



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 2 FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2017

Round up by the Chaplains, Sister Maggie and Reverend Mary

As I write so many of our students are busy preparing our Christmas liturgy in the social court, which promises to be a very moving act of worship. This year even more movement and symbolic action is involved with the choir, the orchestra and those involved in the drama all working together. Many staff have commented in previous years that they feel the movement from Advent to Christmas begins with the school Christmas liturgy, saying, "Now I feel Christmas has really started". Our hope is; that for the young people taking part, and for the parents, carers and



friends who come and watch, that we can communicate something of the heart of the Christmas message of God's gift to the world in Christ, and of our calling to play a part in being bearers of God's good news.

So much of this calling has been apparent throughout this busy term. A few highlights from the perspective of the chaplains have included: A moving act of solidarity with those who are persecuted for their faith, in which year 8 pupils released



balloons with prayers for those who are suffering attached to them. Our school has featured in a publication of work from "Ten Leading Schools" in which we were singled out from educational establishments from across the UK for our commitment to nurturing an active life of prayer in our community. Staff and pupils collaborated to provide a very successful hunger lunch raising money for CAFOD earlier this term which was great



fun as well as really successful. Staff prayer has been very well attended and beautifully led by several staff members. On one of the recent "snow days" it was lovely to see staff still stopping to

pray before they headed home, and the mutual support of this prayer is something lots of us treasure. We have just completed an amazing week of Reconciliation for Advent with wonderful worship led by the R.E. staff and lovely resources prepared by Sr. Maggie. We are so very grateful to the Catholic clergy who were able to come and support this important work, whilst we are without an ordained Catholic chaplain. Feedback from the pupils about their experience of Reconciliation affirms how much they value this opportunity to be listened to by their priests and how they feel helped when they are able to talk and pray about whatever is broken or hurting in their lives and to ask for God's forgiveness. One of the Catholic priests reflected that he felt it is an honour to come and engage with the pupils in this way, and that every time a child feels helped by this, it is a precious moment. We are hugely grateful for every support the school receives from the parishes and our dioceses, both Anglican and Catholic.



Pupils from school have been taking their Christian service out into a number of the parishes by, for example, organising cake

sales for their chosen charities. We were really glad to welcome one of the Welsh BaccaLaureate groups to St Giles' when they were raising money for Hope House. The congregation were delighted to meet the young people who took part in the service as well as selling delicious cakes and chatting about their charity with knowledge and enthusiasm.

It has been such a busy term and we are now looking forward to the Christmas celebrations. We wish you a peaceful and joyful Christmas!

*Rev'd Mary Stallard and
Sr. Maggie Catlow*

ICT Inside Out

The ICT department at St Joseph's has two brilliant ICT suites with desktop computers, laptops and iPads.

We teach a variety of topics to pupils, ranging from Web design to Word Processing. We make use of the **St Joseph's E-Learning centre** in every lesson at Key Stage 3. Please ask your child to show you this website if you are not already familiar with it.

Within the department we run:

- Weekly GCSE revision sessions
- Coding Club
- Digital Leaders (year 8 and 9)
- Digital Champions (year 10)
- And in the new year we hope to launch our year 7 e-safety advocates

We are always grateful for donations of headphones (over

the head, not inside ears), USB pens and cameras so if any families have any pieces of ICT equipment that you would like to give a happy home, we would gratefully receive.

Mrs Tait, Teacher of ICT

Hwb & Office365

Hwb is the all Wales digital platform which allows pupils access to a wide range of resources, tools and activities. All pupils have an account, and we encourage them to use their account in school and at home. It should work on any device with a browser and internet connection.

Office 365 accounts can be accessed through Hwb and this is where all the Microsoft Office tools can be found, as well as pupil e-mail. This is a great resource, enabling pupils to use the type of software used in school, at home – all for free.

Part of the Office 365 suite is OneDrive, which provides 1 Terabyte of cloud storage for each pupil. This is a great place to store files for use at home and in school, such as homework.

Coding Club

This is an opportunity for pupils to come and have a go at coding and computer programming.

Any pupil from Years 7, 8 or 9 are welcome. It doesn't matter if you are a complete beginner, or an expert, all are welcome.

