



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig ac Anglicanaidd Sant Joseff

ISSUE 5 FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2017

Round up by the Chaplains, Sister Maggie and Reverend Mary

Joint Staff Development Day

St Joseph's staff had the opportunity to gather with colleagues from other Catholic Schools in the Wrexham Diocese for a training day. This was superbly organised by Diocesan Director of Education, Mrs Rita Price and the day included input from scholar and author John West-Burnham, on the subject of "deep learning". The day was held at St Richard Gwyn High School in Flint and it gave us all a chance to meet and reflect with colleagues from our sister schools and to reflect upon our values and techniques as teachers and learners.

Year 11 service of celebration

As the new term began, so did intensive work with the Year 11 pupils to prepare and offer a wonderful service of celebration of their five years in our school. The creative abilities of the students shone through their artwork, music, dance, drama and singing. When a large group of pupils led the prayers, they managed to communicate what was on their hearts with dignity and integrity and this was really moving to witness. The evening, which included an act of anointing, felt like a very fitting way to send them into their exam period and towards the end of their time as



pupils in our school community. We wish them all well for the exams and for their remaining time in school. They know that we continue to pray for them.

Form Eucharists

All pupils at St Joseph's participate in a Eucharist (either Catholic or Anglican) arranged specially for their form. This term it has been the turn of Year 9 pupils. We are so grateful to the Catholic priests who have generously given up their time to come and say Mass at these lunchtime services. The pupils prepare for these celebrations, at which they pray for the world, for their homes, families and all who care for them and for the needs of the world.

Christian Aid Week A huge amount of fund-raising happens in school for a



whole host of amazing charities. This half term has included Christian Aid Week and it has been great to welcome the Rev'd Sarah Errington, the Rev'd Richard Sharples (Methodist Minister in Wrexham) the Rev'd Sam Erlandson and the Rev'd Jonathan Smith to lead the Year-9 group prayers each day of this week. (In the same week we also welcomed Fr Anthony, from the charity "Reaching the unreached" in India which the school has also faithfully supported for many years.)

Staff prayer Every Friday morning before school starts around 30 members of staff gather in the chapel for "Staff Prayers". Using the weekly themes from our churches and praying for the needs of our community and the needs of the world, these prayer service



s have provided a welcome time of reflection. We had the opportunity to share this type of prayer at St Asaph Cathedral recently in the a diocesan "Festival of Prayer" where our small service on the theme of vocation was warmly received.

Staff fitness and sponsorship Head of PE Mr McComb has been leading a "Staff Fitness" session in which members of staff

(including a chaplain!) have been learning Cross-Fit – a way of becoming fitter and stronger that involves lots of different sport disciplines. One spin-off from this has been that five members of staff are taking part in the Chester Half-Marathon at the end of May. We are doing this as an active way to live out our prayers for those who are living with cancer. We have a JustGiving page for our efforts and you can find us on-line under the heading StJosephsStaffTeam on JustGiving.com or donations can be sent to school. Thank you for all the support and encouragement we have already received.

Chaplains on Twitter! Mr Wilkinson has encouraged the chaplains in our emerging digital competence, and to that end you can now follow us on Twitter. You can find us at @SJ_WXM_Chaplain

Sister Maggie and Reverend Mary

St Joseph's Spring Concert

On Wednesday 26th April the Social Court was ringing with music once again for our Annual Spring Concert.

St Mary's Singing Squad led by Miss Lucy Shaw and Miss Heather Williams attended along with all their supporters and sang three wonderful songs, *Fix you*, *Count On Me* and *Heal The World!* We are looking forward to them all becoming St Joseph's pupils and sharing their beautiful voices with us even more! Well Done St

Mary's and thank you for coming along!

Our own pupils all performed admirably, there are too many to mention but the standard was really high and they entertained our capacity audience very well. Mrs Roe and Mrs Ellis particularly enjoyed *Jurassic Park* by the School Band, The School Choir showed incredible versatility and the Brass Group and Wind and String Group also gave us a great variety of high quality music led by 3 of our wonderful peripatetic teachers Mr Atherton, Miss Thomas and Mrs Davies.

