

St Brigid's School, Denbigh.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS 2008 - 2009

Introduction

The school was founded in 1939 by the Congregation of St Brigid, at the request of the Bishop of Menevia, and located in Park Street, Denbigh. In 1943 it moved to the present location, taking boarders after 1945. With the reduction in the number of vocations for Nuns, a Trust was set up in 1990 to continue the work of the Congregation, and the school became an independent boarding school. In 1996 the Governors were successful in gaining Grant status as the only State Boarding School in Wales. As a result of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the School became a Voluntary-Aided School on 1st September 1999. The Trust Body, St Brigid's School Limited is a charitable company, registered at Companies House (No 02572420) and The Charity Commissioners (No 1003157) This Company holds the land and buildings in trust on behalf of the School.

The principal activity of the School is set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Trust Body, being "the advancement of education of children between the ages of 3 and 19 by making provision for a Voluntary-aided Roman Catholic School or School for the education of Roman Catholic Children, either with or without other Christian or non-Christian children." In consequence of this the School is an All-through Denominational School having a co-educational Primary Department, with girls only from 11-16, and a co-educational Sixth Form. From September 2009, it became co-educational.

During the period there was a total of 496 pupils including 26 boarders. 146 pupils in the primary department, including 12 Nursery, and 341 senior pupils. It offers a boarding education for up to 30 girls from 7-19.

1 Membership of the Governing Body

Foundation Governors and Trustees of St Brigid's School Limited.		Term Ends
A. Alan Goodall MBE, FCA		Sept 2009
Dr Elizabeth Oliver		Sept 2013
Douglas C Wynne JP	(Vice-Chairman)	Sept 2009
Pauline M Howell BA		Sept 2009
J David M Jones LIB FRSA		Sept 2013
Doreen Eyton-Jones ALCM		Sept 2013
Fr Anthony McDowell OFM Cap		Sept 2011
Maria Hamersley		Sept 2013
Anthony Hannigan	(appointed Jan 09)	Sept 2013
Judith Corbett	(appointed Sept 09)	Sept 2013
Alan Evans	(appointed Sept 09)	Sept 2013
Philip McGreevy	(appointed Sept 09)	Sept 2013
Philip Eyton-Jones OstJ, TD, DL, RIBA, MRTPI, FRSA (Chairman)		Sept 2013
Mathrafal, Bodfari, Denbigh LL16 4BS 01745 710249		
Mrs Catherine Simpson B.A..(Hons), M.A.	(appointed Sept 2009)	Headteacher
LEA Governor	Jane Kennedy, LIB	Sept 2012
Parent Governors	Dr Markus Hesseling (appointed Sept 09)	Sept 2013
	Dr Sally Tansley (appointed Sept 09)	Sept 2013
Teacher Governors	Stuart Ayres	Sept 2011
	Barbara Hughes (appointed Sept 09)	
Staff Governor	Karen Morris (appointed Sept 09)	Sept 2013
Pupil Governor	Charlotte Maloney (Head Girl)	Sept 2010
Clerk to the Governors	Anne M H Spiller	St Brigid's School Denbigh LL16 4BH Tel 01745 816139

2. Financial Performance

2008/2009

2.1 The School's financial performance for the Financial Year 2008/09 and for the previous year is set out below.

	2008/09	2007/08
INCOME		
Denbighshire CC	1,673,074	1,496,474
Other Income	185,276	214,615
Parental Contributions inc Gift Aid	35,763	
Total Income	1,894,113	1,711,089
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs	1,620,161	1,461,599
Other	283,050	249,038
Total Expenditure	1,903,211	1,710,637
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(9098)	452

The Allocation from Denbighshire County Council was based on the numbers attending the School in accordance with their Primary and Secondary Formulae in common with all other schools in the County.

2.2 **Gifts to the School** School received substantial donations from the School Association and from individual Parents during the year, many giving us the advantage of Gift Aid.

