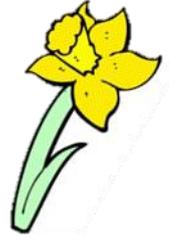
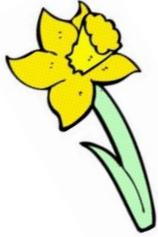


BUMPER GAZETTE
WELSH EDITION



Y GAZETTE MAWR
RHIFYN CYMREIG

Hwyl!

Glan-Ilyn!

Gemau!

Bendigedig!



Eisteddfod!

Dweud y gwir!

Welsh Ambassadors!

Urdd Gobaith Cymru!



THINK WELSH... SPEAK WELSH...
CREU CYMUNED GYMREIG

Cefnogwch y
Ddraig...
Siaradwch
Gymraeg!



THINK WELSH... SPEAK WELSH...
CREU CYMUNED GYMRAEG

Introduction - Cyflwyniad

As St Joseph's is an English Medium Secondary School in Wales, we feel that it is very important that we try to use Welsh as much as we can within our school community. As we are on the border of England and Wales, we live in a mainly English speaking area. This means that it is not always easy to practise using Welsh especially since recently there has been a decline in the number of people using Welsh in this area. In the last ten years the number of Welsh speakers in the County of Wrexham has decreased by 1.7% (2001-2011 census), making us feel that we need to do something about this. The Welsh Assembly Government has a target of a million Welsh speakers in Wales by the year 2050, and here at St Joseph's we are doing as much as possible to help to reach this target and support bilingualism. Over the course of this year, the Welsh ambassadors have done as much as they can to introduce more Welsh into day-to-day life at school. The pupils and staff have all been involved and the majority of them have said that they have benefited from our work. We feel that the Welsh used in school has increased and we have received positive feedback from many people. Estyn inspectors have said that "Every effort is made to embrace the learning of the Welsh language as an example to others". At St. Joseph's we are all very pleased with how much Welsh has been used in our school this year and we hope next year this will carry on in the same way, as our vision is to continue creating a Welsh atmosphere within our school community, to inspire and support staff and pupils to use more incidental Welsh in our surroundings and to display the Welsh language visually around school.

Katie Maclean 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassador

Vocab Box - Bocs Geirfa:

Bore da - Good morning
Prynhawn da/ P'nawn da - Good afternoon
Noswaith dda - Good evening
Nos da - Good night
Ga i - Can I have
Ga i helpu chi? - Can I help you?
Diolch - Thank you
Os gwelwch yn dda - Please
Wrth gwrs - Of course
Dim diolch - No thank you
Cewch - Yes you can
Na chewch - No you can't

Vocab Box - Bocs Geirfa:

Ble? - Where?
Sut? - How?
Pryd? - When?
Pwy? - Who?
Pam? - Why?
Sawl? - How many?
Faint o? - How much?/How many?

**Where do you hear
Welsh in the
community?**

Definitions - Diffiniadau

Welsh Ambassadors wrote the following definitions. These have been explained to pupils.

Dwyieithrwydd/Bilingualism - Bilingualism is when you are able to communicate in two different languages, e.g. Welsh and English.

Our aim is for pupils to try to speak a little bit of Welsh every day at school, e.g. Greetings/Answering the register/Asking for things/Making the sign of the cross in Welsh.

Cwricwlwm Cymreig - Cwricwlwm Cymreig is learning about Welsh topics and studying Welsh examples in all subjects at school. When studying Welsh examples in subjects we consider cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic influences in Wales. Cwricwlwm Cymreig helps us to identify with Wales and understand our Welsh heritage while we study different subjects at school.

Examples of Cwricwlwm Cymreig in school are...

- Studying Welsh castles
- Learning about St. David and Welsh martyrs
- Making Welsh cakes and Welsh broth etc.

Miss H. Davies - Head of Welsh and the Welsh Ambassadors.

Logos

We felt that it was important to create a brand in order for staff and pupils to recognise the importance of Bilingualism and Cwricwlwm Cymreig. I arranged for a competition to be held for pupils to create logos for Bilingualism and Cwricwlwm Cymreig. I added a tag line to both winning entries. The winning logos with the taglines below were then digitalised professionally, printed, laminated and displayed on all whiteboards in the school. The aim of these cards is to act as a prompt to remind staff and pupils to use incidental Welsh and to consider Welsh topics in all subjects. The concept behind the tagline is to remind everyone to have Welsh on their radar at school. As teachers are to remember to include a number of things in their lessons, it acts as a prompt for them to remember to use incidental Welsh - "Think Welsh, Speak Welsh". This will then create a Welsh atmosphere in the school - "Creu Cymuned Gymreig" (Creating a Welsh Community). These logos have then been added to resources to support Bilingualism and memos.



