

OLCHFA SCHOOL—YSGOL YR OLCHFA
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JULY 2009

SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to put on record my thanks to the staff and pupils of the school who have all worked incredibly hard to make Olchfa the successful place that it is.

Although the year is drawing to a close, the number and breadth of its activities continue at the same pace. This month has seen a Musical Evening in the School Quad, attended by over 200 people, an Art Exhibition in the South Hall on the evening of July 8th and a SMART Evening on the evening of July 14th. A

group of Olchfa students will depart for Ecuador in July as part of a World Challenge expedition to that country and to the Galapagos Islands. This is an extremely exciting venture for these students and they have had to raise a considerable amount of money to go, as well as undertaking a range of acclimatisation events in preparation for it.

On July 15th and 16th, the school will hold two days with a focus on environmental awareness. Special events will take place and the pupils will also help to organise recycling across the school. The school is making great strides in

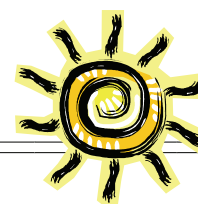
terms of its eco-friendly status and this builds on other sustainable developments such as our dramatic reduction in fuel emissions in partnership with the Carbon Trust.

Activities Week will finish off the term and our new enrichment programme for Year 10, beginning in September, will confirm the school's renewed commitment to activities outside the normal curriculum.

I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer break

Hugh Davies

IMPORTANT
PLEASE
NOTE
THE SCHOOL
WILL BE
CLOSED
DURING THE
SUMMER
HOLIDAYS
FROM 27th
JULY TO 10th
AUGUST, TO
ALL PARENTS
AND VISITORS



SCHOOL UNIFORM

The Uniform Shop will be open during the Summer Holidays on the following days:

Friday August 21st	1pm – 4pm
Wednesday August 26th	11am – 5pm
Thursday August 27th	2pm – 5pm
Friday August 28th	11am – 5pm
Saturday August 29th	9am - 11am

We would urge you to visit the shop before the end of term to ensure that any item that may need to be ordered can be here in time for September.

Normal hours are Monday 1.05 – 2.00 and Wednesday 3.00 – 6.00.

If this is inconvenient, please contact Mrs Murray at the school.

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2009 ARRANGEMENTS

Public Examinations have now come to an end. Results will be issued as follows:

Thursday 20th August - Main Hall

A2 & AS Level - 8.30 am

Thursday 27th August - Main Hall

GCSE— 9.00 am

Colleagues will be available to provide guidance and advice during these days.

Whilst we appreciate that students and parents are anxious, we would appreciate it if students did not arrive at school too early prior to the issue times. Staff will be in school to assist and advise students as appropriate after results days.

LAST DAY OF TERM

WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY, 2009

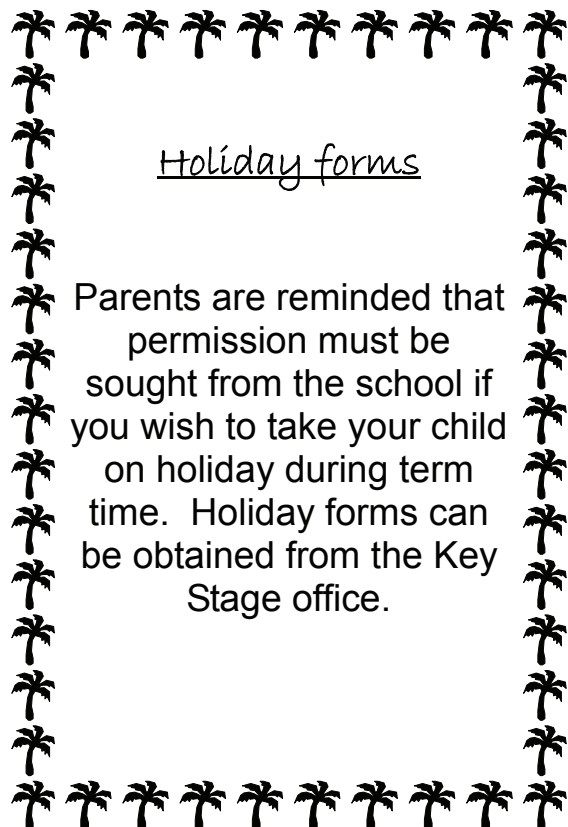
The last day of the summer term will run as follows:

Morning	Normal lessons (Prds 1-3)
12.05—12.50	Lunch (earlier than usual)
1.00pm	Registration
1.05 pm	Pupils will be dismissed

START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 2009

1st & 2nd September	INSET days
3rd September	Yr 7, Yr 10 and new Yr12 pupils
4th September	Remainder of pupils in school



Holiday forms

Parents are reminded that permission must be sought from the school if you wish to take your child on holiday during term time. Holiday forms can be obtained from the Key Stage office.

