



Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst Christmas was many weeks ago I would like to thank you for the lovely gifts sent in for staff, it really is greatly appreciated. It was also lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Celebration and the parent/carer consultation afterwards.

May I also thank you for the very positive responses given as part of the Care Ofsted inspection last week, particularly if Jennie, the inspector, contacted you by telephone. Whilst we cannot yet share the result we are very pleased with how the inspection went. Jennie was extremely thorough but both staff and students rose to the challenge and certainly did the school proud.

We are delighted to welcome four new Island students, who joined us at the end of January. All have settled extremely well and have taken our total number of students to 68. We continue to be extremely busy with admissions and visits and interviews are being undertaken on a weekly basis.

I informed you some time ago that we were updating the Communication with Parents' Policy, which can be found in the policies section on our website <http://www.stcatherines.org.uk/attachments/Communication-With-Parents-Policy-Feb-2019.pdf>. We hope that this policy provides you with useful information so that we can continue to enjoy very positive relationships with all of you.

Lastly, please could I ask that, where possible, you use the visitors' car park for the picking up of students at the end of the school day. Thank you.

Have a very restful half term break.

Very best wishes
Rachel Weldon
Principal

Term Dates 2018 - 2019

SPRING 2019

Return after half term holiday

Sunday evening 24th February 2019 (boarders);
Monday morning 25th February 2019 (day students and boarders via ferry from Lymington)

Quarter term weekend

Friday 15th March 2019

Return after quarter term weekend

Sunday evening 17th March 2019 (boarders);
Monday morning 18th March 2019 (day students and boarders via ferry from Lymington)

End of Spring term

Friday 5th April 2019

SUMMER 2019

Start of Summer term

Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Quarter term weekend

Friday 3rd May 2019 (includes Bank Holiday)

Return after quarter term weekend

Tuesday 7th May 2019

Break up for half term holiday

Friday 24th May 2019

Return after half term holiday

Sunday evening 2nd June 2019 (boarders);
Monday morning 3rd June 2019 (day students and boarders via ferry from Lymington)

Quarter term weekend

Friday 28th June 2019 (Summer Fair)

Return after quarter term weekend

Sunday evening 30th June 2019 (boarders);
Monday morning 1st July 2019 (day students and boarders via ferry from Lymington)

End of Summer term

Friday 19th July 2019

Please note that St Catherine's will be following the Isle of Wight term dates for academic year 2019 - 2020; therefore, there will be a two week break Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2019.

Term dates can also be found on our website: www.stcatherines.org.uk/term-dates.php

Please note this is the only place you will find accurate term dates specifically for St Catherine's, Ventnor.

Student Council News

The Sixth Form Student Council presented an assembly to choose a charity to support this year. Each charity was presented by a student who had prepared a speech and video to explain their chosen charity. The students then asked all students and staff to vote. The chosen charities and the students who presented them were: Dog's Trust (George H), British Heart Foundation (Imogen & George F), Mind (Adam) and IOW Pop-Up Soup Kitchen (Nick). The winning charity was Dog's Trust! The Council will be looking at fundraising ideas after half-term.

The Council have been busy making suggestions or improvement such as, wanting a drama club (this is now happening as part of Friday afternoon clubs), helping to update the relationship rules and being involved in choosing a new Speech and Language Therapist. Other ongoing work includes suggestions about some maintenance for the site, planning to write to the Council to ask for a zebra crossing between sixth form and the main building and requesting new goal nets and a multi-sports area for school. They have made other suggestions which Mrs Weldon has explained are not possible, for example, finishing school at lunch time on Fridays, extending breaktimes and the internet being allowed on late at night.

News from the Board

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Celebration assembly and to hear your thoughts about your children's experiences at St Catherine's. I was also, as always, delighted to see the students' wonderful performances and also to see your pride in their many achievements.

As you will all know, St. Catherine's had its annual Ofsted Care Inspection last week. It was very pleasing to hear from the inspector that she had received so many positive comments from you about the school. It was an extremely rigorous, three-day inspection and as governors, we were grilled about our monitoring and knowledge of all aspects of the care provided by the school. Two of our governors, Pauline James and Linda Pratley, monitor our care provision each half term against the National Minimum Standards for Residential Special Schools. They make unannounced visits to all the residential houses, and talk to staff and students. They write a detailed report, including any recommendations, which they present to governors at our Children and Learning Committee. This monitoring was highly praised by the inspector.

