



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd  
Gatholig ac  
Anglicanaidd  
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 7 THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018

## Beginning of a new term

On Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> we gathered together as staff for a whole day to prepare for welcoming the children the following day. As always, on these occasions, there is a full agenda but the atmosphere of joyful enthusiasm we experience in meeting each other, is palpable. In fact this relationship and sharing with colleagues is at the very heart of our school; because it is rooted in and built on our commitment to Christ who is:

**'Our  
Way,  
Our  
Truth  
and  
Our  
Life'.**



We endeavour to teach, inspire and guide all our pupils to "Live Life to the Full" as Jesus promised.

### Anglican Eucharist

At the beginning of term this generosity of Spirit and working together is Christ's name was exemplified in the Celebration of an Anglican Eucharist which underscored the *raison d'être* of our school. Our chosen theme was: 'Come as you are'. We acknowledged our limitations and giftedness because, in the depth of each one of us, child or adult, is a unique and precious child of God. To show this visually, children from a range of ages came in small groups creating their togetherness through mime, and forming a beautiful tableau in front of the altar. This was so reverential and inspiring – so simple and yet so profound. The

readings chosen for the Eucharist related very closely to our theme: "Before I formed you in the womb "I knew you – do not be afraid, I am with you." The gospel reading we heard was "Let the children come to me". The whole celebration was a weaving in and out of our lived reality as we work together following Christ.

### Service of Welcome

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October we had a special celebration Service of Welcome for Year 7 pupils their parents, carers, and families. The children themselves led the introduction. It was a beautiful blend of enthusiastic energy involving Drama, Music and prayerful reflection on what it means to be a pupil in St. Joseph's. It culminated in each child being blessed and anointed at the beginning of their time in St. Joseph's. They will also be blessed when they leave us in Year 11.

*Sr. Maggie*

# School Getaways...

## Geography Field Trip

On Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> of September the GCSE Geography pupils went to Cwm Idwal, Snowdonia to look at landforms and distinctive landscapes. We looked at the formation of a waterfall and at a U-Shaped valley. We then went into the town of Betws-y-Coed and conducted a questionnaire survey amongst tourists about what they thought of the area. It was a very fun and informative day and it opened up a lot of opportunities to find out about other people's thoughts about Wales and has definitely helped us get a better understanding of our classwork. It was an amazing experience and we would definitely go again. *Holly Humphries and Michael McCormick*

## A Day of Reflection

A few weeks ago our new intake had the opportunity to spend a day at Panatasaph friary. Both days were jam-packed with a wide variety of activities ranging from ice breaker games, singing and reflection.

The main aim of the day was to explore the theme of 'Community' and to understand the importance of working together. There was also an opportunity to watch a clip called No 1 which enabled the pupils to discover the importance

of not judging others by their appearance, and how each member of the community should be appreciated and acknowledged as a child of God, precious and important in His eyes.

The weather was amazing for both days and so during the lunch break the pupils were able to soak up the sun. Others decided to venture into the well organised Café for some light refreshment or buy souvenirs from the little gift shop.

To conclude the day the pupils prepared and delivered a short prayer service. This included lively hymns, dramas, mime, song and dance which was linked together by our wonderful chaplains and was a fitting way to finish of a wonderful day. A big thank you to all out Year 7's for their perfect behaviour during the day they are a credit to themselves their parents and our school.

*Miss Massey*



## Soli House

For more than 70 years Soli has always been a place where young people can encounter Christ through residential retreats, and other ministries such as Outreach and music. During the retreat

Ministry is designed to meet the needs of young people from different backgrounds.

The mission of Soli, and the Kenelm Youth Trust, is to provide life changing opportunities for young people, helping each person to reflect upon their life of faith and how they respond to the call of Jesus Christ in their lives.

The Soli team consists of a community of young adults, and permanent staff, who are dedicated not only to helping young people but also to growing together in a community of faith and prayer.

*Miss Massey*

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

When we arrived we were welcomed with warm, home cooked food and lots of fun awaiting us!! We got settled in to our excitement-filled rooms and we were ready for the next few days ahead! The team had loads of activities planned for us to take part in and had also organised for us to listen to all their own inspirations in life. We took part in a break out room, bubble football and lots of other cool activities! The time went so quick and before we knew it, it was time to pack our bags and have the annual room inspection from our teachers! We were so sad to leave as we had enjoyed our time as much there. We have all been both years to Soli House and wish we could have a third trip! We highly recommend this trip of fun, laughs and also a very very long walk in the woods.

