



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd  
Gatholig ac  
Anglicanaidd  
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 3 FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

## Participation, prayer and action by Rev'd Mary Stallard & Sr. Maggie Catlow

St Joseph's had the honour of being chosen to take part in research conducted through the University of Warwick concerning spirituality and faith development: Looking at education for hope and aspiration, the "Ten Leading Schools Project" involved us being visited several times by Dr Ann Casson, who met and worked with staff and pupils and observed our community in depth. In the report about her findings in our school she identified us as a great example of a place that encourages prayer. We are looking forward to the publication of this research later in the year.

Creating space for prayer and reflection at different points in the school day has always been a priority for the chaplaincy team. This happens quite naturally every day and on special occasions too. On "Well-being" or health days we often



have a tailor made act of worship to begin and conclude the day. This term during the Year 9 Health Day the chaplains had the opportunity to deliver a session on responding to bereavement and loss – an important topic, which sadly affects many of our pupils. We looked at different ways in which people respond and cope with death and bereavement. Using art-work, film, real-life scenarios and discussion we explored the feelings often encountered in grief and we had space to pray and reflect upon our own responses. We found tremendous affirmation to this work in the things the pupils said afterwards, one said "I liked [the session] it told me that I don't have to be afraid."

"Do not be afraid" is one of the most repeated messages in the Bible (it appears 366 times!) Through the

amazing charity work involving the whole school community we seek to put prayer into action, showing Christian love in tangible ways. Amongst many efforts a group of staff are training to take part in the Chester half-marathon in May. We will be seeking to raise funds for Macmillan cancer support, in solidarity with a number of individuals and families whose lives are affected by this at this time. We will be setting up a Just-Giving web page, if anyone feels that they would like to support us in this.

*In all our efforts and our learning we seek to follow Christ, who shows us how to live, love and serve others with hope. God of wisdom and grace, we look to you to inspire us with confidence, delight and discipline in our journey of prayer. Help us to value one another as you value us, to encourage and enrich each other and to build your community here on earth. In the name of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.*

## Congratulations Mr Wilkinson

Mrs Justine Barlow, Chair of Governors is delighted to announce that Mr Christopher Wilkinson has been appointed to the post of Headteacher at St Joseph's School. Following an intense interview process the Governor's Appointments Panel were unanimous in their decision. We wish Mr Wilkinson a long and happy career at St Joseph's School.

I am extremely privileged and honoured to officially take up the post of Headteacher of St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School. I am, like my predecessors, completely committed to the school's mission of ensuring each child has the best possible opportunity to reach their potential – in terms of their academic, but also their wider well-being and personal development.

Our school is unique, and is already amongst the best in so many ways! However, I look forward to working with pupils, staff, parents and governors to ensure that we continue in our pursuit of excellence. Please join me in praying for our whole community, in the next decade of school life that we may:

*"continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you have heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven." Colossians 1.23*

**Mr Wilkinson**

## Year 11 Mock Exam Results

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January the Year 11 pupils gathered together to receive their practice exam results. The exams were sat before the Christmas holidays in December and Year 11 had been waiting eagerly to see how they had done. They gathered in the social court and their exam results were dispersed as they will be in August, with pupils in their form groups and the results were collated and presented in an official envelope.

The morning was very successful with a number of pupils clearly being very happy with how they are progressing and in other cases pupils had a real awakening as to what they need to do if their actual GCSE results in the summer are to be a success.

Once the results were received the pupils had the opportunity to discuss them with their peers as well as talking to representatives that had joined them from different institutions such as Coleg Cambria, St Richard Gwyn High School, Chester Catholic High and The Maelor School Penley. They could see if what they had achieved would be enough to get onto any courses that they wanted to take, as well as giving them a valuable insight as to what they might need to do if they hadn't got the required grades.

**Mr Lambert**

**Year 11 Pastoral Leader of Learning**

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

"I was pleased with my results as I hadn't expected to do as well as I did. It was a positive experience as it gave me a real idea of what to expect in August when I receive my real results, and it was a great confidence boost for me to see my potential."