The students and staff continue to work very hard and our new data system tracks the very good progress your children are making. St Catherine's also provides the students with an excellent range of after school activities. A good example is our Scout Group, which is growing and now has both a junior and a senior group. We are also very pleased that Ventnor Rotary is planning to support improvements to the scouts' accommodation.

With every best wish for an enjoyable half term break.

Elizabeth Bowen
Chair of Trustees

St Catherine's Round-up

Contacting staff on escort

Please note that if you have a young person travelling with the Southsea escort on a Sunday and would like to get a message to the staff on the escort they can only be contacted at these times:

From 17:00 on the Southsea escort mobile.

From 20:00 on you can contact the houses directly.

The telephone numbers have been given out, but if you need the information again please contact the school directly on 01983 852722.

Social Media

Want to keep up to date with what St Catherine's is up to?
Follow and like us on facebook and twitter:



@stcatherinescharity



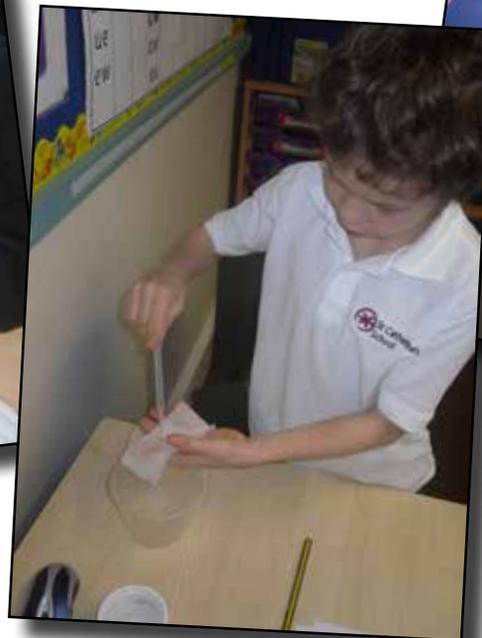
@saintcatherines

Education

Science with Whitecliff Class

by Mrs Booth

In science we are learning about materials and their properties. We tested objects to see if they were waterproof or not. We learnt how to squeeze using pipettes.



Staff Assisted Games – Basketball

by Mr Henderson

In the Autumn Term the staff challenged the students in the annual Staff Assisted Basketball Games where a total of eight games were played. It was pleasing that there were varied representatives across all key stages within the school with 40 students playing in total - that's well over half of the school! Similarly the staff representatives had a mixture of teachers, care staff, teaching assistants, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists - totalling 20 staff. The games were thoroughly enjoyed by all and as ever it was fantastic watching the students put their learning into the context of a real competitive situation. I am pleased to say the students won with a total of five wins compared to the staff who managed just three wins.

Look out for the New Age Kurling Staff Assisted Games in a future newsletter!



Therapy

Social Interaction in Whitecliff Class

by Mrs Revert, Head of Speech and Language Therapy

In Social Interaction, we are working on playing together as a team using our skills of listening, looking and taking turns. We go the hall and have a great time practising our skills.



Sixth Form

Cooking in St Margaret's & St Anne's

This term sixth form residential students have been working hard on developing their cooking skills. Staff have worked together to create symbolised recipes for the students to access and follow the instructions. The students have made lots of different meals in care time including omelettes, stir fries, homemade burgers, grilled bacon and pasta in sauce. This learning has been integrated into the classroom and the students have made sauces, soups and pizzas! For the soups the class begun with following a basic recipe to get an understanding of what they needed to do. In the following lesson the students had the chance to add their own vegetables and flavours to create a unique soup! The students then made pizzas. They created their own tomato sauce and spread it onto premade pizza dough bases, they then topped these with cheese and the vegetables of their choice. The next skill the students will be learning is making pizza dough from scratch!



Care Scouts

This half-term the Scout troop have been enjoying archery sessions with instructor, Kathy. The students were very focused on hitting the bullseye!



Wake Up, Shake Up

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning residential sixth form students have been getting up and out of the house before school to go for a walk around Ventnor. The students have also been leading the walks and choosing the route they want to go. They have been so committed to doing it they have even been going out in the very cold temperatures!

Duke of Edingburgh Award Presentation

On Wednesday 9th January, two of our students, Alex and Nick, attended the Duke of Edingburgh's Award Presentation Evening at the Isle of Wight College. The students were presented with their Silver Awards by HM Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight Major General Sir Martin White. Nick said, "It was really interesting getting my certificate and meeting people on the Isle of Wight with the certificates was exciting!"

