



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd  
Gatholig ac  
Anglicanaidd  
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 2 FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016

## Joyful Celebration in Prayer and Worship by Rev'd Mary Stallard & Sr. Maggie Catlow

A sustaining heart-beat of our joint faith Catholic and Anglican school is provided by the regular rhythm of prayer and worship. This is so much part of life at St Joseph's that we sometimes might forget what a special and privileged thing it is to spend time in prayerful silence or joyful praise with members of our community. Every day in school there are many opportunities to pray, and as chaplains we often feel completely bowled over by the willingness of so many pupils and staff to contribute their own prayers and ideas. In addition to the daily worship big events celebrating special occasions break up our routine and provide some unforgettable moments.

Last term we began the ten year anniversary celebrations of our joint faith foundation with a wonderful service for the whole school. We were delighted that both Father Bishop Peter and Bishop Gregory were able to lead this worship and that Bishop Edwin was also in attendance. So many past colleagues and friends of the school came and joined with the pupils, staff

and governors in an amazing and uplifting celebration of our shared work. As usual, gifts of art, music, dance, drama and movement wove together in a creative way and many people have told us that it was a moving and thoughtful offering of prayer.



This term as we approach the end of Advent we will be looking towards Christmas and at this time we are very conscious of the refugee crisis and the plight of so many in our world whose situation echoes many of the themes of the Gospel message.

St Joseph's recently achieved the status and title of "School of Sanctuary" because of our educational and charitable efforts to become aware of the issues connected with refugees and to make a helpful response to this situation. Our Advent liturgy connects

our own journeys of faith with both that of the Holy Family and also with those seeking shelter and sanctuary in our world today. Advent and Christmas invite us all to reflect upon the use of our gifts, and the celebrations challenge us to continue to strive to be thoughtful and generous to others.

*Loving God, open our eyes to hear and receive your word at this time of celebration and wonder. Open our eyes to see you in others. Open our hearts to share our gifts and let our light shine. Open our arms to reach out in welcome, that we might show your generous love with boldness and with joy. Amen.*



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - from all the staff and pupils at St. Joseph's Catholic & Anglican High School.

*Mr Wilkinson  
Headteacher*

## Teams4U Shoebox Appeal

During our Mission Week, Dave Cooke from the Wrexham based charity, Teams4U, spent several days presenting the work of his charity to pupils from St Joseph's. Among many initiatives, Teams4U sends Christmas shoeboxes from children in the UK to some of the poorest children around our world. As a result of Dave's visit, our own response to the shoebox appeal was by far the best we have seen in recent years. The charity has benefitted from the Year 9 fundraising efforts and Year 9 has led the way, providing by far more boxes than any other year group. **In total, more than 160 shoeboxes were collected from school by Teams4U** compared with the 27 we sent last year. We would like to extend a huge "thank you" to all those pupils and families who gave so generously to this amazing local charity. The Form who donated the most boxes – 9 Devereux – with a staggering 27 boxes, will be rewarded with a Domino's pizza lunch.

*Mrs James  
Shoebox Coordinator*



**real people making  
a real difference**

## St. Joseph's Christmas Concert

The Social Court was ringing with the sound of Christmas when our Music Department held its Christmas Concert in aid of Cystic Fibrosis and Band/Choir Funds. Through the generous donations of our audience we raised a total of £167.91 and a wonderful hour and a half were had by all who attended.

The School Band and Brass Band played a rousing set of varied music with something for everyone. The String Group led by our Violin/Viola teacher Mrs Sophie Davies and ably assisted by our new Cello teacher Mr Ed Waden played a commendable Canon in D by Pachelbel. It is impossible to pick out a favourite piece as there were so many wonderful renditions but it is safe to say that St. Joseph's is lucky enough to have several Musical Stars for pupils – as our Headteacher Mr Wilkinson said in his closing remarks, our pupils showed their versatility this evening in their changing roles, from singing to piano, flute and saxophone with drum kit, bass guitar and brass all represented. We are so lucky that our pupils enjoy making Music and using their talents to enhance the lives of others whilst also raising money to improve their own and other people's situations.

A big thank you ~ Diolch yn fawr to everyone who took part or

attended and a date for your diaries is Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 when we will be holding our Spring Concert. *Mrs Goodison  
Curriculum Leader in Music*

### Here's what the pupils had to say...

"I was in the band and the choir. I extremely enjoyed the opportunity to represent St. Joseph's. it was set out well and I loved doing it. It was my first ever concert in St. Joseph's so it was definitely a memorable one. I thought that the band played amazingly and the choir sang beautifully. All of the solos were fantastic. I hope to be like them. Thank you for this opportunity."