VEHICLES

Would parents please note that vehicles are not permitted on-site or near the school gates to drop off or collect pupils. The site and surrounding area is extremely busy during the start and end of school and the health and safety of the children is paramount. The school gates are closed between 2.50pm and 3.10pm to ensure that the discharge of pupils at the end of the day is as safe as possible.

Please ask your child/children to use the bridge to cross Gower Road and not to cross the road by Olchfa House roundabout.

SCHOOL RULES

At this time of the year, it is useful to remind you of school rules and expectations. Please refer to Pupil Planners, the Home School Agreement and the Information to Parents booklet, for general rules and procedures. These documents will be issued in the first few days of September, but can also be viewed via our website.

Parents and children are reminded that the school

cannot take any responsibility for mobile phones. Should any damage or theft occur to a mobile phone in school, the school is **NOT** insured for such loss or damage. Therefore bringing a mobile phone onto the premises is done at the family's own risk. We would like to highlight that we do not investigate/search for mobile phones if they are lost. We advise you to check whether the mobile is covered under your

insurance. We advise that children do not bring mobile phones to school for this reason.

However we do allow mobiles to be on the premises, (providing they remain switched off), if parents deem this necessary for the journey to and from school, but they must be kept out of sight and in a school bag. We do not allow these mobiles to be used in school hours **at all** in **any** circumstances.

Combating Absenteeism

As a reminder, a copy of the letter is attached, advising parents of the automated system that has been put in place in an effort to combat absenteeism.

Policing Anti-Social behaviour

Please find attached a letter received from South Wales Police for your information.

GOODBYE AND WELCOME TO STAFF

As is the usual practice, it's time to let you know which members of staff will be leaving us this year and which new staff will be joining us in September. We pay tribute to a number of staff who are retiring and thank them for their loyal and devoted service over many years at Olchfa. Presentations will be made to these staff on the last day of term.

We start with Mr Jim Lenette (Head of MFL), Mrs Sheila Lenette (English), Mrs Sharon Duggan (Dyslexia Support), Mr Stewart Walker (Science) and Dr Scott Reasons (Maths). Mr Roger Goodwin also retires following many years service to Olchfa and most recently as the Post 16 Co-ordinator for Swansea Schools. We wish them a happy and healthy retirement. Miss Julie Riley (Learning Leader/French) takes a sabbatical year and Miss Sarah Davies, Teaching Assistant leaves Olchfa to commence at University—we wish you well in your new and exciting ventures.

Joining us in September are Miss Claire Barnes (Maths), Mr Paul Edwards (English), Ms Kathryn Scordino (D&T), Ms Leila Solo (Spanish/French) Mrs Joanne Richards and Helen Osborne as Cover Supervisors/Senior Invigilators.

There are some internal temporary staff changes from September as follows:

Mr Julian Kennedy (Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Kath Wall (Learning Leader for Year 12), Mr Robert Williams (Learning Leader for Year 7), Mr Dave Thomas (Learning Leader for Year 10), Mrs Laura Rees and Mrs Carol Morse (Cover Supervisors / Senior Invigilators), Mr Gareth Thomas (Literacy Co-ordinator) and Mrs Cath Summerfield (Numeracy Co-ordinator).

Interviews for Pool Supervisor/PE Support will be held by the end of the term, and the person appointed will also join us in September.

SCHOOL FUND AUTUMN TERM

At the start of the Autumn Term, all parents are asked to contribute to the school fund, which provides a range of additional resources and facilities for the pupils. This fund supports extra curricular activities, minibuss provision and pupil planners, and I would be grateful if this money could be paid as soon as possible in September. The full year cost is £3.00 per pupil, but for each additional child in the family, the cost is £1.00 less e.g. three pupils at Olchfa would mean £3 for one, £2 for the second and £1 for the third child for the year.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

It has been a busy year for the School Council and we have managed to achieve the following:

- As a result of our request, a new path was put in from the Maths Block to the East Yard this year.
- We have arranged for a hair-dryer to be put in the girls swimming changing room.
- We have discussed issues in teaching and learning which have come to us from the year councils.
- We have monitored the “Healthy Schools” eating agenda in our own canteen, having several discussions with the chief cook.
- We have continued to survey the toilets and work with the care-taking staff to maintain good standards.
- The school council has also assisted in the interviews for the maternity cover for the Learning Resources Centre and the new Learning Leader for the new Year 7s and Year 10.
- We have a new team in the school council, the Eco-Committee. They have made sure that our school is very green and environmentally friendly. They organised a Fair-trade Fortnight in the school tuck shop, to encourage the students to buy Fair Trade products e.g., bananas and chocolate. They have also recycled Yellow pages and are planning a recycling event week commencing 15th July.

