



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd  
Gatholig ac  
Anglicanaidd  
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 3 FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

## School Community Review by Rev'd Mary Stallard & Sr. Maggie Catlow

It's hard to believe that we have already reached half-term. It only seems a very few weeks ago that the staff gathered in the Social Court around the crib in Epiphany-tide considering the gifts of our community and praying about how we might all be encouraged to offer our best to one another and to God.

As usual, pupils throughout the school chalked up on the doors 2018 and the letters C, B and M which represent the initials of a Latin prayer asking Christ to bless this place and also the traditional names of the three wise men, Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior. Such signs of faith are a lovely reminder around the

20 + C + M + B + 18

school of the Christian character of our community.

Worship themes have included some challenging reflections for the Week of

Prayer for Christian Unity and, as always, very moving prayers for Holocaust Memorial Week. This year Mr Wilkinson reminded the school of the incredible faith shown by children in the concentration camps and the image of the butterfly they often scratched upon the walls and fences,

which is a wonderful sign of a hope of resurrection and a belief in the God of change.



In the run up to half-term we have just celebrated Candlemas in school, which is the festival that brings Christmas and Epiphany themes to an end and which turns our focus towards Easter and the cross.

During half-term many of us will be attending Ash Wednesday services in our local parishes. This year Ash Wednesday, which of course marks the beginning of Lent, falls on St Valentine's Day so it is a great opportunity to reflect upon the costly love of God while also celebrating the love of family and friends.

Pupils in year 11 are working hard to prepare for their coming exams and the chaplains, along with all the other staff in school are doing all we can to support them. During this half-term we have begun a weekly meditation session in the chapel on Tuesday lunchtimes which aims to help

pupils practise becoming calm and still. A good number of Year 10 pupils have taken up the opportunity of going on the residential retreat to Soli and we look forward to hearing about what they will learn there.

There is so much to look forward to next term as we embrace the challenge of keeping a Holy Lent in school. There will be the usual reconciliation services, a number of trips and retreat days and of course the whole school Eucharist at the end of term. Have a wonderful half-term break.

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## Year 11 Mock Interview Day

The feedback from our guest interviewers on the day was excellent, as you can see below, and I was extremely proud of the way Year 11 entered into the spirit of the morning. I know they all gained valuable interview experience which will help them in their future careers.

*Mr Lambert, Head of Year 11*

### Here's what the interviewer's had to say...

"As always with St Joseph's, the standard of the pupils was really high and the event was really well organised."

"The students were excellent, a high standard and all performed very well in the interviews. I would say I gave the highest scores since being involved in the mock interviews with the schools."

*Katryn Lloyd and Jason Rowley  
Thomson Reuters*

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

Mock interview day was a really insightful and memorable experience. It gave an insight to the world of employment and provided us with worthwhile feedback to help us with our future lives and careers.

*Emily Oliver and Daniela Pascoe,  
11 Romero and Kolbe*

We found that our Mock Interview Day was very enjoyable and informative. It gave us confidence and an experience that we believe will be very helpful in the near future. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the pupils in Year 11.

*Elin Jones, Aubrey de Luna and  
Isabelle Collins, 11 Cassidy*

Mock interview day was a really good day. We gained valuable experience for future job interviews so we have the best chance of doing well in the future. I really enjoyed it.

*Lois Davies, 11 Kolbe*

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## TIME TO GET CRE8-IVE

In October, 30 pupils took part in the preliminary round of the CRE8 competition, which was run in collaboration between NEST and Careers Wales. The brief was to design and build a product that ran on sustainable energy from recycled products. After a really close competition Solar CD for 9 Cassidy were declared the winners with their Solar Powered Car.

Between the preliminary round and the final the team worked

hard to build a new prototype and work on a new presentation, in collaboration with our Business Adviser Rob Haughton from Wolseley UK, that would be shown off at the regional final.

The North East Wales Final took place at the Catrin Finch Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> January. During the final the team had to design a marketing strategy for their product and had time to add the finishing touches to their presentation.

After a judging process that took longer than anyone had expected Ysgol Morgan Llwyd were finally declared the winners but Solar CD were approached by a member of the judging panel and commended on their idea and the quality of their presentation skills. As Solar CD's Head of Year it was a real privilege to witness the hard work and dedication they put into the design, production and presentation of their idea. We've definitely got some budding entrepreneurs in the making here at St. Joseph's!

