



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 1 THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2017

Round up by the Chaplains, Sister Maggie and Reverend Mary

It's hard to believe that we're already approaching half-term, the weeks seem to be flying past since the beginning of September and the start of a new school year. Here are a few highlights from the chaplains.

Whole school service of celebration

To mark the end of the ten-year anniversary celebrations marking our joint faith foundation as a Catholic and Anglican High School (still the only one in Wales!) we held a special whole school celebration. As this was on the feast day of St Michael and all



Angels we focused upon angels in our theme, under the strap-line "I will thank the Lord with all my heart", thinking about how each of us are messengers and bearers of God's good news.

Everyone took part in this liturgy and it was impressive to see how the whole community pitched in to help. As usual, the work of moving chairs and setting up the sports hall was a mighty task, but with many helpers it was all done with the minimum of fuss.

The service was led mainly by the pupils who contributed their art, drama, music, singing, dance, reading skills and

prayers with reverence and enthusiasm. Every member of the school community and the guests present were presented with a small commemorative ruler bearing the school motto and we received words of commission,

telling us to be messengers of good news, from the pastoral leaders.

As ever, we are very grateful to the caretakers

and support staff, the teachers and our governors as well as to the pupils and friends of the school who attended this event and made it so joyful and prayerful.

Year 7 Service of welcome

More recently we have had another significant service of celebration for Year 7 pupils and their families and carers. Each year we have a special service of



welcome, where those who have newly arrived in the school are anointed and prayed for.

This year we continued the theme of angels and the Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to bring forward paper angels on which they had written promises and hopes for their time at St Joseph's.

Together with parents, carers and teachers, we sang, prayed and listened to

words of hope and encouragement from the Bible before each child present was anointed and presented with an angel gift by their teacher. It was wonderful to observe how the pupils were so dignified and reverent in this act of worship. Even after a very short time in our school community they clearly felt able to offer their gifts and it is evident that our youngest pupils bring lots of great gifts to our school.

Pantasaph Retreat

One of the really enjoyable events for Year 7 is the retreat day which, once again this year, took place at Pantasaph. This provides pupils and staff with the opportunity to spend time reflecting upon who the young people are becoming, and how they are part of the whole school community. They think about their own and one-another's gifts and as ever they had a great deal of fun.



Staff Prayer

Every Friday morning before school, a large number of staff gather in the chapel for prayer before the school day starts. We pray for the needs of the school and for the world, often taking the theme of the coming Sunday or the school theme for the week as a focus. The commitment and faithfulness in prayer of the staff at St Joseph's is a real strength of our community.

Taizé trip

Plans for another trip to the ecumenical community in France at Taizé are already in place for 2018. This will be our seventh visit in recent years.

Each year we take pupils from Year 10 and 11, together with pupils from other local schools, for a week of joining in the life of a religious community: Praying, working and studying, whilst also having a great deal of fun with young people from all over the world.

This trip provides a wonderful opportunity for our older pupils to think and pray about their future, whilst practising their French or German and making new friends from other countries. We will soon be giving information to all interested pupils in years 10 and 11. The dates will be 30th June to 9th July. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like any further information about this visit. The cost is £300, some financial assistance is available for pupils who would like to come

but whose families would struggle to afford this.

We look forward to the next half term with all this will bring for our community where we seek to walk in the Way of Christ, to rejoice in the Truth and to live Life to the full.

Tenth Anniversary Tea Party

After celebrating a whole school mass marking the end of our 10th anniversary, we came together as a community to have a tea party. This was organised by the School Council members, Mrs Greenhalgh and other members of staff.

The idea of this was to enjoy a relaxed afternoon as a school in a convivial atmosphere with some music by Head Boy David Flint, Ben White and Mia Williams. It was a joy to see our school come together once more as a society and we once again thank those who organised the day.

Tom Barlow, Deputy Head Boy

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School Getaways...

Geography River Trip

On Wednesday, 20th September, Year 11 pupils went to Minera, Nant Mill and Erddig to collect data for river width, depth and velocity and observed river processes at work, particularly erosion and deposition and how they created river features.

