



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 10 FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2019

Reflection by Sister Maggie

On Thursday May 2nd our Year 11 pupils. Together with families and staff had their leaving Service of Celebration. This is always a wonderful balance of vibrant joy together with deep reflection and prayer. The celebration began with Mr Griffiths, their year head, introducing the celebration with entertaining stories about the year group and recalling the depth of life giving values which the pupils expressed. Our Year 11 Drama group then welcomed us with a joyful and amusing rendering of aspects of school life involving staff and pupils. This set the tone for working together. As well as joys in school life, there are also challenges when we admit our limitations, let ourselves down, and sometimes hurt others as well. It's at times like this that we need to remember that God is always

with us. To express this we used a beautiful poem called: *Footprints in the sand*. The picture shows two sets of footprints: the person and God but at one stage of the journey there was only one set of



prints. The person wanted to know why there was just one set of foot prints, when before there had been two sets. He thought that was because God had abandoned him... This in fact was not the case. The truth was that at those difficult times, when you see only one set of footprints,

that was when God carried you. This was expressed beautifully in song and dance. The two readings from scripture both speak of trust. From the book of proverbs the boys choir sang: *"I will trust in you alone for your endless mercy follows me your goodness will lead me home"*. This song always resonates with me together with the words of Jesus to his apostles. *"Do not let your hearts be troubled trust in God still and trust in me"*. There then followed an offering remembering the gifts they had received at St. Joseph's and their hopes and aspirations for the future. The culmination of the celebration, which is most poignant and powerful, is the anointing. We anointed them when they came to us in Year 7. Now in Year 11 we anoint and bless them again on their journey as they prepare to leave us. To assist them at this time of transition they are given a book

entitled- "*Trust the Road*". We ask that God will indeed bless them as they continue their journey in "*living life to the full*" as Jesus promised.

GCSE exams began on Tuesday 7th of May. This is always a stressful time for staff and pupils. Staff provide extra lessons in preparation for specific exams. These are often outside of normal school time including some sessions on a Saturday. This extra work and commitment comes from the fact that Christian Values are at the very heart of the school. In order to achieve sound academic accolades it is necessary to have these underpinning values which enable staff to teach with commitment and academic rigour thus engaging children to learn. It is imperative that children themselves are equally committed to work conscientiously and apply themselves to what is being taught. They need to acquire accurate information and make it their own so that they are capable of comprehending the information and developing an argument with clarity and precision. To ensure that those taking examinations have the optimum opportunity to do their best, silence around exam areas is mandatory, and there are restrictions of access to certain areas. Staff are also aware of individuals who are hyper anxious and spent time encouraging and reassuring them.

One of our staff, Mrs Lorraine McKeown has been in our minds

and hearts since the beginning of the academic year because she was taken seriously ill. It was a shock to hear at the beginning of May that she was in intensive care. Colleagues and pupils gathered together to pray for Lorraine and her family. On Thursday, 9th May we heard that she had sadly passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family. Throughout her illness, Lorraine had been courageous and positive in the midst of her struggle. On Tuesday, 21st May the funeral took place in St. Mary's Cathedral. The church was



absolutely packed with family, friends, staff and pupils both past and present. Many people could only stand at the back of the cathedral. Father Adrian Wilcock, who has known Lorraine for many years, was the celebrant, and his words were deeply moving and full of compassion. Some of our children took part in the celebration by singing in the choir which was truly powerful and radiant. The children reading the prayers of the faithful did it with dignity, poise and commitment. Many of our children were clearly very upset and tearful. Lorraine's husband gave the Eulogy. In the midst of his deep pain and loss he

brought tears of laughter and sorrow as he told stories from her life of love and compassion. It's hard to describe the atmosphere in the crowded church. It was a wonderful blend of sorrow and loss together with profound love and joy. After the mass all staff gathered together in school to celebrate her life and support each other in their loss. After the half term holiday there will be an opportunity for the school community to gather once more for prayer and reflection to celebrate and remember Lorraine. Pupils from 9 Kolbe (Mrs McKeown's form class) will be leading assemblies in remembrance of their much loved teacher.

Sr. Maggie

GCSE Results Day

GCSE results for this summer are available for collection from 10am – 12noon on Thursday, 22nd August. GCSE results for Year 10 will be available from 11am – 12noon, along with Italian, Polish and Portuguese GCSE. If pupils need results to be posted, please can a s.a.e. be sent to Mrs Lunn, Data & Exams Manager by Friday, 5th July, with an accompanying letter requesting this service (please note: results can only be posted out on 22nd August, and not before). Unfortunately, in any school, given Data Protection protocols, results cannot be discussed over the telephone. Any pupil who needs a third party to collect results should again put this in writing to Mrs Lunn, before 5th July. Thank you.

Mrs Lunn

Geography

River Field Trip

On Wednesday 8th May year 7 visited the River Clywedog at Erdigg to carry out some fieldwork investigations. They were involved in measuring the river's velocity, width and depth. The pupils were also encouraged to study the features of the river and then describe how they were formed using the correct terminology. This sparked some very impressive question and answer sessions. The weather was not the best but the pupils enjoyed learning in a different outdoor environment.



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

Stepping into the river after a long walk sure excited me! A few splashes and almost falling IN the river, even doing work was fun! Ecstasy was felt everywhere even though it was raining, and our sheets got wet, we still did our work and had fun! **Leticia Leitao**

I really enjoyed this experience as we got to go in the river. We did many things such as measure the speed of the river with an orange, but our orange seemed rude as it kept going everywhere but the river! **Joel Gomes**

I thought it was interesting how Mrs Greenhalgh said how much it's changed and how the river meanders. The funny part was when Mr Sammons was searching for Pokemon and he said there wasn't any good ones. **Francesca Paletta**

I loved the whole experience, specifically learning how depth and speed of water are measured. It was a great way to learn about rivers out of the classroom. **Katie Edward**

My mind was frazzled at the excitement! The gorgeous shimmer of the river was amazing! My favourite part was when my wellie filled up with water! It might have been cold but I'd go again if it was like the artic! **Ellie Koscinska**

I enjoyed being with other people and in the outdoors. I thought it was nice to be learning in a different environment. I learnt about the speed of the water. **Kirsten Hill**

I thought that the trip was fascinating and interesting, we learnt loads of things. The funny thing was when a dog jumped over to our side of the river and Miss Roberts had to guide it back. **Nathan Emmonds**

The river trip was wet, cold and soggy, but we learnt lots about

the river Clywedog and I had lots of fun. **Georgia Ellams**

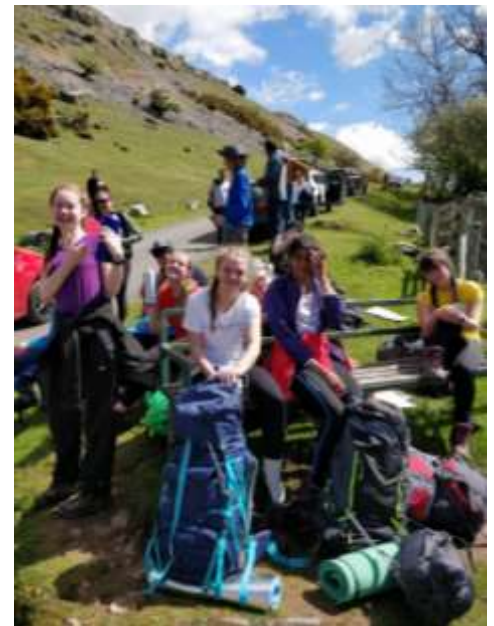
I loved the trip, I really enjoyed finding out new things especially how water carves away the river cliff. **Julia Kazojc**

Gwaith arbennig o dda gan Flwyddyn 7, taith wych i'r afon Clywedog. **Mrs Greenhalgh**

Duke of Edinburgh

What a wonderful weekend we had on our practice expedition! 43 pupils with bags almost as big as them meeting in Llandegla for something so far removed from what they would usually be doing on a Saturday and Sunday.

They walked along worlds end and completed day 1 traversing the panorama and into the campsite Valley Crusis, Llangollen.



Setting up tent and cooking on stoves was a breeze for this

fabulous bunch and with a bit of guidance their camp craft skills became much improved.



As if they hadn't used enough energy on the 7 hour walk they all took part in a Mrs Greenhalgh rounders match ! Before hot chocolate and bed! I say bed, but it could also be described as a cooler box!! I have never camped in such cold conditions - we woke up with ice on our tents! Up the pupils got, packed away and off they went for a shorter day of walking along the Panorama, Dinas Bran and Trevor area finishing at the Aquaduct! An amazing achievement for all the pupils.

I would like to thank the huge number of staff that came over the weekend - I've never seen the pupils so happy to see their teachers.

A big thanks to Mr Tait, Miss Halliwell, Mrs Davies, Mrs Devine, Mr Barlow, Mr Farrell and Miss Lewis for braving the ice cold temperatures over night!

The weekend was co-ordinated by the Urdd outdoor ed team and they were so impressed by how quickly the pupils picked up map reading and camping skills! The assessment weekend is June

22nd/23rd - please pray for kind weather for us all. **Mrs Tait**

A lovely email from a member of the public!

*Dear Mr Wilkinson,
My husband and I were out walking in the Llangollen area yesterday when we met some of your students who were training for their D of E award.*

The boys and girls we met while walking through Trevor Woods were delightful. They were polite, engaging and cheerful; a credit to your school.

I do hope they managed to complete the course and that there are not too many sore feet today.

Yours

Ros Duckett

Techniquet bring driverless technology to Science

Some of our lucky year 7 and year 8 classes took part in a CrumbleBots Workshop hosted by Techniquet Glyndŵr. This was the first time the new CrumbleBots have made their way into schools since being obtained by Techniquet as part of their 'Engineering the Future' project. The day involved an hours workshop per group where pupils were able to discuss the importance of developing driverless technology before learning how to use computer coding to control the actions of the robots.

As part of the experience pupils managed to control the sparkles



on the robots so that each movement made a different light pattern. They also used coding to allow the cars to follow roads of their own design without telling it how! Workshops like these are hoping to tackle the engineering skills gap by attracting more school-age children – girls and boys - to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects. **Dr Heath**

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

It was really inspiring and gave us an insight into technology we might have. It was a great experience and would love to try some more coding again!

Elenid Owens



"The CrumbleBots helped me learn about developing new ideas for cars and I loved learning how to use coding to control the robots. I really want to go into engineering and would love to do more activities like this"

Roisin Quinn

MAT Trip to Chester

It was an amazing experience. Me and 7 other people went to the University of Chester in the minibus. Once we had arrived there, we were ready to go. A lecturer gave a short introduction to the day, talking about options, pathways and careers for the future. Then, the lecturer split all of the pupils (there were around 4 other schools) into 3 groups. I was in group 3. Firstly, we were taught some study skills and critical thinking. After the break, we played a 'Careers Detective Game', which taught us which subjects turn out as which career. As our final session of the day, we had a tour of the University Campus after lunch, which wasn't bad. Overall, it was a truly enjoyable experience at the University of Chester, and it taught me quite a lot about which subjects work out for you in the future. A very well done to everyone at the trip. *Vilas Lavan*



The University of Chester was really interesting and made for a

fun day out. The people there were informative and helpful so we learnt a lot. Overall just a nice day out.

Danny Manoj

Year 8 Girls take off to Airbus

This week a group of our Year 8 girls visited Airbus Broughton to carry out some research for their industrial projects they are working on. The girls are currently taking part in Go4SET which is an environmentally themed 10 week STEM project for 12-14 year old girls. It is a



competition run by the Engineering Development Trust (EDT) with the aim to inspire students towards STEM related careers by linking education and industry in real life situations using hands on learning and skills development. Their task is to design an Eco-Factory for which they have to create a model and complete professionally written and bound report. The girls took a tour of the A320 and A330 factories where they could see the wings for these craft through

all stages of development. They took part in team building tasks, worked on their projects with their Airbus mentors, and they even took flight in the Airbus virtual reality suite. They will return to Airbus in July to present their final project to a panel of assessors. Keep an eye out for updates next half term! *Dr Heath*