*Mr S Tait, Head of Year 9*

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

We had the privilege of taking part in an energy saving competition called 'CRE8'. It was interesting to see other school's ideas and meet people who have a bit to do with the environment. We learnt lots of things about the environment and how we need to change our ways for a beneficial future. It was a really good experience and I would definitely recommend it!

*Eleanor Beeley, 9 Cassidy*

I really enjoyed the day there because we were able to share our idea with other Year 9 pupils from other schools. It was a great experience and great fun.

*Daniel Frankel, 9 Cassidy*

## Pupils visit Hitler on Trial production

On Monday, February 5th 77 History and Drama GCSE pupils went to the Waterside Arts Centre in Sale to experience Hitler on Trial by School History Scene. After an earlier than usual start we arrived in Sale and had a grade booster workshop in which students were shown the thinking behind the GCSE exam and how to make the most of their knowledge and skills!

We then watched a mock trial in which we imagined that Adolf Hitler had been captured during the Second World War and brought to justice. We waited in anticipation to see what the jury (us) decided if he was guilty or not!



The pupils were a credit to the school and they seemed to get a lot out of the day. Another successful History trip!

*Mrs Jones, Mrs Williams, Mrs Clark and Mrs Canning-Russell*

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

"It really helped us to get a better understanding of the examination questions. As we study both History and Drama GCSE, it was an excellent opportunity to review a performance through a topic we do in History"

*Rachel Heale and Millie Davies  
10 Romero*

"A good chance to do extra revision on Germany in preparation for my GCSE in June"

*Morgan Rowley 10 Devereux*

## Year 10 Soli House Retreat

This week 38 pupils from across Year 10 attended the Soli House Retreat. Soli House has, in the past, been a favourite experience of many pupils and this year pupils enjoyed a chance to develop their faith and also their friendships.

*Mrs M Davies, RE Teacher*

## Congratulations Alex!

Six of the Wrexham Year 11 Public Services School Links took part in the very first Welsh Skills competition in Forensics as an addition to their Public Services course. The competition was the



first of its kind and we were hopeful of achieving Gold, Silver or Bronze.

St Joseph's pupil, Alex Coppell from 11 Romero, earned a Gold medal with another learner from another school. Congratulations Alex!

## Year 9 Options

This is a reminder that Year 9 Option Interviews will take place from Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February to Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March. Letters have been sent to parents / carers confirming appointment times.

This is an opportunity for pupils and parents / carers to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss your child's options. We look forward to meeting you.

*Mrs Arnall, Assistant Headteacher*

## Smart Watches and Fitbits

Smart watches should not be brought into school. Examination regulations ban the wearing of smart watches on the grounds of potential malpractice and cheating. However, there are other implications of smart devices which are of concern: distraction, loss/theft, and safeguarding issues. These devices fall outside our insurance policy.

Fitbits are allowed in school as long as they only display the time and count steps. Thank you.

*Mr Wilkinson, Headteacher*

# Musical Successes

## Year 8

**Mia O'Brien**

Grade 1 Violin (Distinction)

**Seren Leadill-Taylor**

Grade 1 Violin (Merit)

**Ruby Booth**

Grade 1 Violin (Merit)

## Year 11

**Hannah Allen**

Grade 3 Singing (Distinction)

## Fundraising bar set high by Year 10 pupils

The year 10 pupils have been working so hard on their Enterprise activities over the last term. This was completed last Friday with a Dragons Den pitch session.

Each team had to enter the lair and in 10 minutes pitch their business idea to then hopefully gain a further £10 investment. The year group did not let me down! I felt like a proud mum, they were immense in everything from their standard of business dress to the way they communicated their business strategy to the dragons.

They have raised over £3,300 in 8 weeks, this is a staggering amount and the highest total we have EVER seen raised by a year group.

That total is split between Hope House (who will receive the money raised from the Dragons



Den Challenge) and Nightingale house (who will receive the money raised from our own clothes day).

Catrin from Hope House visited school this Tuesday to collect the cheque and announce some star performer awards for the Den Challenge.

I am so proud of the WHOLE year group - each one of them rose to the occasion - well done Year 10 watch out Levi Roots and Alan Sugar we have 150 entrepreneurs coming to get you!

Pupils were presented with outstanding achievement awards from the Pitch day. These ranged from Best Idea to Star Performer - well done to all the Year 10s who were recognised by the staff from Hope House!

*Mrs D Tait, Welsh Bacc Co-ordinator*

This has been a remarkable effort by Year 10: they have really thrown themselves into their admirable work without exception. I hope they are proud of themselves as we all are!

