



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd  
Gatholig ac  
Anglicanaidd  
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 4 FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2018

## Round up from the Chaplains, Rev'd Mary Stallard & Sr. Maggie Catlow

### Lent at St Joseph's

In Lent many Christians try particularly hard to connect faith and life and to be generous in giving to the poor. Our prayer in school has been a great reminder of these things and a huge amount of effort has been given to raising funds for charities and thinking about how each of us can serve others and our community. St David's Day celebrations and the annual school Eisteddfod gave us a focus for reflection upon themes of loving service and giving of our best.



### Reconciliation

During March it has been great to welcome priests from both traditions into school for our Lenten services of Reconciliation – where we think about anything that is broken or hurting in our lives. The Religious Education staff led the pupils in times of reflection and the pupils were all given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or to ask for a prayer or a blessing. All pupils take part in this activity and their enthusiasm and faithfulness is a great sign of hope and encouragement for our churches and faith



communities. The generous way in which the young people here want to pray for others is always an inspiration.

### Whole School Eucharist

As I write this, a lot of staff and pupils are preparing for the whole school liturgy for the Feast of St Joseph, which this year is also our school Eucharist anticipating the events of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. As this is my last whole-school liturgy I will be preaching and I am so glad that many of the local Anglican clergy are hoping to come and to join in a celebration at this event in which many pupils will also play a leading part. Bishop Gregory has kindly given us permission to involve the pupils even more fully than they do at church, and through their voices we will be reminded of how God blesses us so richly and calls us to show others Christ's costly love.

## Staff Prayer

One of the most amazing things about the staff at St Joseph's is their faithfulness and commitment to prayer. When Mr Wilkinson suggested having voluntary staff prayer before school at 8.40 on a Friday morning, I thought it would be too much for teachers, who are so very busy with all their work. The way in which so many of the staff have made time for this has been a very great encouragement to the chaplains. Some of the pupils, especially the Resource Provision students, have been great at providing a prayer focus on the theme of the week. Thank you to all who've been involved with this.

**From Rev'd Mary:** This last week the staff held a special service of prayer to mark my leaving and to pray for me. This was put together by Mrs Roe, Miss Massey, Sr Maggie and the RE staff, with lots of contribution from the rest of the staff and special musical support from the staff orchestra and choir! I cannot begin to say how loved and supported I have felt by the whole school community and especially by the staff.



I want to say thank you to everyone.

Mrs Roe has been a most amazing friend and line-manager and I have been very privileged to work with Sr. Maggie and under the wise guidance of Mr Wilkinson.

Prayer is at the heart of this amazing school community, as I leave St Joseph's I'd like to thank everyone here for your companionship, your trust and your encouragement. I've learned so much at this school and will always be glad of your friendship. Diolch yn fawr iawn! *Rev'd Mary*

## Contact details

Could all parents/carers please ensure that school is informed in writing of any changes to contact details. We very much value the relationship between home and school, and this information is vital if parents/carers need to be contacted during an emergency. Contact details can also be recorded in your child's school planner on page 4. Thank you.

*Mr Wilkinson*

## School Eisteddfod

Diolch yn fawr iawn ~ Thank you very much to everyone who supported the School Eisteddfod on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March. Both pupils and staff enjoyed celebrating St. David's day together by taking part in the Eisteddfod. The Year 9 pupils who were the judges were brilliant! They were very

organised! There were also very helpful pupils who assisted with the setting up and tidying up in the Gym, where the Eisteddfod was held. There was brilliant community spirit all around! Thank you to all of you that supported the offstage competitions also.



### and for the results...

#### On stage winners

Cassidy - 52 points  
Devereux - 44 points  
King - 44 points  
Kolbe - 53 points  
Romero - 50 points

#### Off stage winners

Cassidy - 61 points  
Devereux - 130 points  
King - 46 points  
Kolbe - 61 point  
(Plus 20 points for the Chair)  
Romero - 78 points

### and the grand total...

#### First Place

Devereux - 174 points

#### Second Place

Kolbe - 134 points

#### Third Place

Romero - 128 points

#### Fourth Place

Cassidy - 113 points

#### Fifth Place

King - 90 points

**The winner of the Eisteddfod Chair/Chief bard**  
Morgan Burke, 9 Kolbe

# Golden Goodbye to Reverend Mary Stallard

After seven wonderful years, we sadly say goodbye to our friend and colleague, Reverend Mary Stallard, Anglican Chaplain to St. Joseph's. Mary has touched the lives of everyone in our community in such a profound and beautiful way. She will be greatly missed by us all.