Pupils can try out software such as Scratch, Python, or Hour of Code. We have Raspberry Pi's and

BBC Microbits to connect and program.

Some pupils even dismantled and re-assembled an old computer to see how they are built.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2018 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 6th February 2018 with the slogan "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you".

Here at St Joseph's, we support this event and Year 7 pupils will be starting a project in January about using the internet safely and responsibly. It involves a variety of activities to raise awareness, and access online resources and advice from organizations for pupils and parents/carers.

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

In our school the digital leaders started 2 years ago. However, this year it has changed slightly. All of the digital leaders from year 8 and year 9 have a specific department/teacher to help. Each meeting we learn a new skill to show our department so they are able to use ICT in their lessons. The skills which we have covered so far are: comic life, poster my wall, HWB dashboard.

*Isabel Acton and Megan Conway,
9 Romero*

We are a group of Year 10 GCSE ICT pupils who get together once per half term to discuss latest technologies, apps, software, games and issues that affect young people when using computers. We have a working

lunch at 12.25pm in IT2 and have a chat about the technologies we use day to day. Mrs Tait asks us to give her an insight into the digital world that teenagers find themselves using.

*Frazer Worthington, 10 Devereux
Yanira Hernandez-Williams, 10 King
and Ellie Jones, 10 Romero*

In Coding Club you can create video games on websites like Scratch. Scratch is an online website where you have selected blocks of code and you put them together to make the sprite move or to change the background and make the sprite speak. Some of the Year 9s can use advanced software's like Python. Python is a combination of words (commands), numbers and letters. If Mr Thomas is in, we can disassemble old computers. Coding club is 12.25pm on a Wednesday in IT1 with Mr Chambers. We would really recommend it. *Tom McGrady and
Evan Owens, 7 Romero*

School Getaways...

Poland

The trip to Krakow was a first for the St Joseph's History Department and it definitely won't be the last. I'm never short of words, but this experience certainly left me speechless.

Witnessing the true horror the Nazis inflicted on the German

Jewish population during WWII will never leave me. We saw and heard the most heart wrenching and spine chilling stories of men, women and children whose only crime was to not fit in with the twisted Nazi ideology. As a mother and a teacher I couldn't bring myself to look at some of the artifacts in Auschwitz concentration camp, but the fact that they have been preserved ensures that generations to come will never forget the Holocaust. We visited the memorial of Maximilian Kolbe (toward the end of his second month in Auschwitz, men were chosen to face death by starvation to warn against escapes. Kolbe was not chosen but volunteered to take the place of a man with a family). The eeriness of Birkenhau Death Camp was truly horrifying, the pain and suffering they must have felt was unimaginable. One of the guides said something which struck me about the prisoners of this ghastly place....." hope was the last thing to go".

A trip to Schindler's Factory was very informative and humbling, an example of true humanity.

Krakow itself was a magical town, full of enchanting streets and a beautiful main square....always time for a little retail therapy!

I have said it before and I'll say it again, our pupils, your children are one of a kind. They were respectful, inquisitive and mature



throughout the 3 day trip. I hope that they made memories that will never leave them. It wasn't all about having fun, although we did have fun too, it was about experiencing something you can't get from a history text book.

I would like to sincerely thank Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Arnull, Mr Woodward and Mrs E Hughes for their support, help and company.

Mrs S Jones, Trip Leader

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

Our time in Poland was amazing. We were able to talk to a holocaust survivor and learn about how horrible it was for her. We saw concentration camps and learnt lots of new facts about what the Jews were put through. It was very mind-blowing when we saw the amount of adult and children's shoes and all of their hair. It was a once in a lifetime experience that we are so glad to have gone through.

*Neve Mullen, 10 Romero
and Haf Edwards, 10 Kolbe*

After walking around a Jewish Museum we listened to a lady who survived the Holocaust. It was very touching and I am privileged to hear her story. Auschwitz was a thought provoking and hard hitting experience I will never forget. I enjoyed playing many games of Uno and Mr Wilkinson photo bombing pictures.