*Jessie Hack*

"I played in the string group and Mr Waden, my sister Phoebe and I played the cello and it went really well. I enjoyed it so much I wanted to do it again and it all went as planned. I loved doing the Christmas Concert; I want to do it every year until I leave St. Joseph's!"

*Maddie Hough*

## Visit to Holly Bank Care Home

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 26 pupils entertained the residents of Holly Bank Care Home on Saxon Street with a selection of instrumental and vocal music including Christmas Carols and songs which everyone enjoyed immensely. Rufus Edwards, Ben White and Shea Ferron played the piano with great talent and Harry Hughes, Evie Huhtala and Orlagh

Scott sang beautifully. Elin Jones on the violin was truly tuneful and the choir members who attended blended perfectly in all their songs. Gerry Humphreys, the Events Coordinator for Holly Bank emailed to say *"Thank you so much for this morning my ladies thoroughly enjoyed the concert, the pupils are so talented, polite and friendly such a credit to the school. We look forward to the next visit and wish you and all the pupils and staff at St Joseph's a very happy Christmas and New Year."*

**Mrs Goodson**  
*Curriculum Leader in Music*

## Aladdin Pantomime

On Wednesday evening pupils and staff visited Theatre Clwyd, Mold to see their annual Christmas Pantomime.

**Here's what the pupils had to say...**

"The panto of Aladdin was amazing and I can't wait for next year! Thanks to Mrs Goodson & Miss Lewis for yet another great trip!"

**Shea Ferron & Sophie Stansfield-Jones**

"Very exciting and lively, Wishy Washy has got to be my favourite character in the show!"

**Daniel Frankel**



## Rotary Concert

Following weeks of rehearsing during their Friday break time and latterly during their Friday lunch time as well, it was great to hear the school brass group perform their latest repertoire for the first time this academic year at the school concert on 30th November. Then 2 days later they performed again on the Friday evening at the Erddig Rotary Club Christmas Concert at the Catrin Finch Centre, Glyndwr University. Each year when year 11 pupils move on we wonder how they can be replaced, but each year we are blessed with a good number of enthusiastic new year 7s who although sometimes new to ensemble playing, are soon playing their full part (literally) in the brass group's success. Well done to all brass group members and thanks as ever to Mr Steve Atherton our brass peripatetic teacher for his continued support. We now look forward to supporting the school Christmas liturgy with some traditional carol playing.

**Mr Barlow**

**Here's what the pupils had to say...**

"The Rotary Concert on Friday 2nd December went really well, the brass group and brass quintet played excellently, the harp player Elin Bartlett from Ysgol Morgan Llwyd was great and both our School Choir and Victoria Junior School Choir sang amazingly. And not to forget Rufus Edwards playing the piano brilliantly!"

**Celyn Jones**

"We played in the brass group and it went really well. Almost every seat was full! We all enjoyed the evening and we're all proud to be raising money for charities and good causes locally."

**Carys Price & Libby Sunderland**

## Remembrance Sunday

"On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November I accompanied Mr Wilkinson, along with Grace, Alex and Kate, to the Remembrance Sunday Service at the 'Royal Welsh Fusilier Memorial'. Here we laid a wreath from St. Joseph's, alongside wreaths from other various organisations and schools from the Wrexham area. Overall the service was very special and we felt privileged to have the opportunity to pay our respects in this way."

**Tom Lloyd**

"To represent our school on Remembrance Sunday we participated in the Memorial Service outside the Memorial Hall commemorating the soldiers of the war, the marching of the different organisations was very patriotic and was followed by the singing of hymns and the speaking of prayers whose message was to encourage peace. We along with other schools were then called to lay wreaths which allowed us as a school to collectively pay respect and lay tribute to the soldiers. It was a great morning which created an atmosphere that was both communal and reflective."

**Grace Amedor**

## Year 9 Charity Update

We have raised £1,000 for charity with their lunch time sweet stall. Thank you to everyone who purchased from us; we couldn't have done it without you! **Carys Jones, Nwa Hussein, Yanira Hernandez-Williams & Nina Kaczmarek**

"For the past four weeks 9 Devereux have been producing small gift packages made up of peppermint candy canes and a chocolate coin. We have sold quite a lot of them and also offer a delivery service! We enjoyed this charity work very much and would all like to thank Mrs Large for creating some at home and buying our stock."