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

The Geography trip was quite a blast. My peers and I found the experience very educational and enjoyable. I will be sure to put the geographical skills I learnt to use at some point in the future. I thoroughly enjoyed my day, brofiad da!

Lena Mohammed, 11 Devereux

Llanrwst, North Wales

On Friday 20th October, 22 GCSE students headed to Nant Bwlch y Haearn Outdoor Education Centre near Llanrwst for a weekend of activities and maths revision. The pupils are all aiming to achieve a C or above and were preparing for their Numeracy and Mathematics GCSEs. Some of these pupils will be taking their GCSE exams straight after half term.



On arrival, the activities started straight away with a walk on the Friday evening which took place in the dark and required careful map reading and the use of scales. On Saturday the weather turned to gales and severe weather. The activity was quickly changed and we all found ourselves heading underground into a mine. This proved to be fantastic as it involved many activities which included rafting in a cavern lake, traversing, abseiling, mini zip wire and ladders to escape via an air tunnel. In the evening the pupils battled it out in teams following various orienteering courses.

We ended the weekend activities with a gorge walk on the Sunday morning involving sliding down naturally occurring rock slides that flowed down a river. During each activity we took the opportunity to gather data that we could use at the centre. Following each activity the data was used to run revision sessions that were based on the maths syllabus. Pupils were then able to

link maths with the real life situations they had encountered.

We all had a fantastic time, enjoyed the activities and made excellent progress in revising the key maths topics. Mr Wilkinson also joined us on Friday and enjoyed the challenges of the walk.

*Mr Donlon, Mrs Owen and Mrs Jobson
Mathematics Team*

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

Thank you Sir for an amazing weekend at Nant B-H, I had an amazing time.

Theo Kelly, 10 Devereux

I really enjoyed the maths trip where we learnt some maths and also did some amazing activities I never thought I would be able to do, for example climbing up a waterfall, gorge walking and also sliding down the gorge which was so funny.

Amber Brannan, 11 King

Quarry Bank Mill

On Tuesday, 17th October Year 9 pupils visited Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire, one of the best preserved textiles mill of the Industrial Revolution.



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

We really enjoyed the Quarry Bank Mill trip because we were with our friends. We enjoyed the weaving as it was something new! The Apprentice House was great, we learnt about what life was like for children our age. We would love to go back!

*Cameron Edwards, Daniel Gledhill
(9 King) and Alfie Ellis (9 Romero)*

Busy times for Year 11

Throughout the first half term, Year 11 has been very busy as they work through the initial stage of their final year. As well as all the work that they have been doing in their subjects and towards their controlled assessments they have been involved in a number of extra activities.

On the 5th and 6th of October a number of the pupils attended St Richard Gwyn so that they could have a look round the 6th form department and to get an idea of what it might be like to attend a 6th form in a faith school, once they have completed their GCSEs. They attended a number of different lessons and also had the chance to speak with staff and pupils in the 6th form.

The Year 11s will also be taking part in a Study Skills evening in school on Thursday, 7th December. It will give pupils and their parents a chance to look at different study techniques and how they could work together during the build up to exams.

Mr Lambert
Head of Year 11

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

I found everyone very welcoming and approachable. I learnt a lot from the sessions and think I would like to attend a 6th form school. The classes were smaller and the lessons were more focused because of this.

Katie Hill, 11 Devereux

Money, money, money

As part of the Enterprise and Employability challenge the Year 10 pupils have been set the task of raising as much money as possible for Hope House by turning £10 into a profit. Lots of the newly formed companies will be at the PTA Christmas Fair selling their goods/services. Watch this space for more information about their stalls and watch out Alan Sugar, Year 10 are showing the most excellent entrepreneurial skills. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fair on November the 30th.

Mrs Tait, ICT Teacher

Student Assistance Programme at St Joseph's

Every school in Wrexham is being encouraged to run support groups with specially trained staff, and these groupings are known as "Group".

Group is intended to increase our youngsters' self-esteem and to help them learn how to make decisions and improve their communication skills. Building these personal skills should help our young people cope with the stresses of life both in and out of school.

In this school, *Group* has a high profile, where teachers see it as a

valuable and particularly effective tool in dealing with some of our more challenging pupils; those who exhibit behaviours resultant from emotional or sometimes physical disorder. It is all about supporting them to overcome these barriers.

