



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd  
Gatholig ac  
Anglicanaidd  
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 5 FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

## School Community Review by Sister Maggie Catlow

At the very heart of our school community is our faith. Our Christian values provide the bedrock of all we strive to do and more importantly to be.

Prayer is central to the life of the school. Each day there is morning prayer either in class or in year assembly where staff and pupils together reflect on some aspect of our life of faith, to help with this there is also a designated theme for the week.

Each week on Friday morning we have staff prayer before assemblies and lessons begin. This is a wonderful opportunity for staff to come together to support and inspire each other in the context of prayer.

The theme for last week was Christian Aid. In considering this, it became apparent that there were some potential misconceptions regarding the understanding of what "giving aid" really means. It is clearly not merely giving money.

As a society it is important to work together to consider causes of poverty degradation and injustice on a global scale. This makes it incumbent on us to think more deeply about these issues, by working together, at the local community level and in our school to address problems and consider solutions.

Last week Mr Wilkinson lead staff prayer in reflecting on the theme of **Christian Aid**. The prayer began by acknowledging that each day is a precious gift from God who is always with us in the midst of our joys and sorrows,

our blessings and challenges. The opening line of the prayer was *"This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it"*. There followed a quote from Psalm 1 *"Happy are those who delight in the Lord and meditate on it"*. These people who meditate on God's word and delight in it are compared to *"A tree planted by streams of water and yielding fruit in due season"*. This is clearly an indication that, like the tree drawing life from water and yielding fruit, we too draw life from God's spirit deep within us and bring forth the fruits. Our

deepest inspiration comes from God.



Aware of the guidance of God's spirit we then considered what was happening in places of unrest and war: violence, degradation, despair and fear of loss of life, dignity and basic rights. As we listened to the music we became aware of how to find "Beauty in Brokenness" where, in the midst of our own joys and sorrows and even in the most extreme situations, ordinary people who are prepared to be true to the depth of who they really are, are willing to pay an extraordinary price for living in accordance with their values and working steadily for justice and peace.

The whole reflection was drawn together with a beautiful prayer, redolent with a call to each one of us to act with integrity, commitment and justice: *Give us the inspiration and courage to play our part in the world to build your kingdom here and now. May our hands signal your peace and may we share with those entrusted to us, a patience and sense of justice which is true to your gospel. Make us a channel of your peace.*

At the end of the prayer Mr Wilkinson gave each member of staff a pencil which needs to be activated by pressing the end to release the lead. The implication being that beautiful ideas remain dormant and lifeless unless we activate – take action!

This commitment to Christian values is at the heart of our school: Our Raison d'être. Building on prayer and reflection we see these values woven throughout our everyday lives

and experience. Perhaps as we now consider our lived reality in faith, we need look no further than some of the examples present in this issue of the gazette.

For me personally, what encapsulates all we hope to achieve with our young people was evident in the Year 11 Service of Celebration. The tenderness and quiet beauty of the anointing and the exuberant singing of the boys' choir "Trust the Lord with all your heart" was powerful. It resonated with the joy of gospel values and was truly **life giving**. May God bless each one of them on their journey.

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## Years 7, 8 and 9 lets go!

Activities Day for Years 7, 8 and 9 is taking place on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> July and there are a host of activities to choose from. The selection includes TnR coaching; Chester Zoo, Crocky Trail, Trafford Centre Shopping Trip and Dry Ski Slope and Tobbogan Run at Llandudno. In-school activities include Golf and Squash; a Drama Workshop and 'Going Potty' where you can have a go at building a clay pot.

This has proved a popular event in the past and we are sure this year will be no exception. The Trip Leader will arrange a meeting with your child and explain exactly what they require on the day. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Hardwell.

## Music Success

We would like to congratulate the following pupils:

### Year 8

Katie Maclean  
Grade 2 Flute (Pass)

### Year 9

Aimee Edwards  
Grade 4 Clarinet (Merit)

### Year 10

Alisha Carr  
Grade 5 Music Theory (Pass)

### Isabelle Bruce

Grade 4 Flute (Pass)

Emma Hinde

Grade 7 Flute (Merit)

### Year 11

Carys Price  
Grade 5 Music Theory  
(Pass)

*Mr O Sammons, Head of Music*

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## Urdd Eisteddfod

Next week, the Urdd Eisteddfod is taking place at the Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells and once again St. Joseph's will be taking part. The Urdd is the largest youth movement in Europe and thousands of young people compete every year! Ruby Birchall, 10 Devereux will be competing in the solo recitation on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Ruby won this competition last year and I am sure we all wish her luck. **Pob hwyl a lwc yn y 'Steddfod!**

*Mrs D Jones, Welsh Teacher*

## School Council Update

On behalf of the school council, I am very proud to inform you all that many more ideas and initiatives from our meetings and whole school survey conducted by your school council representatives during the spring term have come to fruition. Please support us and help make them a success.