Year 11 pupils were presented with certificates for five years of dedicated music making and I was very proud of everyone who took part.

Many thanks to Mr Wilkinson who accompanied some of the soloists with great panache and Mr Barlow who played cornet and conducted two of the School Band pieces. We raised £236 in donations to be shared between Gobaith i Ethiopia and for new Music.

*Mrs Goodison
Curriculum Leader, Music*

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'Show Racism the Red Card' Art Award

Lois Davies, 10 Kolbe, has won an award in the 'Show Racism the Red Card' Art Competition for her clothing designs shown below.



Lois and her family went to Cardiff to receive the award and she had a wonderful day. The winning designs and certificate she was awarded are on display in school along with her original designs. Well done Lois! We are very proud of her achievement, she is a worthy winner of the magnificent trophy given to her on the day.

*Mrs Woodward
Curriculum Leader, Art*

Geography pupils out and about...

Fieldwork is an essential aspect of Geography and it is a requirement for WJEC Geography that all pupils undertake fieldwork on at least two occasions in two contrasting environments, e.g. a town centre environment and a river environment. On 27th April, the two **Year 10 GCSE classes** undertook traffic and pedestrian counts in Wrexham town centre in order to be able to look at cycles and flows in an urban

environment. The primary data collected was then analysed and presented in a variety of graphs.

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

"Recently my class went into Wrexham to collect data for the unit we are currently working through – Rural Urban Links. We split up into groups around Wrexham to see how many pedestrians and vehicles pass in a certain amount of time. My group was placed where Wrexham used to have the greatest amount of footfall. This trip helped us gather important information to follow up our unit."

Jakub Kosinski, 10 Cassidy

Thanks PTA!

Our annual Wine Tasting Evening, hosted by Alex Jones from the Bank Wine Bar in Wrexham, took place on Friday, 12th May and raised over £350.

Bin It!

On Monday 8th May the "Bin It Roadshow" came to St Joseph's, the lively presentation was watched by all Year 8 in the Social Court. The two young actors who presented it were excellent in getting the pupils to interact with them in a humorous way and gave them a clear message about their responsibility to their community and the environment. It also taught the pupils about some of the consequences, both legally and morally, of dropping litter and damaging the environment. This

is the fourth year that we have welcomed the team into school and hope their wonderful work continues for many years to come.

Mrs Woodward

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

"We watched a play called Bin It! It was all about littering and mostly chewing gum. We really liked when the actors pretended to be old people and teenagers. We learned that you can get fined £80 for littering."

*Alicja Zacharska and Julia Wisniewska,
8 Kolbe*

Year 11 Maths Revision

A series of maths revision workshops will be held right up until the end of the exam. All pupils have been issued with a timetable outlining the time and topic of the session; this is also available on the e-learning website and on Twitter.

The first GCSE paper will be on Tuesday 13th June and the second paper on Tuesday 20th June.

I would encourage you to sit with your child and work through the revision cards. There are links to videos and questions via a key code. The three main websites to revise from are Mr Barton Maths, Mr Corbett maths and BBC bitesize. These can easily be found via GOOGLE. Please follow St Joseph's Maths Twitter account -@sj_wxm_maths.

*Mr Donlon
Curriculum Leader, Maths*

Au Revoir Year 11s

After 4 years of working with the year group and their parents, the time came for them to have their leaver's celebration.

It was a great honour to stand in front of the year group and welcome them to the event as well as parents and carers. It is always heartening to know how much parents and carers support us with the care and education that the pupils receive, and the leaver's celebration was no exception. With a fantastic turn out

we watched the pupils perform introduction sketches, sing beautifully and celebrate their time at St Josephs in a very prayerful manner. Every member of the year contributed to the evening and it was clear to see how proud the pupils, parents and staff were.

The pupils had obviously worked very hard to ensure that the evening ran well, with the expert guidance from the RE department and the chaplaincy team. I am very pleased to have been a part of the occasion and I am sure the pupils will remember it for many years to come.