2.3 **Governors traveling Expenses** Claims for Governors travelling and subsistence expenses during the period amounted to £151.00

3 Action taken by the Governing Body

3.1 **Comments from the last Annual Meeting.** Concern over the introduction of boys in year 7.

3.2 **Progress on the Development Plan** After a successful Estyn Inspection in 2004, all observations have been rolled into the School Development Plan. The School will be having an ESTYN Inspection May 2010. Parents are invited to meet with the Inspector on 4th May at 7.00pm.

3.3 **Development of Links with the Community** Several Fund-raising events took place during the period, the proceeds of which were given to local charities. The School hosted the Poppy Appeal Presentations to North Wales Cadet Forces in April 2009, attended by the Lord Lieutenants of both Clwyd and Gwynedd.

3.4 **Changes to the Prospectus** Changes to the Prospectus include updated Staff Lists and current Examination performances. Any information needed to comply with National Assembly requirements will be included as well as the Admissions Policy for the coming year. First priority for admission to boarding is now for 'Looked-after children' as a State Boarding School.

3.5 **Review of School Policies** This review is ongoing, through the Governing Body, and parents are able to view these on the School Website.

3.6 **Implementation and review of specific school strategies** The School Improvement Plan includes the following strategic priorities: -

- Introduction of the Solution Orientated Schools Programme
- A full review of the teaching and administrative staff
- A new approach to subject/phase self-evaluation
- Introduction of whole-school target setting, tracking and intervention strategy
- Introduction of strategic self-evaluation and development planning

- Improve the quality of teaching and pupil learning
- Development of 21st Century facilities
- Establish the pupil voice throughout the school
- Improve attendance in all phases
- Introduce performance management and workforce development
- To review bilingualism and *Curriculum Cymraig*
- To ensure the school is meeting the 14-19 Measure
- To maintain and develop the Catholic Christian Ethos
- Further develop cross-phase working
- To meet the skills requirement for local business and the Welsh Agenda

4 Organization and Policies

4.1 Special Educational Needs Policy

St Brigid's School as a community reflects and celebrates the diversity of Christ's Kingdom where the able and gifted can learn from and with those with disabilities of whatever order. Our commitment is to the needs of every child admitted into the School, and this policy addresses our responsibility for those children with special educational needs whether long or short term, related to physical, emotional or behavioral difficulties or learning needs. We aim to be partners with parents who are the first educators of their children.

Mrs. Maryann Evans is the Special Needs Coordinator who will ensure that for new pupils, existing statements of need are made known to all who will teach the child and that appropriate provision within financial constraints is available in all curriculum areas. A review of progress will involve both child and parents so that realistic targets can be set and monitored. Our aim is to build on the child's strengths to allow maximum participation in all school activities. Special attention will be given to the child's spiritual development and preparation for the Sacraments to reinforce the sense of dignity and value established in the individual child.

It is the professional responsibility of every teacher to be alert to the onset of a special need in any pupil including the needs of more able and talented pupils, and to liaise directly with the SENCO and the parents of the child. Assessment of, and provision for the child's needs may require assistance from outside agencies including the Educational Psychologist, Medical Officer, or Advisory Services of the Local Education Authority. Staff will have regard to the WAG "*Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs*" in addressing special needs.

4.2 Arrangements for Disabled Pupils

The School prides itself in trying to ensure the needs of all disabled pupils admitted to the School. A spirit of inclusion into all year groups is encouraged, and all pupils are required to be fully supportive of their fellows. Whilst there are still spaces that are difficult to access, every effort is made to accommodate the needs of the disabled.

4.3 Term Dates and Session Times 2009/2010

Autumn Term 2009	3 rd September 2009	to 18 th December 2009
Spring Term 2010	5 th January 2010	to 26 th March 2010
Summer Term 2010	13 th April 2010	to 16 th July 2010

Times of Sessions

Nursery	8.50 am to 11.30am	Key Stage 1	8.50am to 3.20 pm
Key Stage 2	8.50.am to 3.20 pm	Secondary Department	8.50am to 3.35 pm

4.4 Sporting Aims and Achievements

50 girls took part in an excellent Ski Course at Serre Chevalier, in France, and proved we now have some expert skiers among the girls. Football is increasing in popularity in both Primary and Secondary

Departments. Abigail Davies-Moore was selected for the Denbighshire Netball Team, while Alice Neblett, Laura Pickering and `Charlotte Hawkins did well in the Denbigh League. Amy Reid came second in the Denbighshire Cross-country events.