Group is for listening. Young people feel absolutely secure in the *Group* environment knowing that no one is going to offer advice or give orders as to how to handle a situation. The self-esteem this gives to vulnerable young people is invaluable and manifests itself in visible, demonstrable improvement in demeanour, concentration in class and behaviour. Parents also value *Group* highly.

Most referrals for children to join *Group* come from the pupil body, since there is an awareness of what *Group* is. Some come from teachers who see *Group* as beneficial to children; others come from parents who specifically request that their children be allowed to join *Group*.

Group runs over an eight week period with each session lasting for an hour. Every pupil is responsible for copying up any work that they have missed while attending *Group*.

If you do not wish your child to attend any of the SAP groups run while they are at St Joseph's please send in a letter addressed to Mrs N Ellis, Assistant Headteacher. If you have any questions concerning SAP please phone Jane Richards, (SAP Co-ordinator) on 01978 360310.

New Members of Staff

St Joseph's extends a warm welcome to five new members of staff. Here's a little bit about them, in their own words...

Mrs A Devine



I am delighted to be back at St Josephs, in 2009 I began my teaching career here, but I am also a former pupil. Upon leaving St Josephs, I studied Geography at university before completing a Masters in Applied Marine Science. I was lucky enough to pursue a career as a coastal scientist however I wanted to share my passion for geography and enthuse the next generation so I returned to university to complete my PGCE.

I am a true geography geek and love nothing best than putting on my walking boots and heading out into the countryside with my beloved border collie, Utah and a map. I love to travel and experience new cultures and have visited five continents, however since the arrival of my two girls travelling has been put on hold and we are sticking to Europe and our 'tin tent'.

Currently my spare time is spent supporting our children's school as parent governor and chair of

the PTA, but I also enjoy swimming and when we get chance heading to the coast for walk on the beach or even a surf, and can even be found at the odd rock concert.

I just want to say thank you to all pupils and staff for making me feel so welcome, St Josephs is a truly special place and I feel privileged to once again be part of this amazing school.

Mrs K Hatfield



My interest in literature and desire to help others has led me into the path of teaching. After qualifying with a LLB in Law and German, I worked for the British Council in Vienna as an English Language Assistant in two schools before returning to Wales and completing a PGCE in English and German. Now in my 11th year of teaching English, I still enjoy watching students become passionate about Shakespeare and engaged in writing.

Outside of school, I enjoy family time, keeping fit and reading. As a former member of the Wrexham Swimming Club, I try to swim as often as I can. I also enjoy weekend walks with the family (as long as the weather is not too wet!).

St. Joseph's is a school which encourages an extremely caring

environment and one in which everyone looks after one another. I look forward to working with the wonderful staff and students here.

Mrs D Ellis



Originally from County Down in Northern Ireland, in the last ten years I have adopted Wrexham as my second home. Having taught maths for most of the last 17 years in West Yorkshire and Wrexham I am delighted to be back at St Joseph's having had a brief spell here in 2015. St Joseph's has supportive staff and lovely pupils so I am delighted to have been given this opportunity in a school where I can express my Christian faith.

My non-school activities include church, youth group leader, taxi driver to my 2 children, butler to my 2 cats and Taekwondo.

Mr O Sammons



I was born and up in Gresford, attending Ysgol Bodhyfryd and Ysgol Morgan Llwyd. (Back when Morgan Llwyd was just around the corner!)

I started singing at a young age and learned the Flute in school as my oldest brother played in an Army band. I decided to broaden my horizons and study at the farthest University I could find, which was in Edinburgh, but inevitably ended up coming back to Wrexham when I graduated. I did my teacher training at Bangor University, and my second school placement was at St Joseph's, with Mrs Goodison as my mentor. My first teaching job was in Neston, but I soon moved to Ruthin School, spending some very happy, if interesting years there.

I am so pleased to have been appointed as Head of Music at St Joseph's as I have always wanted to teach here ever since my teacher training years.

I sing with two local choirs and perform some solo concerts every now and again. I am looking forward to singing the National Anthems at the Wales versus. New Zealand Rugby match at the Millennium Stadium in November and also touring Rome and the Vatican with my choir next Easter.