"My results were not as good as I had hoped. This was a good thing as it was a real 'eye opener'. I think that it was a good experience because it gave me opportunity to look at what I need to do to improve my marks in the summer."

"I felt really disappointed because I know that I could have done better. I could have done this by trying harder. I thought that it was a good process and a good experience because it showed me how I was doing and the things that I could do better at."

## HCPT Fundraising

HCPT Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust take children to Lourdes at Easter each year.

Many pupils from St Joseph's have travelled with the group over the years, enjoying a wonderful week of faith and fun.

The Wrexham group have set up a 100 Club to fund this once in a lifetime trip. It is £2 a month, or you can pay six monthly at £12 or annually at £24. For more details contact Esther on 01978 263424.



## Pupils visit Hitler on Trial production

On the morning of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February we and 39 GCSE History students left school bright and early to travel to Manchester to watch a production of Hitler on Trial.

The first half of the performance is designed to make pupils think about their exam technique. The second half is based around a trial. Hitler is on trial for crimes against peace. The evidence comes from both sides of the argument and it is up to the pupils to decide if the interpretations that they hear make Hitler guilty or not guilty.

The verdict is then given and at this performance Hitler was actually found not guilty. We would like to thank the Year 10 History students for their good behaviour which helped to make the trip a success.

*Mrs Williams & Mrs Jones*

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

"I thoroughly enjoyed the Hitler on Trial trip as I was able to clearly understand the best way to form a good answer for our exams. I was able to have a further insight into whether I thought Hitler was guilty or not

and I now have a clear view on my opinion. It also helped me to recap what I have already learnt about Germany 1919-1939 as there were numerous characters from this period that came and gave evidence for and against Hitler. We also went and had a lovely lunch at a local shopping centre afterwards."

*Martha Gledhill 10 Devereux*

"We really enjoyed our day at the Hitler on trial performance in the



Waterside Arts Centre in Sale, Manchester. It was very exciting and kept us on the edge of our seats! It was a courtroom drama, written by Josh Brooman, in

which we were asked to imagine a parallel historical world in which Adolf Hitler was captured alive by British Special Forces in 1942 and put on trial in a British court. In this court, we are the jury.

During the performance, we saw 10 witnesses, such as his personal photographer and a 'Swing Kid', giving their experience of their time with Hitler. We had to decide whether their version of events made us think that Hitler was guilty or innocent. He was actually found not guilty by us 'the Jury', but as a twist at the end he was shot!

### Grade Boosting Seminar

Josh Brooman, from the School History Scene, gave us some

interesting information about how to improve our grades. We had a booklet containing seven sources. We were shown two answers for each source and we had to decide which answer was worth the full marks. We were also given tips on how to answer questions in the actual exam. And also how the exam paper is marked and what you need to do to gain full marks. As GCSE students we found this educational and helpful for the Germany in Transition module of our History GCSE.

*James Evans, Tom Barlow and Kim Dutton, Year 10*

## Year 10 Soli House Retreat

Last week 23 pupils from across Year 10 attended the Soli House Retreat. Soli House has, in the past, been a favourite experience of many pupils and this year pupils enjoyed a chance to develop their faith and also their friendships.

*Mrs James*

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

I really enjoyed Soli House, especially the Soli team as they made all the activities into a memorable experience.

*Konrad Marciak, 10 Kolbe*

I really enjoyed talking to people that I don't normally talk to in Soli and the outdoor activities were great fun.

*Lois Davies, 10 Kolbe*

# Safer Internet Day 2017

As part of this year's awareness for Internet Safety, Year 7 were set the challenge to help the Welsh Government design the new logo for the Hwb website as part of a competition open to all schools in Wales.

The take up and effort from Year 7 was outstanding! We had over 60 different entries to choose from at St Joseph's with the quality of work and design being amongst the best I have ever seen from a year group this young.