**Morgan Rowley & Theo Kelly**

"For my charity store I have been selling homemade brownies for 50p. I have also been selling cupcakes bought by Jasmine Hughes in 9 Kolbe for 30p."

**William Evans**

"For our charity we have been selling Homework Passes. Pupils can buy a homework pass and trade it in for one no homework with selected teachers. So far we've sold over 35 passes."

**Mia Williams & Eve Czerniak**

## Mathematics in Wales - A new era

In September 2015 all Year 10 pupils started to study the new syllabus in Mathematics from the Welsh Examination board, WJEC. The Welsh Government have been raising the numeracy skills

in Wales for the last few years with the introduction of compulsory numeracy tests in all year groups until Y9. Integrating the numeracy content into a new GCSE format increased the content of GCSE Maths so two GCSE exams were formed into a new course. As a result all pupils are required to take two GCSE exams in Mathematics, one of which is Numeracy.

The Numeracy exam content is based on the Welsh Government definition of Numeracy. This is "Identifying and applying numerical reasoning skills in order to solve a problem, and carrying out the numerical procedures which enable people to work out and show their solutions". This has meant that the numeracy GCSE is all about solving real life problems.

The current Year 11 groups are the first pupils in St Joseph's to sit the new numeracy exam and all of these pupils sat the exam in November. Although challenging, the work that has been done so far to prepare pupils for the exam has had a motivational and stimulating impact on performance. The realisation of the importance of Maths has become clear and pupils see the relevance of mathematical modeling and key methods learnt in class.

The Mathematics exam consists of questions based on pure mathematics, for example solving linear equations and simultaneous equations. These questions are more traditional and are often broken down for

you. It is much easier to see what method to use but the content is at a higher level.

In preparation for the Numeracy exam pupils in Year 11 worked on a rigorous revision plan from September. This included targeted past paper questions, extra lessons and a workshop during the half term break. Some pupils also went to Nant BH outdoor Centre where they took part in outdoor activities that linked to specific numeracy problem solving questions.

It is now essential that all pupils continue to work hard in their Math's lessons and prepare thoroughly for their final GCSE Math's exams in June. Pupils need to be working on revision strategies, past papers and key revision websites.

There are many excellent websites on the internet for Math's including YouTube and TeacherTube. However, some information can be more complicated than it needs to be, inaccurate and often the search engine generates too many choices. Three fantastic websites are Corbett Maths, Mr Barton Maths and BBC bitesize. BBC bitesize has recently upgraded their revision website for Maths and has now incorporated a special Welsh GCSE area for Maths that also includes Numeracy specific revision.

One of the best websites is Mr Barton Maths takeaway that lists all the important topics needed for GCSE Maths and Numeracy. Each topic includes practice

questions, model answers and links to targeted revision video clips on YouTube. All of these clips have been tried and tested and are all effective. All three websites are useful for all levels of Mathematics and all year groups as they contain all the topics relevant to the St Joseph's Maths schemes of work for KS3 and GCSE.

The Maths Department have a vast amount of resources on the e-learning website that also contains links, homework's and revision tips.

*Mr Donlon*  
*Curriculum Leader in Maths*

## Year 11 Mock Examinations

Year 11 pupils have recently been undertaking their practice GCSE exams as part of the preparation for their final exams in summer next year. As well as preparing the pupils for these, they also offer a valuable insight for pupils, parents and teachers as to how well pupils have performed in their subjects so far. The experience is as close to the final exams as possible with pupils sitting them in exam conditions, set up as they will be in the summer and with external invigilators overseeing the smooth running of them. Onto courses and places that they may want next year.

Pupils have been revising hard for the exams and have arrived promptly to ensure that they are starting on time.

As well as their practice exams there will be a practice results

day, where pupils will receive their grades achieved in the exams. This will take place during January and will give pupils the opportunity to see how they have achieved as well as speaking to colleagues from outside agencies to see what they need to do to get onto courses and places that they may want next year.

*Mr Lambert*  
*Year 11 Pastoral Leader of Learning*

## HMI Visit

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December Mrs Delyth Gray HMI visited the school for the afternoon to review planning, provision and accountability in relation to Healthy Relationship Education. I am grateful to Mrs Roe, Mrs Ellis and Mrs Woodward for their preparation and dedication in collating all the necessary evidence for such a high profile visit.

The feedback from the inspector was excellent, and the pupils who met her were a real credit to the school - "St. Joseph's pupils are by far the most confident in their emotional literacy". The provision in terms of PSE, Wellbeing Days and other events were a real strength of the school, and Mrs Gray said we "have it all covered". We look forward to the publication of the final remit report in due course. *Mr Wilkinson*

## Music News

I am delighted to announce that Rebecca Snowden has passed to become a member of the National Youth Choir of Wales for 2017. This is a tremendous

achievement! Well done Rebecca, your hard work and dedication has paid off and you will now join your brother Sam Snowden (past pupil) in this wonderful choir. We look forward to hearing about your courses and concerts. Many thanks also to Mrs Tina Boycott, our Singing Teacher who has trained you so well. *Mrs Goodison*

*Curriculum Leader of Music*

## PISA Celebrations!

PISA tests are currently a hot topic in the media, with Wales performing below the rest of the UK. The Welsh Government have already made a statement about the action they intend to take over the coming years to improve pupil performance in the three areas of testing - science, reading and maths. The good news is, that we have received information relating to the performance of our pupils, and this really is a cause for celebration! If St. Joseph's were a country we would be performing amongst the top countries in the world! Our Science results were exceptionally pleasing, with reading and maths slightly behind. However, we have outperformed the average score for Wales by a significant margin, and have performed better than Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, and most of Europe (and the world!!). I am pleased that our PISA results are another confident marker that testifies to the excellent work of our pupils and staff - well done everyone!

*Mr Wilkinson*

## Mr P's Santa Dash

On Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December I took part in the Chester Santa Dash. It is the third time that I 'dashed' through the streets of Chester, along with my dog Mia and 1,500 other Santa's! So far this year I have raised £75 in aid of the Hospice of the Good Shepard. My donation page is still open so if you'd like to donate the link is:



<http://virginmoneygiving.com/KeithPrice1>

*Mr Price*

## Year 11 Wellbeing Day

Pupils took part in the health day in early November and they looked at a number of different issues in different sessions. These included STIs, Addiction, New Psychoactive Substances Awareness, Alcohol and its effects and Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

In each session the pupils looked at and discussed the issues raised by the staff leader, and looked at the lasting effects that they could have. In many cases, although pupils had visited these areas before in some detail they gained a lot more information and left the sessions more aware of the dangers that might be around.

Pupils enjoyed the day and in their feedback about the sessions they were positive about what they had learnt and how it had been a very useful information gathering exercise. They also identified that knowing where to find out any additional information had been a great help should they need any advice in the future.

As always, the health day was superbly organised by Mrs Woodward and ensured that the pupil's health and emotional wellbeing was catered for.

*Mr Lambert*

*Year 11 Pastoral Leader of Learning*

## Year 8 Wellbeing Day

This half term has seen Year 8 take part in their Wellbeing day, the theme of which was Family and Healthy Relationships. The day started with a lovely assembly by Sr. Maggie who reminded us about the importance of our individual family unit and the key role we have to play within that unit.

We were lucky enough to be joined by guest speakers from Hafan Cymru and Show Racism the Red Card. Sian Griffiths from Hafan Cymru gave an interactive presentation on The Typical Family and the relationships within families. Ceri from the organisation Show Racism the Red Card gave a talk on the effect that stereotyping can have on the relationships we form within our friendship groups. Both guest speakers were excellent and the

pupils engaged brilliantly with them.

We were grateful to members of the Year 8 Form Teacher team and other teachers who gave up their time to plan and deliver the other sessions during the day. Mrs Moate and Mr Timbrell delivered a session on birth and conception that was both interesting and informative. A session of Zumba was put on for each form to take part in by Miss Halliwell who, after 5 straight hours of Zumba, needed a lie down in a darkened room! Mrs Tompkins led a session entitled "You are what you eat" where pupils were given the opportunity to think about their diet and the effect it has on them. The session finished with the pupils making a delicious fruit smoothie!

We finished the day in the social court where we were able to give thanks for wonderful experiences we were able to enjoy during the day through a thought provoking prayer.

A special Thank You must go to Mrs Woodward who expertly put the day together and gave the pupils from Year 8 the time to reflect on such an important topic.

Finally I would like to congratulate Year 8 in the manner in which they took part in the day. They really were a credit to us, as teachers, parents and carers and to themselves.