*Megan Winter,  
Ellie Jones and Annie Baldam*

## Quarry Bank Mill

I really enjoyed Quarry Bank Mill because it showed me how bad the living conditions were. When we were in the mill and they turned on the machines and I realised how loud it was and why many lost their hearing and I learnt that the doctor at the mill wasn't even a qualified doctor! I saw the Apprentice House and it made me realise how lucky I am to have a home. *Evie Jones*

Quarry Bank Mill was an enjoyable and educational day out for us and I found out a lot from the tour which can contribute to part of my classwork. Seeing the Apprentice House and hearing the workers stories really made us compare their lives to ours and made us appreciate everything. Some facts we learnt were fun facts about how many bobbins were on a loom and how many people slept in one bedroom. *James Cotter*



When I visited Quarry Bank Mill, it wasn't what I expected. I expected a small mill with not a lot to see, but I was quickly shown, it was huge! We started off the day by going into the Apprentice House and seeing the size of it and the conditions that they lived in. It was really interesting seeing the size of it and how cramped everything

was. That taught me a lot about how different living was back then. We then went and saw the village near the mill, which we learnt is where the workers that were adults would have lived. We saw it first hand and learnt what the intention behind it being built was. Finally, we had a tour through the mill. It was really interesting seeing all the machinery that they used, and how cramped together the machines were. It was so loud in there, and it showed us what the workers had to hear everyday! I loved Quarry Bank Mill and it taught us a lot about Samuel Grey and everything he did.

*Ethan Le Cheminant*

## Nant BH

On Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> October, 22 Year 11 pupils headed out to the Nant BH outdoor centre for a GCSE Maths revision trip. The trip started with a night walk activity consisting of following map bearings back to the centre. Pupils learnt how to follow six figure reference points and learnt about scales and bearings.

The next day we were off to the nearby lake where we had a session on Canadian Canoes. The course we went on was pre planned and followed a right angled triangle. There was a short break on the opposite side where pupils learnt how to light a fire with a flint and toasted marshmallows. When we got back to the centre we could work out the angles that we turned through on the course and the distances travelled using Pythagoras and Trigonometry.

The other activities were high ropes, orienteering and to conclude the weekend, a gorge walk. Each activity had a Maths problem to solve back at the classroom and there were many more topics studied throughout the weekend.

The group had a fantastic time and learnt lots of skills in both Maths and Outdoor Pursuits.

*Mr Donlon*

## Choose Life Workshop

On Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September all pupils in Year 10 were included in the Choose Life Workshop. We learnt about the long and short term effects on using drugs. John created this organisation to go around different school giving a new intake on drug effects. There were also two other speakers who had experience with these drug addictions telling us what effects drugs had on their lives, for example we learnt that if you take heroin for 21 days you can be addicted for 20 years which affects a lot in your life, like jobs and friendships. We really enjoyed the honesty and humour they shared with us on a very personal level. Thank you to Mrs Woodward for organising the morning.

*Lucy Griffies,*

*Keisha Williams, Holly Humphreys  
and Michael McCormick*

## Let them eat cake

The staff recently held a Macmillan Coffee Morning (well lunchtime) and goodness, they

ate a huge amount of cake! Lots of staff donated and there are a couple of secret Mary Berrys amongst them! We had a lovely get-together and raised a whopping £201! *Mrs Tait*

## Charity Netball Match

On Sunday the 14th October 10 members of staff played in a charity netball match in aid of Alder Hey and Liverpool Women's Hospital. We played a total of 5 games and lost 3 but amazingly WON 2!!! Mr Tait was players' player - not sure that's what you would expect to hear!! And most importantly the event raised over £1,000. Well done everyone!

*Mrs Tait*



## Mrs Davies visits India

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September, I was fortunate to fly out to India to visit our Year 11 charity, Reaching the Unreached. I had been asked to go and open a memorial in honour of the charity's founder, Bro James Kimpton. The charity was started in 1974 to help some of the poorest people living in Southern India. Bro James died on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 aged 92. He was a De la Salle brother who had

dedicated over sixty years of his life to working with the poor.