On Monday evening, the staff celebrated Mary's friendship and ministry in a beautiful prayer service. Each member of staff was invited to share a memory, thought or feeling about Mary and these were collected and presented to Mary, during the service, as a 'shared homily'. The contributions paid tribute to Mary's many gifts, talents and qualities and were a testament to how highly regarded and loved she is by us all. Colleagues identified her 'wicked sense of humour', her incredible determination in training for the half marathon in aid of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Macmillan, the love and support she has shown to staff and pupils as well as ministering to us in prayer and how we have all benefitted from her prayer ministry. There were so many amazing comments but I think Sr. Maggie's reflection of Mary captures how we all feel about her and it is this I would like to share with you all:

Mary, your wonderful qualities are so manifold; trying to tabulate your goodness and giftedness is very difficult! You are an absolute treasure and will be greatly missed. Nothing is too much trouble for you – always available, always eager to serve. No matter how busy you are, you always find time for people, especially those in distress of all kinds. You have been there for all of us in our school community: Governors, staff, pupils, parents and all who are linked with St. Joseph's in any way.



In your role as Anglican Chaplain you have been a painstaking communicator between the RE Centre, the Anglican community and school, making wise judgements and working towards clarity and cohesion. In all your relationships you have worked with integrity, sensitivity and absolute commitment. In making judgements, you are focussed, measured and thoughtful, genuinely trying to bring about clarity and cohesion with compassion and care.

You have many practical gifts which contribute towards your

ministry in all its aspects; not only in school but also way beyond school, for example, the inspiration and organisation of providing an opportunity for our young people to experience the wonder of Taize. Despite all this courage and commitment in the midst of pressures of all kinds, you remain adamantly self-effacing.

Your knowledge, of Theology and Scripture provides the bedrock of your thinking, speaking and doing. Your sense of prayer is profound providing the centre from which all your giftedness is derived. At the very core of your being is your commitment to Christ: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus".

Thank you Mary from the bottom of our hearts from all of us here at St. Joseph's. We wish you well in your new role as Archdeacon in the Diocese of Bangor. Our loss is their gain. Blessings on your journey.

*Mrs Roe*





## 10:10 Theatre

Every year for many years now, the London based, Catholic theatre company Ten:Ten Theatre come into school to present performances on social and moral issues to years 7, 9 and 10. Ten:Ten are always very welcome in school and the performances they give through the medium of cinema are always strong messages which are in keeping with our Christian ethos. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performances this year and feel that they had the chance to explore issues of bullying, social media, peer pressure and choices in a non-judgemental and interesting way.

*Mrs Woodward*

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

I enjoyed the 10:10 theatre production and that it was a really good experience. I think it was useful for people who have never been in that situation, but also for people who have. I have learnt things from it and I'm sure others have as well.

*Alicia Munson*

We found the session with Ten:Ten Theatre very interesting and informative. It is important that people are aware of the subject of abortion and are the consequences of their own actions. We would definitely recommend this session to other years.

*Olivia Price, Wiktoria Milczanowska and Daisy Pais*

Last Tuesday all Year 7 watched a short movie by Ten:Ten Theatre. It was about what really makes

you happy. We thought about if it was our family, friends or popularity and we were able to discuss these ideas with our friends. In the film Esther was thinking about this question as she went through a difficult time in her life. It was really interesting and we all enjoyed it.

*Sofia Suckley and Sara Frulloni*

Ten:Ten Theatre taught us about young love and relationships. It was interesting to learn about common experiences and choices that are often made when in a relationship. Throughout we were given questions to consider and that really held my attention and it was fascinating to hear other people's point of view too. It was informative and fun and we had a very enjoyable morning.

*Eleanor Beeley*

Year 9 was privileged to have a visit from 10:10. Over a session all of Year 9 was informed about sexting and being ready for a sexual relationship. They showed a video to us all and analysed it in a very entertaining and interactive way. Everyone had a great hour! It was equally educational as it was enjoyable, we would love to have another visit.

*Evie Huhtala and Chris Siji*

## Year 8 visit Liverpool

Last week Year 8 visited the Metropolitan Cathedral, Anglican Cathedral and the Synagogue in



Liverpool.

The trip was part of the Year 8's work about, 'living our faith'. The pupils had a great day and they had a chance not only to see incredible buildings but to listen and ask questions about different religious traditions.