*Gabby Ransome,
10 Romero*

Poland was amazing! Auschwitz was very emotional and hard to put into words. It was a trip that I will never forget. It was great to

spend time with my friends over the many games of Uno and visit the beautiful town square in Krakow, where we got time to explore and go shopping.

Niamh Collins, 10 Devereux

In October I got a once in a lifetime chance to go to Auschwitz and Krakow. Over the course of our weekend in Poland, we toured Krakow looking at all of the landmarks and tourist areas like the ghetto and synagogue. We got an amazing opportunity to listen to a concentration camp survivor; it was very interesting to hear her story and thoughts on that time of distress. However, the highlight of the trip was getting the chance to visit Auschwitz and Auschwitz Birkenav. It was the most moving experience. It really opens your eyes to how they were treated and what the Nazi's really thought of the innocent lives lost. On the journey to Auschwitz, I thought I knew loads about the concentration camp but I couldn't have been more wrong! It was a brilliant experience and I learned so much, I would highly recommend this to everyone who has an interest in history.

Niamh Bennion, 9 Devereux

Art Residential Weekend

In November Mr Farrell and I took 14 GCSE Art pupils from years 10 and 11 to The Conway Centre in Llanfairpwll on Anglesey. The pupils worked alongside pupils from other schools to produce a

complete unit of work for their art portfolio. There were three artists there to work with the students and the work produced was excellent. The weekend was a huge success and the pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed their time there, the food and accommodation was excellent.

I hope that the weekend will become a regular annual event and that even more pupils will benefit from the experience.

Mrs M Woodward, Head of Art



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

We loved the whole weekend, everyone enjoyed the food and the groups, the best part was seeing the success of our final art work, we had put such a lot of time and effort into making the pieces with the artists that it was brilliant to show it to everyone else. We would definitely recommend it to other pupils.

*Martha Gledhill and Lois Body,
11 Devereux*

Christmas Gift Appeal

St Joseph's staff launched a new Christmas Gift Appeal with All Saint's Church, kindly donating gifts for local young carers.

Over 25 young carers between 8 and 11 years of age from the Wrexham area attend the WCD Young Carers' group, where they receive support and have the opportunity to have fun and meet other youngsters in similar situations. Christmas can be a difficult time for these youngsters who care for someone close and these gifts have been so greatly appreciated. Youngsters also received a personalised hand-crafted wooden Christmas decoration, with donations being made to the Year 11 charity, Reaching the Unreached.

The kindness and generosity of All Saints' congregation has been simply overwhelming. A huge thank you to those who gave so generously and supported such a worthwhile cause. *Mrs C Lunn*

Working for you...

The school council has made a brilliant start to the year. I am very proud of what they have achieved so far and how proactive they have been. Here are some of the new initiatives the members have been involved in.

The Environment committee has been busy encouraging students to keep St. Joseph's tidy and ensures that the picnic benches are clean and dry to encourage maximum use at break and lunchtime.

In the New Year, the Curriculum committee will be launching a homework help buddy service on

a Wednesday and Friday lunchtime in study plus. Also there will be school council shop selling stationary items needed every day for school from the Library on Friday lunchtime.

The Healthy eating committee have been raising awareness of health food choices for pupils who have sandwiches and promoting the use of good table manners in the restaurant.

The events committee has already played a big part organising the tea party after our school's 10 year celebration. Recently they have helped set up and decorate the tables for Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day. The money raised will be gifted to the Salvation Army who looks after the most vulnerable in society this Christmas time. *Mrs E Greenhalgh, School Council Co-ordinator*

Year 10 Enterprise Challenge

I can't tell you how proud I am of Year 10's efforts this term, but I'm going to try!

They have thrown themselves enthusiastically into the task of raising funds for Hope House as part of the Enterprise Challenge, and the results are magnificent. The school is alive with activity as they publicise their fund-raising events thoroughly and execute their plans with efficiency.

Stalls sell treats to pupils, activities take place at lunch time

and students devote large chunks of their free time to meticulously organising their next event. Over half the year group have been issued with letters of authority to allow them to approach businesses for raffle prizes, and the phone in my office has never been used so regularly as it has become the central communication point for a series of budding businesses!