Miss H. Davies - Head of Welsh



Prayer - Gweddi

Helpa ni drwy ein dydd - i fod yn hapus ac yn gryf.

Diolchwn am bopeth - ein teulu a ffrindiau,

Addysg a phrofiadau.

Yn dy enw di.

Amen.

Help us through our day - to be happy and strong.

We thank you for everything - our family and friends,

Education and experiences.

In your name.

Amen



Welsh Prayer - Gweddi Gymraeg



This new Welsh prayer was created by Miss Davies at the start of the year. Its aim was to introduce more Welsh into our prayer times. We wanted to establish it within the school. Welsh ambassadors went around all the form rooms during the morning registration to introduce the prayer and familiarise the pupils with it. The prayer is now being regularly used as part of our morning worship sessions.

Katie Maclean and Emma Samuels, 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassadors

Pupils and staff also regularly make the sign of the cross in Welsh -

"Yn Enw'r Tad a'r Mab a'r Ysbryd Glân. Amen."

The Administration Support staff have been taught some Welsh phrases that they are able to incorporate into their daily work duties. Some of their favourite phrases are: *Neges i blant* and *amser ail-gylchu!* They use these phrases when tannoying pupils during break time and lunch time, as well as making staff and pupils aware that it is time to take out the paper recycling on a Wednesday/ar ddydd Mercher.

Miss Lewis & Mrs Ford



Welshness Week - Wythnos Gymreictod



This year Wales and Welshness was highlighted on our school calendar by holding a Welshness Week in the spring term. During Welshness Week we celebrated Welshness within our community. On the 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 the Wednesday Year 7 pupils and teachers took part in Dawnsio Gwerin sessions 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 on Thursday assisted by Year 9 & 10 Welsh Ambassadors. 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 and photos were placed around the school. 'Da iawn' to 7 and 9 Devereux who won this task. Thank you to the Technology department and the Welsh Ambassadors who prepared a thought-provoking assembly. The ambassadors also taught Welsh vocabulary to teachers in an after school staff training session and Miss H. Davies spoke about the work done on Bilingualism and Cwricwlwm Cymreig at a Governors' meeting. Diolch yn fawr to everyone who partook in Welshness Week - especially the Welsh Department, Eisteddfod team and Welsh Ambassadors. We look forward to celebrating Welshness week again next year!

Julianna Tecson 9 Romero and Mia O'Brien 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassadors

Y6 Transition Lesson - Gwers Gyswilt B16

On Tuesday during Welshness Week, 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. The Welsh Ambassadors planned a lesson which was very enjoyable for both Year 6 pupils and the Welsh Ambassadors. We started the lesson off with an introduction by our Head of Welsh, Miss Davies, and the Welsh Ambassadors. We then showed them a video about Welshness at St. Joseph's. We created a quiz about Welsh culture and the Welsh language for the pupils to engage and participate in as a class. We taught the pupils various Welsh topics such as positive and negative sentences, opinions and reasons, past tense stories and the five senses. We ended our eventful lesson with a prayer. The lesson gave the Year 6 pupils a chance to learn new topics or to even improve their knowledge. It also gave the Welsh Ambassadors a new experience and we also learnt a lot from teaching St. Mary's and St. Anne's. Miss Gillett, a teacher at St. Mary's said - *"The Welsh Ambassadors provided the children in Year 6 with a variety of interactive and fun activities that not only enabled the children to develop their Welsh skills but also promote bilingualism in the classroom. Everyone had a fabulous morning. Diolch yn fawr bawb!"*

Evie Jones 9 King and Julianna Tecson 9 Romero – Welsh Ambassadors



Welsh Folk Dancing – Dawnsio Gwerin

On the Wednesday of Welshness Week Mr Sammons, the music teacher, led a traditional Welsh folk dance called Dawnsio Gwerin. Some forms of Year 7 and some teachers were given the opportunity to learn a new skill. It was a lot of fun and we had the opportunity to learn about the Welsh culture and traditions.

Celyn Jones 9 Cassidy – Welsh Ambassador

Daniel Lloyd Performance – Perfformiad Daniel Lloyd

During Welshness Week Daniel Lloyd, a Welsh singer and actor, performed phenomenally. Every pupil that had the pleasure of listening to his songs thoroughly enjoyed them. He also discussed his career and background. St Joseph's definitely made a lasting impression on Dan, showing him our school spirit, by cheering him on, whilst equally using our gospel values to show the ethos of our school. A great big thank you to Daniel Lloyd for coming to our school and giving us a performance like never before. He is a very talented Welsh musician!



