



2015 Edition

# CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Winner of the ACCAC/HSBC Award 2002  
for the most improved school in Wales

## WINTER NEWSLETTER

### *Dear Parents and Carers*

The end of term is almost upon us and staff and pupils, alike, are looking forward to time with their families over the Christmas period. It has been an extremely long term and everybody deserves a really good rest!

I mentioned in a letter to you earlier in the year that I was wondering where last year's GCSE results would place us in the context of Wales. After a few re-marks that went our way, our 'Level 2 Plus' (the percentage of pupils gaining 5 A\*-C including English and Maths) ended up at 83.4%. Only four other schools in the whole of Wales reached a higher percentage, placing us 5<sup>th</sup> out of 214 schools. I am sure that everybody would agree that these were marvellous results and a fitting reflection of the incredibly hard work done by all staff, pupils and parents. It was truly a team effort. The gauntlet has, of course, been thrown down, challenging our current Year 11 to do even better! Signs are looking good but there is, naturally, much to do. If you would like to look at the data in more detail, it has just been published on the 'Mylocalschools' website.

Attendance also continues to look good, with a level above 96% being reached currently. The advent of Fixed Penalty Notices, has meant that fewer requests have been received for leave of absence. There is more on the impact of poor attendance later on in the newsletter, and there can be no doubt that improved attendance has helped to drive up standards in the school, not least at GCSE.

### **SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

Together we are the body of  
Christ

- In our school community we will
- show our love by helping and forgiving each other
- recognise that everyone is unique and celebrate their differences
- value ourselves, develop our talents and help others to develop theirs
- strive for excellence in everything we do
- grow closer to God in word, in Sacrament and in what we do
- live in partnership with all those around us
- respond to Christ's call to build His kingdom.

The introduction of the biometric system in the canteen has been smooth. Thank you for returning the paperwork so swiftly, though I would encourage you to check on balances regularly since over fifty accounts are currently 'in arrears'.

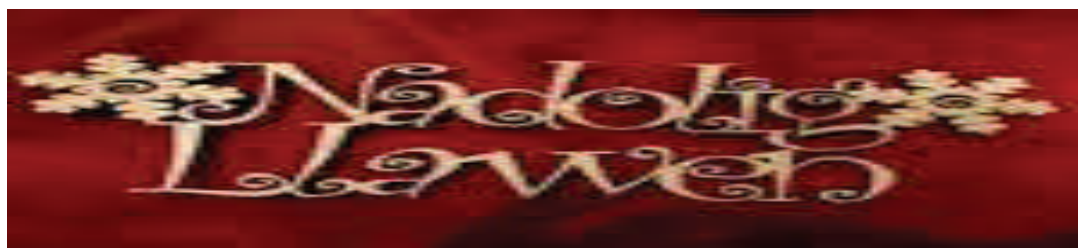
Extra-curricular activities have, as usual, been going on, in tandem with all the work in school. The school show 'Back to the 80's' was a marvellous spectacle of talent and, in the opinion of many, the best show ever staged at Corpus Christi. It is a great pleasure to report that two former Corpus Christi thespians, who learnt their craft here, are starring in professional shows this Christmas. Our very own Gerard Carey is playing 'Lord Farquaad' in 'Shrek' in Cardiff and Shannon Lane is treading the boards in Panto, in Stoke-on-Trent. Read all about them further on in this newsletter. There is no doubt whatsoever that some of our present day stars will, one day, have their names in lights!

Breaking up a little later than many schools in Cardiff means that we do not return until Wednesday 6 January (Week A). Some Year 10 and 11 pupils will, however, be spending part of the last two days in school preparing for the next batch of public examinations. Letters have been sent home, outlining exactly when. The pressure, these days, is unrelenting but proper preparation is, undoubtedly, the key to success.

I would like to thank you all for the help, support and co-operation during the last term, and wish you and your families a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

*Angela Thomas*





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 21st December  
Tuesday 22nd December

Carol Service 7pm  
Carol Service in school.  
Last Day of Term 1.30pm



Follow us on

Twitter

@CorpusChristiHS

Please check the  
school website for  
letters and news-  
letters.