As you can probably imagine choosing a logo to enter the competition proved rather difficult. In the end two entries were put forward for consideration and whilst we did not win the final competition, we were thanked directly for our entries which you can see here.

A very well done to everybody – you deserve this public recognition!

*Mr Kennedy*



by Aspen Lindo, Jessica Roberts and Rhian Jones



by Rufus Edwards

## English update

Year 11 pupils are now at a crucial stage in their preparation for the summer examinations, especially in the core subject English Language which has undergone many significant changes as part of Wales' GCSE reforms. Pupils have now completed the Speaking and Listening 20% Controlled Assessment aspect of the course through their individual extended talks and group discussion and will now be supported and challenged to develop and hone their skills for the reading and writing examinations.

28<sup>th</sup> February is a date to look forward to for a group of Year 9 and 10 pupils who will be attending the Poetry Live! event in Birmingham. This will be a great opportunity to see and hear GCSE poets perform and discuss their work.

Many Key Stage 3 pupils have contributed impressive written work on the theme of Wales for

the school Eisteddfod. It was difficult to choose the top 3 from each year group as so many pupils had clearly put a lot of time, thought and skill into producing detailed, interesting, original and well-presented poems or essays on what Wales means to them and inspirational places and people of Wales. Da iawn pawb.

*Miss Bryan*  
*Curriculum Leader of English*

## Musical Successes

### Year 7

**Mia O'Brien** – Grade 1 Piano (merit)

**Lewis Hughes** – Grade 3 Cornet

**Rufus Edwards** – Grade 4 Clarinet (distinction)

### Year 8

**Harriet Evison** – Grade 5 Tenor Horn

**Zack Williams** – Grade 3 Cornet

**Aimee Edwards** – Grade 3 Clarinet

**Evie Huhtala** – Grade 3 Clarinet

### Year 9

**Emma Hinde** – Grade 5 Theory (distinction) and Grade 4 Tenor Saxophone (merit)

### Year 10

**Carys Price** – Grade 4 Piano (distinction)

### Year 11

**Cara Bird** – Grade 5 Flute

**Natalia Tonner** – Grade 2 Piano

**Cara Roberts** – Grade 5 Piano (merit)

*Mrs Goodison*  
*Curriculum Leader of Music*

## Year 10 Health Day

The Year 10 Health Day took place on 17<sup>th</sup> January. We had experts in from the police to health care, covering a range of topics. The pupils were very positive about the day and seemed to gain a lot from it.

*Miss Lynch*

*Year 10 Pastoral Leader of Learning*

I found that the information we received on the Health Day was very useful.

*James Evans, 10 King*

The Health day was very interesting as we learnt many things that we didn't know.

*Connor Frawley, 10 Devereux*

I learnt about the risk of cancer and how to identify it.

*Morgan Lodwick, 10 Kolbe*

Good variety of topics especially the information from the person about cancer.

*Darcy Goodwin, 10 King*

## Look out India, here I come...

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February I will be flying out to visit the Year 11 charity, *Reaching the Unreached*. The charity was founded by Brother James Kimpton in 1978 and works to support the poorest of the poor in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. The charity has been involved in rescuing many abandoned children over the years, some who are HIV positive or suffering with AIDS. They are looked after by foster mothers,

given health care and educated which is all funded by the charity. I will be taking the money that was raised by Year 11 last term which is £932.10, which is a great amount. If you would like to know more about the charity, please visit [www.rtu.org.uk](http://www.rtu.org.uk), where you will be able to see the incredible work that Bro James has done.

*Mrs M Davies*

## Year 8 Charity Update

### Sweet Stall (Sweet Chariots)

For the last couple of weeks we have really enjoyed ourselves selling a range of sweets and other goodies. It has been a great experience and we would advise other people to join in next year!

We would like to thank Demi's Nana (Deb Szabo) for providing most of our stock at a reduced price. We are incredibly thankful, diolch yn fawr. We are so happy with the fantastic amount of money we have raised for CAFOD and Christian Aid with a total of £264.95. We are thankful to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts.

*Isabel Acton, Megan Conway, Demi Morris and Sumi Williams, 8 Romero*

### Nail Varnish

We designed posters to advertise our idea. Every Friday at 12.30pm-1.10pm we set up our charity in the Art room. and on the day we had a great start, teachers even came along too. We raised over £63.00 with some funds still to be received.

*Yasmin Rami, Nia Bond, Aimee Brassey, Harriett Evison and Caitlin Edwards, 8 Kolbe*

### Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped make our cake sale a success. We are very pleased with the money we have raised.

*Rebecca Neal, Alisha Lloyd, Chloe McNee, 8 Devereux*

## Year 9 Health Day

Year 9 took part in a Health Day on 1<sup>st</sup> February, which was particularly well received. A wide variety of activities were organised by Mrs Woodward, as the pupils enjoyed a theatre production by Cats Paw Productions, a talk on appropriate use of social media and mobiles by PC Gail Sinclair, and sessions on bereavement and relationships.

In a questionnaire afterwards, the pupils awarded the day an average mark of 8.1 out of 10, with 68% of pupils rating it at 8 out of 10 or above, so they clearly enjoyed the day!

Typical comments afterwards were: "Very good, got the information across well", "Very entertaining and interactive, also informative", "Very educational and emotional", and "Involving and well done."

A massive thank you to Mrs Woodward for organising the day, and to our external speakers, Reverend Mary, Miss Morrey and Miss Massey for delivering the day superbly.

*Mr Griffiths*

*Year 9 Pastoral Leader of Learning*

## Sports News

More to celebrate from St Joseph's PE Department this half term!

Year 7 and 8 Girls football Wrexham county runners up;

Year 8 boys Wrexham County rugby champions;

Wrexham County Cross Country Runners - Ethan Callaghan, Connor Hughes, Emily Norfolk, Phoebe Norfolk, Olivia Price, Morgan Burke, Ruby Booth;

Under 16 Netball Ann Smart North East Wales runners up;

Great showing in North Wales swimming competitions by Harri Wilk and Adam Taylor, Adam won 13 gold medals!

Welsh cycling came into school as part of their talent ID programme. 2500 pupils tested nationwide, 5 St Joseph's pupils selected for the next phase of testing. Lewis Dutton, Oskar Talkowski, Tom Merrill, Dorian Somerfeld and Connor Wells.

*Mr McComb*  
*Curriculum Leader of PE*

## PTA Thai Night Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm £12 per person

The final date for purchasing tickets for the legendary PTA **Thai Banquet** is **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March**. Whether you have previously enjoyed the delights of

this wonderful evening, or would like to come and sample a selection of fragrant and aromatic Thai dishes for the first time, you certainly won't be disappointed.

The ever-popular £1.50 bar will be available throughout the evening.

If you would like tickets, please e-mail as soon as possible to

**mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk**

or alternatively send your request together with ticket money in an envelope marked Thai Night, to the School Reception.

## Don't miss out!

### Piece of Pizza

During lunchtime on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January Year 9 Devereux were treated to a pizza lunch from Dominoes. Just before Christmas the school was challenged to take part in the shoebox appeal for Teams4U and 9 Devereux as a form class managed to make just under 30 boxes. Well done 9 Devereux - bon appétit!

*Miss Massey*

## Year 10 Entrepreneurs

After the February half term break the Year 10 pupils will be starting their Enterprise element of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

Watch this space for news of the products and services they will be offering! During Year 9 they had

to re-invent a failing car wash business and many of them showed potential as budding entrepreneurs, with some very creative ideas, so it looks like we may have a future Alan Sugar in our school. Watch this space!!!!

*Mrs Tait*

## Year 9 Charity update

Alicja Zacharska, Natalia Sienkowska and Julia Wisniewska organised a highly successful talent contest in order to raise funds for the Year 9 charity. The standard was incredibly high and the judges, Alicja, Julia, Mrs Williams and Mr Griffiths, had a difficult time deciding who the top three were.

