



27 June 2022

Dear friends,

### **MAGIC DUST**

I have always known that St Teilo's is a special place to be. Visitors often comment that there is a tangible sense of love, inclusion and happiness in this building, although they may not quite be able to put their finger on why. In March, we welcomed Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education in Wales to our school. These visitors, too, were drawn to our affirming and caring community, describing the school as being sprinkled with 'magic dust'. Such is the fruitfulness of a Church in Wales school – and our mission to improve excellence, increase equity and deepen faith is beginning to be fully realised.

### ***Estyn Inspection***

This excellent report captures so much of the brilliant work that takes place at St Teilo's. Of course, it also identifies a few things that we must continue to work on. Inspectors reported that:

“The headteacher and his staff at St. Teilo's are united in their strong commitment to keeping pupils safe, raising their aspirations and helping them to develop and achieve. The Christian values of the school underpin all its work, helping it to create a caring ethos where pupils feel valued and well supported.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the school responded to the needs of its pupils and local community with flexibility and dedication. As pupils have returned to school, staff have worked hard to protect and enhance pupils' well-being alongside supporting progress in their learning. In many lessons, teachers' high expectations and careful planning help pupils to both readjust to normal school life and make sound progress in their knowledge, understanding and skills. In a minority of instances, teachers do not challenge pupils consistently well enough, which reduces the progress that they make.

The school provides an extensive range of effective pastoral support to meet pupils' needs and ensures that pupils with additional learning needs get the help that they require. There is a strong culture of safeguarding, and staff have a clear understanding of their role in supporting pupils' safety and well-being through all aspects of their work. However, the school canteen is currently closed, and the school is not providing pupils with hot meals or sufficient access to drinking water.

Leaders have a clear vision for developing a Curriculum for Wales that closely matches its ambition for creating 'brilliant learners'. The school adapts its curriculum

to meet the needs of individual and groups of pupils, although currently it does not meet statutory requirements in a few subject areas.

The headteacher provides strong, thoughtful leadership and his commitment to equity and success for all pupils and the school community is shared by staff and governors.”

In the coming weeks, I will set out the school’s response to the recommendations given. The full report can be found at <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/>.

### ***School uniform***

In January, the Welsh Government produced welcomed statutory guidance on school uniform. This guidance focuses on cost and affordability as well as consultation with learners and families. We know that the school uniform, in its present form, is unpopular. We also know that nobody agrees about what school uniform should be! Therefore, we are committing to a year of consultation with stakeholders at all levels to consider what changes, if any, we might like to make.

This term, we have begun trialling some new items of clothing with children, paying due consideration to the new statutory guidance. This trialling will continue through the next academic year. However, our school uniform remains the same – for now. The earliest any change would come into effect is September 2023 and, after a further year of transition, enforced from September 2024. Look out for future questionnaires!

### ***Year 11 and 13 leavers***

We are looking forward to celebrating with Year 11 at their prom on 29 June 2022 and with Year 13 on 7 July 2022. All details have been sent directly to young people.

Examination results will be available this summer, in person, from the school between 9am and 12pm: Level 3 results (mostly Year 12 and 13) on Thursday 18 August 2022; and Level 1 and 2 results (mostly Year 11) on Thursday 25 August 2022.

Enrolment to the Sixth Form for Year 11 takes place alongside the collection of results on Thursday 25 August 2022. If you need to remind yourself of the courses available and their entry requirements, please visit <http://www.stteilos.com/students/sixth-form/>.

### ***Year 6 transition***

We are delighted to welcome Year 6 pupils to our school in the summer term. Parents and carers will have received a transition pack with details, either from the primary school or in the post. You can find a copy of all information and links here: <http://www.stteilos.com/year-6-transition/>.

### ***Year 9 Options***

Classes for next year have now been scheduled. We are delighted that all pupils have been given their top three choices. If your child has a last-minute change of mind, please let Mrs Phillips know. We will accommodate all requests where possible.

### ***Dates for your diary***

- Sports Day, Monday 18 July  
*All pupils to wear PE kit*
- Culture Day, Tuesday 19 July  
*Cultural food and dress welcomed*
- Form Class Day, Wednesday 20 July  
*Meet your new form class and form tutor*
- INSET, Thursday 21 July  
*No pupils in school*
- INSET, Friday 22 July  
*No pupils in school*
- Level 3 (AS and A2) Results, Thursday 18 August  
*Collect in person from school between 9am and 12pm*
- Level 1 and 2 (GCSE and BTEC) Results, Thursday 25 August  
*Collect in person from school between 9am and 12pm*
- Sixth Form Enrolment, Thursday 25 August  
*In person from school between 9am and 12pm*
- INSET, Monday 5 September  
*No pupils in school*
- INSET, Tuesday 6 September  
*No pupils in school*
- Year 7 and 12 Induction, Wednesday 7 September  
*Only pupils from Years 7 and 12 in school*
- First day of school for all, Thursday 8 September  
*All pupils return to school*

Should you need to reach out to me, please email [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com).

As ever,

Mr I Loynd  
Headteacher