*Mrs M Davies*

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

Last week Year 8 took a trip to Liverpool, to see and learn about the

Cathedrals there. We saw the Catholic Cathedral, Anglican Cathedral and the Jewish Synagogue. The Catholic Cathedral is located in central Liverpool, it is like a big white dome and inside beautiful stained glass windows. We were shown around, and also learnt about the different side chapels.

Across the road was the Anglican Cathedral, it was completely different, with a massive church like building. We were shown around, by an enthusiastic tour guide. We learnt all about the Cathedral. My favourite was the Jewish Synagogue. It was very pretty inside, with lots of gold. Inside I learnt lots about Jewish traditions. I had a great day!

*Ruby Booth*



The trip to Liverpool was very interesting and I learnt a lot that day. Both Cathedrals were beautiful and it was the first time that I saw a round Cathedral. The tour guide was very informative. In the Anglican Cathedral we had the best tour guide and teacher. We went up to the top and at one part I felt really sad because we were going to go up to the tower and organs but we ran out of times. We should have more time in the Cathedral. The Synagogue was very beautiful and shiny and it's a totally different religion we have. I learnt a lot of new Jewish words that I never heard before.

*David Brylowski*

On the trip we went to the Anglican and Catholic Cathedral. I enjoyed visiting both of them. My favourite part of the day was the synagogue because it was the most interesting and I really enjoyed being told about another religion, as I found it really engaging and I loved walking into the room as it was really pretty.

Overall the day was a really good experience and me and my friends really enjoyed it and I would love to go again sometimes. I loved being shown around the different places and what different religions did.

*Katie McClean*

## Year 9 Options Interviews

Year 9 Options Interviews took place this half term, bringing to an end a process that started back in November. Pupils were

invited to a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss the Option choices they had made and their reasons behind those choices. Year 9 should be commended on the maturity with which they approached the meetings and the preparation that they had put in beforehand. They answered the questions posed with confidence and it was obvious they had thought long and hard about the very important choices that they have made. Da iawn pawb.

*Mr Tait*

## Sports Update

### Swimming

A massive well done to all of our swimmers who competed in the URDD Welsh finals in Swansea. A big congratulations to Harri Wilk who took gold in the 100m Breaststroke and Mia O'Brien, Evie Price, Adam Taylor and Keane Gerasamo who took bronze in the mixed relay.

### Cross Country

A number of athletes competed for Wrexham County in the North East Wales Championships.

Fantastic performances in really difficult conditions with Eloise Kenyon, Amelia Zdanowska, Sophie Pemberton, Evie Price, Joe Collins, Mitchell Williams, Morgan Burke, Hira Sahi, Rachel Moran, Ruby Booth, Harri Wilk, Oliver Hague and Dylan Honey all performing well. Well done to Harvey Davies who came second in his race and therefore qualifies for the Welsh Finals in Brecon.

### Netball

Congratulations to our under 16 team who came runners up in the Ann Smart North East Wales Finals. Further congratulations to the under 12 and under 13 team who came 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Wrexham County tournament.

## Retreat Days at Pantasaph

Towards the end of February year nine pupils enjoyed the wonderful opportunity of a day at Pantasaph, which is a Franciscan Friary near Holywell, which welcomes people from many places to visit and to pray in its beautiful setting.

The pupils really enjoyed the experience of a Day of Retreat and they engaged with lots of enthusiasm in all the activities and in the prayer times which all centred upon the themes of choices and bridges.

Everything about the day was good. I enjoyed the liturgy at the end of the day.

*Scott Ratcliffe and Harry Lee*

This came at a good time for the pupils, just as they have been



thinking about their options for next year and as they approach an age where they have greater responsibility at school and in the rest of their lives.

We had so much fun over the two days in which the whole year group took part. Everyone enjoyed the games and the activities which helped pupils to relax into the day and to think about the themes. Some of the things they did included drama, watching and responding to film clips, building a bridge out of newspaper and straws and putting together a prayerful reflection. We had lots of singing and a great picnic lunch. Miss Massey organised the programme, assisted by the R.E. staff, members of the chaplaincy team and Mr Tait and all the Year 9 form teachers.

The teachers were so enthusiastic and the day was really well planned. Everyone got involved and no one was left out. I liked the liturgy where everyone did different things.