Congratulations to Alex and Nick. Keep up the good work!



It's Challenge Time!

This term the sixth form care team have been setting challenges for the students to work on in teams. The teams receive the secret task in an envelope, they have to read what the challenge is and then follow the symbolised instructions. The students can only ask for help on certain parts of the task.

Secret challenge number 1: Bake a victoria sponge cake.

For this task the students were in house teams: St Anne's versus St Margaret's. The students had to follow the instructions to bake a cake and then add any flavours and ingredients they wanted for the filling and topping. Susy, the School Nurse, was asked to taste the cakes and choose a winner.

Susy said, "Both cakes were unique in artistic presentation, there were some interesting flavour combinations and the winning cake was a little lighter in texture with the addition of the fruit on top complementing the chocolate".

Congratulations to the winning team St Anne's!



Secret challenge number 2: Follow the clues to find the hidden buttons.

There were three teams for this challenge: red, yellow and green. First of all the teams had to find the equipment they needed to complete the task, and then they had to follow 10 clues which led them to find buttons around the school site. Once the teams had found the buttons that matched their team colour they had to thread the buttons onto the string and make their way back to St Anne's. The first team back were the winners.

Congratulations to the winning team Yellow!

Another secret challenge is planned to take place after half-term!

Post-19

My Support for Ability Dogs 4 Young People

by Ciara, Post-19 Student

For those of you who weren't aware before, for the last few months I've been supporting the charity Ability Dogs 4 Young People (since I've sent off an application form to have one of my own).

One of the ways I've been helping them, is by collecting milk bottle tops, until I get matched with one of the dogs. I've already collected a large amount of these, but I'm not planning on stopping yet!

Another thing that I've done recently is adopt one of the puppies in training (a female yellow lab named Duskie). This means that I donate a bit of money each month to help with her training. Not meaning to sound picky here, but I have been interested in Duskie since she joined AD4YP back in May 2018, so even if she doesn't get matched with me, I still get to help her with training so she can help someone else on the island.

I'm glad to say, that I've also started doing my work experience in one of their charity shops in Shanklin. I go there once a week and I am really enjoying it!



Cooking Curry

In the photos below Post-19 Student, Alex is preparing chicken curry following a carefully created recipe book. This has supported Alex to develop and consolidate his cooking skills as well as learning about eating a well-balanced nutritious diet. Each week Alex will create this meal for himself and a peer, becoming more confident in preparing this meal over time.



Fundraising and Development

New Supporters for Multi-Use Games Area

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our fundraising for a new Multi-Use Games Area. Parent, Michelle White has kindly offered to do an online auction in aid of the new sports' area.

The online auction will go live on 15th March and run until 22nd March. Auction lots include: a chocolate hamper, a Bodyshop hamper, Brittany Ferry £100 voucher, Hovertravel Tickets, Blackgang Chine Family Ticket, Tapnell Farm Park Family Ticket, Isle of Wight Steam Railway Family Ticket, bowling vouchers, mounted prints and prosecco.

You can find more information and the link for when the auction goes live at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/753745935003723/>

Challenge Events

We have a range of Challenge Events coming up. If you would like to support St Catherine's by taking part in one of the events below please contact us on fundraising@stcatherines.org.uk.

Spinnaker Tower Abseil - places available throughout the year

Skydiving - places available throughout the year



St Catherine's

A registered Charity no. 288148

Recognised by the Department for Education (DfE)

Grove Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 1TT

T: 01983 852722 E: general@stcatherines.org.uk

www.stcatherines.org.uk

Mav and Sammie's 100km Trek

On 25th May, St Catherine's Kitchen Assistant Mav Binnie and her daughter Sammie, will be taking part in London to Brighton 100km trek in aid of St Catherine's. As part of their fundraising efforts, mother and daughter are holding a quiz night at the Mill Bay Inn, Ventnor on Wednesday 13th March. The quiz is for teams of 6, with £6 per person for entry which includes a meal. To book a team please contact 01983 852394.

Big thanks to....

Everyone who has donated to the multi-use games area so far!

Fundraising Enquiries

For further information about our fundraising activities, contact our Fundraising Team on: 01983 852722 or email: fundraising@stcatherines.org.uk