The School Council

Links with China

Mrs Johne Cowley, our Assistant Headteacher, visited Beijing and Chongqing for eight days in May this year. The visit was part of a British Council sponsored delegation to build links with Chinese schools. Other delegates from Swansea were representatives from: Pontarddulais and Gowerton secondary schools and Penllergaer, Bishopston and Waunarlwydd primary schools. It is hoped that Olchfa will develop a link with a partner school in Chongqing, with a view to introduce the study of the Chinese language and culture into our school curriculum.

U16 Girls

The U16 girls won the County Athletics championships and represented Afan Nedd Tawe in the Welsh Schools final on the 8th July.

Enterprise Students

The Young Enterprise students have been very successful in their work during this academic year. Their company have taken part in regional competitions, trade fares, and made a profit. All but one achieved pass/credit/distinction in the OCR Young Enterprise award, an exam previously undertaken by Year 12 students.

Well done.

Charity Sponsored Walk

The sponsored walk on Friday 3rd of July we again a great success. Pupils and staff either cycled, ran or walked to Mumbles and back, the weather being perfect conditions for the event. To date a sum in excess of £1,200 has been raised and still more money to come in. Thank you to all who contributed and supported the event. The pupils have selected that the money be donated to Welsh Air Ambulance, Cancer Institute charity support, Water Aid and Ty Hapus.

Awards

The following pupils have been selected for the D&T Innovations Award:

Craig Williams Yr 13 (A-Level Product Design) for a hi-fi and speaker stand.

Conor Lloyd Yr 12 (AS Level Product Design) for a lighting and music unit.

Ruth Meredith Yr 11: Memphis-inspired casual day outfit of skirt and top, incorporating innovative use of embroidery and appliqué.

Holly J Davies (AS Level): contemporary wedding dress inspired by haute couture. Innovative details and components used and made to very high standards.

SMART

Throughout this year, our Year 7 pupils have continued to amaze and impress us with the quality of the work that they are producing. In particular, I'd like to take this opportunity to say massive congratulations to the whole year group for the way they worked so hard during the SMARTprentice project. Not only did they all get a little taste of the business world, they raised almost £600 for a range of charities. I need to pay special tribute to 7AC and Mr Cavendish - one of the teams from that form raised over £400 themselves, a massive achievement!

July 14th will be our annual SMART exhibition, and year 7 will take over the main school hall to show off some of the work they have produced over the year. The displays will be open from 3pm until 5pm, and a warm invitation is extended to you all to come and see some of the highlights from this year.

Dave Stacey

Evening Classes

- **Enrolment Evening is Monday 14th September 2009**
- **Classes start week commencing 21/09/2009**
- **For more information, please ring 01792 534317**

Monday	7:00 to 9:00 pm	Men's Keep Fit
	7:00 to 9:00 pm	Art
Tuesday	7:00 to 9:00 pm	Art
Wednesday	7:00 to 9:00 pm	Yoga
Thursday	7:00 to 8:00 pm	Line Dancing (Beginners)
	8:00 to 9.30 pm	Line Dancing (Intermediates)

LOST PROPERTY

Can we remind pupils and parents to make every effort to collect lost property items from the Pupil Welfare Officer. As usual this accumulates to a vast amount of clothing, trainers, shoes and jewellery which has to be disposed of at the end of every term due to lack of storage.

WE MAKE A PLEA—PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD’S NAME ON UNIFORM!

Routine Vacancies

If you are interested in becoming a Dining Room Assistant, please contact Mrs Baglow on 534304 for further details.

If you are interested in becoming an exam invigilator please contact Mrs Morris, Exams Officer on 534309. Training will be provided.

The Parental Calendar will be issued to pupils early in September. More information will also be available on our website from September e.g. school holidays / academic calendar / exam dates etc.

Activities 2009

Once again this year, there is an extensive programme of activities for our pupils (and staff!) to enjoy. These range from trips abroad, a theatre visit to London, outdoor adventure activities, indoor activities and clubs. For those who do not wish to participate in out of school activities, arrangements have been made for events to take place in school.

Parents ought to be well aware of the options that have been made available to their child/children from information sent home. My thanks to Mr Turpin for organising activities and to staff for leading and supporting them.

