



# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

February, 2016

## Dear Parents / Carers,

It was fantastic to see so many pupils at our celebration evening last term and wonderful to chat to former students who are now reaping the rewards of their success either by studying at their chosen university or starting out on their career path. We had some good results from students who sat their Maths exam in November and I would like to congratulate them on their success.

We have only 10 teaching weeks left before the first GCSE exams begin, therefore attendance at school is vital at this time. We are putting on extra revision sessions and support with Learning Coaches for pupils. Please encourage your child to use the GCSEPod to help with revision and to attend after school sessions as required.

We are currently undergoing a transformation of the library to improve our teaching and learning facilities and while this is going on, Excel club with Mr Davies is taking place in the ICT Department. There is a free bus home at 4pm every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday which is available for all pupils whether they attend Excel or revision sessions.

Rod Francis  
Head Teacher

## Library

The library is currently being extended and renovated to provide a brand new central learning resource for the whole school. Alongside the traditional book-based resources, the library will include spaces for individual and small group learning and teaching as well as new state of the art technology. In the meantime a temporary library is in place providing a reduced service mainly for our Year 7 and 8 pupils. We are confident that the exciting new alterations will be completed quickly so that normal service can be resumed.

## Christmas Service

Thanks to all who attended our annual Christmas Service at St Katharine's Church. It was a wonderful occasion and the children excelled themselves with their singing, reading and performing. The collection taken on the evening was donated to the Pembrokeshire Young Carers Association

## Friends of Milford Haven School

Sadly, due to lack of members the PTA has had to come to an end. I would like to thank all former members of the PTA for the support and commitment they have given the school over the years and am really sorry to see this happen. The PTA's final contribution was to donate the remaining funds to school to purchase more outside picnic benches and tables in order for all pupils to benefit. There was also a small contribution to the 6<sup>th</sup> Form for them to add to the facilities in the Common Room. We have now formed a 'Friends of Milford Haven School' Association and would welcome any volunteers from parents/carers and the local community to join us.

## Celebration Evening

We held our Senior Certificate Award Ceremony at the end of last term and it was wonderful to see so many of our students past and present—receiving their awards and certificates. The guest speaker this year was Councillor William Elliott who is the Deputy Mayor of Milford Haven. William, who is now a teacher is an ex-student of this school. He is also Commanding Officer of the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Milford Haven Royal Marine Cadets.

## Staff Changes

At the end of last term we said farewell to Mr Paul Hudson, Business Manager and to Mrs Dianne Norman who has taught at this school for many years. I would like to thank them for their time here with us and wish them all the very best for the future. I would also like to welcome our new Business Manager, Mrs Jo Hicks.

## WRU Rugby Hub Officer

I would like to welcome Mr Steve Martin who is the new WRU Hub Officer for our school. This is a new post and Steve's role will be to raise participation in all forms of rugby across the school for both genders and to develop pathways for the pupils taking part into the community with the local clubs - Milford and Neyland. He has a further responsibility to use his position to help the school eradicate underachievement, so will be mentoring pupils who are keen on rugby and will be working closely with the learning coaches.

## New Governors

Congratulations to Mr Matthew Rickard and Mr Duncan Edwards who have recently been appointed as governors for Milford Haven School. We wish them well in their new roles.

## Uniform

I would like to thank pupils and parents for all their support in wearing the correct uniform. A reminder that school trousers must be of the correct type – jeans, cotton twills, slim legged, leggings and tight trousers are not permitted. Shoes must also be all black. Facial piercings are not permitted and hair must be of a natural colour. For further information on uniform and rules, please see the school prospectus on the school website. [www.milfordhavenschool.co.uk](http://www.milfordhavenschool.co.uk)

## Safety and Wellbeing

May I remind you that while staff may be in school, they are not available to supervise children until 8.35am and therefore are not able to deal with any issues that may arise before this time. I would ask that you would support us in not sending your children to school before this time. Throughout the school day, all visitors should use the Steynton entrance and report to reception on arrival.

## School Catering

We have opened up the Steynton Hall at lunchtime and break times and with extra tables and seating, children can eat their meals in a much more pleasant environment. The extra outside benches we have purchased have provided even more outside seating. As a result, we insist that with the exception of water, there should be no eating or drinking in the school corridors. I would appreciate it if you would support us in this matter by encouraging your children to use the Steynton Hall and the outside seating when weather permits.

Along with all the other Pembrokeshire schools, we anticipate using a cashless system for the catering facilities after Easter. Further information will be issued to all parents and carers in due course.

## Celebration of Art

There is an exhibition of artwork by our students at the Waterfront Gallery, Discovery Quay, Milford Haven until 28th February. You are welcome to go along and have a look at the work of our talented students.

Congratulations to Sophie Wheeler who won a competition to be included in the LNG Milford Haven Waterways 2016 calendar with her painting 'A Lighthouse in Winter'.

## Attendance

Our attendance currently stands at 93% which is an increase of 1.2% from the end of January last year. Our overall target is 94% so with your support, we are on the way to achieving this. Parents/carers are reminded to contact school in the case of any absence and are asked to try to make medical or dental appointments after school. If there are any concerns with your child's attendance please contact school. Thank you for your continued support to improve attendance.

## Term Dates

Please avoid school term time when planning your holiday. It is especially important that no holidays are taken during examination periods.

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| First day of Spring Term | 4th January                  |
| Spring Half term         | Mon 15th Feb to Fri 19th Feb |
| Last day of Spring term  | 24th March                   |

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| First day of Summer Term | 12th April                   |
| Summer Half Term         | Mon 30th May to Fri 3rd June |
| Last day of Summer Term  | 20th July                    |

## Forthcoming Events

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Year 9 reports issued         | 9th February         |
| Year 9 Parents' Evening       | 11th February        |
| INSET Day                     | 12th February        |
| Year 10 Parents' Evening      | 25th February        |
| Year 11 Concerns evening      | 25th February        |
| School Eisteddfod (Years 7&8) | 26th February        |
| French Trip                   | 11th—14th March      |
| Ski Trip to Austria           | 25th March—2nd April |
| Year 8 Parents' Evening       | 21st April           |
| Year 7 Parents' Evening       | 28th April           |
| Bank Holiday                  | 2nd May              |