RTU is situated in the Theni District of Tamil Nadu, India's most Southern State. It tries to support and empower people on a local level but unfortunately sometimes this fails. Many children find themselves orphaned or destitute either because they have been abandoned or lost their parents to HIV/AIDS so are taken to RTU to be cared for.

RTU cares for these children in its four children's villages which have been set up to care specifically for their needs. Once taken in by the charity they are cared for in a foster family. Often the foster mothers at RTU are women who are widowed, mistreated or abandoned by their husbands. Each mother will care for seven children, some might be their own, others children who have been brought into RTU.



Each child is given a home, love, food and education. The main aim is to nurture these children and allow them to become independent adults, who are able to support themselves and live meaningful lives.

RTU has many other outreach projects that support the local community:

- Medical care – this provides free medical and medicine for everyday illnesses
- Hostels for boys and girls from the age of 13. ( One of the hostels, all the boys are HIV and their medication in carefully monitored by the hostel mother)
- Outreach work which includes a water programme, providing clean water for the local villages
- Housing programme, local people apply to the charity for safe secure housing to be built for them.
- Hospice care for terminally children
- Centre for the less-abled, providing education and simple employment
- Women's programme, which helps to empower women by providing small loans to help them start their own business, helping them to support their families.

I feel very privileged to have been able to go for this special event and see the amazing work that happens in such an impoverished of the world.

Bro James had great faith in God and great support from the UK which allowed him to carry out this fabulous work. To learn more about the charity visit [www.rtu.org](http://www.rtu.org)

*Mrs M Davies*

## Welcome back Dr Heath

I studied for my undergraduate degree in Forensic Science at the university of Liverpool. Upon completion of this I was awarded a Welcome Trust studentship for a Masters and PhD in Biochemistry which involved a further four years studying in Liverpool. During this time I was teaching on undergraduate modules and did a placement in Yale College. I continued in research until I went to study for my PGCE at Bangor University. I was fortunate enough to work here at St Joseph's on completion of my PGCE for 1 year before moving to Hawarden High School where I became Head of Chemistry. During my time at Hawarden I completed my Masters in Education from Cardiff University. I am delighted to be back now at St Joseph's - it felt like coming home! In my free time I am an avid baker and anytime not spent in the kitchen I spend running. Last year I completed the London Marathon for Macmillan and raised over £9000. I am still entering lots of running events and when I am not running I am walking my two dogs. *Dr Heath*

## Student Assistance Programme at St. Joseph's

Every school in Wrexham is being encouraged to run support groups with specially trained staff, and

these groupings are known as "Group".

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

In this school, Group has a high profile, where teachers see it as a valuable and particularly effective tool in dealing with some of our more challenging pupils; those who exhibit behaviours resultant from emotional or sometimes physical disorder. It is all about supporting them to overcome these barriers.

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

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

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

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

## Hitting the high note

The Music department consists of Mr Sammons and a number of specialist instrumental and vocal tutors who support the students in their practical studies.

The Music department is well equipped with a main teaching room and two dedicated practise rooms, each containing an upright piano, and the main teaching room has two Clavinova, 15 electronic keyboards and 10 computers equipped with music processing software and MIDI input devices.

All pupils receive 1 music lesson per week from Years 7 to 9 and are given the opportunity to develop their musical skills, including singing, keyboard and percussion activities where pupils are encouraged to improve their performing techniques. Pupils also have the opportunity to study an instrument of their choice from a wide selection, including Brass; Cornet, Tenor Horn, Euphonium and Trombone. Woodwind; Flute,

Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet and Saxophone. Strings; Violin, Viola, 'Cello and Double Bass. Drum Kit, Piano and Singing and we hope to be able to also offer Guitar tuition this year.

Pupils are also able to develop their critical appraising skills and are required to listen very attentively to a wide musical repertoire and respond with understanding and knowledge of the key elements of music.

At GCSE pupils are required to develop more specialised abilities and respond to musical stimuli with a greater degree of technical knowledge and an understanding of historical context.



Pupils at GCSE are evaluated on their performance skills, both as soloists and as part of an ensemble and they are also required to submit two musical compositions as well as sitting an appraising exam paper.

St Joseph's High School currently contains a band, a brass group which is run by Mr Atherton and two choirs; a large Year 7 choir and a smaller upper school choir who, along with the band, perform in important school events such as the Christmas Liturgy, Mass and Eucharist and the Christmas fair.