<http://>

[www.corpuschristihs.co.uk/](http://www.corpuschristihs.co.uk/)

Wednesday 6th January  
Wednesday 6th January  
Thursday 7th January  
Tuesday 12th January  
Monday 18th January  
Monday 18th January  
Monday 25th January  
Monday 25th January  
Thursday 1st February  
Monday 1st February

Tuesday 2nd February  
Wednesday 3rd February

Thursday 4th February  
Wednesday 10th February  
Friday 12th February  
Friday 12th February

Monday 22nd February

Back to School

January GCSE exams begin

November GCSE results to pupils

Y9 Options Evening 4pm

Governors' Meeting (Finance & Buildings)

School Council Meetings this week

Governors' Meeting (Admissions)

Year 9 Parents' Evening 4pm

Year 11 Reports

Governors' Meeting (Curriculum & P&P Welfare)

Gym and Dance Evening

Ten Ten Theatre Group (Years 9, 10 and 11)

Y11 Parents' Evening (selected)

Year 7 Parents' Evening 4pm

School Ski Trip

End of Half Term

Back to School

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S  
DIARY REGULARLY AND SIGN  
WEEKLY**





The 2015 Shoe Box Appeal raised over 160 boxes. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Corpus Christi running the appeal and hundreds of boxes have been donated and distributed through the years.

Boxes will go to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine this year. These shoe boxes will brighten up the lives of children in need at Christmas. A big thank you to everyone who donated and a special well done to the YR 10 CoPE group who raised money to buy the decorated boxes by holding a tuck shop.





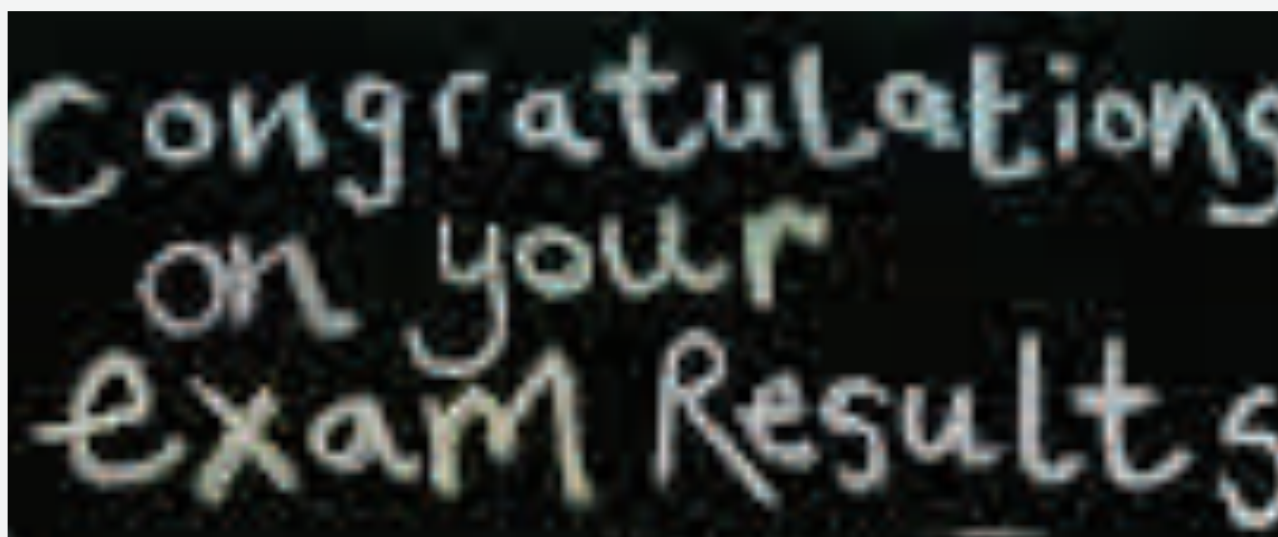


# **A Night of Celebration and Glittering Prizes!**

It was with the greatest pleasure that we welcomed the 'Class of 2015' back to Corpus Christi on 12th November for the Presentation Evening. Almost every past pupil came to receive his or her GCSE certificates. Our guest for the evening, Ms Jo Stevens, MP for Cardiff Central, spoke warmly to each pupil during the presentation.

Every department awarded a subject prize and it was very difficult for members of departments to decide upon one worthy winner when so many pupils did so well last year. But after discussions (and sometimes squabbles!), the decisions were made and the prize winners are listed on the next page.

Congratulations to them all!



|                                        |                                  |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Head Boy                               | Ryan Melhuish                    |
| Head Girl                              | Claudia Perry                    |
| Senior Prefect                         | Tom Evans                        |
| Senior Prefect                         | Emily Brookfield                 |
| Best Prefect (awarded by Yard Digital) | Courtney Shephard                |
| Endeavour Cup                          | Claudia Perry & Aishling Beevers |
| St David's Award                       | Etain Adams                      |
| David Stone Cup                        | Sion Williams                    |
| Drama                                  | Megan Cook                       |
| English Language                       | Patryk Krason                    |
| English Literature                     | Hannah Shields                   |
| French                                 | Michal Oleszuk                   |
| Spanish                                | Sarah Butler                     |
| Art                                    | Sara Amodio                      |
| RE                                     | Natasha Murphy & Joshua Male     |
| Chemistry                              | Masara Jamal                     |
| Physics                                | James Llewellyn                  |
| Biology                                | Nathan Crothers                  |
| Textiles                               | Xyle de la Cruz                  |
| Design & Technology                    | Patrick Hill                     |
| Food & Nutrition                       | Lianne Page                      |
| Child Development                      | Emily Milton                     |
| Boys PE                                | Ben Thomas                       |
| Girls PE                               | Lucy Pattison                    |
| Geography                              | Bethan Barkley                   |
| Mathematics                            | James Caruana & Bennie Nzamba    |
| ICT                                    | Kieran Darmanin                  |
| CiDA                                   | Karl Cuayzon                     |
| Music                                  | Bethany Wooding & Janrey Mosuela |
| Welsh                                  | Michael Bignell                  |
| History                                | Tom Meehan                       |
| BTEC Sport                             | Isla Kimmins & Ethan Price       |
| Performing Arts                        | Sian Hughes                      |
| CoPE                                   | Chloe King                       |
| Core Science                           | Maisie Spicer                    |
| Applied Science                        | Lucy Powell & Sean Cowan         |
| Additional Science                     | Caisel O'Hare                    |



# YEAR 10 & 11 COPE

## TRIP TO BATH

As part of our course Mrs Chidley asked us to plan a day trip looking at the cost, transport, restaurants, places of interest etc. We also had to look at wheelchair access as we had Eve with us.

We decided to go to Bath because it would be a nice place to visit at Christmas time. We all chose to go by train as it would be faster! We caught the train at 9:45am and had reserved seats!

We got into Bath at 10:30 and we went to The Roman Baths for a really interesting tour. After 70 minutes we went to Mc Donald's restaurant where we had an amazing meal!!

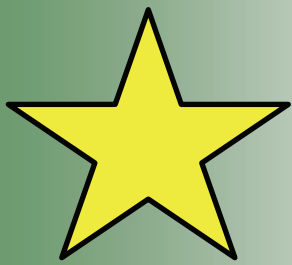
We were then allowed to go shopping in the Christmas market and high street for an hour before catching our train back to Cardiff. Unfortunately the train was packed and we couldn't get to our seats.

It was a best day ever , we couldn't ask for anything better. We would like to give a big massive thank you to Mrs Chidley, Mrs Davies and Mrs Morgan for taking us. Also a big thank you to Mrs Thomas for letting us go!!

Merry Christmas everyone from the Year 10 & 11 CoPE group.







## Past Pupil GERARD CAREY



Gerard Carey who is a past pupil of Corpus Christi is playing LORD FARQUAAD in Shrek which is touring the UK and currently showing in Wales Millennium Centre.



Gerard trained in Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts and has gone on to star in many successful theatre productions and television programmes.

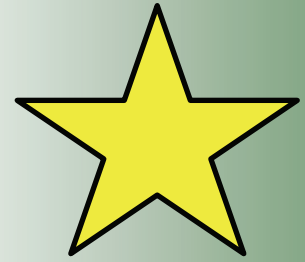
Theatre includes: Dickens Abridged (Arts Theatre), Soho Cinders (Soho Theatre), Master Class (Vaudeville Theatre), Ex (Soho Theatre), Invisible Man (Menier Chocolate Factory), Jack and the Beanstalk (Paul Robeson Theatre), Spamalot (Palace Theatre), Mary Poppins (Bristol Hippodrome and Prince Edward Theatre), Noises Off, His Dark Materials, Peter Pan, The Wizard of Oz, and Alice in Wonderland (Birmingham Rep), The Taming of the Shrew, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Leonardo's Last Supper and High Society (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park).

Television Includes: Torchwood and Lovesoup.