Mr D Lewis



I joined St Joseph's in May as Caretaker in the Business Support Team. For the last 25 years I have been in a caretaking role in

various primary and secondary schools and colleges in the Wrexham and Chester area, a job which I thoroughly enjoy. I am also a qualified painter and decorator and have worked in commercial and domestic properties.

I am a trained counsellor and worked for a couple of years in Strathmore Medical Centre as Practice Counsellor which I found to be very challenging and rewarding.

A number of years ago I took 'time out' to volunteer with the Operation Christmas Child Project and was sent to Romania to help build an orphanage which was a very fulfilling experience.

On a personal note I am married with three children and two grandchildren who keep me very busy indeed.

I am enjoying my time at St Joseph's and look forward to the years ahead.

Year 7 Wellbeing Day

This took place on 15th September. Teachers and people from outside agencies who work regularly with the school to deliver PSE, worked alongside the children to discuss some of the physical and emotional changes that will occur for them over the next year or so. The day began with prayer led by Reverend Mary. The sessions were about puberty, hygiene, emotional and physical health and included information about energy drinks

and healthy diet. The pupils were interested and enthusiastic and, as always, made the day very enjoyable for all who took part.

Mrs M Woodward, PSE Coordinator

Votes Count!

On Tuesday, 3rd October St Joseph's pupils took part in the Senedd Yr Ifanc Wrexham and the UK Youth Parliament ballots to express what topics they think should be debated. The Senedd Yr Ifanc Wrexham is Wrexham Youth Parliament and is made up of young people aged 11- 25 to gather views and opinions of young people. The UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning. Over 1296 votes were cast in Wrexham and the results were **'Work Experience Hubs for 11-18 year olds' achieved 219 votes** and **'Curriculum to prepare us for life' achieved 218 votes.**

Mrs E Greenhalgh, School Council Lead

'Welcome to Wonderland'

Nine talented Year 9 pupils have recently seen their work published in the short story anthology 'Welcome to Wonderland' after successfully submitting their writing to a competition for young writers. Da iawn to: Eleanor Beeley, Sophie Weaver, Kerry Meyers, Harriett Evison, Sarah Groom, Megan Barlow, George Pattenden, Nia Bond and Orlagh Scott.

Miss Bryan, Head of English

Bienvenue, Herzlich Willkommen!

The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department has two full time teaching staff. Mrs Large is the Head of Department and teaches all German to GCSE and some lower school French. Mrs Roberts teaches French to GCSE and is also responsible for Year 7 and Transition. The department has very good facilities and is housed within the following spaces:

- French classroom with separate oral exam room/office.
- German classroom with separate oral exam room/office.

Both classrooms are large with seating for 30 pupils and space to work creatively in pairs, small groups or in role play. Each classroom has a small number of personal computers which are linked to the internet and a black and white printer. Both classrooms are vibrant spaces with posters displayed on the walls to support skills in both subjects.

French and German are taught to all pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 within their form groups. Pupils in Romero and Kolbe study German, whilst pupils in Cassidy, Devereux and King all study French. At the end of Year 9, pupils chose whether they wish to continue the language at GCSE.

In both languages, pupils are taught and tested on the skills of Oracy (listening and speaking), Reading and Writing and the

topics covered are varied. There are currently 4 GCSE courses in the department:

WJEC French
WJEC German
AQA Polish
OCR Portuguese

A summary of all courses in both Key Stages can be found on the school website. The latter two GCSE courses are offered to pupils in Year 9 whose first language is either Polish or Portuguese and is supported by the local EAL Service (English as an Additional Language). Pupils also have the option to begin GCSE Spanish after school in Year 10 in collaboration with Coleg Cambria.

Each year, lower school pupils have the opportunity to practise their language skills and soak up the culture of the country whose language they are studying by joining us on visits to France and Germany. In recent years, these trips have become incredibly popular and have been over-subscribed. In July of this year, Mrs Roberts led a trip for over 90 pupils to Normandy, Paris and Disneyland Paris and in 2017, Mrs Large will be leading a trip of 40 pupils to Boppard in the Rhineland and the beautiful city of Cologne.