Their form team, skills teachers and teaching assistants have also been brilliant: their guidance and

example certainly facilitated the students' phenomenal achievement.

Mrs Tait, who led the project, deserves immense credit. This has been the best-executed project I have seen in my 25 years at the school. Her meticulous organisation and unfailing enthusiasm ensured that every pupil had the opportunity to shine. Well done to everybody, staff and pupils alike, for this magnificent team effort!

*Mr M Griffiths, Head of Year 10*

## PTA Thai Night Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm £13.50 per person

The final date for purchasing tickets for the legendary PTA **Thai Banquet is Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March**. Whether you have previously enjoyed the delights of this wonderful evening, or would like to come and sample a selection of fragrant and aromatic Thai dishes for the first time, you certainly won't be disappointed. The ever-popular £1.50 bar will be available throughout the evening.

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

[mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk](mailto:mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk)

or alternatively send your request together with ticket money in an envelope marked Thai Night to the school's reception.

***DON'T MISS OUT!***



## Wellbeing Days

On 17<sup>th</sup> January, Year 10 took part in their Wellbeing Day, participating in activities which covered a wide range of subjects. By offering such opportunities, through the diligent work of our Head of PSE, Ms Woodward, and the enthusiastic delivery of the staff and external speakers who took part, we hope to offer our students the chance to prepare themselves for the issues which will confront them in everyday life.

As always, you get out of such an event what you put into it. Year 10 are consistently enthusiastic and threw themselves into the day. The comments they put on their feedback forms at the end of the day suggest they found the experience as positive as we did.

*Mr M Griffiths, Head of Year 10*

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February Year 9 took part in their Wellbeing Day. The day was organised around the theme of relationships and the pupils had an opportunity to explore a range of different topics including bereavement and loss, friendships and exploitation. Year 9 also had the opportunity during the day to watch, and discuss, a hard hitting play performed by the Cats Paw Theatre Company.

Thanks must go to Ms Woodward who co-ordinated such an enriching and thought-provoking day and the staff who ran and supervised sessions.

*Mr S Tait, Head of Year 9*

## It's crucial!

Each year Crucial Crew come to St. Joseph's to give Year 7 advice on how to keep themselves safe. This year, a number of agencies came to impart their knowledge. It was a hugely successful morning. The agencies included:-

**Fire Service**

**Young Carers**

**British Transport Police**

**Dog's Trust**

**Food Standard's Agency**

**Women's Aid**

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## Year 11 English Language Speaking Assessments

Year 11 pupils put their speaking and interaction skills to the test this term by completing the final GCSE English Controlled Assessment. Each group chose one of the following topics to discuss and debate: Should exotic animals be kept as pets? The problem of litter. Work Experience for 15-17 year olds. All pupils were well prepared and showed fantastic teamwork skills through their organised, developed and highly interesting discussions which at times became heated as pupils

passionately argued their case. Well done Year 11.

## Year 9 Stranger Sagas Competition

There has been great success for an incredible 103 Year 9 pupils this term with the news that their writing has been selected for publication in a book of short stories. The challenge was to write a 'strange saga' in exactly 100 words, a tricky task which required a lot of imagination, careful planning, editing and control in order to successfully tell a tale and engage the reader within such a limited number of words. Congratulations!

*Miss G Bryan, Head of English*

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## Swim to success

Congratulations to Keane Gerasmo, Adam Taylor, Mia O'Brien and Evie Price who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Year 7-8 Mixed Medley Relay at the Urdd Swimming Finals in Cardiff.



## If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday...

The History Department is made up of Mrs Williams and Mrs Jones. The department has excellent facilities with two large classrooms and two small computer rooms. Both classrooms are vibrant teaching areas displaying pupil work, historical information and posters.

Pupils in Year 7 are taught about the events of 1066, the Norman colonisation of England/Wales and life in Medieval times. They also do a Uned Cymraeg (Welsh Unit) where they look into both national and local Welsh History. Year 8 pupils study the Tudors, the Stuarts and the British Empire and Year 9 study the Industrial Revolution, WWI and Jack the Ripper.

In the department we like pupils to be active and so we have devised a number of lessons in lower school where the pupils are made more responsible for their learning. We have 'zones' lessons. Pupils have a set of questions, the information is spread out around the classroom and they have to

get up out of their seats to find the answers. Year 8 are currently involved in finding information out about the English Civil War. Year 7 have, also just recently finished their work on Castle development. Their active learning meant that they had to present their findings to the rest of the class, via power points, pictures or models. As you can



see some of the pupils are talented castle builders.