At the wonderful high point of their efforts it became a stockroom too. Pupils poured in to store items in preparation for the Christmas Fair, which was brought to life by their superb efforts. The school was packed with their stalls as their enthusiasm for the task filled the building with eagerness and excitement. Santa even made an appearance, although I'm frustrated to say that I somehow managed to miss him!

The next day we made a rough tally of what their efforts had yielded, and it was in excess of £2,000! A remarkable effort and a well-deserved reward. Year 10 are fortunate to have a wonderful team of form tutors, who guide them with compassion, intelligence and sensitivity in all matters, and Mrs Tait's diligence in taking on the massive organisational challenge of supporting an entire year group's efforts has been utterly remarkable. It's one thing to have the best support possible though; it's quite another to have the positive attitude and appetite for hard work required to take advantage of that opportunity. Year 10 have been wonderful in

turning their desire to raise funds for a fantastic cause into something tangible.

As I said before, I can't tell you how proud I am of them, because it's impossible to find the right words to do justice to what they've achieved. However, I can say, with authority, that their hard work and commitment will make a genuine difference to families who desperately need support. That's why I lack the skills and vocabulary to express fully how proud I am of them.

Mr Griffiths, Head of Year 10

I am lost for words when it comes to put down on paper how proud I am of the effort that ALL members of year 10 are currently putting into the Enterprise Challenge, but here goes.....

Rachel Jones from Hope House Hospice came into school on the first day in Sept and set the year 10 pupils a challenge to create a business idea and generate profits from a £10 initial budget! They have certainly risen to the challenge with a variety of products and services being

created!!

Lots of the 'companies' sold their products at the Here Comes Christmas Fair, others have held fun events both inside and outside school. The total is increasing daily and I am literally brought to tears by the compassion and drive these young people are showing to the people who use Hope House. I can't wait to report to you the final total in the New Year! They are truly amazing!!!



The enterprise challenge will be completed in a February when they will pitch their business idea to a group of Dragons, real business men and women for the local area. I am sure they will be blown away by the efforts this year group have put into this challenge! Well done year 10!

Mrs Tait, Welsh Bacc Co-ordinator

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

On Thursday 30th November, our Welsh Bacc group; Santa's Lil Elves has a Christmas goodies stall at our school Christmas Fair. We sold a variety of things, like: hot chocolate bags, Reindeer cookies, Reindeer food and glow sticks etc. We sold from 6-8pm, during this time some of us went around the

Christmas Fair to promote our stall. We raised £105 and we are planning on going to a church after Mass one Sunday to sell our remaining hot chocolate bags and Reindeer food. We had lots of glow sticks, glow rings, glowing antlers and glowing bunny ears and some biscuits that we had left over, so our group has decided to give them all to Hope House for their Christmas Party.

Olivia Hughes, Eleanor Jones, Sophia Dotolo, Megan Winter, Bethan Purdie and Damian Marzec

For our Enterprise Challenge, we sold jewellery at the school Christmas Fair and we had a cake sale during school, both events helping us raise £41.70 profit for Hope House. Our events were supported by staff and parents/carers and it was a very successful event. *The Jewellery Co*

On the 30th November, we participated in the annual Christmas Fair to raise money for Hope House. Our stall sold hot chocolate and cake, we raised £151.80.

Charlotte McGrady, 10 Romero

Thank you

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the families of year 10 pupils that have been fully involved helping their children prepare for the Christmas Fair and other charity events - I've heard about Mums that have been baking, Dads making candles in their garages and grandparents who have been donating prizes! I could go on and on! So a big huge thanks to all of you too!

Mrs Tait, Welsh Bacc Co-ordinator



Year 8 Wellbeing Day

This took place on 22nd November. 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 Sr. Maggie. The sessions were about conception and birth, family life, and healthy life choices. The pupils were interested and enthusiastic and, as always, made the day very enjoyable for all who took part.

Mrs M Woodward, PSE Coordinator

Year 9 Information Evening

This half term saw the start of the Year 9 Option process. The process began with the Information Evening, which saw parents and pupils attend a series of talks given by Heads of Department. These talks were aimed at introducing the GCSE course to the Year 9 pupils and gave an insight into the general overview of the GCSE course as well as information on assessment methods and controlled assessment requirements. The Evening concluded with 2 talks, one from myself about how Parent/Carers can support their child in Year 9 and another from Mrs Arnall about the Options Process. It was

a real pleasure to see so many pupils and Parents/Carers engaging in the start of what will be a very important process.