For Information

All vacancies, teaching and non-teaching, are routinely advertised on

www.eteach.com

Also via the City and County of Swansea website

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2009-2010

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS			Mid Term Holidays		2009-2010	
Term	Term Begins	Term ends	Begins	Ends	Term begins	Term ends
Autumn 2009	Tuesday 1 September	Friday 23 October	Monday 26 October	Friday 30 October	Monday 2 November	Friday 18 December
Spring 2010	Monday 4 January	Friday 12 February	Monday 15 February	Friday 19 February	Monday 22 February	Thursday 1 April
Summer 2010	Monday 19 April	Friday 28 May	Monday 31 May	Friday 4 June	Monday 7 June	Wednesday 21 July
BANK HOLIDAYS	2nd April 2010 — Good Friday 5th April 2010 — Easter Monday 3rd May 2010 — May Day		31st May 2010 — Spring Bank Holiday 30th August 2010 — Summer Bank Holiday			
Suggested Inset Days	Tuesday 1st September 2009 / Wednesday 2nd September 2009 / Monday 4th January 2009 / Friday 12th March 2009 / Friday 25th June 2009. The dates for the other two INSET days will be confirmed in due course.					

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians(s)

School / home communication

In an effort to improve communication between home and school and to reduce the quantity and cost of paper being used, we are researching the possibility of emailing all school documentation i.e. parental letters, newsletters, general information to parents/guardians.

To this end we would be grateful if parents/guardians could supply us with up to date email address(s). This can be done via the front page of the school website – www.olchfa.org.uk

We would also welcome communication from parents/guardians by email via the following addresses:

Key Stage 3 office

Key Stage Manager (for reporting absences) – ksm3@olchfa.org.uk.

Pastoral Guidance Worker (for any pastoral concerns) – pgw3@olchfa.org.uk.

Key Stage 4 office

Key Stage Manager (for reporting absences) – ksm4@olchfa.org.uk.

Pastoral Guidance Worker (for any pastoral concerns) – pgw4@olchfa.org.uk.

Key Stage 5 office

Key Stage Manager (for reporting absences) – ksm5@olchfa.org.uk.

Pastoral Guidance Worker (for any pastoral concerns) – pgw5@olchfa.org.uk.

General enquiries can be sent via – Olchfa@olchfa.org.uk

We appreciate your co-operation and would request an early response in order that we can update our systems as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Delyth Edwards (Mrs)

School Manager

Dear Parent / Guardian

RE: Combating Absenteeism in our School

As we all know, it is a legal requirement for children to attend school. **It is the responsibility of parents to let the school know before 10.00am on the first morning of absence of reasons for absence.**

Our school has decided to install an automatic communication system that will contact you directly if your child is marked absent at registration. This will ensure that the reason for the absence is known as soon as possible and alert you if your child is not in school when they should be. Post-registration absences can also be detected and reported to you.

You will have already supplied school with contact telephone numbers when your child started at the school but you may prefer to update these and where applicable include mobile and work numbers.

If your home, mobile or works telephone number has changed recently please provide your new numbers including area code. You may also supply an e-mail address for us to contact you on. Please note, these numbers should be contact numbers for parents, step-parents, foster parents only. We do not require your emergency telephone numbers.

Your child will be automatically included on the system, however, **should you prefer not to be notified that your child is absent from school please notify the Key Stage Manager as soon as possible.**

To allow you to familiarise yourself with this system, we have set up a **special local rate telephone number 0845 225 0201** which you may wish to call.

Sometimes parents are unaware when a child chooses not to turn up to school. Therefore it is important that we do everything we can to increase the speed of communication between home and school.

By introducing this service, our school is able to reassure you that we are meeting the Governments recommendations in contacting you on the first day of your child's unnotified absence. It will also provide an early warning system should your child go missing from school. As always your child's safety is our main concern.

Yours sincerely

H Davies

Headteacher

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL

Please complete in Block Capitals, sign and return to the school

Parent / Guardian Details

	Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/ Miss/Dr/other)	First Name	Surname
Parent/Guardian Name (1)			
Parent/Guardian Name (2)			
	Class	First Name	Surname
Child's Name (1)			
Child's Name (2)			
Child's Name (3)			
Child's Name (4)			

These are the telephone numbers that will be called to contact you regarding your child. Please indicate by circling whether the phone/email belongs to Parent/Guardian (1) or (2) and circle whether it is a home, mobile or work number/address.

Telephone Number (inc. area code)		Home / Mobile / Work
Telephone Number (inc. area code)		Home / Mobile / Work
Telephone Number (inc. area code)		Home / Mobile / Work
Telephone Number (inc. area code)		Home / Mobile / Work
E-mail (optional)		Home / Work

Signed: _____ **(Parent / Guardian)**

Date: _____