1. **Cups** are now available in the restaurant by the water fountain for pupils to use for drinking.
2. **Napkins** are now available at the counter to improve table manners and hygiene.
3. The re-cycling bins in all classrooms and outside now take **mixed-recycling** items such as plastic, paper, card, glass and cans.
4. The **activities** on offer at lunchtime and after school have been advertised more widely to encourage maximum participation.
5. School events **notice boards** will be put up around the school to improve the environment and communication across the school.
6. Staff have politely been asked to use the **reward slips** more in lessons when possible and if appropriate.
7. We are currently in conversations with the restaurant to try and offer more **vegetarian options** on the pre-order lunch menu. Any changes do have to be

approved by the LEA and meet strict guidelines.

8. Pupils' comments regarding these and other issues have been fed back to Mr Wilkinson by some of our senior school council representatives, who enjoyed a very **productive meeting** with him recently.
9. The **school council shop** (Friday 12.30pm in the library or outside the restaurant) has extended its range to now include **exam packs** for a very reasonable £2.50.
10. Comments regarding **PE kit** have been fed back to Mr McComb, Head of PE for consideration.

## Wrexham Senedd yr Ifanc

St Joseph's is one of four schools who is represented on the Senedd thanks to the outstanding work of Jessie Hack and Emilia Mandyna. The girls are now very well established members of the Youth Parliament. Caroline Bennett, Participation Co-ordinator for Wrexham, says "they are doing a great job and are excellent advocates for your school".

Emilia and Jessie are involved with numerous groups namely the Management group who set agendas, the Children's Advisory group who are currently looking at how Brexit will affect young people and if that wasn't enough they are also helping organise a Play Day event to promote

healthy activities and fun for young people.

*"We have enjoyed being part of the Senedd. It has helped us voice our opinions and we now feel we are being heard. We are honoured to represent the young people of Wrexham and look forward to being part of the forthcoming events especially the residential trips to Bangor, Cardiff and London."*

*Jessie Hack and Emilia Mandyna,  
Year 8*

## International Women's Day - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

This was a fantastic event, attended by a number of our pupils, who spent the day shadowing a few of our inspirational women in various jobs and settings around Wrexham. The day offered such a fantastic opportunity that I hope will inspire and encourage our young women to consider many occupations in the future. This is how the following pupils spent their day:-

- **Niamh Bennion** and **Beth Sydney** - Assistant Principal Coleg Cambria, Angela Woolrich
- **Maya Piorunowska** - Natural Resources Wales
- **Jessie Hack** - Adrienne Jeorrett Councillor for Smithfield Ward
- **Emilia Mandyna** - Tina Mannering, Councillor, Gwersyllt East and South

If anyone else would like to get involved please come and see me, there is another taster session coming up on 25th June, (5.00pm-7.30pm, Guildhall) in Youth Work week. To celebrate this week, the Senedd are having a Q and A session with lead members of the council in the first half of the meeting and then a fun / educational session (hopefully with Big Ideas Wales) in the second half. This would be a perfect opportunity to experience what the Senedd do and get involved in something that matters in your local community.

*Mrs E Greenhalgh*  
*School Council Co-ordinator*

## Year 11 GCSE Maths Revision

The second GCSE paper will be taken on Thursday 7th June.

Maths workshops for Paper 2 will be held on Tuesday 5th June and Wednesday 6th June from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Topics will be based on the paper 2 prediction sheet which your child should have or you can download it from the e-Learning website. There is also a predicted practice paper available on the e-Learning centre that has been professionally produced.

I would encourage you to sit with your child and work through the list and past paper via your child's revision cards. There are links to videos and questions via a key code. The three main websites to revise from are Mr Barton Maths,

Mr Corbett Maths and BBC bitesize. These can easily be found via Google. Please follow St Joseph's Maths Twitter account @sj\_wxm\_maths for further information.

*Mr Donlon,*  
*Head of Mathematics*

## Ski Trip to Austria 2018

The school trip left on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and comprised of 40 pupils from St Joseph's. We travelled through the night on a coach and arrived tired but safely the next day. Skiing started promptly on the Sunday with a fast and efficient ski fit and then straight onto the slopes. After a few hours every one had the basics and could ski down the nursery slope.

All pupils made rapid progress and were all skiing down the mountain from the third day. The highlight of the trip was taking part in a race on the last day and was in the form of a slalom timed course. This was followed by a presentation where all pupils received a certificate of their achievement.

