



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

## Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig ac Anglicanaidd Sant Joseff

ISSUE 9 FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2019

## Reflection by Sister Maggie

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, we had a Staff Development Day prior to the children returning to school the following day. This enabled us to focus on a timetable of academic initiatives and Pastoral Care in school. From this, a range of attendant issues, such as those related to relationships with external authorities, were also discussed. These external relationships are important because, as a school working closely with local authorities, we are able to provide a cohesive structure which supports all our children and their families.

We began this day in Prayer as we always do. We chose to focus on the Christmas Liturgy Reflection: "Follow the light of Christ". The Liturgy itself was a powerful and truly beautiful presentation of the Christmas story. The reverence

and respect of the children as they worked with staff, through music and dramatic story-telling, was a profound experience. It culminated in each child lighting a candle and holding it as they were seated looking at the crib with Mary and Joseph also holding a large candle, representing Christ the Light of the world.

The children were absolutely still.



The light of the candles lit up their faces. It was a beautiful moment which they held without moving for a period of time.

Our care for the children is at every level: body, mind and spirit. In this first week back in school some Year 10 and 11 pupils had examinations or preparation for exams. This required very detailed organisation related to staff and pupils involved. In practical terms, rooms were designated and posters were displayed outside requesting silence. It also ensured that the external environment was conducive to optimum potential for children to concentrate, and so be able to do the best they could in the examination itself.

The theme for the first week back in school after Christmas was the Celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany: We remembered how the three wise men, guided by the light of the star came from the East, to pay homage to the Christ child. Their journey was far from being straightforward. They needed courage and persistence

in their endeavour to find the Christ child. We would all do well to reflect on what guides us throughout our lives. How do we approach each day and face the challenges. Let us be focussed, as were our children in the Christmas Liturgy, as they all turned towards the Light of Christ.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Year 10 had a Wellbeing Day. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to reflect on who they are at different levels of BE-ING not just things they do. They have time away from a normal school day to slow down, be still, and become aware 'of themselves' what they feel, experience, and where their strengths and weaknesses are.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January we celebrated the Octave of Prayers for Christian Unity, which, in a way is interesting regarding timing, because it draws together the personal experience of children reflecting on their own depth and values as individuals; and then bringing those values together in Christian Unity.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of January Year 10 pupils went with members of the History and Drama Department to a day out of school reflecting on the topic: 'Hitler on Trial'. They considered the life of Hitler, whose behaviour had such devastating effects on others: destroying the lives of millions of people. In the context of this, children were given time to reflect on what Hitler did and what was so patently wrong in what he did. They also reflected

on the soldiers and others who carried out Hilter's orders and went along with this, rather than having the courage to stand up for truth and justice – the silent majority who could have, and should have been brave enough to stand together and do what was right and just.

May all our lives be guided by the life of Christ. *Sr. Maggie Catlow*

*Radiant Star in my heart,  
Eternal Lamp of Love,  
Remind me often of how much  
radiance comes from the glow of  
one small candle flame,  
When my spiritual window is  
heavily clouded, and your abiding  
love seems far from me, restore my  
belief in your vibrant presence.  
When I doubt my ability to be a  
bearer of your light, shine your  
truth and wisdom into my faltering  
spirit.  
Amen.*

## #WeRemember

There are lots of important events in our history that are worthy of recognition but none more so than Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme this year was 'Torn from home'. Pupils were shown a video clip of the ghettos being cleared and their Jewish inhabitants sent to the



concentration camps. Families torn apart, possessions plundered, homes destroyed. They were encouraged to reflect on their own homes and how they would feel if this happened to them today. Attention was then drawn to the testimony of the survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, particularly the most recent in Darfur, Sudan. How often have we said 'never again' and called for these horrendous acts of senseless violence to never be



repeated.

To show our solidarity with the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, a photo taken in school of our Sports Captains who presented the assembly in front of a #WeRemember sign. This was posted on our school twitter page and was shown at the actual memorial service in Austwicz-Berkanau on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Each year group was encouraged to do the same and post a picture to honour the victims and survivors of both the Holocaust and genocides of Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia and Darfur.

A beautiful prayer and video clip with emotional words and images closed the assembly. Thanks to our wonderful sports captains who presented the assembly so well. Da iawn, diolch. *Mrs Greenhalgh*

# School Getaways...

## Soli House

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

*Miss Massey*

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

Soli House 2019 was absolutely amazing. The whole week included lots of fun activities and time to bond with others. The Soli House team were so welcoming and the house was such a lovely place to stay. I would love to go again. *Beth Sidney*

I have found the Soli House trip 2019 the best trip of St. Joseph's. The week went by so quickly, however we took part in so many various activities and enjoyed them all. The praying was very relaxing. Additionally the food was amazing. Overall I recommend the trip for everyone, it's time to take some time thinking things through but also a great chance to meet new people.

*Maja Piorunowska*

Last week we had a fantastic experience that had a massive impact on my outlook on life. We talked in small groups about personal experiences in our own lives that made us feel closer to God. We also sang songs and took part in fun activities. I would recommend the trip to the Year

10s for next year and would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to go to do so.

*Riccardo Dotolo*

Last week we had an amazing experience of going to Soli House. It was an opportunity that we will remember for the rest of our lives. It has made a lot of us see life from a different angle. It gave us all a chance to reflect on our lives and talk to people we wouldn't usually talk to. It helped us reflect on faith.

*Grace Morgan*

## 'Hitler on Trial'

On Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 70 History and Drama GCSE pupils went to the Waterside Arts Centre in Sale to



experience 'Hitler on Trial' by School History Scene. After an earlier than usual start we arrived in Sale and had a grade booster workshop in which students are shown the thinking behind the GCSE exam and how to make the most of their knowledge and skills!

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

The pupils were a credit to the school and they seemed to get a

lot out of the day. Another successful History trip!

*Mrs Jones, Mrs Williams & Mrs Clark*

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

I thought that this trip was great and even though it was educational, its experience was worth going. This trip was extremely helpful as it helped me and many other pupils, understand how GCSE type questions are marked and how we can answer them to be successful in our real GCSE. The play itself was great and can be seen as a lot of hard work as so many interesting facts were put into it; the actors did a phenomenal job and as a whole I believe it was worth going to see "Hitler on Trial".

*Emilia Eisenhardt*

## Year 11 Mock Interview Day

The feedback from our guest interviewers on the day was excellent, as always! Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Arnull and the team of Welsh Baccalaureate teachers along with myself are extremely proud of the way Year 11 conducted themselves on the day. I know that Year 11 gained valuable interview experience which will help them in the future.

*Mr Griffiths*

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

This was a very beneficial experience. The interviewer taught me many aspects of a successful interview, and gave me ideas for any improvement I could make. This day allowed me to

develop my confidence and interview skills for the future.

*Dorian Somerfeld*

It was a very enjoyable experience that I found very valuable as he told me lots of helpful points for real life interviews. It has made me a lot less nervous for future job interviews.

*Connor Richards*

I think that these interviews are essential to practise because it is something necessary for the adult world. It is a skill that we don't learn in school making the Mock Interview day very beneficial.

*Gabby Ransome*



It was a great experience which I found very beneficial. It has given me confidence for interviews in the future and I am pleased I had this opportunity.

*Emma Hinde*

A truly beneficial experience that helped me to understand what an actual job interview will be like.

*Wiktoria Milczanowska*

It was an eye-opening experience that allowed me to get a look into the future. Given the opportunity to talk about my chosen subjects. We got advice on how to present ourselves in an interview.

*Maria Pedro*

## TenTen Theatre

On Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> of January, Year 7 watched a video by TenTen about loving yourself and I personally found it very interesting and inspiring.

The video was very inspirational and really helped me. Sometimes some people get a bit restless and don't tend to listen, but I found everyone really getting into it and answering questions and asking about the video. The video focused on the main points of bullying and really showed us what Esther was going through.

I really like the idea of stopping to focus on the main parts of the video. This helped people to understand the main aspects of it and clear up any confusion people may have had. The speaker that we had was kind and accepted everyone's options. When we answered a question or asked something she looked right at us and made us feel like she was really listening and taking in our thoughts and ideas.



Not only did the video focus on the problem, it focused on the solution to the problem. This would really help someone if they were being bullied. It was also modern, which made it easier to understand and relate to.

Overall, the video was very interesting and educational, and I really enjoyed this amazing experience. The whole thing was very attention-grabbing and the speaker we had was amazing, making me feel like my opinion was really valued. I really loved this experience and had a wonderful time!

*Molly Stanley*

## It's crucial!

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

Fire Service

Young Carers

British Transport Police

Dog's Trust

Food Standard's Agency

Women's Aid

## CatsPaw Theatre

Year 9 were lucky enough to experience CatsPaw Theatre coming to talk about relationships. They were extremely mature when it came to asking questions and discussing the sensitive issue around relationships and the law. As always, they represented the school very well in their behavior and attitude. Da iawn blwyddyn 9!

*Mrs Jobson*

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

We found the production very informative and useful, as we learnt many facts that we did not know before. Although we felt a bit uncomfortable, as this topic isn't talked about often, it was important that they talked about it because we now know what to do if we ever encounter that situation. Even though it was a sensitive topic, we think everyone handled it well. It was organized and performed well, interesting and enjoyable.

*Katie Hill, Molly White,  
Cerys Williams, Seren Taylor,  
Rebecca Pitt and Felicity Barrett*

## Give Racism the Red Card

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February Year 7s had a workshop delivered by the charity "Give Racism the Red Card". The aims of the workshops were to gain a fuller understanding of what racism is and consider the damaging nature of racism. Pupils were also able to gain a deeper understanding of the injustice and the senselessness of racism and to begin to evaluate the power that words can have.

*Mrs Roberts*

## Inside the English Department

In the autumn term, all Year 7 & 8 pupils flexed their creative writing skills by taking part in a competition called 'Mission

Catastrophe', run by the national Young Writers organization. Pupils had to imagine a catastrophe which threatened the human race had taken place and compose a story, in just 100 words, capturing either the build-up to the event, the event itself or the aftermath. There were loads of fantastically imaginative and dramatic pieces produced. School winners have received their prizes and we wait to hear if any of our pupils have been successful at national level.



In January, all Year 11 pupils undertook the Group Discussion Controlled Assessment for GCSE English Language. The choices of topics for discussion this year were: Boxing, Volunteering and the School Curriculum. The English staff were impressed by the quality and maturity of pupils' spoken skills. To be successful, they needed to deliver complex information, ideas and evidence to support their views, show sustained close listening, challenge, question and respond to what other group members said and display grammatical accuracy and precise, ambitious vocabulary. Da iawn Year 11 for the great effort and achievement from this important piece of work.

Sixty pupils from Years 7 to 10 enjoyed a day of creative writing

workshops at Glyndwr University in February. The event was led by the Hay Literary Festival and professional writers. The focus of the event was to explore varied ways to build stories, express ideas and inspire empathy and creativity through the power of writing. Pupils had a really enjoyable time, experimenting with and making progress with their ideas and skills for writing.

*Mrs Samuels*

## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

This term the year 9's have started their exciting extra-curricular award of Bronze D of E. They are currently finding placements for volunteering, finding a new skill to learn and are attending extra fitness sessions as well as starting to learn skills required for their expedition weekends.

Some of the amazing skills being learnt are everything and anything from crocheting to handwriting in Sri Lankan, I can't wait to see all the evidence at the end of the 6 months. We have 49 Year 9 pupils signed up and hopefully all will, achieve this qualification by the end of Year 9!! This would be absolutely fantastic for all of them and a great accolade to add to their cv. They have to show commitment by attending training every Tuesday after school and undertake all the sections in their own time.

A big thanks to all the parents/carers with your support in this new venture, it's a learning curve for me as D of E Manager and you are all being absolutely fantastic in supporting me and the school with this.



*Mrs Tait*

## Dragon's Den

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February the school reception area resembled something similar to Alan Sugar's office block in Canary Wharf. We were visited by 30 men and woman from the business world who came to school to watch business presentations from Year 10 pupils. The Year 10's have been over the last term raising



money for Hope House hospice by being creative and innovative. On Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> they were seeking a further £10 investment in their business idea. They had to write business plans, describe what roles they had played within their team and show the 'dragons' the entrepreneurial skills they had developed.

It is always a pleasure so watch the young people start off the day as nervous, scared pupils and to come from their pitch as

confident, reassured young business men and women. The feedback from the dragons was amazing. The dragons were blown away by the pitches that they saw. They were so complimentary about the attitude and maturity of all the pupils.

I am super proud of all the pupils; they performed so well on the day. This is part of their Enterprise and Employability Challenge for the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification so hopefully their final marks will be as good as their performance at the pitch.

*Mrs Tait*



Comment from Martin Williams, Director of Radar PR.

"The ingenuity and imagination of the students never fails to amaze me. I took part in my first Dragons Lair at St Joseph's in Wrexham in February 2018. A year later I found myself at the school again - my sixth panel in 12 months - again blown away by the variety of ideas, the effort of the groups and their dedication to raising as much money for the charity as possible. Always inspiring, it's an honour to be a 'Dragon' and one I look forward to again in the future.

## Sports update

It has been another fantastic half term for our young sporting superstars, with a number of pupils representing St Joseph's in National finals. Evie Landon and Ellie Abbiti put in an unbelievable performance in the Urdd gymnastics Welsh final, and were unlucky not to achieve a podium place. Jakub Slosarczyk, Harvey Davies and Keane Gerasmo performed well in a stacked field on a tough course in the Welsh School's Cross Country National Finals in Brecon. Another huge congratulations goes to our u-16 netball team who will compete against teams from across Wales in the finals of the Ann Smart tournament in Swansea, after beating Dinas Bran and Mold Alun in the regional final. We want YOU to be the next success stories, so come and get involved at lunchtimes. Even if you have never participated before come and give it a go!

*Mr McComb*

## Welshness Week

This week, we have been celebrating Welshness within our community.

On Tuesday a number of Welsh Ambassadors visited St Mary's and St Anne's Primary Schools to teach the Year 6 pupils a variety of topics. On Wednesday Year 7 pupils took part in a Dawnsio Gwerin session in the morning led by Mr Sammons. In the



afternoon, Year 9 pupils and the Welsh Ambassadors participated in a gig with Daniel Lloyd. Both events were thoroughly enjoyed. To end Welshness Week Year 7 & 8 pupils contributed in the annual school Eisteddfod assisted by Year 9 & 10 Welsh Ambassadors on Thursday. Congratulations to all pupils who won in an event. Throughout the whole week, all forms were set a challenge to find and name famous Welsh people – photos were placed around the school. Da iawn to everyone who completed this task. Daffodil badges and the Welsh flags were sold to pupils in aid of Marie Curie and other charities. Thank you to the Technology department and the Welsh Ambassadors who prepared a thought provoking assembly. Diolch yn fawr to everyone who partook in Welshness Week, especially the Welsh Department and the Eisteddfod Team.

*Emilia Mandyna, Julianna Tecson  
and Mia O'Brien*

## Expressive Arts Panto Trip

The pupils who had took GCSE Drama and GCSE Music or involved with any extra curricular music clubs had a chance to go and watch a Pantomime called Dick Whittington. It was a really fun panto to watch. My favourite character was Dick Whittington.



The performances was amazing and I totally enjoyed the evening.

*Sophie Stansfield-Jones*

The Dick Whittington panto was absolutely fantastic, I really recommend going on the Expressive Arts trip if you're a GCSE pupil.

*Ben White*

## Smart Watches and FitBits

Smart watches should not be brought into school. Examination regulations ban the wearing of smart watches on the grounds of potential malpractice and cheating. However, there are other implications of smart devices which are of concern: distraction, loss/theft, and safeguarding issues. These devices fall outside our insurance policy. Fitbits are allowed in school as long as they only display the time and count steps. Thank you.

*Mr Wilkinson*

## 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 labelled. Therefore if phones are not presented in a suitable case/envelope the agreement will be withdrawn. Alternatively, clear plastic pencil cases are available to purchase from Reception.

*Mr Wilkinson*

## Parent Governor Election

A Parent Governor election is due to take place. Ballots forms and information will be issued to the youngest pupil in each family on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March. Completed voting slips must be returned to Reception by 12noon on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March.

*Mrs Wharton*

## Pantasaph Retreat

Year 9 will be visiting Pantasaph during the first week back to school. Pupils will be leaving school at 9.10am and will return for the end of school day. Pupils will need a packed lunch, small amount of spending money and are to wear non-school uniform.

*Miss Massey*



## Contacting the school

Our preferred method of communication is a pre-organised, mutually convenient meeting. Contact with staff can be arranged via the school at

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

or through a request made at the school office.

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

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

*Mr Wilkinson*

## Follow us

Please follow us on twitter - we currently have 526 followers, let's increase this over half term!



@SJ\_WXM

Don't forget to download the school app by visiting [stjosephs.wales](http://stjosephs.wales)

## Dates for the Diary

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
School opens to pupils  
Year 11 Assessment Week begins

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 8 Maths Trip departs

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 8 Maths Trip returns

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March**  
Year 10 & 11 'Les Miserables' Trip

**Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
Non-uniform day  
*(chocolate donation)*

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
PTA Spring Bingo 7pm

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
Non-uniform day  
*(£1 donation to Year 8 Charity)*

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April**  
Spring Concert 4-5.30pm

**Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April**  
School closes for Easter

**Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
School opens to pupils

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
Year 11 Service of Celebration

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
May Day – School closed

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May**  
Year 7 Geography River Trip

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May**  
School closes for half-term

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
School opens to pupils



## Contact Details

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

### Telephone

01978 360310

### Email

mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk

### Website

stjosephs.wales