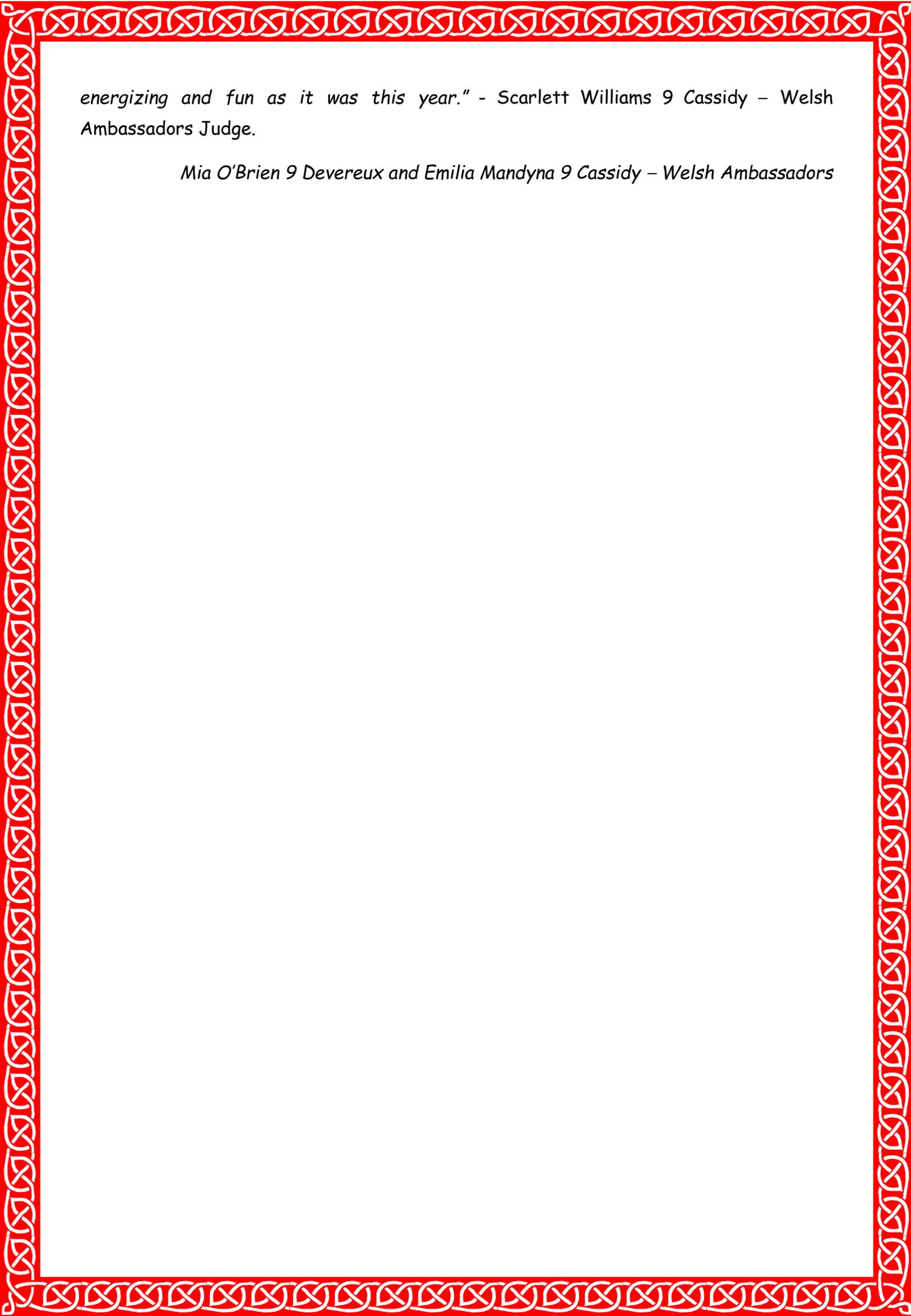
Emilia Mandyna 9 Cassidy – Welsh Ambassador



Eisteddfod

On the Thursday of Welshness Week, the annual School Eisteddfod took place. The Welsh Ambassadors helped to organise it. We were able to see some outstanding performances from Year 7 and 8 pupils and we most definitely felt privileged. Competitions included recitation of Welsh poems, drama acts about Wales, dances and lots of the talented musicians playing instruments or singing. The pupils at St Joseph's are talented, ambitious and creative. We feel that the Eisteddfod backs this up. We are incredibly impressed by everyone that went up on that stage: you made your teachers and your peers proud. Congratulations to everyone who participated, especially to those in King as this form won the overall Eisteddfod.

"It was a really great event which I feel that everyone who participated enjoyed. As a judge I can confirm that all the performances were absolutely amazing and I feel that the Eisteddfod helped everyone to feel more Welsh. I and the rest of the Welsh Ambassadors can't wait for next year's Eisteddfod and hope that it will be as



energizing and fun as it was this year." - Scarlett Williams 9 Cassidy – Welsh Ambassadors Judge.