History taken at GCSE follows the new WJEC syllabus. It is a popular option choice and we currently have two classes in Year 11 and three in Year 10. Pupils build on the skills that they are taught in lower school whilst gaining new knowledge and understanding. We cover three topic areas – Germany in Transition 1919 – 1939, The UK – Depression, War and Recovery and Crime & Punishment 1500 to the present day. Pupils in Year 10 have the option of sitting their Germany paper early and so we are busy preparing them and Year 11 for their exams in June. We offer extra sessions during lunchtime and afterschool for any pupil who would like to benefit from extra revision or help on exam technique.



Each year the department runs a number of trips which we find enriches pupil's learning and furthers their understanding. In Year 9 we go to Quarry Bank Mill in Styal. This is a working textile museum and links in with the work on the Industrial Revolution. In Year 10 GCSE pupils watch a production called 'Hitler on Trial'. We also have run a Battlefields Tour to Belgium and France and last October we took pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 to Krakow and to Auschwitz.

*Mrs Y Williams, Head of History*

## Contacting the school

Our preferred method of communication is a pre-organised, mutually convenient meeting.

Contact with staff can be arranged via the school at

[mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk](mailto:mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk)

or through a request made at the school office.

We will endeavour to ensure that, where possible, phone calls will be replied to on weekdays within 48 hours as staff are unable to reply when they are teaching, in meetings or on duty.

Please be role models of polite and tolerant behaviour when visiting our school. Aggressive and abusive behaviour will not be tolerated. Thank you for your co-operation.

*Mr Wilkinson, Headteacher*

# Exams Season is fast approaching!

## Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

-Year 10 & 11 mock exams start

## Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

-Year 10 Drama controlled  
assessment

## Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March

-Year 10 & 11 resit mock exams  
(after school)

## Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

-Year 11 Art controlled  
assessments

## Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April

- Year 9 GCSE Polish and  
Portuguese speaking exams

## Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April

- Year 7 & 8 exams

## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April

- Year 11 GCSE Welsh  
speaking exams

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April

- Year 11 GCSE German  
speaking exams

## Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May

- Year 11 GCSE French  
speaking exams

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May

- National Literacy and Numeracy  
Tests for Years 7, 8 and 9

## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May

- GCSE exams start (last GCSE  
exam – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June)

*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).

## School Eisteddfod

The School Eisteddfod will be held in the gym on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March. Years 7 and 8 will take part in onstage competitions and Years 7, 8 and 9 will compete in the offstage competitions. Pupils will be busy preparing for the Eisteddfod Competitions for a number of weeks and standards are usually high. Competitions will be held for the subjects of Welsh, Music, French, German,

Drama and disco dancing. The charring of the bard will be held at the end of the Eisteddfod. Some Year 9 pupils will be chosen to help judge and score the Eisteddfod this year.

Diolch yn fawr i bawb! It will be a brilliant event and we are looking forward to it very much.

*The Eisteddfod Team*

## Mobile 'Phones

Mobile phones and other electronic devices such as iPods, iPads and cameras are not allowed in school.

In exceptional circumstances, if pupils need to bring a mobile phone into school then parents / carers must write to me asking permission beforehand and stating the reason for the request. If the request is granted, a contract will be signed to ensure that strict guidelines are adhered to e.g. the mobile phone must be kept in a case with the pupil's name clearly marked on it and the phone must be handed to reception immediately upon arrival and collected at the end of the day.

For those pupils with agreements in place, there are an increasing number of phones that are brought for safe-keeping in unsuitable cases and inadequately labeled. Therefore if phones are not presented in a suitable case/envelope the agreement will be withdrawn and your child will be

*Mr Wilkinson, Headteacher*

## 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 Physical Education, Modern Foreign Languages and the school in general. This year alone we have spent £2,100 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

**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018**  
Non-uniform Day  
(Chocolate donations)

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
Thai Night  
7pm

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
Easter Bingo  
7pm

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
Wine Tasting  
7pm

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
Year 6, 7 and 8 Disco

## Dates for the Diary

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

Year 9 Parents' Evening

**21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
Year 9 Pantasaph Retreat

**27<sup>th</sup> February**  
Years 8, 9 and 10  
Ten-Ten Theatre

**1<sup>st</sup> March**  
Years 7 and 8  
School Eisteddfod  
Year 10 Science Trip  
St David's Day Parade

## School Contact Details



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