Eventually they decided that the winners were Ella Kyffin-Jones and Niamh Gillon, for a brilliantly original song, dance and rap routine. In second place was Shea Ferron, whose magnificent singing voice amazed the audience, and in third place was another excellent singer, Yasmin Rami.

Also Chris Siji and Rhys Ellis-Patel organised a penalty shoot-out in aid of Year 9's charity fundraising. Mr Walsh and myself were the goalkeepers, and pupils paid to have five shots at them. There was a terrific amount of enthusiasm shown by the pupils, but naturally they struggled to score past such world class goalkeepers!

*Mr Griffiths*  
*Year 9 Pastoral Leader of Learning*

## Exams Season is fast approaching!

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
-Year 7 exams start

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
-Year 10 exams start

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**  
National Literacy and Numeracy  
Tests start for Years 7, 8 and 9

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
- GCSE exams start

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**  
- Year 8 exams start

*100% attendance is essential  
throughout these exams.*

Please remember the importance of preparing well for your exams and make sure you have all the correct equipment before your examinations start.

- A clear pencil case or plastic bag containing writing materials needed to complete the paper (please do not bring a coloured pencil case).
- Black ink or ballpoint pens. No eraser pens or correction pens are allowed.
- Pencils, erasers and highlighter pens.
- A small bottle of water (labels must be removed from bottles).
- Mathematical equipment, including a calculator (with no back).

## Join Only Boys Aloud

There are no auditions or fees. Rehearsals are one evening a week. Find your OBA group on [onlyboysaloud.com](http://onlyboysaloud.com) or email at [oba@thealoudcharity.com](mailto:oba@thealoudcharity.com) or just turn up at your nearest rehearsal.

## School Eisteddfod

The School Eisteddfod was held in the school gym on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February. Years 7 and 8 took part in the onstage competitions and Years 7, 8 and 9 competed in the offstage competitions. Pupils had been busy preparing for the Eisteddfod Competitions for a number of weeks and the standard of the entries was high. Competitions were held for the subjects of Welsh, Music, French, German, Drama and disco dancing. The chairing of the bard was held at the end of the Eisteddfod. This year Hannah Simister was chosen to be bard after successfully winning the English competition.

Some Year 9 pupils were chosen to help judge and score the Eisteddfod this year and we are very grateful for their support and for doing such a brilliant job! Diolch yn fawr i bawb! The morning was very enjoyable... it was brilliant and a delight to see so many talented pupils celebrating and enjoying the

Eisteddfod! Thank you to all the pupils and teachers who made the event such a success.

*The Eisteddfod Team*

## Sainsbury's Active Kids

The PE Department are currently collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers ~ a superb opportunity to help raise funds for school, at no cost to you. The vouchers are available in Sainsbury's stores until **2<sup>nd</sup> May**, and can be redeemed for school sports equipment.

The Active Kids scheme aims to help young people of all ages and abilities lead healthier, more active lifestyles, whilst having fun. **Please take your vouchers to the School Foyer.** Many thanks.

*PE Department*

## Preparing for the future - Year 9 Options

Thank you to all parents/carers of Year 9 pupils, who have recently attended Options Meetings with members of the Senior Leadership Team. Pupils are to be commended on the mature manner in which they conducted themselves during the interview and for their thorough preparation beforehand. Thank you very much for your prompt feedback on the Options process, which is much appreciated. Parents and pupils will be informed about their choices in the future.

*Mrs Arnull*

## 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 items for Food Technology, Science, Languages and Mathematics. 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 Standing 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

## Dates for the Diary

**27<sup>th</sup> February**  
School re-opens

**28<sup>th</sup> February**  
Year 10 'Poetry Live' English Trip

**2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
Year 9 Pantasaph Retreat

**6<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 8 Parents' Evening

**7<sup>th</sup> March**  
PTA Meeting (6.45pm)

**10<sup>th</sup> March**  
PTA Non-uniform day  
(chocolate donation)

## School Contact Details



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