



**ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL**  
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

**YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN**  
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

---

**Headteacher:** Michael Coady BSc.  
14 July 2015

## **SUMMER LETTER TO PARENTS**

Dear Parents

This has been yet another outstanding year in the life of St Alban's. We were delighted in February when the Welsh Government published its categorisation of schools. St Alban's is rated as a GREEN school, the top category, but not only that, St Alban's is ranked as 4<sup>th</sup> highest in Wales. This categorisation is the result of the excellent work of the staff and the students over the previous three years.

### **Music & Drama**

The young people at St Alban's do so many things to make us proud but the highlight for many of us was the students' own production of 'Les Miserables'. For a group of young people to get together and in just four weeks to produce, choreograph and perform such an excellent production involving over 140 students and four major changes to the cast, really is an outstanding achievement. I am particularly grateful for the support and encouragement Mr Cook gave to the young people with this project. I don't know where Mr Cook finds the time or the energy but he managed this at the same time as preparing our young people for the excellent Summer concert at the Congress Theatre, leading the Senior Choir trip to Barcelona and also taking the Disney Choir on a trip to Disneyland Paris.

The lower school production '13' was a huge success. Our lower school cast wowed everyone with brilliant singing, dancing and acting once more under the direction of Hannah Todd, Sara Chewins and our student teacher from Cardiff Met Hannah Whyley. The cast's determination and hard work paid off to produce a great night of entertainment for all and showing once more the range of talent coming through from lower down the school.

We also say goodbye to our Sixth Form students, many of whom are continuing their studies in prestigious Drama and Performing Arts Schools including Guildford School of Acting, Central School of Speech and Drama, Chichester and Bird Dance College. Many of our students have embarked on a tireless journey of auditions this year and we are very proud of all who have been involved in this. We also wish Sam Bashir luck achieving a sought after place working for 'The National Youth Theatre of Wales' on their summer tour as a technical assistant and Ella Appleby who we are losing very reluctantly as she has achieved a place at one of the UK's most respected dance colleges KS Dance where she will be completing her studies to become a professional Classical Ballet Dancer.

### **Rotary Club "Young Photographer" Competition**

Rebecca Thorne, Year 8 and Lucy Broome, Year 9 both won awards in the competition. Lucy Davies, Year 11 won an award in the "**Young Writer**" Competition. They attended a presentation at the Senedd, Cardiff Bay, on Friday, 19 June.



**ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL**  
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

**YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN**  
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

---

**Headteacher:** Michael Coady BSc.

### **History Department Trip**

The History department took all of Year 7 to Cardiff Castle for the medieval jousting event on Friday, 19 June. Great fun and everyone survived the tournee.

### **Year 7 Focus Group Girls**

Katie Maton, Violet Simmonds, Laura Davey and Kanisha Richards competed in the Urdd Eisteddfod in the Art category under the theme of 'Growing and Thriving'. They made a beautiful collage showing the life cycle of a flower. They came first at county level and went on to achieve second at National level. Their art work went on display at the National Urdd Eisteddfod during May half term.

For more information on our students' achievements, in maths and sport for example, please see our website [www.stalbans-pontypool.org.uk](http://www.stalbans-pontypool.org.uk)

### **Staff Leaving Us This Summer**

#### **Mrs Collier, Deputy Head**

Mrs Collier was appointed to Head of English at St Alban's in 1986 and quickly established St Alban's English department as one of the best in Wales. Her success was based on hard work, determination and an absolute insistence on high standards. It was these qualities that led to Mrs Collier being promoted to the Senior Leadership team with responsibility for quality assurance and standards. Her colleagues were keen to follow, and had great respect for, someone who had shown such good leadership at the chalk face.

In 2010 Mrs Collier secured well deserved promotion to Deputy Headteacher and in this role I am particularly grateful for her support for me and for the school. Mrs Collier's rigour and determination were very important factors in the school's improvement in achievement and the GREEN categorisation described above. Mrs Collier is responsible for teaching and there are very many colleagues who have become good or excellent teachers because of her generous support, empathy and compassion. She is also no less committed to the success of her students. There are very many young people who will be forever grateful for the outstanding and inspirational teaching of Mrs Collier.

Mrs Collier is an outstanding Deputy Headteacher and I will certainly miss her wise counsel, generous support and encouragement. We have all benefited from her very sound judgement, clear values and tenacity allied to great professionalism. The students and the teachers will miss her greatly as someone who genuinely did help them be the best they can be.

Mrs Collier may be retiring from St Alban's but she is about to start a new role preparing and supporting newly qualified teachers across Wales as they set out on their careers. I would like to thank Mrs Collier for all she has done for St Alban's school and wish her every success and happiness for the future.



**ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL**  
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

**YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN**  
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

---

**Headteacher:** Michael Coady BSc.

**Miss Denise Williams, ICT Department**

Miss Williams joined St Alban's in 1982 initially working as a librarian before becoming a teacher in 2000. Miss Williams is a very caring and dedicated teacher of business studies, ICT and a key leader in the Welsh Baccalaureate programme. Miss Williams has been particularly active in supporting the students in their charity work, particularly in running the student discos, arranging the collection and delivery of the Christmas hampers and raising money for St Anne's Hospice and CAFOD. For many years Miss Williams has been a dedicated and caring Sixth Form tutor and very many students have benefitted from her care guidance and support. I would like to wish Miss Williams a long, happy and healthy retirement.