*Mr Tait*

*Year 8 Pastoral Leader of Learning*

## Ski Trip Information

The planning for the ski trip in Italy has been completed and all the pupils and staff are very excited. If you require further information about packing lists, PowerPoints and where we are staying please look at the ski trip area of the e-learning site. Following feedback from the Ski Information Evening, parents were keen to know more information during the ski trip so I have set up a twitter information account and you can follow the trip using @SJ\_WXM\_Ski



Thank you to parents for the prompt replies for the Austria ski trip for Easter 2018. The trip is now full but I will be contacting the ski company in the New Year to see if we can increase the number of places. I would encourage your child to write their name on the waiting list if they want to go.

*Mr Donlon  
Ski Trip Coordinator*

## Sports News

It has been another brilliant half term for PE at St Joseph's both in terms of participation and achievement.

### Gymnastics

In November the school entered its first ever Urdd Gymnastics competition, expertly represented by Niamh Gillon, Chloe Lynch, Ruby Booth, Abbie Thistlethwaite, Fallon Roberts, Katie Stansfield-Jones, Holly

Humphries, Bethan Purdie, Millie Davies, Bethan Houghton and Niamh Collins. Both the girls and Miss Halliwell demonstrated huge dedication in preparing for the competition, practicing most lunch times and after school and they did St Joseph's proud. Da iawn!

### Badminton

It was a clean sweep for the St Joseph's teams at the Wrexham Badminton Championships last week, with both boys and girl's teams winning all of the age group categories. The dominance was such that the runners up in all of the competitions were also the St Joseph's second teams! The winners will go through to the North Wales finals hosted at Deeside in February.

### Cross Country

There were brilliant performances both individually and as a team at the County Cross Country Championships in November, with the U-14 girls team claiming 1st place overall, U-12 girls and U-16 boys teams coming runners up and the U-14 boys team coming 3rd overall. Individually there were a number of top 10 finishers meaning those pupils will go through to represent the county at Dinas Bran in January. County athletes from St Joseph's will be Ruby Booth, Emily Norfolk, Morgan Burke, Rachel Moran, Phoebe Norfolk, Olivia Price and Conor Hughes.

### Football

More national honors for St Joseph's pupils, this time in football. Huge congratulations to

Bobby Beaumont-Broadhead who has been selected for Wales U-15's. Well done, the PE department and St Joseph's are very proud.

### Extra-Curricular

There will be a new timetable out after the Christmas break with lots of new and exciting activities being held. See any member of the PE department for more information, even if you have never been before come and get involved!

*Mr McComb  
Curriculum Leader of PE*

## Sub-Regional Swimming Championships

Mathew Hapanow, Harri Wilk and Adam Taylor all competed in the Welsh swimming clubs sub-regional championships.

Harri Wilk won the u16 1500m and 400m front crawl, placed second in the 200m breaststroke and finished 3rd in the 100m front crawl.

Adam won the 1500m freestyle.

They will now represent their respective clubs in the Welsh regional finals in February.

We congratulate them on their amazing performances and wish them all the very best of luck.

*Mrs Greenhalgh*

## Got Twitter?

Keep an eye on what's happening in the PE department by following: @stjosephswxmpe



## A note from the PTA...

St Joseph's PTA raises funds to enhance the educational provision for our children at the school. Teachers and pupils are able to make requests for items, we are lucky enough not to have to say no very often! Recently we have purchased Netball hoodies, iPads, drinking water dispenser, and much more. This year alone we have spent £7,000 on items to enhance teaching and learning for our children.

The PTA also run the 100club which gives a cash draw each month. People pay by standing order and have a chance each month to win. The money raised from the 100club contributes to school transport for out of school activities. 100club Stranding order forms are available from the School Office.

We hold a short meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 6.45pm in school, everyone is welcome to come along and give a little bit of their time to support the fundraising. If you don't feel able to join the PTA please support our fundraising events. All dates are in the Parent/Pupil Calendar.



Got Facebook? Keep an eye on what's happening by liking the PTA's Page 'St Joseph Wrexham PTA'

## Forthcoming PTA Events

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017**  
PTA Thai Night  
7pm

**10<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
Non-Uniform Day  
(Chocolate donations)

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
Easter Bingo  
7pm

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2017**  
Wine Tasting  
7pm

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**  
Year 6, 7 and 8 Disco

## School Contact Details



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## Reminders

Please note school is closed to all pupils on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 for Staff Development Day. Pupils will return to school on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

***Wishing you all a happy  
and healthy Christmas,  
from all staff at St.  
Joseph's.***

