort through donated food so that it can be distributed to those in need. They pay for their own transport to and from the Foodbank and feedback from the staff there has been very positive.

As a school we now collect food donations every term and it is great that our boarders have helped strengthen our links with this worthwhile organisation.



**Christmas reports** Our boarders as usual performed very well in their December end-of-term examinations and this was reflected in some excellent Christmas reports.

It was lovely to be able to acknowledge and reward the following students for exceptional grade and effort scores:

- Minas – highest grade average in Y12/13
- Kelly W – highest average effort score in Y12/13

- Onyinye – joint highest grade average and effort score in Y10/11
- Precious – joint highest average grade score in Y10/11
- Janina – highest grade average and effort score in Y7-9

The following students deserve a mention for excellent reports – Kayleigh – Y11, Samhat – Y13, Zahee – Y13, Lennox – Y9 and Tammy – Y13.

Teachers set a target for the term in all subjects and boarders have been reminded to act on these to reach their potential.

**Skiing** A small number of our boarders had a great time skiing with the school in France during the first week of the Christmas holiday.

Mrs Dorrington, Ms Fiona and I looked after almost 40 senior students in one hotel and it was lovely to hear the hotel staff comment on how well behaved and respectful our students were – the best they'd come across in 20 years!

No broken bones and no students lost up in the mountains, so a good trip!

Boarding students are encouraged to sign up to all school trips, but parents are kindly asked to arrange visas etc if required.



# Boarding News – Mar 2022



**Boarding reps** are the voice of their peers and meet with me at least once every half-term and we are joined by Mr Ferrari and Mrs Francis for every

other meeting. During these meetings, reps convey suggestions from their year group. Minutes are taken and feedback is given quickly. Where possible, sensible suggestions are acted upon and if not, the rationale for why something cannot happen, or change is given.

As numbers are smaller, I meet with Parc House boarders as a group every two weeks and again this is an opportunity to make suggestions and requests.

There are suggestion boxes in both houses for students to post ideas and suggestions anonymously.

**Work experience** A few of our boarders have taken advantage of school connections to get some worthwhile work experience. Samhat spent a productive week at the Milford Haven LNG terminal during the October half-term break last year using a parent contact facilitated by Mr Ferrari.



Serene and Onyinye have both spent some Friday's this term with a local dentist, getting first hand experience of the role before committing to a future in this field.

**Careers talks** Mrs Dorrington has been busy arranging careers talks for students interested in a range of industries. Boarders have been represented in all talks – law, veterinary science, civil engineering, chemical engineering and the police force. As a school, we are very

successful in getting our students into top medical schools, but a good number of our graduates each year go on to study a range of subjects at top universities. These career talks give our students some ideas on pathways that they can take pre and post university.



**Charity cycle ride** A large group of boarders from both houses took part in a charity cycle ride in and around Swansea along the cycle path in January. They were treated to a lunch and had a boat trip as part of the experience.

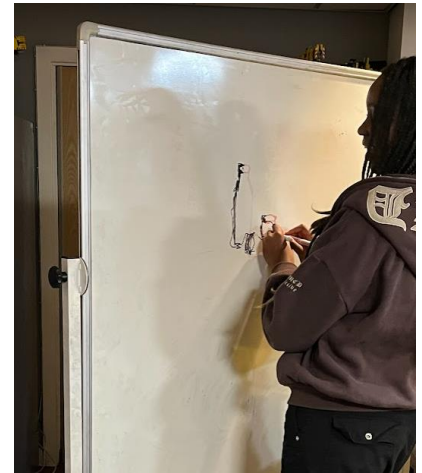




# Boarding News – Mar 2022



**Talent Show** Our Christmas talent show attracted a variety of acts from Rubik Cube solving to musical performances. Acts were interspersed with the Tenby House Secret Santa present giving.



## Christmas Concert

Boarders were well represented in our Christmas concert before the end of the winter term. We had some wonderful performances to get everyone into the mood for Christmas and parents and staff filled the venue and enjoyed the evening.







# Boarding News – Mar 2022



## Hospital volunteering

Kelly W in Year 13 has been instrumental in developing our links with the local hospital who are looking for volunteers to support various departments across the hospital.



With support from Mrs Dorrington, Kelly invited a representative to speak to a number of interested students about the volunteer scheme that they have in place and we hope that many will start this worthwhile journey soon.

## Kayleigh's Christmas

**Cards** Kayleigh designed and printed her own Christmas cards and bookmarks before the Christmas holiday, selling them across the school in aid of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. She incorporated some very clever design work and has printed enough to sell for each year for the next few Christmas's.



## Term 2 highlights.....

Monday evening football at the leisure centre:



Parc House visit to the National Botanical Garden of Wales:



Weekend breakfast treats:



Mario kart competition in Tenby House:



Doubles pool competition in Parc House:



Farm visit:





# Boarding News – Mar 2022



Boarders heading off to Valencia over February half-term:



3D printing in Tenby House:



Taste-testing in Parc and Tenby House (Mars vs Tesco):



Quiz night in Tenby and Parc House:



New Escape Rooms in Carmarthen:



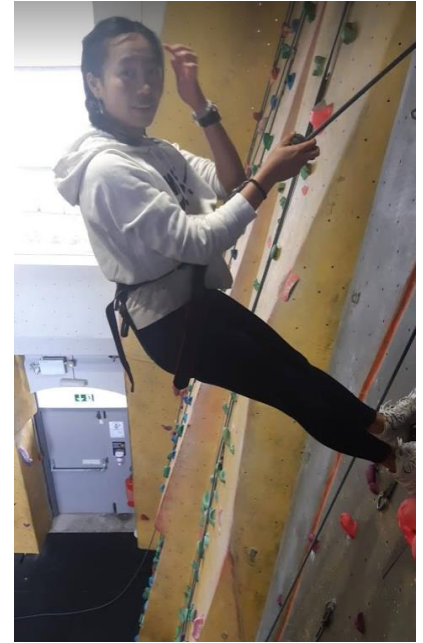
International Day 2023:



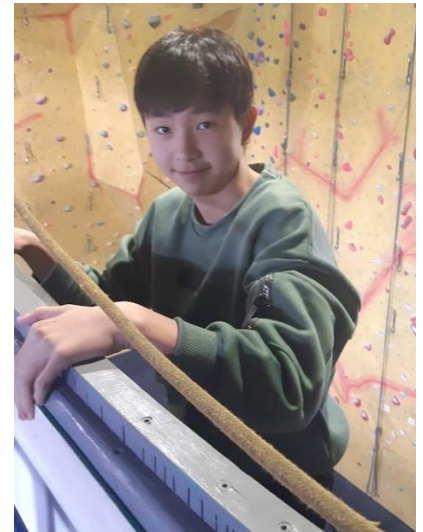




# Boarding News – Mar 2022



A selection of February half-term activities:





# Boarding News – Mar 2022