Other work includes: The Merchant of Venice (Naxos Audio).



## Past Pupil SHANNON LANE



Shannon left Corpus Christi a couple of years ago and has been training at the Wilkes Academy for the past 2 and a half years, he is enjoying every single minute of performing! This is no surprise to Corpus Christi as he had a main role in every production he was in and not only enjoyed this but loved his Performing Arts and Drama lessons. In Corpus Christi, Shannon was Kashoggi in *We Will Rock You*, Ren in *Footloose* and Jack in *Disco Inferno*. After his GCSE's Shannon moved to Swindon to study Performing Arts and is currently starring in *Peter Pan* alongside Principal Jonathan Wilkes.

*Peter Pan* is in the Regent Theatre in Stoke on Trent.





# BACK TO THE 80's







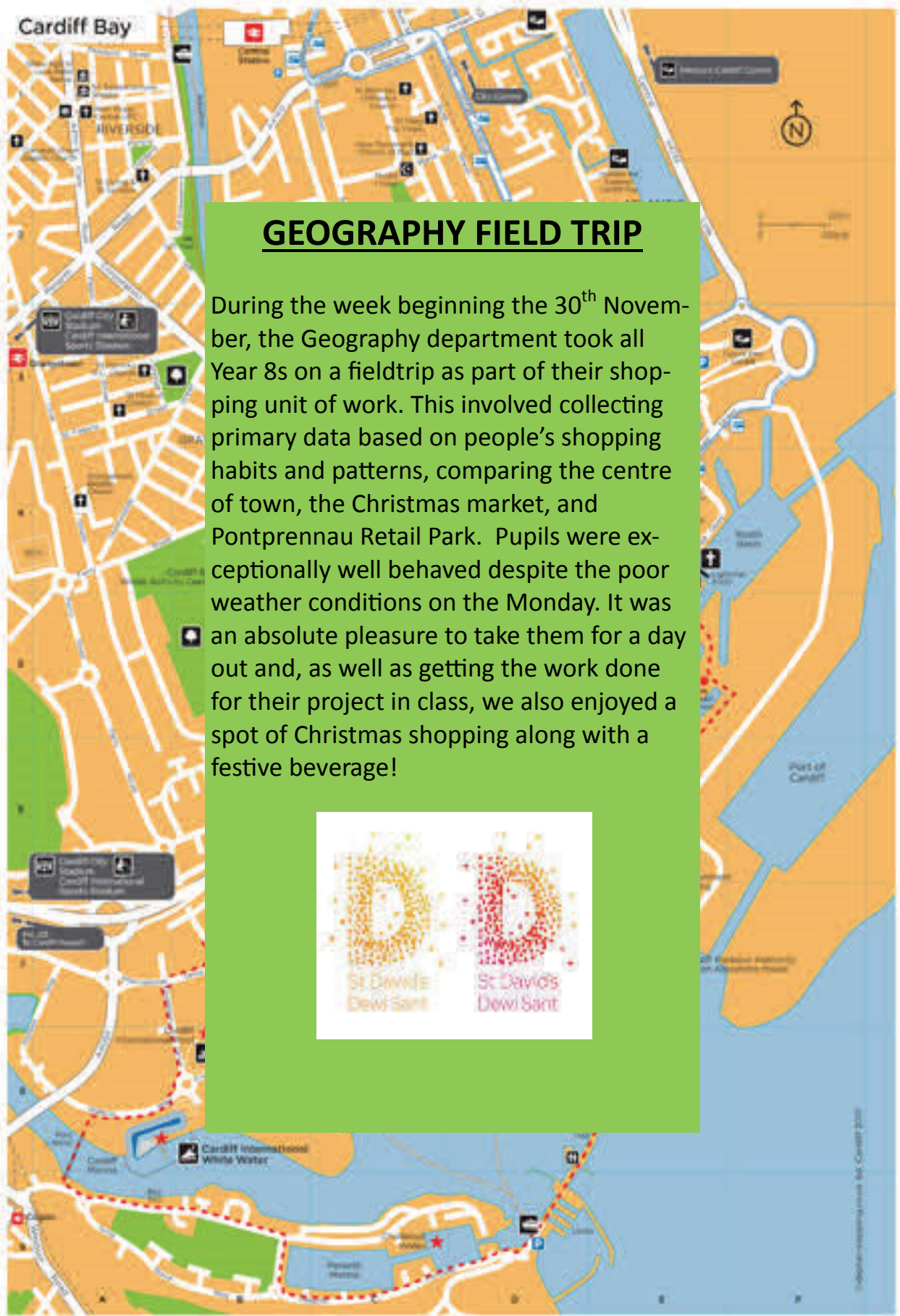
**This year's annual production  
was Back to the 80s!!**

**It was a huge success and the  
cast and crew were a credit!**

**Keep an eye out for audition  
forms in the New Year for....**





A detailed map of Cardiff Bay and the surrounding urban area. The map shows the River Taff flowing through the city, with various streets, landmarks, and green spaces. Key locations like Cardiff Bay, River Side, and the Port of Cardiff are labeled. A red dashed line traces a path through the city, likely indicating the route of the field trip. A green rectangular box is overlaid on the map, containing text and a small image.

## GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

During the week beginning the 30<sup>th</sup> November, the Geography department took all Year 8s on a fieldtrip as part of their shopping unit of work. This involved collecting primary data based on people's shopping habits and patterns, comparing the centre of town, the Christmas market, and Pontprennau Retail Park. Pupils were exceptionally well behaved despite the poor weather conditions on the Monday. It was an absolute pleasure to take them for a day out and, as well as getting the work done for their project in class, we also enjoyed a spot of Christmas shopping along with a festive beverage!





## Digital Day 2015 in partnership with BiMA and

Digital day has become a well-established event in the in the BiMA calendar. On November the 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 we teamed up with Yard Digital to enter the Digital Day Competition. There were three challenges set by three different organisations. Yard Digital came in to explain the challenges and to give the pupils guidance on how to approach the tasks. They stayed with the pupils guiding them through the digital design process.

**Standard Life** tasked Digital Day Students to think of a fun, easy and, most importantly, a digital way to help younger adults to save money.



Isaac and Alex explained that “this group designed an app to encourage younger people save money. This involved setting a saving limit and the more money that was saved, the more prizes of vouchers and cinema tickets the app would give you.” This was to try and motivate saving.

**Vodafone** gave students the challenge of creating a new and exciting a feature for ‘My Vodafone’ App.



George explained “it was to give control to the parents of what their children could do on their phones. For example, tracking them and blocking apps. It also included educational apps that the children could use and points would give them prizes.”



**Sony Music** challenged Digital teams to plan a digital marketing campaign to help their favourite Sony Music artist with a new album release.



This group chose Paloma Faith to promote her new Album. Chloe and Hannah explained “they designed an app, which included a game, calendar countdown and merchandise. There were lots of extras which involved behind the scenes videos and winning tickets if they listened to the album.”



The teams worked very hard to create ideas, with the opportunity to win the following prizes:

- money for ICT equipment
- visit the Microsoft HQ in Reading for the 'Xbox tour'
- tour of Channel 4 News in London
- visit a ground-breaking, award-winning video games studio
- spend the day at Microsoft's Showcase Classroom
- vouchers for Pizza Hut Restaurants!

As we posted our progress on Twitter, we noticed that many of the teams were a lot older, but they did not let this deter them from doing their best.

The aim was to show the pupils what was involved in Britain's fastest growing industry of digital creativity. Despite huge successes in Britain the industry is in need of digital skills. It is estimated that the industry will need 750,000 more digitally skilled workers by 2017. It showed the pupils that the jobs are more than just being sat in front of a computer!

The pupils involved would like to thank **Yard Digital** for helping them to transform their ideas into a real designs.

Thank you to the pupils for their excellent commitment and behaviour throughout the day: Isaac Andal, Elisha Barrie, Alex De La Rue, Hannah Fraser, Chloe Luff Evans, Seb Hinds, Tamara Pereira, Annie Rich, George Thomas, Julia Topham, Elizabeth Welsh, Emily Williams, Millie Nethercott, Laura Nogan, Tasha Nuh, Hermione Taylor, Pritika Anthonypillai, Oliver Brain, Aidan Clancy, Sean Glossop.

### ***STOP PRESS!!***

Judging will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> December with shortlisted entries sent to the Challenges Sponsors (Standard Life, Sony Music and Vodafone) to pick the winner.

Winners will be announced at the end of January.



For the third year running, St David's Sixth Form College hosted a 'Chemistry at Work' event for over 150 Year 8 Corpus Christi pupils on 2 and 9 December 2015. The event was organised in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry, Cardiff University and Cardiff Museum, and a carousel of activities was delivered by St David's, Museum staff, and University staff and students.

The Iodine Clock Race, CSI in Action, and 3D Chemistry were just some of the activities that pupils experienced during the event. The event was aimed at encouraging the young learners to continue with science subjects, and in particular Chemistry, at GCSE level and also to show them how and why sciences are important in the world of work.





## Reactions to Chemistry at Work



Everything was fine It was good, I enjoyed it Make volcanoes more fun It was great! More exothermic reactions More explosions I enjoyed it all very much, it was very interesting Don't get the bat out of the liquid please Other activities or make them longer It was all very good More workshops More time to do activities More experiments and longer sessions as I want to know more about Chemistry A few more experiments and more time for the events More experiments Stuffed, Pickles and Pinned could have been more involved and active Last longer Thanks! The dead and stuffed animals were so cool and interesting More investigations/experiments or each one to last longer Make the sessions longer The stuffed animals were scary



# ATTENDANCE

The whole school attendance total is currently running at 96.47%, which is lower than we would want it to be for this time of year. The Welsh Assembly Government's target for pupil attendance is **95%**. Anything under this figure could mean that the Educational Welfare Service will contact you to find out why your child has been absent from school.

It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school every day.

Parents responsible for children who exhibit poor attendance risk prosecution and a **Fixed Penalty Notice** fine being issued by the Local Authority.

Children are **not allowed to go on holiday during term time.**

Below is a current breakdown of each Year Group's attendance:

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Year 7  | 97.3% |
| Year 8  | 96.8% |
| Year 9  | 96.1% |
| Year 10 | 96.0% |
| Year 11 | 96.2% |



# WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

| <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Absence</u> | <u>Lessons Missed</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 100%              | 0 Days         | None                  |
| 99.5%             | 1 Day          | 5 Lessons             |
| 97.4%             | 5 Days         | 25 Lessons            |
| 95%               | 10 Days        | 50 Lessons            |
| 80%               | 38 Days        | 190 Lessons           |
| 70%               | 57 Days        | 285 Lessons           |

Missing lessons makes the work more difficult.

For every day you are absent from school **YOU** fall behind in **5 Subjects**.

100% Attendance = ACHIEVING YOUR POTENTIAL.



# ATTENDANCE

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the local businesses who have contributed to our attendance competition by providing so many fantastic prizes

**Corpus Christi High School - £200 cash total**

**Nandos – 10 Meal & Drink Vouchers**

**Pure Gym – 10 Day Passes & 3 Week Passes**

**Superbowl – 10 Bowling Tickets**

**Premiere Cinemas – 1 x Family Ticket and Family Combo Deal**

**The Unicorn Inn – 2 Free Main Meals**

**The Discovery - £25 Voucher**

**Anatoni's - £30 voucher for 2**

**Village Inn - £10 Voucher**

**Yard Digital – 2 x £25 Amazon Voucher**

**Dominos Pentwyn – 2 x £19.99 Meal Deal**

**Hollywood Bowl – 1 x Family Bowling Voucher**

**Boulders – 2 x Climbing Class Sessions**

**Asda – 2 x Boxes of Chocolates**

**The Gate – Contemporary Dance Class Session**

**Joe's Ice Cream – Golden Ticket Dessert Voucher**

**Kaspa's Dessert – Voucher for 3 people**

## TERM DATES 2015—2016

### Term Dates 2014-2015

#### Autumn

01 September 2015  
26 October 2015 (Half Term Begins)  
30 October 2015 (Half Term Ends)  
22 December 2015 (End of Term)

#### Spring

06 January 2016  
15 February 2016 (Half Term Begins)  
19 February 2016 (Half Term Ends)  
24 March 2016 (End of Term)

#### Summer

11 April 2016  
30 May 2016 (Half Term Begins)  
03 June 2016 (Half Term Ends)  
15 July 2016 (End of Term)

#### INSET days:

Monday 18th July  
Tuesday 19th July  
Wednesday 20th July

Girls & Boys PE Newletters can be found on Friday at  
<http://www.joomag.com/magazine/corpus-christi-sporting-times-april-2014/0609765001396371278>

## CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE HAMPER RAFFLE

This year the Library is raising money for the children's charity 'Winston's Wish' (a charity which helps children cope with bereavement). We will be selling homemade chocolates and raffle tickets during the last week of term. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

