



Boarding News – Oct 2023



Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2023-2024 academic year.

17 new boarders joined us in early September and have settled in well. As usual, they were made to feel welcome very quickly by our existing boarders who arrived the day after. Mrs Dorrington arranged a number of get-to-know-you games during the first evening all together which meant that everyone knew each other's names by the first day of school.

It was lovely to see so many parents and guardians coming to Llanelli this year after the covid-years. Many stayed a few days before and after the start of school to explore the local area in unusually warm and sunny September weather.

As the majority of our new boarders join us in Year 12, Mrs Prickett and I hosted a team-building day on the first day of school for this year group. Groups were mixed-up throughout the day; prizes were awarded and everyone seemed to enjoy and benefit from the day.



At the end of the first day of school, I met with all boarders and we went through the important procedures and rules we have in both boarding houses to ensure that everyone is able to live in harmony and safely. All staff and boarders had dinner together afterwards in Tenby House.



New boarders are now all registered with the local doctor, those that wanted to have opened bank accounts and gym memberships have started and proved very popular again this year.

Mrs Dorrington and I have met individually with all the new boarders and will meet with everyone at some point before the Christmas holiday.

Local and airport trips We are fortunate to have strong relationships with Trish Taxi who meet the needs of our boarders for

local journeys and AC Jenkins of Swansea who help transport boarders to and from airports.

Trish, her husband John and her daughter Sam all know our boarders by name and form such good relationships with them that when our Year 13's left this June, each was given a small gift by Trish.



I work closely with AC Jenkins at various times of the year to ensure that boarders arrive and are collected from airports at the correct time. They have a large fleet of vehicles and are normally able to adjust to delays etc quickly and without additional charges.



There are many advantages of being a school in a semi-rural area, but distance from London airports is not one of them. To help minimise transport costs, I regularly share flights that boarders have booked so that students can arrange flights at similar times and share transport to and from the airport. There is a large group of Hong Kong students every holiday that manage to coordinate flights and we're able to



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use a minibus and trailer to get everyone to and from the airport at low cost.

Thu 07/12/2023	17:40	LHR	5	BA31
Thu 07/12/2023	21:10	LHR	4	CZ304
Thu 07/12/2023	11:00	LHR	4	VN0050
Thu 07/12/2023	17:50	LHR	3	CX250
Thu 07/12/2023	17:40	LHR	5	BA31
Thu 07/12/2023	17:40	LHR	5	BA31
Fri 08/12/2023	22:05	LHR	3	CX254
Fri 08/12/2023	10:55	LHR	2	SQ317
Fri 08/12/2023	17:50	LHR	3	CX250
Fri 08/12/2023	20:45	LHR	5	BA27
Fri 08/12/2023	17:30	LHR	2	LH915

An increasing number are using the train and bus service to travel to and from Heathrow Airport and while we would prefer students to use a private transfer like AC Jenkins, train and bus journeys are sometimes a cheaper option although there is a higher chance of delay and disruption.

It is important to highlight here again that unlike many UK boarding schools, we have no exeat weekends and don't close for the half-term holidays. Most boarders opt to stay, and this reduces transport and home-stay costs significantly.

Deposit refunds A reminder to current Year 13 parents that you need to apply for the return of your deposit at the end of your child's time at the school. The best time to do this is towards the end of October after the June they leave (contact the CATS finance team). This allows time for luggage and boxes to be shipped to their university and the cost to be deducted from the deposit before the final balance can be returned.

Parents' evening In a change to last year, there will be an opportunity to meet with your child's teachers at the end of this term (8th December). More details to follow, but please take advantage of this opportunity to find out how

your child is doing and get to know their teachers.

Though it would be wonderful for teachers to speak to you face-to-face, we hope that this will be a better format and at a more convenient time for the majority of our parents.

Extracurricular activities

It is not difficult to fill pages of my newsletters with pictures of activities that our boarders take part in on a weekly basis.

Existing parents will know that Saturday activities are compulsory for our younger boarders in Parc House, but Tenby House boarders are encouraged to get involved if there is space. There are afterschool activities every day of the week and these change every half-term. Parc House boarders take part in three activities a week (Mon/Weds/Thurs) and have the option to sign up for activities on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Whilst these activities are not compulsory for Tenby House boarders, they are welcome to join in or help staff run them, and some do which is great.

There are plenty of things for your child to get involved in throughout the week at St. Mike's and I would welcome your support in encouraging your child to get involved in as many as possible. Almost all of Tenby House are members of the local gym and are expected to attend 2-3 times per week, but if they play an instrument, they would be very welcome at our weekly orchestra. If they enjoy sport, there are plenty of school and local teams to join.

Almost all in Year 10 and 11 sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and they must complete skill, service and physical recreation

elements to achieve the award. These should be done weekly, and an hour spent on each.



Look for your child in the following photos. If you don't see them, it may be worth asking them why they're not making the most of being a boarder when you speak to them next.

First term highlights

Regular mahjong games:



Afternoon at St Elli's beach and ice cream:





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One of many role-play games hosted by Karina:



A game of Suspend in Tenby House:



Trying out Kubb at Tenby House:



Parc House gym induction:



Afterschool football:



Kristy (2021) visits her cousins:



Regular volleyball games:



Water fight at Parc House:



Marshmallow roasting:



Crazy golf and Aberavon beach with Parc House:





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Pirate Bingo evening at Tenby:



Board and card games:



Parc House baking for the MacMillian Coffee Morning:



Table football at Parc House:



Saturday morning and Friday evening badminton:



Video game night at Parc:



Tenby House walk and coffee and cake near Pontarddulais:





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Tenby House baking for the MacMillian Coffee Morning:



'Model your head' evening in Tenby House:



Trying out the new pull-up bar in Parc House:



Origami evening in Tenby:



Afternoon at Burry Port with Parc and Tenby House:



Rice paper snacks at Parc House:



Mid-autumn festival celebrations:

