



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 8 FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2018

Joyful celebration in prayer and worship by Sister Maggie

It would be impossible to do justice to all the educational highlights experienced in St Joseph's during this first term of our academic year. These have ranged from cross-curricular external activities, to in-depth and personal reflection experiences during PSE and Wellbeing days, such as the "Choose Life" workshop with Year 10.

At the very heart of our school is Christ; and His call to follow Him, who shows us the way to live: "Life to the full" as he promised. These values are inculcated at



every level of school life: from specific curricular areas to the development of the whole child, body, mind and spirit. Many of our activities are devoted specifically to building good personal relationships rooted in faith. This 'dimension of being' is central to the growth of each person in school. It relates, not only to what we do, but who we are!

In October our Year 7 pupils prepared a Prayer Service of Welcome to mark their becoming

part of St Joseph's. This was a joyful celebration drawing together children, parents and staff.

This was followed later in the term by a visit to Pantasaph Friary when each Year 7 class enjoyed time to build relationships. What was especially wonderful was the way the children managed to move from an excited activity together, to a time of stillness and silence. This helped them to reflect on relationships and what is important in life. At the end of the day, a prayer service prepared by staff and pupils, was a thoughtful and powerful way to draw the experience of the day together.

Year 8 pupils had a very full day visiting places of worship in Liverpool: namely the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals and a Jewish Synagogue. The children entered into these experiences

with interest and enjoyment. Each place of worship had good guides and children experienced a range of activities relating to faith and belief, and respect for God and each other.

Faith is at the heart of our school. Each day pupils, guided by staff, assemble for prayer either in class or in a year assembly.

One of the whole year assemblies was especially profound this year,



since it marked the Remembrance of 100 years since the end of the First World War. Each person in school had a poppy to add to a beautiful display which was the central focus of the prayer and reflection. It was a very moving experience for all involved.

Our faith inspires us to be loving and outgoing in generosity to others. The whole school was involved in a "hunger lunch" involving staff and pupils, the proceeds of which went to charities helping the hungry.

The community of St Joseph's extends beyond staff and pupils. We are blessed with a devoted PTA who, again this year, had an evening entitled: "Here comes Christmas" in which parents generously shared their time and energy to raise funds for school. The children were also involved in raising money for charities. I am always impressed by their

creative ingenuity energy, enthusiasm and joy in doing so.

The evening of the Christmas Concert, organised by the music department and performing arts, for parents and families drew us closer to the heart of the Christmas celebration. We were inspired by the quality and message of the children's performances.

One powerful poem about Christmas in the trenches of the First World War was close to my own heart. It speaks of the moment

when, at Christmas, the German soldiers started singing *Stille Nacht* and the British soldiers also sang *Silent Night* followed by a football match! For me this was Christ's message of peace in a world at war - so profound – so precious encapsulating an image of what is needed in our own world today.



The theme of peace was very much a part of our Reconciliation services for all pupils in chapel during advent, led by the staff in the RE department. They took

time to relax, be still and silent in order to focus on forgiveness, peace and love. Apart from some gentle background music and the voice of a teacher guiding the reflection, the children were seated on cushions on the floor and were helped to relax: body, mind and spirit, listening to parts of the Christmas story and reflecting on what was good in their lives and what could spoil this beauty. I was touched by the depth of the silence and stillness which the children experienced, their prayer and attitude of deep concentration. This whole experience was so profound.

We are at present preparing the final Liturgical Prayer to be shared by the whole school on the last day of term. I hear beautiful singing coming from the social court where children are practising carols, readings and movement sequences. All of these will be blended together with harmony and dignity into a prayerful celebration of the birth of Christ.

In our fragile world today we see the commitment and loving care which our children are developing in their own lives, as a sign of hope for the future of society. We feel confident that, together they will be enabled to proclaim the messages of Christ:

JOY TO THE WORLD

God bless each one of you this Christmas.

Sr. Maggie Catlow

Without geography, you are nowhere

The Geography department has three members of staff, Mrs Arnall (Assistant Head) is the Head of Department, Mrs Greenhalgh who is also a teacher of PE and Head of Year 10 and Mrs Devine who also has responsibility for the Global Citizenship Challenge aspect of the Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC).

Geography is taught to all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 within banded groups, Romero and Cassidy, then Devereux, Kolbe and King. At the end of Year 9 pupils chose whether they wish to continue Geography at GCSE.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils are taught a diet of human, physical and environmental geography, from map skills in Year 7 to current issues in Year 9. In these years, pupils also participate in various fieldwork activities, for example a fieldtrip to Erddig in Year 7 to look at river features; in Year 8 we practice our fieldwork skills around the school and in Year 9 we visit Chester Zoo to look at the issue of palm oil (see *School Getaways* section to find out how the pupils enjoyed this trip).

In Year 10 and 11, Geography is a popular subject at GCSE level and it has traditionally produced excellent results especially the proportion of grade A* and A's. Popular units include tectonic

hazards, social development, climate change, ecosystems and flooding. There is a big emphasis on mathematical and cartographic skills throughout the two years, making up 25% of the overall GCSE.

Geography just wouldn't be geography without fieldwork and GCSE is no exception. There are 3 fieldwork opportunities throughout the two years, including a fabulous trip to Snowdonia to see a glacial landscape and the effects of tourism in Betws Y Coed. During October half term we organised our first geography trip abroad in many years to Italy (see *School Getaways* for more details). It was hugely successful and we are hoping to visit Iceland in 2020.

*Mrs S Arnall,
Head of Department*

School Getaways...

Italy

Wow! What an experience, Italy was fantastic, from the sights we saw, to the children who took part. After an early start we arrived in Naples for lunch - yes it was pizza. Probably the best pizza we have ever tried. We then joined our guide for a stroll around Naples. Although tired, the children managed to maintain their enthusiasm but they were relieved when we reached the hotel, and yes you guessed it, pasta for tea!

Pompeii was our first excursion of the day, in the shadow of Mount

Vesuvius. It made it easy to imagine the horrors of the eruption but also the richness of Roman life. From Pompeii we began our ascent of Mount Vesuvius, many pupils top highlight. The views were phenomenal but what made it more exciting was the release of gases from the crater. In the evening we ventured into Sorrento for the best ice cream.

On our third day we drove along the Amalfi Coast, spectacular scenery but even more spectacular roads which weaved their way around the cliffs, through the villages, and on to Amalfi - we were extremely grateful to our amazing driver. We then headed back over the mountains and down into Naples for a look at Herculaneum although smaller than Pompeii, better preserved, giving us an idea of the extent of excavation which has been undertaken to expose the city.

Our final day of excursions took us to the Island of Capri. Adventures on the funicular, the public bus, the beach and free time to explore the island, perfectly rounded off the trip.

The days were packed, the weather kind, the food delicious and pupils a pleasure, we laughed and sang for four days. Cannot wait for the next trip - Iceland 2020!

Mrs A Devine, Geography Teacher

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

"Italy 2018 was just amazing. Who knew we would climb an

active volcano, eat pasta, make pizza, visit ruins older than Jesus and paddle in the sea in less than five days. It was a trip that I will remember for a long time."

Shea Ferron, 11 Devereux

"Italy gave us an understanding of not only geography but different cultures, new experiences and new memories. From the amazing views of the Amalfi Coast to the horrors of Pompeii, Italy was a once in a lifetime experience that will stay with us forever."

Bethan Houghton, 11 Devereux

Chester Zoo

On Thursday 15th November most of Year 9 had the opportunity to visit Chester Zoo as part of the curriculum. Within geography pupils have been looking at rainforests and the impacts humans have on these ecosystems, in particular agriculture and oil palm plantations.

Whilst at the zoo, pupils attended an interactive oil palm workshop led by the zoo's education team in which pupils completed a variety of tasks including a shopping task.

For the remainder of the day pupils were given the opportunity to explore the zoo whilst completing a booklet to help them complete their assessment later this term.

As a geography department, we thoroughly enjoyed the day and Year 9 were an absolute credit to the school.

Mrs A Devine, Geography Teacher

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

"I liked the workshop as we did activities on the palm oil and the presenter was really energetic and that made me listen more. I enjoyed the free time and finding information, although hard at times, it made me laugh, I would definitely recommend going to Chester Zoo with Geography."

Olly Hodgson, 9 Devereux

I enjoyed the workshop because it helped me understand the issues of the rainforest and that palm oil can be grown sustainably.

Carmen Nistor, 9 Devereux

Art Residential Weekend

Thirteen GCSE art pupils went to the Conway Centre in Llanfair PG Anglesey for the weekend on Friday, 23rd of November. The pupils worked with artists in a studio setting to produce a complete unit of coursework for their portfolio. The artwork they produced was diverse and of a high quality, the theme of the weekend was the Urban Landscape.



Pupils worked long hours over the whole weekend on the intensive course. Our pupils were being creative alongside pupils from other schools and we all had a very enjoyable time. It was a real

pleasure for Mr Farrell and myself to take this wonderful group of young people away.

Mrs M Woodward, Head of Art

Year 8 Places of Worship

On Tuesday, 20th November 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.

Miss R Massey, Assistant Head of RE

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

We had an amazing time in Liverpool. Thank you to the RE department and everyone involved on our trip. We visited the Metropolitan Catholic Cathedral which had amazing stain windows, all with different colours. Next we visited the Princes Road Synagogue which felt like we were in Narnia. Our last visit on our journey was the Anglican Cathedral which had humungous pictures which really was a great end to a great day.

Jack Burgess, Harvey Davis and Melisha Gunasekera, 8 Kolbe

Today was an amazing day visiting the three places of worship. In the Metropolitan Cathedral, there were masses of stain glass windows and we learnt about the structure of the cathedral too. In the Anglican Cathedral, we learnt what a baldaquina is. In the synagogue

foyer it looked very plain and ancient but when we went in the main hall, it was truly colourful! We even rubbed our eyes because we didn't believe there were so many colours at first! We learnt loads of facts and figures about each place of worship and also the journey to Liverpool was great!

Nicol Walczak and Vilas Lavan, 8 Kolbe

Ruthin Gaol

During the afternoon of Monday, 19th November the Year 11 GCSE History students visited Ruthin Gaol to support their study of the WJEC Crime & Punishment Unit. We are very lucky to have the only purpose-built Pentonville style prison open to the public as a heritage attraction on our doorstep!



As there were 60 pupils we split into two groups. We spent time exploring its nooks and crannies and learnt about life in the Victorian prison system. We had two wonderful guides who gave us an in-depth insight into how the prisoners lived their daily lives: what they ate, how they worked, and the punishments they suffered. We explored the cells including the punishment, 'dark' and condemned cell. Our guides told us all about the Welsh Houdini, *Coch Bach Y Bala*, and William Hughes who was the last

man to be hanged there. It was an interesting and informative visit which was a great start to this unit.

*Mrs S Jones and Mrs Y Williams
History Department*

Teams4U Shoebox Appeal

Teams4U launched their sixth annual Shoebox Appeal in Wrexham with an event, officiated by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham, in their unit in Llay Industrial Estate. For Teams4U Christmas is an all year round project preparing for thousands of Shoebox gifts heading to children and families in Eastern Europe. **More than 74 shoeboxes were collected from St Joseph's by Teams4U.** We would like to extend a huge "thank you" to all those pupils and families who gave so generously to this amazing local charity.