**Mr Sammons**

## Year 7 Wellbeing Day

This took place on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Teachers and people from outside agencies who work regularly with the school to deliver PSE, worked alongside the children to discuss some of the physical and emotional changes that will occur for them over the next year or so. The day began with prayer led by Sister Maggie. The sessions were about puberty, hygiene, emotional and physical health and included information about energy drinks and healthy diet. The pupils were interested and enthusiastic and, as always, made the day very enjoyable for all who took part.

*Mrs M Woodward, PSE Coordinator*

## Helping Charities at Christmas

Five talented Year 10 pupils will be holding two stalls at our annual PTA 'Here Comes Christmas' Fair on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a Hot Chocolate stall in the Gym along with an Arts and Crafts Workshop in the Restaurant. All proceeds made will be donated to Hope House.



## Bags 2 School

We have arranged a Bags2School collection on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November. This is a fantastic opportunity to clear out the old! It also allows you to help with the fantastic fundraising efforts that

our PTA constantly does to help provide all those extra special things for your children. Bags2School will accept the following items: men's, ladies' and children's clothing (no school uniforms), paired shoes (tied together or with an elastic band around them), handbags, ties, belts, jewellery, hats and soft toys.



We do ask, please, that bags are not sent in to school before 9am on the 7<sup>th</sup> November, as we do not have the facilities to store the bags. Please help support this fundraising effort that helps towards fabulous additional resources for our pupils. Thank you!

## Non-Uniform Day

Please note that for any Non-Uniform and Wellbeing days, we continue to insist on the highest standards and expect that appropriate dress is worn (no midriffs showing, no strappy tops, no short skirts, no shorts with tights). Please note that leggings can be worn, but **ONLY** with a dress, sensible skirt, or a very long T-shirt, no make-up (including false eyelashes and fake tan) or piercings in the nose or cartilage of ears. Thank you for your continued support. We would like to retain these days!

## Sporting Success

There have been wins in the Football Welsh Cup for the U-15 girls and boys teams with the boys beating Dinas Bran 5-1 and Bryn Alyn 3-0 in a very exciting, counter attacking game. The girls beat Dinas Bran 3-0 and face Glan Clwyd in the next round. Well done to Year 8 and Year 11 netball teams who remain unbeaten in their fixtures, with strong performances coming from Year 9 and Year 10. Good luck to the girls who are trialling for Wrexham county squad this week.

## Get Involved and Get Active

The extra-curricular time table is in full swing now and we have had an incredible turn-out for the activities on offer. If you haven't come along to anything yet come and give it a try. There will be exciting new opportunities after half term so keep your eyes peeled!

## Meet the team



Meet our Year 11 PE prefects. They have been amazing in running sessions, promoting clubs and generally helping out. If you can't find any of the PE staff and want to know something, ask one

of these and they will be delighted to help.

## Focus on...

In a new feature we will be focussing on one of our pupils who have demonstrated excellence in PE through their performances or overall attitude. This month we speak to Jacob Crump, 9 Romero, who has recently been selected to play for Wales in Basketball.



### How long have you been playing Basketball for?

I have been playing Basketball since I was 9, so 4 years now. I started getting serious and playing games when I was 10.

### Where do you train and how often?

I train at Clywedog every week for Wrexham and I train for Wales in South Wales every month.

### Who is your sporting superhero?

My sport hero is Michael Jordan. If you ask most Basketball players they will tell you the same answer, but I like the way he changed the game and actually the perspective people could see Basketball.

### What do you like most about the PE Department and the Extra Curricular in St. Joseph's?

I like how everyday there is a new sport to try and get better at, after school as well there is always something on to enjoy with friends.

### What is your secret to success?

Practice. An hour before school, during and after school. Always working on the fundamentals and the little things that will make your game elite.

### What would you say to anyone wanting to give a new sport a try at St. Joseph's, but is nervous?

Just do it! All of the sessions are beginner friendly and you get loads of help from the teachers, coaches, PE prefects and other people!

### Do you have anything to add?

Always focus on the habits in your life that may hold your performance. Like not getting enough sleep or not eating right to get the best out of you. Also, as well as playing for Wales I play for the Wrexham Warriors, our team are currently the U14 Champions and cup winners. We have lots of boys who currently play for the team in our school. Mark, Gabe, Gian, Louis, Dom and Ace okay for Wrexham Warriors.