Mia O'Brien 9 Devereux and Emilia Mandyna 9 Cassidy – Welsh Ambassadors

Chairing Ceremony - Seremoni Cadeirio

The Chairing of the Bard ("Cadeirio'r Bardd") is a significant event in the Welsh Eisteddfod tradition. It is known to have taken place as early as 1176. This is how the ceremony takes place:



A local carpenter creates a unique chair or throne, awarded for the best poem, written in a traditional form of Welsh verse. An archdruid reveals the identity of the winning poet, a "Corn Gwlad" (a trumpet) calls the people together and they chant the Gorsedd Prayer. Next, the archdruid partially withdraws a sword from its sheath three times. He cries, "Is there peace?" to which the audience reply, "Peace!".

For our school Eisteddfod, the Year 10 Welsh Ambassadors led the ceremony and gave the verdict. The winning bard was Lauren Byrne, 8 Devereux. Draped in the Welsh flag ("Y Ddraig Goch"), she was escorted to the chair, to "March The Men of Harlech".

'Her piece was chosen because of its rich imagery and clear rhyme scheme. She successfully brought Wales' beautiful scenery to life as well as highlighting the importance of Wales' history...Congratulations Lauren on a very emotive poem!' - Mrs. Hatfield.

Ioan Morante 10 Romero - Welsh Ambassador

Famous Welsh People Competition - Cystadleuaeth Pobl Enwog Cymraeg

During Welshness Week Mrs Jones organised a competition for all the forms to take part in. The competition consisted of finding numerous portraits of famous Welsh people around the school. You may have seen a picture of Alun Wyn Jones as you passed PE or a picture of William Morgan outside the RE classrooms. Pupils were set the task of locating these portraits and finding out who these people were before writing their names down on the sheet. There were two forms that did well in this competition and completed it correctly. Congratulations to 7 Devereux and 9 Devereux for winning the competition and well done to Mrs Jones for organising it.

Mia O'Brien 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassadors

Form Room Vocabulary - Geirfa Dosbarth Cofrestru

During 'Welshness Week' to encourage pupils to speak more Welsh in and outside the school, many of our Welsh Ambassadors were asked to go around form classes and teach the pupils Welsh vocabulary and phrases. Many Welsh Ambassadors took on this challenge and here are their thoughts: *'Overall, it was fun teaching the pupils new Welsh phrases. They participated well and tried their hardest, even if trying to pronounce it was difficult'* - Riccardo Dotolo 10 Cassidy

Ioan Morante 10 Romero - Welsh Ambassador

Wearing the Welsh Colours and Daffodils - Gwisgo Lliwiau Cymru a Chenhinen Pedr

To raise awareness of Welshness week pupils were invited to wear an item of clothing or an accessory with the colours from the Welsh flag during the week. On Thursday 21st February, the day of the School Eisteddfod, pupils wore white, red and/or green clothing to represent Wales. Marie Curie daffodils were also on sale and many students bought and wore one during the week. Not only did pupils support Welshness and show their Welsh heritage, they also raised money for the Marie Curie charity.

Scarlett Williams 9 Cassidy - Welsh Ambassador

Wrexham St David's Day Parade

On Friday 1st March, there was a parade around the streets of Wrexham to celebrate St David's Day. This parade was a chance for everyone in Wrexham to get involved with St. David's Day celebrations. Many people came wearing red, white and/or green clothes. Some people were waving the Welsh or St David's flag to show that they were proud to be Welsh and support Wales. Bands were playing, people were singing and overall everyone was having a lot of fun! There were many activities in Tŷ Pawb throughout the day too, including Welsh food stalls, children's craft, live entertainment and a mini-cinema showing SuperTed and Wil Cwac Cwac.

"When we got to Tŷ Pawb we sang the Welsh National Anthem all together, the atmosphere was amazing!" -Jessie Hack 9 Cassidy

Scarlett Williams 9 Cassidy - Welsh Ambassador

"I feel that Welshness week was a major success, because it raised awareness and everybody made special effort a very nice atmosphere was created"

"There was lots of Welsh around and a real buzz too!"

"Pupils enjoyed it!"

"Pupils and staff enjoyed taking part in the various activities which linked to

"I thought it was great that pupils and staff were immersed in Welshness rather than just paying lip service."

"Some teachers found the Welsh language resource

"Pupils were engaged in various activities."

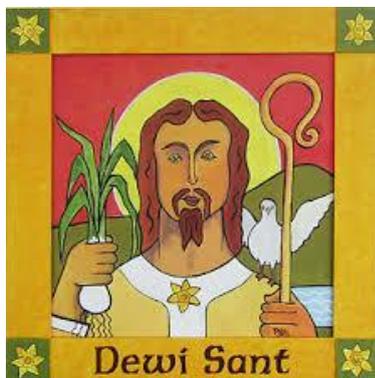
"Pupils and staff were well informed and engaged."

St David's Day Assemblies - Gwasanaethau Dydd Gŵyl Dewi

Every day for the duration of Welshness Week, Mr Lambert (Head of Year) and pupils in Year 8 led assemblies on the importance of St David. All the year groups responded well to the assemblies and after they were completed everyone was given a Welsh bookmark. This bookmark included the words of St. David - "*Cofiwch y pethau bychain/Remember the little things*". It also included some useful Welsh idioms for pupils to use in their Welsh work to improve their level.

"The Year 8 Welsh Ambassadors worked really hard to ensure that the Assembly was prayerful, full of Welshness as well as being informative. I was really pleased with how they led the Assembly all week and their confidence grew with each performance. Bendigedig!" - Mr Lambert (Head of the Technology Department).

Celyn Jones 9 Cassidy - Welsh Ambassador



St David - Dewi Sant

St David or Dewi Sant is the National Saint of Wales and was born around 520AD. He grew up to be a monk and travelled throughout Wales and Britain as a missionary. He also made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem where he was consecrated bishop. He founded twelve monasteries including the famous Abbey at Glastonbury where it is said that King Arthur is buried. He was named Archbishop of Wales at the Synod of Brevi (Llanddewi Brefi), Cardiganshire in 550.

St David performed many miracles when he was alive. His most famous miracle happened at a great religious meeting. There was a vast crowd of people in the audience and St David could not be seen. Suddenly a hill arose at the saint's feet and everyone could suddenly see him and hear him. A dove landed on his shoulder at this time and this is why he is often pictured with a dove on his shoulder.

Another miracle that St David performed is when he won a battle against the Saxons with the Welsh and created the leek symbol. The uniform between the two sides was very similar and the two sides found it hard to recognise their own men. St David then told the army to wear leeks in their helmets as a kind of uniform so that the Welsh could be identified from the Saxons. They then won the battle and Welsh leeks have been a symbol of Wales ever since. To remember the victory, Welsh soldiers eat raw leeks on the eve of St. David's day.

St David lived a long life. His last words were "*Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd,*" which means "Do the little things in life," and to this day, it's a common saying in Wales.

Mia O'Brien 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassador

Staff Training - Hyfforddiant Staff

A few of the Welsh Ambassadors had an after-school session of teaching non-Welsh speaking staff some classroom commands in Welsh. We started by saying the Welsh prayer and getting into small groups. We gave handouts to the staff and went through the commands. This was a great success and we had an incredible response from staff that took part. Everyone was very pleased with the sessions and happy with the help the Welsh Ambassadors provided. This showed staff who the Welsh



Ambassadors were and if in need of help speaking Welsh in lessons, they will know who to ask for help. We hope this session helped staff to learn some Welsh to create a Welsh atmosphere throughout the school by using incidental Welsh in lessons.

Evie Jones 9 King - Welsh Ambassadors



Skype Lessons - Gwersi Skype

Recently some staff have been taking lessons over Skype with Coleg Cambria. They have been trying to improve their knowledge of the Welsh Language by learning some phrases to help them during their lessons with pupils. Here is some feedback from teachers to show us that it was an extremely positive experience. They said...

"I really enjoyed it and learnt a lot. This course showed me how much I want to learn Welsh and the importance of Welsh in my job." - Mrs V Jobson, Maths

"This was a fantastic opportunity... I can now communicate with students during lessons. This is a massive improvement!" -Mr N Donlon, Maths

"I have found that after doing this course, that I have become a lot more confident and less self-conscious about trying to use Welsh." -Mrs J Tompkins, Textiles

The Skype calls to Coleg Cambria are ongoing with other teachers now taking part. During this experience, we hope the staff become more familiar with using the Welsh language within our school community. We hope that they become more confident speaking Welsh as much as they can ... even if it's incidental Welsh!

Katie Maclean and Emma Samuels 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassadors

More Staff Training - Mwy o Hyfforddiant i'r Staff

In school, staff have undergone training so that they can speak more Welsh in lessons. This includes giving them resources and also providing lessons in Welsh. The aim is for it to be easier for them to learn Welsh.

Welsh Ambassadors have helped to improve teachers' Welsh skills in their morning skills training. We had lots of positive feedback and they said that it had boosted their confidence. Since going into the meetings the Ambassadors and other pupils within the school have noticed that a lot more incidental Welsh is being used during lessons, assemblies, in the corridors and on the yard.