*Mr Lambert,
Pastoral Leader for Year 11*

**"Trust the Lord
with all your heart"**

The Year 11 Service of Celebration was a wonderful occasion and a fitting conclusion to their time with us, here at St. Joseph's.

We were incredibly proud of all our young people as they not only showcased their amazing gifts and talents, but beautifully led their parents, carers and each other, in prayer and worship.

There were so many moving and memorable moments; the humorous welcome sketch, the powerful penitential, the fabulous choirs, the brilliant soloists and readers, the

bidding prayers and offering of gifts and the hugely talented artists. Wow! Such incredible young people!

As staff, we believe that each and every member of our Year 11 will make a difference in the world; not because of the career they choose to follow, but because of the person they are.

*Mrs Roe
Curriculum Leader, RE*

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

"It was a really nice way to say goodbye to my classmates. It was really fun and well thought out. The teachers really helped pull the whole thing together. It was a great experience."

Morgan Foulkes, 11 Kolbe

"The Leaver's Service was a great opportunity to say goodbye and it reminded me of everything we

have achieved over these 5 years. I will not forget the evening."

Hannah Roberts, 11 Cassidy

Fundraising Update

Four girls gave up their breaks and lunch time to collect money for the East African Starvation Appeal. Also Alyshia Beton and Lucia Hernandez-Williams went on a sponsored walk over Easter to support the appeal and together they raised £110.

*Miss Lynch
Fundraising Co-ordinator*

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

"In May we have been raising money for the East African Starvation Appeal. We volunteered to help the charity and over the four days we raised £37, which is nearly enough to save two children. Would you like to help?"

Celyn Jones, Chloe Lynch Hughes, Ruby Booth and Scarlett Williams, 7 Cassidy

"On 23rd April we did a sponsored walk from Wrexham Football Ground to Broughton Shopping Centre (10.4 miles). We raised money for the East African Starvation Appeal and managed to raise £110 which will feed around four people. We are proud to say that we have helped people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

*Lucia Hernandez-Williams, 10 Cassidy
and Alyshia Beton, 10 Kolbe*

Sports News

Athletics

Connor Wells, Bobby Broadhead, Jack Jones, Niamh Collins and Isabelle Collins all represented Wrexham County in the North East Wales School Championships at Deeside on Thursday 18th May. All of them came top 3 in their events with special congratulations to Niamh Collins and Isabelle Collins who won and will be representing North East Wales in the Welsh School Championships in Cardiff in July. Niamh will be competing in the shot put and Isabelle in the javelin.

Cycling

A fantastic achievement by Lewis Dutton, who after a rigorous selection process has been offered a place in the Welsh Track Cycling Sprint Academy. The coaches monitored his progress and were very impressed with Lewis's aptitude and attitude towards the activities, assessing his potential as a Sprint cyclist.

As a programme athlete Lewis will receive;

- Individual coaching; - Cycling sessions (initially x2 per week);
- Monthly sessions at Wales National Velodrome, Newport; - Strength and conditioning / nutrition workshops;
- Basic track bike and essential equipment (where required).

Well done Lewis, Tokyo 2020 here you come!

The PE department is extremely proud of all of our competitors, but special congratulations to Lewis, Niamh and Isabelle.

Clubs

As always we have a wide range of extra-curricular clubs running at the moment for pupils of all abilities and interests. Come and get involved!

Mr McComb
Curriculum Leader, PE

Science Matters

From the burning of a match, the steps forward in genetics and the mysterious theories of dark matter and dark energy, science is all around us. It governs our every actions and reactions. The advances in science have led to the development of mobile phones and tablets, cures for diseases that were once incurable and the invention most of us rely on - the internal combustion engine.

The science department at St Joseph's tries to instill in our pupils the wonders of our subject. Throughout Key stage 3 and 4 pupils are taught to question and develop independent scientific thinking as well as the more practical aspects of experimental techniques.

Science is taught by six full time teaching staff, each an expert in their fields of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. As well as six full time teachers we have two teachers from other specialisms who teach in Key stage 3. As well as the teaching staff we also

have a laboratory technician whose job is to prepare practicals, photocopy and other jobs too numerous to list!