We had lots of fun all week and every evening there was an activity. This included bowling, pizza night, disco, quiz and a lovely prayer service to celebrate the start of Easter Week. The last day was spent in St Johann town centre where there was a traditional Austrian market and time for relaxing. All pupils had a fantastic time and many are

looking forward to the next ski trip to Andorra in February 2019.

*Mr Donlon, Ski Trip Leader*

## Lift off for Rocket Week!

As part of our Transition Programme Year 6 pupils have been invited to visit St Joseph's to take part in our famous Rocket Week starting **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June** and finishing on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our new pupils to become familiar with the school and to get to know some of the teachers and make new friends too.

This exciting project involves pupils in a number of different subjects such as Science, English, Technology and Maths. The children will be taking part in a number of activities and they will design and build their own rockets.

Although Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June is Common Transfer Day in Wrexham, we will be holding the **Parents' Information Meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June** starting at **6.30pm** when we will pass on all the relevant information regarding the move to secondary school.

The PTA will be holding a Disco for Years 6, 7 and 8 pupils on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets will be on sale to pupils during Rocket Week at a cost of £1. There will also be a drink and sweet stall at the disco.

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

*Mrs Roberts, Head of Year 7*

## Au Revoir Year 11s

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

It was a great honour to stand in front of the year group and welcome them to the event as well as parents and carers. It is always heartening to know how

much parents and carers support us with the care and education that the pupils

receive, and the leaver's celebration was no exception. With a fantastic turn out we watched the pupils perform introduction sketches, sing beautifully and celebrate their time at St Joseph's in a very prayerful manner. Every member of the year contributed to the evening and it was clear to see how proud the pupils, parents and staff were.

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

*Mr Lambert,  
Head of Year 11*



## "Trust the Lord with all your heart"

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

We were incredibly proud of all our young people as they not only showcased their amazing gifts and talents, but beautifully led

their parents, carers and each other, in prayer and worship. There were so many moving and memorable moments; the humorous

welcome sketch, the powerful penitential, the fabulous choirs, the brilliant soloists and readers, the bidding prayers and offering of gifts and the hugely talented artists. Wow! Such incredible young people!

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

*Mrs Roe  
Head of RE*

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

"I didn't expect to enjoy this service as much as I did. I thought it was a perfect way to celebrate our time here in St Joseph's and it's sad to think that I'll be leaving the place where all my friends

are. I've made some great memories that I won't ever forget!"

*Martha Gledhill, 11 Devereux*

## 14-19 Enrichment Awards

The following pupils attended the annual 14-19 Enrichment Course Awards at Glyndwr University:

Luke Harris  
Karla Kinsella  
Sophie Stansfield Jones  
Harriet Hughes  
Angelika Kinac  
Bethan Owen  
Rhian Williams

They all received an award for the course they have completed this year, which is a fantastic achievement for them all.

Outstanding Student of the Year Awards were also presented to the following pupils:

- Overall Student of the Year for St Joseph's - **Sophie Stansfield Jones**
- Course Student of the Year for Drama - **Luke Harris**
- Course Student of the Year for Level 1 Hair and Beauty - **Harriet Hughes**

It was an absolute pleasure to see all of the pupils enjoy their moment of pride up on the stage. They all looked extremely smart and represented our school to the highest of standards.

*Mrs Z Morrey,  
SENCO*

# Sports News

## Athletics Success

After the Wrexham County Athletics Championships 9 athletes were selected to represent the county at the North East Wales finals in Deeside. These were Hira Sahi (800m), Ben Williams (Discus), Niamh Collins (Shot Putt), Adrian Krol (Shot Putt), Jack Honey (Triple Jump), Jack Jones (Javelin), Rachel Moran (1500m), Kiera Beton (Shot Putt), Evie Huhthala (Discus) and Mitchell Williams (1500m). Of these athletes Adrian Krol, Niamh Collins and Ben Williams have qualified for the Welsh National Finals held in Cardiff in July, fantastic effort by all!

## Extra Curricular Timetable

The summer timetable is in full swing now with activities on every day. Please get involved! There is a range of activities including cricket, rounders, tennis, jiu jitsu and gymnastics.

## Kit and Trainer Appeal

If you are having a sort out over half term (Year 11 especially) and would like to donate any kit or trainers, the PE department is always looking for additions to loan to pupils who either forget their kit or need to be provided with some for a number of reasons. Just drop them into any of the PE staff and we will do the rest! Thanks!

## Participation Policy

A reminder that all pupils should bring their kit for PE lessons even

if they are ill or injured. There is always some way in which they can participate in the lesson without aggravating their ailment further. For example if a pupil has an injured ankle they can perform upper body and core exercises or perform a throwing event. As a department we are sensitive to injuries and will adapt the lesson to suit your child as necessary.