Katie Maclean and Emma Samuels, 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassadors

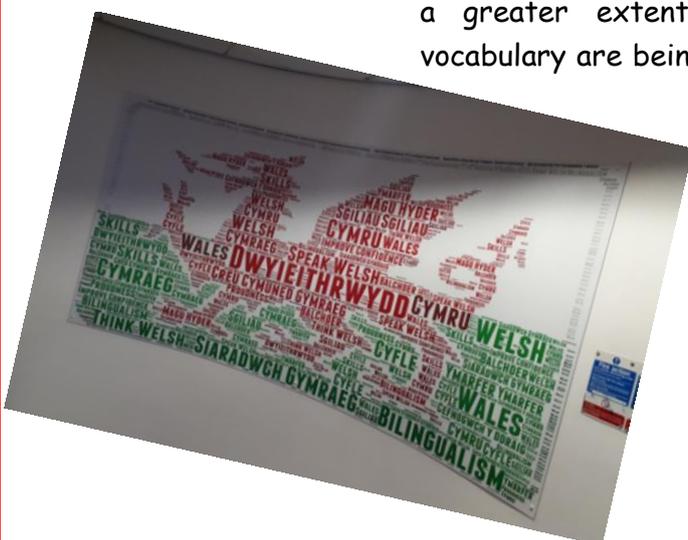
Resources - Adnoddau

To ensure that the staff have support with their knowledge and pronunciation of Welsh, Miss H. Davies adapted, created and sourced resources. Resources have also been made available for pupils. Such resources have included posters, language mats, soundbites, signs for the whiteboard, lanyards, Welsh praise stickers for pupils' work, reward slips for using the

Welsh language, and more. The resources are user friendly and colourful. Miss Davies responded to feedback from staff regarding resources and adapted them accordingly. Where possible, the Bilingualism logo has been put on the resources. Resources act as a reminder to pupils and staff to use Welsh, thus having Welsh on their radar (**Think Welsh!**). Other resources include information, such as Welsh vocabulary and phrases, which help people to improve their knowledge of Welsh and encourage the speaking of incidental Welsh to a greater extent (**Speak Welsh!**). Soundbites of the vocabulary are being recorded by the Welsh Ambassadors to

enable staff to hear and practise their Welsh pronunciation. If more Welsh is being spoken at school, the community will feel more like a Welsh Language community (**Creu Cymuned Gymraeg! Creating a Welsh Community!**)

Katie Maclean 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassador



Creating a Film - Creu Ffilm



A week before we broke up for summer 2018, Matthew Lloyd, a professional videographer, came into school to create a video which included the Welsh Ambassadors in order to spread awareness of Welsh. The aim of the video was to show what we do to support Welshness in our school. We showed our resources, the work we do and we explained our role in general. The video was a huge success and has now been shown at lots of different events such as at the open evenings, Year 6 transition lessons, at conferences and meetings.

Why not have a look at the film on our school website?

Niamh Gillon and Ruby Whitehead 9 Kolbe

Rocket Week - Wythnos Roked

During Transition Week on Friday the 28th of June 2019 the Welsh Ambassadors went into groups to teach each Year 6 forms who will be coming up in September. They communicated in Welsh and were taught new Welsh skills. The Welsh Ambassadors talked about Bilingualism, Cwricwlwm Cymreig and generally spreading Welsh within our school community. The Ambassadors showed a video which Matthew Lloyd, a professional videographer, created to demonstrate methods to support Bilingualism at school. Pupils took part in a Welsh quiz and completed a survey. All Year 6 pupils and Welsh Ambassadors enjoyed the lesson and it was a fun experience for all. We are very excited to see the Year 6 pupils in September.

By Jessie Hack 9 Cassidy, Julianna Tecson and David Brylowski 9 Romero - Welsh Ambassadors



National Welsh Football - Pêl-Droed Cenedlaethol Cymru

Aiden Jones, one of our Welsh ambassadors, went to see the national Welsh football squad at our home Racecourse ground here in Wrexham. It was the first time they had played here in over a decade. Aiden was lucky enough to be pitch side as a ball boy when Wales took on Trinidad and Tobago earlier this year, where Ben Woodburn scored a late goal in order to seal a victory in the international friendly. *Wrexham was filled with locals and tourists; the stadium was packed full! The national anthem was sung proudly and heartily and the sound of it filled the air with Welsh spirit. This event displayed the true, historic and grand atmosphere of Wales. However, you did not have to be at the Racecourse to feel this way. Throughout the match many people were also watching at home, the victory was widely celebrated all over the country and our home, Wrexham, was where it all took place.*

Aiden Jones 10 Cassidy - Welsh Ambassador

Urdd

Urdd stands for Urdd Gobaith Cymru and is a National Voluntary Youth Organisation with over 55,000 members between the ages of 8-25 years old. It provides opportunities, through the medium of Welsh, for children and young people in Wales to enable them to make a positive input to their communities. It holds a large number of events every year. Examples of events are the National Eisteddfod, sports events, helping with the Duke of Edinburgh,



Trip i Lan-llyn

Once again it was a great pleasure to accompany the forty eager, well-behaved pupils on the Welsh Language Activity Course. As usual the centre was excellent and the pupils took part in all the exciting activities. Diolch i Miss Davies, Mr Tom Farrell and Mrs Debbie Rouse for all their hard work and support. Diolch i'r plant am fod yn wych!... Diolch i bawb.

Mrs Jane E. Davies.

Urdd competitions (e.g. art, dance, reciting poems, dialogues, sports) and trips to Glan-llyn etc. The Urdd also holds lunch time lessons at St Joseph's for Welsh Ambassadors called Clwb Cinio. We are very lucky at St. Joseph's to have been selected to have this opportunity. These are held every Monday lunchtime and one of the members from the Urdd attends.

Celyn Jones 9 Cassidy - Welsh Ambassador

Urdd Trip to Glan-llyn - Taith yr Urdd i Lan-llyn

A number of Welsh Ambassadors who attend the 'Clwb Cinio' went to Glan-llyn with the Urdd in April for a weekend. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it as we participated not just in lots of fun and physical activities but in Welsh activities as well. These helped us to become more confident in speaking Welsh. Some of these activities included a visit to a Welsh gig and we also had a lesson with a Welsh presenter. They helped us to become more confident and taught us some rhymes and songs to help us use the Welsh language. Glan-llyn itself was also very enjoyable and some of the favourite activities were paddle boarding and canoeing. Throughout the trip we also talked to other people from schools in Cardiff and we learnt about their Welsh backgrounds.

"It was lots of fun and I really enjoyed doing all the Welsh activities and since going I feel like my Welsh has really improved." Katie Maclean 9 Devereux

Vocab Box - Bocs Geirfa:

Hwyl - Fun

Sgiliau - Skills

Siarad Cymraeg - Speak Welsh

Dysgu Cymraeg - Learn Welsh

Ffrindiau - Friends

Gweithgareddau - Activities

Mia O'Brien 9 Devereux - Welsh Ambassador



Gwersyll yr Urdd
Glan-llyn

Competing in the Urdd - Cystadlu yn yr Urdd

In May this year, four girls from year 8 Cassidy, represented our school and the County, in the Urdd Eisteddfod at Cardiff Bay. Sara Frulloni, Sofia Suckley, Precious Ofeinmu and Nadya Kuzak performed a set dialogue about the school council having a suggestion box on how to improve the school. They performed brilliantly and came fourth in the whole of Wales – a marvellous achievement – and only just missed out on being in the top three competition which was televised. This is what the adjudicator said about the girls' performance.

"Heartfelt congratulations to you for performing and creating such believable characters. The staging and props created an amusing scenario from the beginning. You succeeded in mastering a very difficult, challenging dialogue. There were many examples of sentences that made a lasting impression. You worked excellently together and made our decision a very difficult one – you were very close to making the final three. Thank you for a wonderful, amusing performance and we hope that you continue to perform through the medium of Welsh." Mrs D. Jones

Practising - We spent a lot of time practising during our free time but it was definitely worth the experience. Mrs Jones helped us by teaching us all the pronunciation and we are truly grateful for this help. Although we had times we thought we wouldn't make it through to the final in Cardiff, we didn't give up and therefore even though we were not Welsh speakers we mastered a very difficult script.

Our first performance - Our first performance was in Ysgol Maes Garmon, a Welsh medium school in Mold on March 30th. There we had to compete against six other schools in the prelims. Then we went through and we had to compete against two other schools on stage. We came first therefore we went through to the final in Cardiff.

In Cardiff - In Cardiff we had to do yet another prelim. This time we were competing against eight other schools from across Wales. Each group was representing their region, so we were representing Wrexham. We were the only group from North Wales so the rest of the schools had a different accent to us and several of the groups had more experience as they were all Welsh speakers. In Cardiff we were shocked by how many people spoke fluent Welsh. It was very nerve-wracking but we did very well under those circumstances. Sadly, we did not get through to the televised final but we came fourth and we also received an adjudication which usually only is given to you if you get through to the stage.

What the performance was about - The performance is about four pupils who are on the school council. They have very diverse personalities and each person has a different outlook on school life. The school council decides to open an ideas box and in the sketch they are opening the box to read the ideas inside. They read each of the ideas before realising that they all have one thing in common... they are written in the same handwriting. The four pupils investigate a bit more and realise that it is, in fact, the head teacher's handwriting!

Evening of Excellence - Because of our success, we were asked to perform our play during our school's evening of excellence. Performing our play to our school was yet again a nerve wracking experience but an enjoyable thing to do. We were very grateful

to be asked to perform it. We enjoyed the whole experience and hope to participate next year as well!

Da iawn ferched a diolch i Mrs Jones!



Ruby Birchall 11 Dx also competed in the individual recitation in the National Eisteddfod where she achieved second place after getting through to the stage! Ardderchog! This was another fabulous achievement. Ruby has competed every year since joining St. Joseph's. She has won first place on three occasions and achieved second place once. We hope that Ruby continues having an involvement with the Urdd and Welsh culture in the future.