At Key stage 3 science is taught in classes in Year 7 and then sets in years 8 - 9. In Biology, Chemistry and Physics basic concepts are introduced in Year 7 and then built upon in Years 8 and 9. Whilst the National Curriculum focuses on scientific enquiry, we think that this should be backed up by theoretical content which is invaluable as the pupil's progress into their GCSEs. At the end of each year pupil's sit four exams, one testing their skills and knowledge of scientific enquiry and three testing their knowledge and understanding of theoretical Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

At Key stage 4 we offer Triple award science, double award science, single applied science and entry level science. Triple award and double award are offered at both Higher and Foundation tier, whilst single applied science is offered at foundation tier. All subjects offered follow the 2017 new WJEC syllabuses. More information about the syllabuses can be found on the WJEC website.

Over the past fifteen years the results obtained by our pupils at both Key stages have been above the local and national averages, a fact of which we are extremely proud.

Mr Price
Curriculum Leader, Science

Lift off for Rocket Week!

As part of our Transition Programme Year 6 pupils have been invited to visit St Joseph's to take part in our famous Rocket Week starting **Monday 26th June** and finishing on **Friday 30th June**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our new pupils to become familiar with the school and to get to know some of the teachers and make new friends too.

This exciting project involves pupils in a number of different subjects, such as Science, English, Technology and Maths. The children will be taking part in a number of activities and they will design and build their own rockets. They even get the chance to launch them, too!!

Although Thursday 29th June is Common Transfer Day in Wrexham, we will be holding the **Parents' Information Meeting on Monday 26th June** starting at **6.30pm** when we will pass on all the relevant information regarding the move to secondary school.

The PTA will be holding a Disco for our Years 7 and 8 pupils on Friday 30th June from 6pm to 8pm, and have invited our new pupils to join them at this event. Tickets will be on sale to pupils during Rocket Week, at a cost of £1. There will also be a drink and sweet stall at the Disco.

We look forward to welcoming Year 6 pupils to St Joseph's.

Mrs Roberts
Pastoral Leader, Year 7

Wrexham County Choir sing with Aled Jones

It was a real pleasure to be in the audience at two concerts in Glyndwr recently, both of which featured Wrexham County Youth Choir including 26 of our present and past pupils - how proud was I that they were chosen by the famous singer and TV/Radio Presenter Welshman Aled Jones to back him.

They also sang their hearts out last Friday in the Wrexham Music Service Gala Concert which also included many of our instrumentalists in the Intermediate Wind and String Groups and the Senior Strings, Brass and Wind Groups.

It is so good to see so many young musicians giving so much pleasure to a capacity audience and to such a high standard. **Well done everyone** and keep on with your music.

Mrs Goodison
Curriculum Leader, Music

Years 7, 8 and 9 lets go!

Activities Day for Years 7, 8 and 9 is taking place on Friday, 7th July and there are a host of activities to choose from. The selection includes Cadburys World, Chester Zoo, Crocky Trail, Mountain Biking at the National Cycling

Centre, Chill Factore, Trafford Centre Shopping Trip and Introduction to Squash and Golf. In-school activities include Crafty Cappers and a Drama Workshop.

Payment should be received by Friday, 16th June, preferably using Wrexham County Council's online payment system which can be accessed through our website by following the link 'on-line payment'. After entering your child's name and Payment Reference Number you can select 'Activities Day' and the appropriate trip.

The Trip Leader will arrange a meeting with your child and explain exactly what they require on the day. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Hardwell.

Gobaith i Ethiopia - Hope for Ethiopia

A concert in aid of Hope for Ethiopia is taking place on Sunday, 9th July at 7pm at St Joseph's.

The KwaZulu Natal Midlands Youth Choir and Michaelhouse School Chapel Choir from South Africa, competitor's at this year's *International Eisteddfod, Llangollen*, will be performing.

Tickets are £8 (16 or under £4) and are available from John and Barbara Smith 01978 291523; Thea Howells 01978 351964 and St Joseph's High School.