4.5 Combined Cadet Force By the beginning of 2009, the lack of a School Staff Instructor had restricted the contingent. Since April 2009, however, a parent volunteered to act as Contingent Commander, and a newly joined teacher, Mrs Ann Bunn has had long experience of CCF. This has turned around the contingent and it now has a developing and exciting programme of activities. The cadets were successful at the All-Wales Cadet Climbing Competition in March 2009, winning the junior girls competition and runner-up in the senior girls. One of the senior RAF cadets, Charlotte Overthrow-Jones attended an overseas camp in Germany; three RAF cadets went to RAF Leeming in North Yorkshire, where they took the controls in a training aircraft. Twenty cadets took what has become an annual trek to the south coast of England, for a summer camp in Chickerell, Dorset.

In September, a senior team led by Sgt Glesni Hitchins reached Gold Standard at the annual Cambrian Patrol competition in South Wales and more recently, she was selected as one of the Lord Lieutenant's Cadets for 2010. There are now forty cadets attending regularly, and there is a developing Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Three Lower Sixth Form cadets achieved the vocational BTEC in Public services, equivalent to four GCSE's.

The Headmistress attended the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park to learn about the organization, responsibilities, possibilities and benefits of the Cadet Movement in schools.

5 Performance and Target Information Summer 2009

In the External Examinations and National Curriculum Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) for 2008/09, our results were excellent as shown below.

			School	LEA	Wales
A Level	(31 pupils)	Threshold 3	100%	94%	96%
		2 or more subjects at A – C	87%	70%	74%
GCSE	(49 pupils)	5 or more GCSE's at grades A* to C	82%	56%	57%
		5 or more GCSE's at grades A* - G	94%	87%	87%
		Core Subject Indicator		78	46
46					
Key Stage 3	(59 pupils)	English Level 5 or Higher	98%	71%	71%
		Mathematics Level 5 or higher	95%	72%	73%
		Science Level 5 or higher	95%	74%	76%
		Core Subject Indicator	91%	60%	61%
Key Stage 2 (tests)	(28 pupils)	English Level 4 or higher	96.4%	81%	81%
		Mathematics level 4 or higher	100%	82%	81%
		Science Level 4 or higher	100%	87%	86%
		Core Subject Indicator	96.4%	77%	77%
Key Stage 1	(11 pupils)	English	91%	86%	83%
		Mathematics	91%	81%	87%
		Science	91%	90%	90%
		Core Subject Indicator	91%	83%	81%

5.2 Destination of School Leavers during the Period 2008/2009

Year 11 (56) 37 returned to Sixth Form, 19 to Further Education/ Training.
 Year 13 (36) 30 to Higher Education, and 6 taking Gap years.

5.3 Attendances for 2008/09

	Secondary	Primary
Attendances	90.3%	93.3%

Authorized Absences	6.7 %*	5.1%
Authorized Educational Activity	1.0%	1.5%
Unauthorized Absences	2.8%	5.1%

No pupils were permanently excluded during the previous 12 months.

6 Future Developments

We are advised that the Local Educational Authority have begun to develop a 'Modernising Education' Strategy to be in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's '21st Century Schools' Programme and have a vision for a Faith School in North Denbighshire. Governors have been invited to discussions to explore whether our aspirations would be met by this initiative. As yet no firm details have emerged, and we are identifying options to take forward.

7 Thanks

The Governors would like to thank all Parents for their support and co-operation in the education of their children, and in achieving the results highlighted in this Report.

Signed ... *Philip Eyton-Jones*

Philip Eyton-Jones
Chairman of the Governing Body.

March 2010