Mr Tait, Head of Year 9

Preparing for Exams

As soon as we return after the Christmas holidays Year 9 will be entering into a week of examinations. Below are just a few key things pupils and parents can do over the holidays to ensure they are fully prepared for the exams.

- Be Prepared – Make sure you devise a revision timetable and stick to it
- Little and Often – Make sure you do lots of little revision sessions. They are much more useful than one big cramming session.
- Get the Right Equipment – Make sure you've got all the correct equipment, not only for your exams but for your revision as well e.g. Pens, Pencils, Rubber, Ruler, Colouring Pencils. Don't forget any subject specific equipment as well.
- Know your timetable – Make sure you put your timetable somewhere in your house where everyone can see it.

And remember Year 9 – There is no substitute for hard work.

Mr Tait, Head of Year 9

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Performing Arts Club

Miss Dixon & I decided to offer the opportunity of a free Performing Arts group this year to utilise our combined extensive training and experience in the arts and benefit the pupils here at St Joseph's! The interest in the group has been encouraging and we have been amazed, as usual with the talent and willingness to "have a go" shown by the pupils at our school. Our group of around twenty pupils are all supportive of each other and show strong gospel values when working together. We have started working on some extracts from Matilda the RSC Musical in dance rehearsal and intend to continue full steam ahead with the Musical director *Shea Ferron*, in the New Year! We do have space for new members; please ask if you are interested in joining.



A big Thank you to all members of performing arts for your commitment so far!

*Miss Pugh,
Performing Arts Club Co-ordinator*

I am really enjoying performing arts club. I am really enjoying doing the Matilda dance. I like the people that are in the group, I hope it carries on until year 11.

Ben White, 9 Kolbe

Catholic Services

Sunday 24th December

Holy Family, Coedpoeth – 9am
 St. Mary's Cathedral – 9am (*Polska*)
 St. Mary's Cathedral – 10.30am (*Polska*)
 St. Mary's Cathedral – 6.30pm
 St. Francis of Assisi, Llay – 6pm
 St. Mary's Cathedral – 12midnight
 St. Mary's, Ruabon - 6pm

Monday, 25th December

St. Mary's Cathedral – 9am (*Polska*)
 St. Mary's Cathedral – 11am
 St. Francis of Assisi, Llay – 11am
 Christ the King, Rossett – 9am
 Holy Family, Coedpoeth – 9am
 Sacred Heart, Chirk – 9am
 Holy Cross, Llangollen – 11am

Anglican Services

Sunday 24th December

St Giles', Wrexham - 4pm
 St John's, Rhosnesni - 6pm
 St James', Rhosddu - 3.30pm
 St Margaret's, Garden Village - 6pm
 St Mark's - 4pm (Christingle)
 St Giles' - 11.30pm
 St John's, Rhosnesni - 11.30pm
 St James', Rhosddu - 5pm
 St Margaret's, Garden Village - 11.30pm
 All Saints', Poyser Street - 10pm
 Holy Trinity, Rhostyllen - 11.30pm

Monday, 25th December

St Giles' – 10am

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 8th January
 Staff Development Day

Tuesday, 9th January
 School Opens to Pupils

Wednesday, 17th January
 Year 10 Wellbeing Day

Thursday, 18th January
 Year 11 Mock Interviews

Monday, 22nd January
 Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday, 25th January
 Years 8-11 Photographs

Monday, 29th January
 Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thursday, 1st February
 Year 9 Wellbeing Day

Monday, 5th February
 Year 10 Hitler on Trial Trip

Friday, 9th February
 Non-Uniform Day
 School Closes for Half Term

Monday, 19th February
 School Opens to Pupils
 Year 9 Parents' Evening

Friday, 23rd February
 PTA Non-Uniform Day

Tuesday, 27th February
 TenTen Theatre

Thursday, 8th March
 Year 8 Maths Trip



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