All Year 7 pupils are entered into the Routes into Languages Cymru Spelling Bee for French and German, where St Joseph's pupils have enjoyed success in the final every year for the past 6 years. GCSE French and German support/extension sessions run at lunchtimes and informal drop-ins

are available most lunch times for all pupils in all years for homework and/or classwork.

A group of year 9 pupils visited Liverpool University with partners from the Netherlands and all Year 9 pupils enjoyed a motivating talk by Tim Penn regarding the importance of continuing with a language at KS4.

Pupils in Year 10 and 11 are invited to subscribe to the Mary Glasgow Language Magazines, whilst pupils in lower school participate in on and off stage competitions in the whole school Eisteddfod.

Sports Update

Netball

Neve Trow, Susanna Myint and Aimee Edwards have been selected for County u-14 netball. Phoebe Hough, Neve Mullen and Holly Davies have been selected for County u-16 netball. Year 9 is unbeaten so far this year! All years are playing fantastically.

Football

There have been a number of fixtures played by Years 8, 9 and 10. Great attitude, sportsmanship and football played throughout. Harvey Smith is current top scorer with 5 goals. Bailey McHugh and Oliver Hague are u-15 County Football representatives.

Other Sporting Activities

County Cross Country, URDD Gymnastics and Swimming Gala coming up after half term. Loads of activities are happening at lunch time and after school for all abilities, come and get involved!

Mr McComb, Head of PE

Music Success Brass

Thomas Barlow

Grade 6 Euphonium Merit

Zach Williams

Grade 4 Cornet Merit

Lewis Hughes

Grade 4 Cornet Merit

Joshua Evans

Grade 4 Cornet - Merit

Daniel Frankel

Grade 3 Cornet Merit

Grace Morgan

Grade 3 Cornet

Year 8 Violin

Mia O'Brien

Grade 1 Distinction

Seren Leadill Taylor

Grade 1 Merit

Ruby Booth

Grade 1 Merit

Singers

Hannah Allen

Grade 3 Distinction

Megan Barlow

Grade 1 Distinction

Micha Dodman

Grade 3 Merit

Nia Evans

Grade 3 Merit

Daniel Frankel

Grade 1 Distinction

Georgia Griffiths

Grade 3 Merit

Freya Hollingsworth

Grade 5 Distinction

Evie Huhtala

Grade 1 Distinction

Ellie Hulmes

Grade 3 Merit

Katie Samuels

Grade 3 Merit

Orlagh Scott

Grade 1 Distinction

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 6th November

School opens to pupils

***Friday, 17th November**

Non-uniform day

(chocolate donation for PTA
'Here Comes Christmas Fair')

Monday, 13th November

Year 9 Information Evening
(4.30pm)

Tuesday 21st November

Year 10 Art Trip to Tate Gallery

Wednesday 22nd November

Year 8 Wellbeing Day

Monday 27th November

Year 7 Parents' Evening (3.45pm)

Thursday 30th November

PTA 'Here Comes Christmas' Fair
(6pm)

Wednesday, 6th December

Christmas Concert (4pm)

Thursday, 7th December

Year 11 Study Skills Evening

Friday, 8th December

Year 10 Fundraising Day
(Non-uniform day)

Thursday, 14th December

PTA Christmas Bingo (7pm)

Monday, 18th December

Advent Liturgy (6.30pm)

Wednesday, 20th December (Eve)

Expressive Arts Pantomime Trip

Friday, 22nd December

School closes for Christmas

Non-Uniform Day

* Due to issues around Safe Guarding, these are the stipulations for Non-Uniform Day on **Friday 17th November; change of date originally 10th November.**

*Please note that for any Non-Uniform and Well-Being days, we continue to insist on the highest standards and expect that appropriate dress is worn (no midriff's showing, no strappy tops, no short skirts, no shorts with tights). Please note that leggings can be worn, but **ONLY** with a dress, sensible skirt, or a very long T-shirt. No make-up (including false eyelashes and fake tan) or piercings in the nose or cartilage of ears. Nail varnish will be allowed, but no false nails. Thank you for your continued support. We would like to retain these days!*

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