

Who Are We?



Helen

Mum, Chartered Marketer, self proclaimed nerd.



David

A full-stack venture capitalist and qualified accountant.



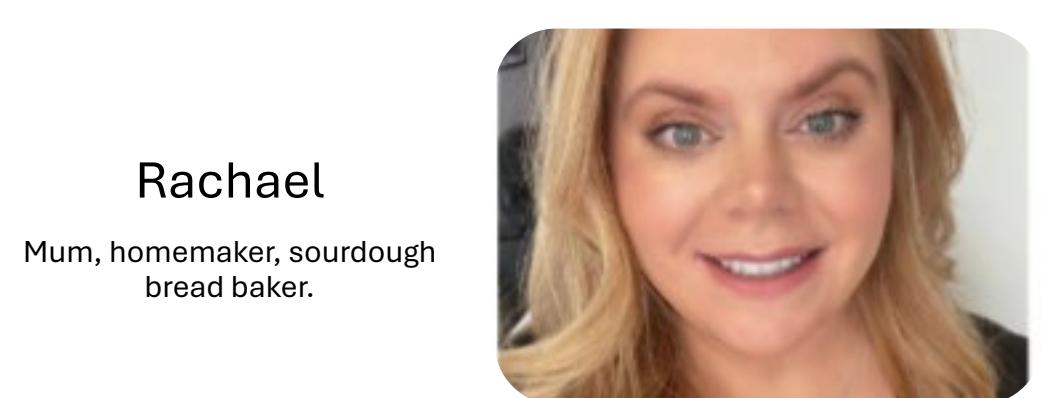
Natasha

Former social worker, award-winning entrepreneur, and philanthropist; founder of multiple global ventures dedicated to transforming the lives of women and children.



Neil

GP Partner at Wales's Largest Practice, Director of a Health-Focused CLG Driving Innovation in Digital care and Junior Football Coach.



Rachael

Mum, homemaker, sourdough bread baker.

Why are we here?



Simon (11) and Teddy (8) joined St Clare's two years ago after experiencing bullying and anxiety at their previous school. Since then, they've gone from strength to strength – academically, socially, and in their overall confidence. At St Clare's, they're taught and treated as individuals within a truly inclusive and caring community. The support we've received from the teachers and staff has been nothing short of phenomenal.

Why are we here?



Jenson (8) and Oscar (3) live in separate homes during the week, but we chose St Clare's so they could share the same school – giving them the individual support they each need to thrive, while still seeing each other every day and keeping their close bond strong. We also love heading to the nearby beaches together after school!



Why are we here?

St Clare's has *always been there* – a constant source of education and care for both my children since they were 2.5 years old. They have truly thrived – not through pressure or targets, but thanks to a safe, secure, family-oriented environment that allowed them to blossom.



My wife and her sister both attended St Clare's, and it was because of that experience that we moved back from Cardiff, so our children could benefit from the same unique educational setting. And it has worked.



St Clare's is completely unique – unashamedly caring and built on the principles of education and kindness. To allow this to perish, along with its wonderful teachers and pupils, would be a loss of choice, of values, and of a truly inclusive educational ethos.



Why are we here?

As the eldest of four siblings who all attended St Clare's, I saw the shift from the caring, pupil-focused environment of the Sisters of St Clare to the more corporate approach that followed the 2006 handover – and the impact that had on the school's ethos and community.



My own son Oscar started at St Clare's at 2.5 years old and is now thriving in Year 8. Thanks to the small class sizes and the dedication of the staff, he's had outstanding individual support – and his academic progress has been phenomenal!



Can St Clare's Be Saved?

Income vs. Expenditure

In our opinion, having reviewed the data provided by Cognita so far, **any proposal** to keep the school open and sustainable – including ours – must do **two key things**:

Increase income
&
Adjust Base costs

Possible Ways to Increase Income:

- Secure pledged **donations** (only taken if the school reopens)
- Apply for **grants or charitable funding**
- Launch a **parent and alumni fundraising campaign**
- Offer **after-school facility lettings**
- Increase **enrolment** through focused local outreach.