Mrs S James, Shoebox Co-ordinator



What an amazing time I had at the Teams4U Opening on 8th November in Llay when I met the Mayor and Mayoress. This year it

was different because one of the shoeboxes from Stoke on Trent had a drone on the outside of it. There was a globe made from chocolate which was three months' old. It was given to Dave Cooke, charity founder, as a present and he was amazed to see it in one piece. I hope you did a shoebox this year because you can see the difference it makes to a child's life with one shoebox. Thank you for making a difference and making St Joseph's proud.

Alexander Pengelly, 8 Devereux

Christmas Gift Appeal

St Joseph's staff and pupils have once again supported a Christmas Gift Appeal with All Saint's Church, kindly donating gifts for local young carers.

Over 25 young carers between 8 and 11 years of age from the Wrexham area attend the WCD Young Carers' group, where they receive support and have the opportunity to have fun and meet other youngsters in similar situations. Christmas can be a difficult time for these youngsters who care for someone close and these gifts have been so greatly appreciated.

The kindness and generosity of St Joseph's staff and pupils have been simply overwhelming. A huge thank you to those who gave so generously and supported such a worthwhile cause.

Mrs C Lunn

7 days without exercise makes one weak...

There has been a lot of sporting success to celebrate this term in St Joseph's. In **Netball**, 7 pupils were selected to represent Wrexham Under 14s and Under 16s and both age groups finished as runners up in the competition.

Following the success of the County Wrexham squad, Aimee Edwards, Neve Mullen and Phoebe Hough have been selected to represent North East Wales Under 16s at this year's Inter-counties tournament in Bangor which takes place in January. After weeks of practicing 19 pupils competed in the Urdd **Gymnastics** annual competition and all achieved fantastic results. Evie Landon and Ellie Abbiati won the KS3 pairs competition and will now go forward to the National finals held in Aberystwyth in February.

Absolutely fantastic results from the **Wrexham Cross Country** with 16 pupils earning a spot in the county team for the North East Wales Finals at Mold Alun in January. The team results were also amazing, well done again for everyone's commitment to training. Team results: u-12 Boys- 1st Jakub Slosarczyk, Nathan Bryloski, Jake Wilkinson and Billie Ellis; u-12 Girls- 4th Channel Somerfeld; u-14 Boys- 2nd Harvey Davis and Keane Gerasmo; u-14 Girls- 2nd Elsie Kightly-Wojdyta and Ruby Booth; u-16 Boys- 1st Mitchell Williams

and Jacob Wilmott; u-16 Girls- 1st Rachel Moran, Aimee Edwards, Hira Sahi and Abby Sheriff. Overall we had 20+ top 10 finishes and Jakub Slosarczyk and Rachel Moran winning their age groups.

Owain Price and Will Edwards have been selected to represent Wrexham school boys in **Football** where they will play fixtures against other counties over the next couple of weeks. Our boy **Basketball** team got off to a fantastic start beating Ysgol Clywedog in their first fixture with the highlight being Gabe Ibarrientos scoring a brilliant 3 pointer.

Remember to get yourself down to the PE department and get involved with our 5x60 programme and extra-curricular sessions. We have a variety of sessions on offer for all abilities led by staff, coaches and sport captains.

Mr K McComb, Head of PE

Year 10 Entrepreneurs

The year 10 pupils have been very active in their fundraising activities. They have been set the challenge to raise as much money as possible for Hope House Hospice and to think of creative ways to do so.

We have had the usual cake sales and sweet stalls but have also had some unusual events such as Mr Sammons hair shave which as an event alone raised over £100. The year 10 pupils were also busy at



the Christmas Fair. They had 23 stalls selling items from reindeer food to providing a service of hair braiding.

A big well done to all the year 10 pupils (and their families) for all money raised so far which is in excess of £1,800— final total will be revealed in the New Year!

*Mrs D Tait,
Enterprise Co-ordinator*

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

Our group is called North Star and our fundraising idea was quite far-fetched but we managed to accomplish it. Our idea was to ask a local band, *Neck Deep* to perform for pupils. We have managed to get them to do an acoustic set and they are donating some signed merchandise and VIP tickets to their Manchester concert which we will be putting into a raffle. We also had a stall at the Christmas Fair where we raised £16.02. The *Neck Deep* concert now has a confirmed date which is 11th January 2019.

Daniel Frankel, 10 Cassidy

I am the managing director for my team however, as a group, our team name is called the Raffellers. We held a stall at the Christmas Fair to raise funds for children's Hope House. Our team raised

over £90 by holding a raffle with amazing prizes you could not miss, for example, a family ticket to watch a home match at Wrexham Football Club, a meal for two at the Fat Boar and even four tickets to sit in premium seats in the Odeon to watch a film of your choice. As a team, we are extremely happy with the amount of money raised and would like to thank everyone who participated.

Megal Powell, 10 Romero

WWI Centenary Remembrance

On 11th November, one hundred years ago, the guns fell silent on the world's first truly global war. It is so important that we take time to think about those who lived through this tragic and remarkable time and who put Britain on the path to becoming what it is today. It's time to say thank you for all they did for us, to say thank you to the WWI generation who gave us the freedom we have today.

This year the Royal British Legion lead the nation in saying a special thank you, they are using the #thankyou (#diolch).

To show our thanks here at St. Joseph's the History Department asked for every



pupil and member of staff to make a poppy which was used as part of a special display in the social court. It was an excellent opportunity for form groups to say thank you to the generation who served, sacrificed and changed our world.

As a church school we turn to our gospel values at this time, especially those of service, sacrifice, gratitude and compassion. As a school community we have demonstrated that we are forever grateful and appreciative of the sacrifices made.

***"When you go Home,
tell them of us and say, For your
Tomorrow, we gave our Today"***

John Maxwell Edmunds 1916

*Mrs S Jones & Mrs Y Williams
History Department*

Year 11 Wellbeing Day

The Year 11 well-being day took place on Thursday, 18th October.

Year 11 staff and a number of guest speakers delivered sessions on various aspects of emotional, physical and sexual health.

The pupils responded to all the sessions in a very mature and thoughtful way. They felt they had learned things about themselves and others that would be useful to them. Here is some of the feedback from the pupils that Mr Griffiths, Head of Year 11, reported to me:

"I enjoyed learning about the stages of a relationship, it was very interesting and informative"

"This information built solid new knowledge, which will be helpful for later life."

"I felt comfortable to ask things throughout the day, it was all very well presented."

"The day taught me about trust and relationship commitment."

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the day.

Mrs M Woodward, PSE Co-ordinator

Year 9 Information Evening

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

Mrs S James, Head of Year 9

Follow us

The Year 11 Digital Prefects have been working hard with the office staff to update our school twitter account.



Please follow us on twitter - we currently have 423 followers let's increase this over the Christmas holidays.

@SJ_WXM

Don't forget to download the school app by visiting stjosephs.wales

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - from all the staff and pupils at St. Joseph's Catholic & Anglican High School.

Mr Wilkinson, Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

Monday, 7th January
Staff Development Day

Tuesday, 8th January
School Opens to Pupils
Year 9 Examinations begin

Monday, 14th January
Year 10 Parents' Evening

Tuesday, 15th January
Year 10 Wellbeing Day

Thursday, 17th January
Year 11 Mock Interviews

Monday, 21st January
Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thursday, 24th January
Photographs Years 8-11

Monday, 28th January
Year 10 Assessment Week
Year 10 Hitler on Trial trip

Friday, 1st February
Year 9 Wellbeing Day

Friday, 4th February
Year 10 Assessment Week cont'd

Monday, 11th February
Year 9 Parents' Evening

Tuesday, 12th February
Year 9 Option Interviews
Year 10 Soli House Retreat

Monday, 18th February
Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday, 21st February
School Eisteddfod (Yrs 7 & 8)

Friday, 22nd February
School closes for half term



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