**Miss Anne Williams, Head of Welsh**

Miss Williams joined St Alban's in 2011 and in her time with us, through outstanding leadership and teaching, she has completely transformed the teaching of Welsh at St Alban's. Miss Williams is totally committed to our young people and her warmth, passion, encouragement and high standards have been key elements in her teaching and in her role as an excellent Form tutor. In just four years Miss Williams' contributions to the school have been huge including leading many trips, giving up her time after school to teach A-Level Welsh and leading memorable staff liturgies and assemblies. Miss Williams has recently married and is moving to London; when she decides to return to teaching any school that employs her will be very fortunate indeed.

**Mrs L Jones, Modern, Foreign Language Department**

Mrs Jones joined St Alban's in 2012 and played a very important role holding the modern languages department together while a number of colleagues took maternity leave. Mrs Jones is another teacher who cares passionately about our young people and their life chances and would always go the extra mile, often coming to school on her days off to ensure students had the support they needed to achieve the grades they required. Mrs Jones has been an outstanding Form tutor and has thrown herself wholeheartedly into the life of the school including organising and fundraising for the current Year 11 prom. Mrs Jones is retiring and we wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

**Mrs English, Modern Foreign Languages Department**

Mrs English joined St Alban's in April 2013 and we are also very grateful to her for her generous and committed contributions to the Modern Languages department. Mrs English has held a number of temporary maternity cover posts, we were fortunate to retain her for as long as we did and she leaves us now to take a post at Haberdashers Monmouth School.



**ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL**  
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

**YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN**  
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

---

**Headteacher:** Michael Coady BSc.

**Mr Gifford and Mr J Jones, Learning Support Department**

Mr Gifford joined in 2011, and Mr Jones who joined in 2012, are two colleagues who have contributed immensely to the care of our students with additional needs. I have grouped both colleagues together because both have been outstanding in their important Teaching Assistant roles. Both Mr Gifford and Mr Jones are totally committed, dedicated and extremely effective in supporting our young people. Both colleagues have contributed hugely to the wider life of the school and we will miss them greatly.

The science department at St Alban's has undergone major change during the year and it would have been a much more difficult year had we not had the services of Miss C Rees and Mrs T Trott. Both have been very generous in their commitment to St Alban's and we are very grateful for the support, guidance and encouragement they have provided for our young people both as teachers and Form tutors.

**Fundraising**

If any parents work for Lloyds Bank, or for another company that offers Match Funding, would you please let Mr Foster know. We are keen to maximise our fundraising potential and this is a fantastic way to do so.

The school will close for the summer, for the children, on Thursday, 16 July, 2015, at 3.10pm and will re-open in September, for the children, on Wednesday, 2 September, at 8.40am.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

**MICHAEL COADY**  
**HEADTEACHER**



**ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL**  
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

**YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN**  
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

**Headteacher:** Michael Coady BSc.

**Uniform**

At St Alban's RC High School we place an emphasis on pride in our community and achieving excellence in every dimension of the life and work of our school. A visible indication of this is in the standard of students' uniform. Many visitors have commented on the high standard of uniform of the school. We have been particularly delighted at the number of comments we have received about how smart students look whilst travelling to and from the school.

I thank you for your help and ask for your support in our continued drive for consistency in maintaining the highest possible standard of school uniform.

Our school uniform standards are maintained through daily monitoring and tutors are asked to contact home should concerns arise. We have noticed one or two areas of inconsistency recently so I will clarify these areas to ensure everyone is clear about our required school uniform. These notes should help to ensure that your son/daughter is fully prepared in correct uniform for the new school year.

Shoes/boots	Plain black leather or leather effect shoes of a standard and traditional style. <b>NO trainers</b> (regardless of colour). <b>NO canvas shoes or boots including ankle boots of any description.</b>
Clothing	Black blazer with school badge must be worn. White school shirt/blouse with school tie. V-neck black pullover optional for under blazer. Smart plain black skirt of knee length – to the knee, no split or tiered skirts. Not to be rolled up. Smart plain black trousers, traditional school style. <b>NOT skinny trousers/leggings/jeans regardless of colour.</b>
Overcoats	A plain style in a single dark colour free of markings. <b>NOT fashion jackets.</b> Hooded sweatshirts/tops should not be worn in school.
Hair	No extreme hairstyles or colours are permitted. Neither hair nor eyebrows should be cut or shaved in 'tramlines' or patterns.
Jewellery	The only permitted items of jewellery are a wrist watch, a single pair of small stud earrings ( <b>no other piercings allowed</b> ) and a plain necklace, for example a chain with a cross, which must be kept tucked inside the shirt.



**ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL**  
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

**YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN**  
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

**Headteacher:** Michael Coady BSc.

**Friends of St Alban's R C High School**



**Dear Parent/Guardian/Friend,**

Please join us for our next meeting which will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at 7:00pm.

The 'Friends of St Alban's' is an active Association within the school where parents, guardians, friends and staff are able to meet on a regular basis to get to know each other, discuss matters and help fund-raise for the benefit of the pupils. The Friends of St Alban's meet at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Staff Room situated in the main School building.

The Deputy Head Teacher or another teacher will always be in attendance at the meetings. We will aim to elect a new committee at the first meeting of the new academic year.

We hope you are able to join us and we look forward to meeting you.

**Meeting dates:**

**13<sup>th</sup> October**

**10<sup>th</sup> November**

**meeting at 7.00 p.m.**

**meeting at 7.00 p.m.**

**Email:** [danfoster@Stalbans.SchoolsEdu.org.uk](mailto:danfoster@Stalbans.SchoolsEdu.org.uk)