Possible Ways to Adjust Base Costs:

- Operate with a **leaner staffing structure**
- Temporarily **pause or reduce non-essential services** (e.g. canteen)
- **Combine smaller year groups** where appropriate
- Share roles across prep/senior (e.g. SENCO or admin)
- Use **volunteer support** where feasible (e.g. for clubs or grounds).

In short:

Keeping St Clare's open is possible in – but it will require **practical sacrifices** and **collective support**.
We believe it's achievable.

How Do We, As a Team, Propose a Way Forward?

A New Not-for-Profit Independent School

With the aim of rebuilding the original ethos of St Clare's — one rooted in care, community, and not-for-profit values.

Our Proposal

- Run the school as a not-for-profit charitable organisation
- Make careful, targeted cost reductions
- Increase income through pledges, fundraising, and growing enrolment
- Work with staff, parents, and the wider community to rebuild together

St Clare's is more than a school
It's a family, a community, a legacy.



*“Founded on Tradition,
Focused on the Future”*

What have we done so far – and why?

- Decided on a **CLG charity structure**
- Decided on the **charitable purpose**

“To advance education for the public benefit by operating a co-educational independent school for children aged 2.5 to 18, primarily serving the community of Porthcawl and surrounding areas.”



- Registered a **not-for-profit company limited by guarantee**
ST CLARE'S INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED **Company number: 16459676**
- We can proceed with our application to the **Charity Commission** if there is interest in our proposal.
- Outlined a **lean operational model**
- Reached out to **parents, staff, and supporters**
- Secured contact with both Cognita and Grant Thornton.
- Built a **website** to share as much information as we can while in compliance with NDA
- Started seeking **legal and financial advice**

Charities can still fundraise and charge fees — being not-for-profit doesn't mean no income, it means income can't be privately extracted.



- CLG means strong governance, regulated by Charity Commission
- High public trust
- Reinforces not-for-profit status
- Access to **Gift Aid, tax relief for donations** and **educational grants**
- Profits reinvested, not extracted - Surpluses **stay within** the school
- Transparent and community-aligned model
- Public accountability with limited liability

A Charity Model Will Of Course Mean Cuts

We **can't** afford to run the school as *it is now* - But we **can** run it better, leaner, and with real focus - Surpluses go **back into the school** to fund improvements not just for current pupils, but to attract new ones!

A charity model **can't afford the current structure**. But it **can still provide quality education** with focus and sustainability.

A charity model means **we won't raise millions overnight!**

That means **yes, we will need to cut costs**

But it does **not** mean we can't deliver a **strong, distinctive education**

What Can St Clare's Offer?

- A nurturing, personal school environment
- **Location advantage**—convenience, local community, no long commutes
- Smaller class sizes, trusted teachers, and flexibility
- A sense of **belonging** that large state schools can't replicate

Who are we competing with?

Our real competition is local state schools (not bigger city independents) and we can absolutely compete on -

- Class size
- Community feel
- Individual attention
- School ethos & caring staff

A leaner model can be **financially sustainable!**

If we're smart, **quality won't drop** — just waste and overheads.

With the right leadership and message, we'll **retain current families** and **attract new ones.**

The Commitments Of Our Team Going Forward

- **Maintain the high standard of education** that St Clare's is known for
- **Keep the Sixth Form open** – a vital part of our future growth and continuity
- **Remain a non-selective, welcoming school** for all pupils and families
- **Keep Nursery, Prep, and Senior School open** – preserving our 2.5–18 provision
- **Offer a full range of financial aid** to eligible pupils, supporting access and inclusion
- **Continue open and honest communication** with all parents throughout the process
- **Ensure the model is viable for a minimum of 2 years**, and beyond – with your support

What Commitments Do We Need From You?

The same commitments any proposal will need !

How a £1,000 Donation Can Go Further	Taxpayer	Gift	Gift Aid	You Reclaim	Net Cost
Individual Donation: £1,000 + Gift Aid (25%) if eligible: +£250	Basic-rate (20%)	£1,000	£250	–	£1,000
Charity receives £1,250					
If donated through a company: Corporation pays less tax, and still gives £1,000	Higher-rate (40%)	£1,000	£250	£250	£750
Higher-rate taxpayers: Can claim additional tax relief on their self-assessment	Additional-rate (45%)	£1,000	£250	£312.50	£687.50