

St Teilo's Church-in-Wales High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Teilo Sant

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Dear Parents,

As September dawns we see the beginning of a new school year and the dawning of a period of change and transition. We have an exciting year ahead with more students than ever starting their high school education in Year 7 at St Teilo's. We are celebrating the fact that 72% of Year 11 students gained at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C, when their combined target was 66%. Our 6th form students gained higher numbers of A-C grades at AS and A*-C grades at A2 than we have seen in the last few years. Our first cohort of students studying for the Welsh Baccalaureate at Advanced Level was extremely successful, with all those entered for the qualification, bar one, attaining the qualification.

We are celebrating the fact that planning permission for the new school was granted in August and actual work will begin early in the new year. This term will be an important opportunity for students and families to be involved in the design of the internal and external spaces in the school.

We are also coping with the unexpected! As a result of circumstances beyond the control of anyone at the school, work was not completed on three new double classrooms by the beginning of September. This work will be completed by October half-term (or earlier) and there will be three brand new double classrooms on site. Meanwhile emergency classrooms are located on the Lower Yard. In assembly gatherings with each year-group the health and safety and access arrangements for the school site have been explained. We expect our students to display "Education with Care" in the way they behave towards each other and adults on the school site so that we have a smooth beginning to the new school year.

We also look forward to celebrating the achievements of our new Year 10 and 11 and 6th form students during the coming year. I look forward to meeting you at school events and parents' and carers' consultation evenings.

During 2010 the school prioritised "Healthy Living" as an initiative. We can now report that as a result of immense enthusiasm and hard work from students of all ages and the staff, St Teilo's has been awarded the Healthy School Award which is accredited by the Welsh Government. This is in addition to the "Active Marc Cymru" award for PE. These awards demonstrate well deserved recognition for all concerned.

The Governors and staff are determined to strive for the highest standards. We therefore ask you to sustain our partnership regarding our *Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy* and ensuring the highest standards of appearance, school uniform for all students. Our uniform is available via the Prospectus, Planner and website. I wrote to parents in February 2011 reminding everyone of the essentials of school uniform.

- *Black trainers and canvas shoes are not allowed*
- *Facial piercings are not allowed (just one small stud in each ear)*

- *Only clear nail varnish may be worn*
- *Heavy makeup is not permitted (we ask for a 'natural' look)*
- *Girls' trousers must be classic, tailored trousers (not skinny or flared)*
- *Coats and scarves must be plain and dark, without adornments*
- *Hooded tops are not allowed.*

Staff have already expressed concern to me about the number of students who have missed the important induction period for the new school year as a result of taking holidays in term-time. This also applies to a substantial number of Year 7 students. Our new Attendance Officer, Mrs K. Evans and all Directors of Study will be monitoring attendance closely. We ask that no holidays are taken in term time and that any exceptional requests are clearly explained to the staff with oversight for your child's year-group.

Some dates for your diary :

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| 14 th September at 6pm : | Year 12 Parents' and Students' Information Evening : Bridging the Gap |
| 21 st September at 6pm : | Year 13 UCAS Evening |
| 22 nd September at 6pm : | Friends of St Teilo's (FOST) New Parents' Evening |
| 29 th September 6.30-8pm : | FOST Disco for new Year 7 |
| 21 st October : | Staff INSET (school closed; end of half-term) |
| 24 th -28 th October : | half-term |
| 31 st October : | Staff INSET (school closed) |
| 20 th December : | end of Autumn term |
| 4 th January 2012 : | first day of spring term. |

Further INSET days (to be confirmed)

February 10th

May 3rd

July 6th

I close with some words from a prayer that has been used in many of the early worship sessions this term :

Loving God thank you for the gift of this new school year. We know that you will be present with us during every moment of this new year.

Help us to be aware of you when we are doing things we planned to do and when things happen unexpectedly.

Help us to be aware of you in the people we meet and the conversations we share.

Help us to be aware of you when things go well and when they become difficult.

Throughout this new year help us to be aware of your presence, ready to use our precious time wisely, to be ready to hear your voice guiding us into the future and to be sustained by your love and protection, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

May God bless you all,



B J WALKER
HEADTEACHER