*Beth Sidney, Katie Stansfield Jones and Niamh Bennion*

Thank you to everyone who took part in these great days which helped us all to build bonds of friendship with one another and with God and to reflect upon the choices we all face in life.

*Rev'd Mary and Sr. Maggie*

## Talk the Talk

Eight Pupils from Year 9 along with pupils from a number of Wrexham and Flintshire High Schools attended a Talk the Talk Workshop on 23 February at Chester University. This workshop was to develop pupil skills in interview technique.

I was pleased to see that the pupils engaged fully and were confident in their approach.

Some of the feedback from the Trainers included 'Wonderful, capable, ambitious students. Totally inspirational!'



'So well behaved, wonderfully confident and incredibly switched on'.

'The students flourished through the activities and confidence improved massively over the day once they acknowledged their own skills'.

Well done Morgan Burke, Amber Nwaobunike, Zack Williams, Isabel Acton, Michael McCormick, Joel Errington, Rose Doble, Mark Latham.

*Mrs Lloyd*

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

It was an amazing experience and I have found out so much more about the interview process and tips for during the interview and I think it will be really helpful in the future. I also thank Mrs Arnall for giving me this amazing opportunity.

*Isabel Acton*

## Thank you!

A big thank you to Morrison's who very kindly donated Easter Eggs to St. Joseph's PTA. The eggs were used along with the ones collected on our recent Non-uniform day to make hampers for prizes at the PTA Easter Bingo which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

*Mr Wilkinson*

## Lights, Camera, Action!

The Drama department consists of Mrs Melanie Clark and Mrs Ffion Canning-Russell. There are excellent facilities including a purpose-built drama studio housing a number of theatre lights, a floor-to-ceiling screen and a range of audio equipment. It has a lighting control room and well-stocked costume room. Such facilities allow pupils to enhance the pupils' practical and creative performances and gain new technical skills.

Drama is taught from Year 8 to Year 11 with the subject being a popular option choice. The key stage 3 course is based on practical work which focuses on developing social skills such as self-control, co-operation and collaboration. Lessons are structured to follow the pattern of preparation, performance and evaluation where pupils are encouraged to be respond maturely and provide constructive feedback.

GCSE pupils are encouraged to become more independent, organising their own rehearsal schedules, providing technician support for other groups and performing for a range of audiences.



The drama department plays an active role in supporting the ethos of the school. Drama pupils regularly perform in the opening of the school mass or Eucharist as well as the annual Christmas liturgy for the school and the wider community. Pupils are involved in a number of extra-curricular activities. Every Christmas music and drama pupils go to see the Rock 'n' Roll pantomime at Theatr Clywd, drama GCSE pupils were invited to Glyndwr to watch a degree student presentation of 'Romeo and Juliet' and most recently drama pupils joined history pupils at Sale Arts Theatre to see a performance of 'Hitler on Trial'.

Every Thursday evening there is an Expressive Arts club for all years offering Singing, Dance and Drama and this is run by Miss Kiera Pugh and Miss Georgina Dixon. GCSE pupils regularly perform their practical work for family, friends and other drama pupils and all pupils are encouraged to use the drama studio every day to rehearse their practical work and offer each other support and advice.

*Mrs Clark*

## Exams Season is fast approaching!

**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).

## 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 the agreement will be withdrawn.

*Mr Wilkinson*



## Contacting the staff at 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**

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*

## Smart Watches

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. Thank you. *Mr Wilkinson*

## Dates for the Diary

**9<sup>th</sup> April**

Staff Development Day

**10<sup>th</sup> April**

School re-opens

**13<sup>th</sup> April**

Year 8 Fundraising Day  
(Non-uniform day)

**16<sup>th</sup> April**

Year 10 Parents Evening

**3<sup>rd</sup> May**

Year 11 Service of Celebration

**7<sup>th</sup> May**

May Day – School closed

**23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Year 8 Geography Rivers Trip

**25<sup>th</sup> May**

School closes for Half Term

**4<sup>th</sup> June**

School re-opens

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Year 7 Fundraising Day  
(Non-uniform day)

**25<sup>th</sup> June**

Rocket Week begins

**29<sup>th</sup> June**

PTA Year 6, 7 & 8 Disco

**6<sup>th</sup> July**

Activities Day

**9<sup>th</sup> July**

Evening of Excellence

## School Contact Details



**St Joseph's Catholic & Anglican High School**  
Sontley Road  
Wrexham  
LL13 7EN

**Telephone**

01978 360310

**Email address**

mailbox@  
st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk