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 24th June** and finishing on **Friday 28th 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 27th June is Common Transfer Day in Wrexham, we will be holding the **Parents' Information Meeting** on **Monday 24th 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 28th 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

Farewell to Year 11

Last Friday saw what, for me, is the high point of the year: the Year 11 Leavers' Service. That's not because I want to see them leave, I assure you: instead, it has great significance as a final opportunity for a year group, their parents and the staff of Saint Joseph's to come together and create a meaningful commemoration of the lessons they have learned, the values they have developed and the mark they leave behind.

The ceremony was a beautiful expression of the talents and personality of a very special year group. It has been my privilege to work with them, and I feel proud when I consider the remarkable qualities they will take with them into the world when they leave us.

The support of their parents has, naturally, underpinned everything we've looked to do with them, and it is difficult to do

justice to my gratitude for their help. I know the wonderful work of the staff who, as always, were able to guide the pupils into devising a beautiful ceremony, will have been appreciated by the family members in attendance.

I have great confidence in Year 11's potential for success, both in this Summer's exams and beyond. They have been fortunate to be supported by a wonderful group of form tutors over the years, and Mrs Ellis' guidance has been a great influence on them. However, the greatest reason for my confidence is the potential that was within these wonderful individuals, which they have been able to develop and express to the full over the last five years.

Mr Griffiths

Enrichment Awards

Some of our Year 10 and 11 pupils attended the annual 14-19 enrichment award ceremony today at William Aston Hall, Glyndwr. All pupils received an award for participating in their course and some received special awards for 'student of the year'. Connor Keenan in Year 10 gave a speech in which he talked about how much he loves his sport and leisure course and how it has helped him grow in confidence. He did so well and spoke with such confidence.

I would like to say how very proud I was to see the pupils receive their awards and what a credit to our school they are. They all looked impeccably smart and

thoroughly enjoyed their 'moment' on stage. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who attended to show their support and thank you to the Teaching Assistants for the support they offer our pupils on their courses.



The pupils involved were:

Year 10

Rebecca Neal

Connor Keenan
Student of the Year
(Sport and Leisure)

Sophie Weaver
Student of the Year
(3D art and craft)

Louis Graydon

Cerian Jones
Student of the Year
(Retail and Drama)

Caitlin Edwards

Ben White

Year 11

Sophie Stansfield Jones

Harriet Hughes
Student of the Year
(Hair and Beauty)

Rhian Williams

Bethan Owen

Mrs Z Morrey



St Marys Pre-School

Nominated for this year's Wales Early Years Setting of the year awards 2018-2019

SPACES AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER



We offer Early Education if you child turns 3 before New Year or Easter. This is 10 hours of free childcare.

We offer part of the *30 hours free childcare.

School pick up available from St Marys RC primary for Nursery children.

*Contact stmaryspreschoolwrexham@hotmail.com for more information.

Open morning Tuesday 18th
June 2019 10am-11.30am

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

or through a request made at the school office.

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

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

Follow us

Please follow us on twitter - we currently have 589 followers, let's increase this over half term!



@SJ_WXM

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

Activities Day

This year's activities day is taking place on Friday, 5th July. You have previously given consent for your child to participate in activities out of school. If any information has changed since you completed the emergency contact and medical information sheet, you MUST contact the school reception on: 01978 360310 or mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk. It is essential that the school has up-to-date information, and we are grateful in advance for your co-operation with this request.

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 3rd June

School opens to pupils

Tuesday, 4th June

PTA meeting 6.45pm

Thursday, 6th June

Glan Llyn Information Evening

Thursday, 20th June

Year 11 Prom 6.30pm

Monday, 24th June

New Intake Evening 6.30pm

Thursday, 4th July

Year 8 International Eisteddfod

Friday 5th July

Years 7-9 Activities Day

Monday, 8th July

Years 7-10 Sports Day
Evening of Excellence 7pm

Thursday, 18th July

School closes for summer



Contact Details

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