



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 4 FRIDAY 7TH APRIL 2017

Christ our Saviour by Rev'd Mary Stallard & Sr. Maggie Catlow

Participation in this year's Ash Wednesday liturgy seemed to reach an all-time high (certainly for recent years)



with almost 500 pupils and staff gathering for this solemn celebration marking the beginning of Lent. With such large numbers the service could have been a little chaotic, but the exemplary behaviour of the pupils and the skilled organisation of the staff, led by Miss Massey, ensured that it was a prayerful and dignified act of worship. Thanks are due also to the Chaplaincy team, Mrs Goodison and all who helped. The pupils from year 10, who led an act of prayer involving candles being blown out and then, later re-lit, did a wonderful job in establishing a moving and hopeful atmosphere. As it was also St David's day we had a

Welsh hymn as well as our usual bilingual opening prayer and blessing.

We have continued to mark the season of Lent in school with Reconciliation services in Religious Education lessons and the opportunity for pupils to speak to a priest from either tradition, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or for a prayer or a blessing. We are so grateful to all the clergy who made such an effort to support the school in offering this ministry. The pupils appreciate the opportunity to meet and pray with the clergy and we are so glad to receive this ministry. The Reconciliation services led by the Religious Education staff offer pupils



a valuable time of reflection about anything that is broken or hurting in their lives and relationships: Through a number of prayerful activities and the space to be still, they are gently guided towards seeking ways forward from any troubles they are encountering. All pupils take part in this activity and their enthusiasm and faithfulness is a great sign of hope and encouragement for our churches and faith communities.

As we approach Holy Week we take time to reflect on Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, and become more aware of our Saviour's love for us. We thank him for being willing to suffer such torment in order to bring us to life – life in all its fullness as he promised.

Loving Lord Jesus we thank you for being our saviour. Help us to realise the depth of your love for each one of us and forgive us our many failures. Help us to show your love to others and bring hope and joy to our troubled world. Amen.

Welcome to TenTen

On the 27th February we welcomed the TenTen Theatre Company to school for their annual visit. TenTen Theatre deliver sessions to the pupils around PSE issues, the sessions this year were called "Facts of Life" for Year 8 and explored the story of girl who had started at a new school because her family circumstances had changed.

The format for the delivery has changed slightly from previous years, this year, instead of live theatre; the pupils watched a huge cinema screen.

The Christian messages they bring to the pupils are the same as those we give the pupils every day, messages of self-esteem, self-worth, responsibility and the love of neighbour and of God. The film clips were discussed and the themes developed with the pupils by TenTen Theatre staff and the pupils were highly engaged throughout the performances.

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

"I really enjoyed the TenTen theatre session because it made me really think about how the events in the film could actually happen, it made me realise that would like to help people who might be struggling."

Aimee Edwards, 8 King

"I loved how we viewed it on the big screen; I definitely want to watch another of their dramas!"

Mary Moran, 10 Cassidy

"The film was thought-provoking and insightful; it was very moving and made me think about various situations." **Emily Oliver, 10 Romero**

"10:10 was good for people of our age, because we found out about draw backs of online chat rooms"

Mitchell Williams, 8 Kolbe

"In between each part of the film we answered questions and learned something every minute!"

Harriet Evison, 8 Kolbe

"It was fun to watch the film, I think everyone enjoyed it."

Paulo Pereira, 8 Kolbe

Poetry Live

Pupils from Years 9 and 10 travelled to Birmingham on an English trip arranged by Miss Bryan, which allowed them to hear performances from five poets and an explanation of how to answer GCSE poetry questions from a Chief Examiner.

It was a terrific line-up of some of the great names of contemporary poetry. Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, John Agard, Grace Nichols, Owen Sheers and Imtiaz Dharker all read their work.



"We haven't always enjoyed poetry in the past but this was very informative and enjoyable. Owen Sheers was our favourite poet."

Finnbar Sparey-Taylor & Ethan Johnson

"We thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Birmingham. The poets were really enthusiastic. We will understand poetry much better on the future and we know more of what to expect in Years 10 and 11."

Mary Hazel, Mia Williams, Eve Czerniak, 9 Kolbe & Hannah Rodgers 9 Devereux

Eisteddfod

As always in the school Eisteddfod, the winner of the Year 9 English writing competition was formally crowned as the bard of the Eisteddfod. This year's winner was Hannah Simister of 9 Romero with her response to the following task: *Write about a Welsh person who inspires you or that you admire.* Hannah chose to write about her grandmother. The descriptions of her grandmother's life, personality and admirable qualities were thoughtfully, maturely worded. The writing engaged the reader through the choice of information, details and vocabulary. It was really cleverly and effectively organised too because Hannah wrote all about the woman but withheld until the very last paragraph the fact that this woman is her grandmother and this made a really powerful, satisfying ending. The work was well presented with developed paragraphs, neat handwriting and a picture of Hannah's grandmother. Da iawn to Hannah and to the other pupils who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Years 7, 8 and 9; their work is now proudly displayed in the English department.

Miss Bryan and Mrs Poole

The PTA did it again!

Our annual Thai Night took place on Friday, 3rd March and raised over £700! The £1.50 bar was as popular as ever!!! The food was delicious, as usual, and a good night was had by all.

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

"I had a fantastic night! Very relaxed atmosphere, wonderful food and really good value for the drinks! Very well organised. Thank you very much for all the hard work you all put in. We will definitely be back! Gracias!"

Beatriz Albo

"Thanks for all the hard work that everyone puts in. I brought along some new people and they were very impressed and will definitely be coming again!"

Liz Dodman

Tin Can Appeal

St. Joseph's are taking part in the Tin Can Appeal for the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry. We are asking for people to collect all their waste tin cans, in order for the Ironwork Centre to create a bust of Her Majesty the Queen. This appeal will educate our children about how important it is to recycle.

Here are some facts for you:

- Did you know that up to 60% of our rubbish is recycle-able?
- If we recycled all tin cans in the UK, we would need circa 20 million fewer dustbins?!
- Making one aluminum drink can uses the same amount of energy that it takes to recycle 20 cans!

For more information visit: <http://stjosephs.wales/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Tin-Can-Appeal-PDF.pdf>

Ski Trip 2016

The Ski Trip left school on Friday, 17th February at 4pm. The journey proved to be very exciting but a long way. We arrived late the next day in San Simon, Italy with a welcome meal at the hotel.

The following morning we were all up and ready to go. After an efficient ski fit the group all had the morning to enjoy the snow in San Simone, where they enjoyed making snow men and other fun activities. Following lunch we headed to the ski resort of Foppolo for our first lesson. Although quite close, it was a difficult journey because there was a skidoo festival at the resort and it was very busy.

On arrival, the pupils went straight onto the slopes and the conditions were very good. After an initial assessment the pupils were then put into four ability groups ready for the week ahead.

Each day consisted of an early start and ready to ski by gam. The lessons were 2 hours in the morning and up-to 4 hours in the afternoon. The resort proved to be ideal for pupils to make rapid progress as the lifts were quiet and there were no queues. For lunch we went to a restaurant where we had lovely warm Italian pasta. This was a welcome break and we always had a bit of free

time to enjoy the fantastic weather.

The weather was unusually warm and some days we even got sun tans on our faces. The ski conditions were good throughout the week but the snow did start to melt towards the end. There was plenty of good skiing to be done, especially at the top of the mountain!

All the groups were soon skiing from the top of the mountain on blue and red runs. By the end of the week all the groups had skied the difficult, black slope. This was a first for St. Joseph's as usually only the top group gets to ski the black slopes. All pupils were safe throughout the week as each session was carefully led, depending on ability, via experienced instructors.

Apres ski is a wonderful way to unwind and every night there was a fantastic activity planned. On the Sunday night all the pupils attended a Sunday prayer service that was held at the hotel and had been prepared by Rev'd Mary Stallard. A highlight was the pizza night where the whole group took the coach to a nearby Italian restaurant and had an authentic Italian Pizza. This was a fantastic experience as all the pizzas were made in a real clay oven. Other activities included a games night, disco, presentation and quiz.

We left Hotel San Simone on the Friday evening after the ski session and arrived back at Wrexham the following day in the afternoon. All the pupils and staff had a wonderful trip and the

pupils were brilliantly behaved from start to finish.

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

"Best memories you'll ever have."
Sioned Edwards

"100% worth it, what a laugh"
Harri Wilk

"Amazing trip that's to Mr D! Best trip ever!"
Harvey Salisbury

"It was great learning new skills."
Connor Frawley

Art Exhibition

Our Senior Caretaker, Mr Davies is also a Ceramic Artist and following his previous success in the Grosvenor Museum Chester's 11th

Biennial Open Art Exhibition, he is currently exhibiting one of his pieces in the 12th Biennial Exhibition.



This year's piece is a sculptural/functional Porcelain vase. The event runs from the 9th March to 21st June. Mr Davies is also currently trying to set up a website to showcase his work which will be for sale.

Sports News

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

Badminton North Wales 5 x 60 Finals

Llangyfarchiadau to the 16 pupils who competed at Deeside in the North Wales 5x60 Badminton Finals. Everyone played fantastically well and earned some fabulous results with everyone coming away with a medal.

Year 7 & 8 Boys - 2nd

Year 7 & 8 Girls - 1st

Year 9 & 10 boys - 2nd

Year 9 & 10 girls - 3rd

Da iawn i chi gyd!

Bust A Rhyme

Congratulations to published writers Konrad Marciak (10 Kolbe) and Wiktoria Milczanowska (9 Cassidy)! They submitted successful entries to a poetry competition earlier this year and their work has now been published in the poetry anthology 'Bust A Rhyme.'

All pupils should continue to look and listen out for the posters and information within the English department about future writing competitions. We have so many supremely talented writers in this school; you just have to be in it to win it!

Miss Bryan

Urdd Success

Llongyfarchiadau mawr – Congratulations to 9 Devereux pupils Ruby Birchall and Katie Samuels, Isabel Acton 8 Romero and Emma Samuels 7 Devereux who represented St. Joseph's at

the Urdd County Eisteddfod last Friday. Ruby impressed the judges with her confident performance in the recitation for learners and was a very deserving winner. The four pupils took part in the Ymgom (5 minute sketch) and following an excellent performance and adjudication, they were also placed first. They will now go on to represent Wrexham and Flintshire at the Urdd National Eisteddfod which this year takes place in Bridgend. Da iawn i chi gyd! **Mrs D Jones**

Taizé

The annual visit to Taizé, the ecumenical religious community in central France will take place again this year from 1st – 10th July. This trip is open to pupils from Year 10 and 11 and is a great opportunity for pupils to spend time with young people from all over the world for a week of reflection. It costs £300 (although there is some funding to support pupils from low-income families) and more details are available from Rev'd Mary.



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Spot lights on the Religious Education Department

Once again we are approaching the end of a very busy term. Pupils have had a wide variety of enrichment activities arranged by the department and have completed numerous assessments.

All pupils study The People of God framework at Key Stage 3. This nationally developed framework is deliberately mapped against the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales [2012] of the Bishops' Department of Catholic Education and Formation. The framework enables us to deliver a wide variety of experience and enables all pupils to reflect upon their own faith journey.

Pupils in Year 7 are about to complete their learning that has been focused on exploring the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, the Son of God. Themes include Jesus as a person in history, the disciples' experience of Jesus, Jesus as Christ/Messiah and the Incarnation and historical evidence.

In Year 8 learning has been focused on the idea that we can live as a Covenant People. During this Unit we also made use of a dynamic resource called 'Plugged in' that helped pupils focus on

their own faith, and how we can overcome the obstacles that may prevent us from fully living out our religious beliefs.

Finally in Year 9 pupils have been looking at the theme of 'Evil and Suffering' and the differences between Moral and Natural Evil. Also pupils have been challenged to reflect on how as a Christian we can respond to these problems. *Miss Massey*

Year 11 pupils are close to completing their GCSE course in Religious Studies and many are taking advantage of after school revision sessions. It is crucial now that all pupils prepare well for the summer examinations on May 15th (Unit 3) and June 15th (Unit 16). Good luck to all our Year 11 pupils.

Year 10 are currently studying WJEC 'Religion and Life' Unit 1 which includes the topics; **Relationships:** Issues of love, marriage and divorce; **Is it Fair?:** Issues of justice and equality; **Looking for Meaning:** Issues about God, life and death; **Our World:** Exploring creation and our place in the world. Pupils engage well with these issues and are making good progress with the demands of GCSE. Da iawn pawb!

The new WJEC Religious Studies specification will be ready for first teaching in September 2017 for our current Year 9 pupils. *Mrs Roe*

Liverpool Places of Worship

On Monday, 27th March, the RE department took Year 8 to visit the Catholic and Anglican

Cathedrals in Liverpool along with the Princes Road Orthodox Jewish Synagogue. Each of the three places of worship welcomed our pupils warmly and provided detailed explanations of the significance of the many features to be found in the buildings. At both Cathedrals the pupils were taken in small groups led by tour guides who were able to explain the history of the architecture of the buildings along with explanations as to why certain features are important for Christian worship. The different aspects of Jewish worship and celebrations were explained in the Synagogue and pupils' enthusiasm and thought provoking questions were very much appreciated by those who led the presentations. At each venue, the conduct and good manners of our pupils was commented upon and we, as a staff, were very proud to be able to take so many of them on a day that we hope will enrich their experience of RE in the classroom and also their own journey of faith. *Mrs James*

Year 9 Retreat to Pantasaph

On March 2nd and 3rd the whole of Year 9 visited Pantasaph Friary near Holywell for a day retreat. The day was led by the RE department and the theme of the day was choices and working together, which fitted in nicely with the choices Year 9 will make about their options. Each member of the year got fully involved, taking part in icebreaker

games, drama and discussion, supporting each other brilliantly throughout every activity. Both days culminated with a beautiful liturgy, led by Rev Mary and Sister Maggie which celebrated the various gifts and talents of the pupils. The staff and community at the Friary commented on the exemplary behaviour of the pupils who were all a pleasure to be with.

Mrs Davies

Staff Prayer

One of many causes of joy for the chaplains has been the wonderful commitment shown by the staff to prayer. Each Friday at 8.40am, many of the staff gather in the chapel for a time of prayer. The desire to pray together, and the faithfulness of the staff community has been a great encouragement.

Rev'd Mary Stallard

Whole School Eucharist

While this bulletin is in preparation a great deal of extra work is happening in school in readiness for the whole school Eucharist for the Feast of St Joseph. Lots of chairs have been carried by pupils to the sports hall for this great celebration, and it says something about the patience and discipline of the whole school that everyone is so adaptable and willing to help. The theme of the Eucharist is "God is with us" and the celebrant is our Catholic



Bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Peter Brignall. The participation of so many young people who contribute to our worship through offering their diverse gifts is a constant source of encouragement and inspiration. The careful balance of joy and solemnity always makes these services engaging and enriching experiences. Once again we are indebted to all staff, friends, visitors and pupils who take part.

Rev'd Mary Stallard

Visit from the Netherlands

We were delighted to welcome a group of 33 students and their teachers from Carolus Clusius College, Zwolle in the Netherlands. It was an exciting opportunity for our students to meet their counterparts from the Netherlands and discuss the similarities and differences in the education systems.

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

"It was very interesting to meet people our age from a different country, because we could learn more about their interests and their culture."

Niamh Collins, 9 Devereux

"On Wednesday, 22nd March we had visitors from the Netherlands who came to our school to spend a day with forty five Year 9 pupils. We were all paired with a buddy to get to know each other and share thoughts about school, home and lots more! They joined our lessons to get a tasted of our

school life. On Thursday, 23rd March we spent the day in Liverpool with Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Large and our new friends. We visited Liverpool University and we were lucky enough to have a lecture about Life at the University and shortly after that, a lecture about Shakespeare. It was such an amazing experience and a way to make friends for life! Thank you very much Mrs Large for organising the two days of fun!"

Olivia Hughes, 9 King and Ellie Jones, 9 Romero

"I loved Liverpool! It gave me the chance to make new friends that I now talk to everyday and the talk about Life in University has made me think about studying in Liverpool. I've always wanted to study abroad, so this made me think about what I really want to do now and how I can achieve it. Thank you Mrs Large and Mr Wilkinson."

Ines Ventura, 9 Romero

"It was exciting to speak to people from another country and listen to their language."

Aoife Edwards, 9 Kolbe

"The trip was a great experience, it was a good opportunity to meet new people and find out about life in the Netherlands."

Luca Galante, 9 Romero

"It was wonderful to learn about their culture and how the Dutch people studied differently to us."

Sophia Dotolo, 9 King



PTA Wine Tasting - 12th May at 7pm

The PTA Wine Tasting Evening will be held on Friday 12th May. Tickets are £10 each, tables of eight are preferred. (PTA can accommodate smaller tables) last year was our first 'wine tasting' evening hosted by the very funny Alex Jones from The Bank Bar, Wrexham. You are encouraged to bring their own supper to soak up the wine, last year people brought quite lavish arrays of cheeses and nibbles. Fruit platters are provided.

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 PTA Wine Tasting, to the School Reception.

The final date for purchasing tickets for the evening is **Wednesday, 10th May**. Whether you have previously enjoyed the delights of this wonderful evening, or would like to come and sample a selection of wines from around the world, you certainly won't be disappointed.

Spring Concert

Our annual Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, 26th March (4-5.30pm). Donations welcomed on exit, all proceeds in aid of Gobaith i Ethiopia and the Music Department.

Mrs Goodison

Exams Season is approaching!

Tuesday, 25th April
Year 7 exams start

Tuesday, 2nd May
Year 10 exams start

Wednesday, 3rd May
National Literacy and Numeracy Tests start for Years 7, 8 and 9

Tuesday, 9th May
GCSE exams start

Monday, 15th 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).

Meet the Governor

Alison Fisher



I became a Governor in November 2015. I am an "active" Governor as I am able to attend numerous events and meetings during the working day to support the school. I sit on the Curriculum, Finance and Personnel committees as well as on the Admissions Panel.

I took early retirement from a leading Chamber of Commerce where I was Head of International Trade. I led world-wide trade delegations overseas for 30 years and assisted/advised companies to increase their importing/exporting capacity. Managing my department involved training, finance, budget and personnel responsibilities – skills which I have brought to my role as Governor.

I am passionate about young people's education – I sit on Wrexham Council's Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee as Governor Rep and also attend the regional group GwE (School Effectiveness & Improvement Service) as a Governor Representative.

Finally – I am Chair of Governors at Bwlchgwyn Primary School where I have been governor for 6 years. This combination of skills and experience will, I hope, prove useful in the governance of the school.

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

Saturday, 29th April
DIY SOS

Friday, 12th May
Wine Tasting
7pm

Friday, 30th June
Year 6, 7 and 8 Disco

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 24th April
Staff Development Day

Tuesday, 25th April
School Opens to Pupils

Wednesday, 26th April
Spring Concert (4-5.30pm)

Thursday, 27th April
Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Monday, 1st May
May Day ~ School Closed

Tuesday, 2nd May
PTA Meeting (6.45pm)

Thursday, 4th May
Year 11 Service of Celebration

Wednesday, 24th May
Year 8 Geography Rivers Trip

Friday, 26th May
School Closes for Half Term

School Contact Details



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