*Mr K McComb,  
Head of PE*

## Geography pupils out and about...

On Thursday 24th May Year 8 pupils visited Erddig to study the River Clywedog. They undertook a group investigation to measure and record the rivers width, depth and velocity. They also conducted a river walk where they identified the main features of the river caused by river processes. The children will be using the information gleaned to complete classwork and further their understanding of river landscapes and processes.

A great day was had by all with some fantastic leadership and communication skills evident by some very capable geographers. Da iawn pawb!

*Mrs E Greenhalgh,  
Geography Teacher*

## HCPT Trip to Lourdes

What a trip we had! Kyle, Kory, Sophie, William and me, Alex,

had the most amazing time in Lourdes over Easter. We loved everything about! We loved every minute of it! My favourite funny people are Muriel, Christine (Muriel's friend) and Father Simon.

I loved the Grotto and the Prayer Box. I Prayed for Sister Maggie and my Mum and Dad. We visited the underground Basilica and the main Basilica. We went on a day trip to Garvine, in the heart of the Pyrenees Mountains. I loved it. We had soup every day.



Thank you to everyone who raised money for HCPT last year, because it was your kindness and generosity that paid for us to go. Thank you to Mrs Roberts (Head of Year 7); Mrs Roe for letting me write this; Siobhan Edwards, our Group Leader, and Anne Marie our Deputy Group Leader.



So please everyone, do your part for HCPT! It could be you who is selected next time.

*Alexander Pengelly, 7 Devereux*

## Art Attack

There are two teachers in the Art department, Mrs Woodward and Mr Farrell, (who was a past pupil of St Joseph's and has come back to work here). The facilities for art are excellent and include purpose-built art rooms which have plenty of light and space for pupils to use. The department is well stocked with a large variety of materials which allows pupils to experiment and develop their work in various media.

Throughout their art lessons pupils are given opportunities to use techniques and materials that will excite, encourage and challenge them. The scheme of work is interesting and diverse and enables pupils to discover new things and work to their strengths.

Art is taught to all year groups from Year 7 to Year 11 and the subject is a popular GCSE option choice. During Key Stage 3 the emphasis is on building the pupils' skills of drawing and painting. Pupils' sketchbooks are very important; when they enter the school in Year 7 they are issued with two sketchbooks, one for classwork and another for homework. Pupils can see their work developing and the progress they are making. All their lessons are practical work and often the homework is a piece of critical studies that requires pupils to learn about the style and content of various artists' work.

The art department places great value on the gospel values which are at the heart of our life at

school; through art pupils develop many social skills such as self-control, respect for one another and the importance of seeing things through to completion.

Lessons are structured to follow the pattern of planning, making and evaluation and pupils are encouraged to respond maturely and specifically, providing constructive feedback for themselves and each other.

GCSE pupils are encouraged to become more independent in their thinking and organisation of their time and work as they are required to make a personal response to the artists they study. Pupils' work is on display in and around the art room and pupils regularly create the wall displays that decorate the school during whole school Mass or Eucharist.

Pupils are involved in a number of extra-curricular activities, including art workshops with visiting artists, gallery visits and every year the GCSE pupils are invited to attend a residential art weekend where they take part in an extended workshop with an artist.

*Mrs M Woodward, Head of Art*

## Meet the Governor...

### Paul Crump

I first became involved with St Joseph's in 1999 when our son started school there. I was actively involved with the PTA for the next 10 years as our children moved through the school. In 2003 I became a parent governor

and held this position for 8 years, after a 1 year break I was invited to become a local authority governor, a position which I have held since that time.

As a professional chartered surveyor I was asked to chair the premises health and safety committee which I have held for a number of years. I am also a member of the finance committee.



Due to my professional training I was heavily involved in a liaising capacity for the expansion of the school to its present layout which took place 11 years ago, these were very exciting times to be involved with the development of the school culminating in the school being the first Catholic/Anglican High School in North Wales. Since the expansion of the school, one of the largest continuing projects has been an ongoing repair and maintenance programme to keep the school looking at its best. We believe that a good environment helps bring out the best in our pupils.

I have always considered it a great privilege to support the school over a number of years after it provided an excellent

education for both of our children.

## Forthcoming PTA Event

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

## Dates for the Diary

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
School opens to pupils

**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June**  
PTA Meeting (6.45pm)

**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 9 Collaborative Induction

**Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Year 11 Leaver's Farewell

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 11 Prom

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June**  
New Intake Evening

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June**  
Common Transfer Day

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> July**  
Years 7-9 Activities Day

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> July**  
Sports Day  
Evening of Excellence

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July**  
School closes at 3.30pm

## Term dates for 2018-2019 Academic Year

### Autumn Term

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

### Spring Term

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### Summer Term

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019  
to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### May Day

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### Training Days

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018  
Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019



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