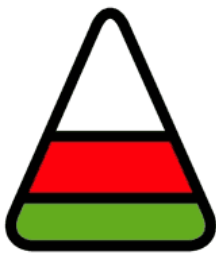
Evening of Excellence

Arrangements are well underway for our *Evening of Excellence* which will be held at St Joseph's. The event will take place on Thursday, 13th July 7pm-8pm. The purpose of the evening is to celebrate the many talents and successes of our pupils, and a variety of certificates and awards will be issued. Teaching staff are currently collating all the nominations, and so letters to the successful pupils will be issued after half term, inviting them and parents/carers to this wonderful event.

Mr Wilkinson

Urdd Eisteddfod

Next week, the Urdd Eisteddfod is taking place at Pencoed, Bridgend and four pupils will be representing the school on Wednesday, 31st May. The Urdd is the largest youth movement in Europe and thousands of young people compete every year!



Ruby Birchall, 9 Devereux will be competing in the solo recitation once again and also in the Ymgom (Sketch) where she will be joined by Isabel Acton, 8 Romero, Katie Samuels 9 Devereux and Emma Samuels, 7

Devereux. I am sure we all wish them luck. **Pob hwyl a lwc yn y 'Steddfod!**

*Mrs D Jones
Welsh Teacher*

Glan-Llyn here we come...

The Welsh Department is eagerly looking forward to the Glan-Llyn visit which takes place on 21st-23rd June.

A meeting will be held on Friday, 9th June at 4.30pm at St Joseph's to discuss arrangements for this visit. This will also give you the opportunity to inform us about any medical or special requirements your child has which might affect their stay at Glan-Llyn. **Diolch am eich cydweithrediad. Thank you for your co-operation.**

*Mrs Davies
Curriculum Leader, Welsh*

Help us to help you!

Here at St Joseph's we aim to support pupils and parents in any way we can. Sometimes it may be necessary to speak to a member of staff about an important issue or difficulty that your child is experiencing. Naturally, it is not always possible for a member of the Teaching Staff or Senior Leadership Team to deal with the problem instantly, due to their teaching commitments or prior engagements.

We kindly request therefore that parents and carers contact the school to agree a mutually convenient appointment. We really appreciate your support in helping us to help your child.

Mr Wilkinson

Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' Vouchers

The PE Department is 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 **June 2017** 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 Front Office **by 30th June**. Many thanks.

PE Department

Music Success

Year 9

Alisha Carr, Grade 5 Alto Saxophone (Merit)

Bethan Purdie, Grade 4 Clarinet

Year 10

Elin Jones, Grade 6 Violin (merit)

*Mrs Goodison
Curriculum Leader, Music*

Forthcoming PTA Event

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

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 5th June
School opens to pupils

Tuesday, 13th June
Year 9 Collaborative Induction
PTA Meeting (6.45pm)

Friday, 16th June
Year 7/8 National 'Can Sing' Day

Wednesday 21st June
Year 11 Prom

Monday, 26th June
New Intake Evening (6.30pm)

Tuesday, 27th June
Year 7 Day of Pilgrimage

Thursday, 29th June
Common Transfer Day

Tuesday, 4th July
PTA Meeting (6.45pm)

Friday, 7th July
Years 7-9 Activities Day

Thursday, 13th July
Sports Day
Evening of Excellence

Friday, 21st July
School closes at 3.30pm

Term dates for 2017-2018 Academic Year

Autumn Term

Tuesday 5th September 2017
to Thursday 26th October 2017

Monday 6th November 2017
to Friday 22nd December 2017

Spring Term

Tuesday 9th January 2018
to Friday 9th February 2018

Monday 19th February 2018
to Friday 23rd March 2018

Summer Term

Tuesday 10th April 2018
to Friday 25th May 2018

Monday 4th June 2018
to Friday 20th July 2018

May Day

Monday 7th May 2018

Training Days

Friday 1st September 2017
Monday 4th September 2017
Friday 27th October 2017
Monday 8th January 2018
Monday 9th April 2018



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