

STUDENT NEWSLETTER - Friday 12th April 2024

▪ **Important dates**

Monday 6th May - BANK HOLIDAY - COLLEGE IS CLOSED

Monday 13th May - Start of 'AS' written examinations

Monday 20th May - Start of 'A2' written examinations

Friday 24th May - End of 'AS' examinations

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May - Half Term

Friday 24th May - End of 'AS' examinations

Monday 3rd June - Friday 21st June - 'A2' Progression teaching weeks for 'AS' students

Attendance is compulsory for these weeks. Failure to attend will mean that students cannot progress to A2.

Friday 21st June - End of 'A2' examinations

Friday 21st June - End of term for students

Thursday 15th August - LEVEL 3 RESULTS

Wednesday 21st August - START OF AUTUMN TERM FOR TEACHERS

Thursday 22nd August - LEVEL 2 RESULTS

Thursday 5th September at 7pm - Leavers' Ceremony, Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral

There are only 4 weeks left until AS and BTEC external examinations begin and 5 weeks left until A2 external written examinations begin (not including the Easter holidays). Orals and Practical examinations have started. Students should be using their free lessons well to prepare for examinations and assessments rather than socialising around the college site.

▪ Key Revision Tips:

- Set yourself an examination goal – what result do you want? (If you are hoping for a "B", aim for an "A" and if things don't work out, hopefully you'll still get your "B". If things work out, wonderful!)
- START EARLY - you should have already begun.
- Always plan your revision. Create a revision plan that shows what you must revise in the time remaining – remember 'Planning prevents poor performance.'
- Attend all revision sessions held by staff as well as seeing staff over any queries
- Make sure you have all your revision material and your files are neat and tidy. Use revision materials provided by staff!
- Try different active revision techniques – summarise your notes; produce mind maps; scatter diagrams; test, test and retest yourself – in-depth knowledge is vital (reading over notes is very passive and ineffective for most)
- Build up a bank of key definitions and revise them (use flashcards, post-its, etc.).
- Focus on exam skills / technique as well as content
- Practise exam questions on topics from different angles – practise makes perfect.
- Practise under exam time conditions
- A useful technique for making revision notes is shown in the clip below <https://twitter.com/i/status/1232263649936465920> (courtesy of Mr Fussell)
- An important guide on how to make your revision as effective as possible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VA0JPzD9dQ> (courtesy of Mr Raggett)
- This is a vital time for you and you all need to be ambitious. Please ensure that you are

▪ Study Time

With exams fast approaching we will be closing the Main Hall, Canteen, and bottom corridor, near the Wellbeing Hub, after lunch. Students waiting for college buses can move to the LRC. Students who have finished lessons for the day are encouraged to go home to work rather than spending time socialising.

▪ Examinations

Please be mindful that examinations have started in some classrooms. Please look out for signs on classroom doors and behave respectfully.

Certificates from 2022-23 for continuing students are available for **collection from M11**, former students' certificates are available from Reception.

Exam Timetables and Clashes, your exam timetable can be viewed on your Student Advantage. Once all the entries have been added to the college system, we will start working on resolving exam clashes. At this time, you do not need to notify anyone.

Exam re-sit deadline has now passed, further applications for re-sits will incur late fees.

▪ Assessment Period 5

Assessment Period 4 started on **18th March** and ends on **26th April**.

▪ Qualifications Wales Learner Guide and support for examinations and assessments

Qualifications Wales has updated its [Learner Guide](#) to support students in the lead-up to external examinations and assessments.

This [link](#) provides online support to students sitting examinations and assessments. We will share this with students too.

▪ Masterclasses for English Literature and English Language and Literature

All sessions will take place in Room T11. 3:30am - 5:30pm on:

- Thursday April 11th A2 Lit, King Lear
- Friday April 12th A2 LL, King Lear
- Friday April 26th AS Lit Faustus session 1
- Friday 3rd May AS Lit Faustus session 2

▪ Chaplaincy

This Week in Chaplaincy:

- **Every Day (Students and Staff): Morning Prayer**, led by our students and staff. A moment of prayer and peaceful reflection. College Chapel, 8.50am. All are welcome to attend.
- **Mondays (Students): Entering the Gospels**, an informal Bible discussion group that helps enrich understanding of sacred scripture as a source of meaning, wisdom, and prayer. Canon Ieuan Wyn Jones Lodge, 12.50pm. All welcome.
- **Tuesdays (Students and Staff): Quiet Prayer, Reflection, Meditation: An opportunity to drop by the Chapel at any time during Tuesday lunchtime for quiet prayer, reflection, or meditation.** All welcome.
- **Wednesdays (Students and Staff): Holy Mass:** The source and summit of the Christian faith, and an opportunity to nourish and strengthen meaning, purpose, and community. College Chapel, 12.50pm. All welcome.
- **Thursdays (Students): Myth and Symbol in *The Lord of the Rings*:** Interested in taking a closer look at myth, philosophy, religion, or the fantasy genre? Take a deep dive into the film adaptations of Tolkien's epic novel. All welcome (large hairy feet not required).
- **Online: Social Justice Volunteer Group:** An online hub for students interested in social justice and making a difference, both locally and internationally. All welcome.

To find out more about any of the events above, contact Dr Rhys Tranter for further information.

Prayer Intentions for March 2024:

- **Pope Francis' Prayer for the Role of Women:** "Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."
- **Your Mass and Prayer Intentions:** If you would like someone remembered in our weekly Mass Intentions or Morning Prayer, feel free to contact Dr Rhys Tranter to let him know.

Other Events & Announcements

- **St David's Pilgrimage, Wales, July 2024:** The Archdiocese of Cardiff and Diocese of Menevia is organising a religious pilgrimage to St David's in Wales, the oldest pilgrimage

site in the United Kingdom. The location is known for its religious history and sacred spaces, and is believed to be where the Catholic saint and patron of Wales once lived. It is also an area of epic coastal landscapes and outstanding natural beauty. 50 young people (14-18) will be joined by adult leaders, young leaders and clergy from Wednesday 24th July 2024 to Sunday 29th July (4 nights). The total cost is £250, and will include travel, food, bunkhouse accommodation, and other expenses. If you are interested in joining the pilgrimage this summer, please contact Dr Rhys Tranter, or the diocese directly at youth@rcadc.org.

- **Call for Submissions:** Grapevine Magazine: "*Find* the latest online issue of the Grapevine on: <https://www.3churches.org/the-grapevine/>. This issue touches on peace, partnership, prayer and reading the Bible in 4 minutes! Articles, songs and videos embracing local, UK and global communities. Next public submission deadline is the end of March (for June 2024). Please send your views / articles to: grapevinepublication@gmail.com"
- **Free Catholic Medallions:** If you are interested in picking out a free Catholic Medallion, contact Dr Rhys Tranter to arrange a time to browse. Arrangements for a blessing can also be made with Fr Benny Dennis.

▪ Mental Health Survey

Welsh Government are collecting stories to inform improvements and collaboration between post-16 Education and NHS Mental Health Services in Wales. They would value any information you can share about your experiences with mental health whilst studying in Wales. This is part of a National Programme of work funded by the Welsh Government.

English: <https://forms.office.com/e/ARyGrQc98N>

Welsh: <https://forms.office.com/e/kv5Vp7EyzG>

▪ Lockdown Drill

Thank you for participating in the lockdown drill at the end of last term. The feedback survey will be open until the end of the week 13 April and can be filled in [here](#)

▪ Temporary closure of pedestrian gate

This gate will be closed for approximately two weeks for work to be carried out in the lane leading to Boleyn Walk. When the dates are confirmed we will let you know.

▪ Access to the College Site for students

Access to the College is available from **8am to 4pm**. If you arrive early or stay after the end of lessons, please sit in a supervised area such as the LRC or the Main Hall. **Students should only be in classrooms when there is a teacher present.**

▪ College Clubs

- Chess Club

Chess club is a student-run club involving friendly games, competitive leagues, lessons for beginners as well as an annual College-wide Championship.

Open to all abilities and levels.

Every Tuesday Lunchtime, in G20.

- English Literature Club

The English Literature Club meets every two weeks in T05. They discuss the book of that week as well as other books or movies. If you have any questions please email:

Kat – K14048@stdavidscollege.ac.uk

Nia – K12946@stdavidscollege.ac.uk

You don't need to be an English student to join; all welcome!

- Film Club

Students CJ Glyn Jones and Mia Wellbeloved have launched Film Club which is held in **Room T5** on **Wednesday lunchtimes**. Every week the Film Club will screen a short film.

- College Choir

The College Choir has started. It takes place on Mondays at 12.50pm in TH1 (Theatre building). Students and Staff welcome.

- Sports Clubs - Open to all students

The following clubs will be running from now until the exams start, they are open to all students, please just turn up and join in.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch - Astro turf	Football	Football	Football	Football	Football
Lunch – Sports hall	Girls basketball	Badminton	Boys basketball	Table tennis	
After college	Boys basketball Boys Football (Astroturf)			Girls football (Ocean Park)	Girls Basketball

- College Gym

Open to members only, please see Miss Silver if you are interested in membership.

Please note, the gym will be closed during exams - open lunch times only.

▪ The St David's 7-side Charity Football Tournament

This takes place over 5 lunch breaks: **Thursday 11th, Friday 12th, Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th** and **Wednesday 17th April** (weather permitting). Students should use morning break time to ensure that they are prepared for games.

▪ Leavers' Ceremony

Our annual Leavers' Ceremony is on **Thursday 5th September at 7pm at Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral, Charles Street**. We will be sending you a 'Save the Date' card in shortly.