Mrs D. Jones

Glan-Ilyn

On the 19th of June 2019, forty Year 9 pupils attended a three-day trip to Glan-Ilyn in Bala to encourage them to use the Welsh language daily. We were challenged to step out of our comfort zones and try new activities.

On the first day we travelled to Bala on a bus. The journey was only an hour, meaning we got there pretty quickly. When we arrived everyone was split into two groups (Berwyn and Bala). Next, amser cinio (dinner time)! There were various food options, from gluten free to vegetarian - it was very accommodating. Then we went to our rooms and got ready for our first activity.

Our first activity was nofio (swimming). Overall the one-hour session was enjoyable - we got to play around with huge inflatables and floats under the watchful eye of the lifeguard, who was a professional swimmer. This activity was favoured by many pupils such as Aspen who said *"I enjoyed swimming the most and that is because I was able to swim freely around the pool, with my friends beside me. For me, it was one of the most memorable moments at Glan-Ilyn during our stay."*

Nesaf (Next), we went to get changed for our first activity on Bala Lake (or Llyn Tegid, the lake's actual name). Our first activity was the sit-on boats and the teachers joined in too. We went down to the lake and put on some water equipment, helmets, jackets etc. This was supervised by professional staff. The first rule we were taught was to be safe and enjoy ourselves! We then got put into pairs and went on the lake to do some challenges such as swapping sit-ons with another pair and spinning ourselves around on the boats - it was scary yet fun!

After this activity, we stayed on the lake to do canoeing. Both Bala and Berwyn groups were together for this activity. We were able to pick our groups and the teachers got involved too! We all got into a canoe and off we went rowing to an island in the middle of the lake. This was one of the chances to get wet as pupils could go into the cold lake up to the waist. Some of us were stunned by how brave they were, while we stayed on the shore. After getting a bit wet we then headed back to our rooms to get changed, ready to head to our supper (swper). We had pysgod gyda sglodion, roedd hi'n flasus

iawn (fish and chips, it was very tasty)! In the evening we had a movie night, giving us the choice to watch two movies, either Pirates of the Caribbean or Cinderella's Story. Both movies were great and were enjoyed by both the pupils and staff. Then everyone went to sleep, excited for the next fun packed day.

The next day we woke up bright and early looking forward to the many adventures that awaited us, beginning with breccwast! We had a classic breakfast - English breakfast, toast or cereal. When we all finished, we got ready for the first activity which was rock climbing. Mr Farrell came and joined in with the fun and many of the pupils raced against each other to see who was the fastest. Alyssa won most of the races - Da iawn Alyssa!

After this activity we went to do some archery- it sounds easy but trust us, it isn't! You need to be focused on the target and aim. Some of us missed but we all successfully fired at least one arrow. At the end of this activity we were put into groups to see whose group could get the highest score. Congratulations to Mr Farrell's group for winning this activity and really well done to Aspen for getting the highest score out of all of us. Ardderchog (Excellent)!

We then swiftly got changed for our last water-based activity where teamwork was essential - raft building. This task was one of the trickiest but we learnt lots of rope skills such as how to make pretzel knot and an 8-figure loop knot. Once we made the actual raft we pushed it onto the lake and all got on. Prior to this activity everybody made an oath that they won't push each other into the lake. That didn't last very long, however, as Finn pushed Ibrahim in! Ibrahim then grabbed a scooper and started splashing all of us with water while also trying to pull all of us off! While this was happening, the raft was slowly falling apart so we started to panic, making a quarter of us fall into the freezing water! Those who managed to stay on the raft were soaking, but glad that they didn't fall in. When we were all off, we dismantled the raft and went to get changed into warm dry clothes.

We had a quick snack between lunch and supper and then went onto our final two activities of the afternoon, orienteering and bowling. Orienteering was fun as we got to choose our partners and explore the grounds of Glan-llyn for hidden letters, to then fill them in on a sheet. This was a nice and calm activity that everyone got into. Quite a few groups got lost but everyone managed to complete the task in the end, some more muddy than others. Then we had bowling where we played for a couple of hours. We got to choose our groups and were also accompanied by some pop music. Most of us danced and sang our hearts out.

When we finished bowling, we went to eat supper (swper). The food was great! After this we unfortunately got informed that the bird man wouldn't be able to attend our evening activity; so the managers quickly booked a hall and a room upstairs for us to use. We could either play dodge ball or go sit up in the room to watch movies or listen

to music. Overall the night went really well, even after the change of plans. At 22:15, everyone left the hall and we gathered at the social room. The teachers told us the necessary information for the next day, and then we all said the "Hail Mary" in Welsh to finish off the night.



On the final day, we woke up early and ate breakfast. We packed our bags, making sure we had got everything and got changed for our final activity, which was the high ropes course. It was an obstacle course which many feared at first but overcame the challenge by the end with ease.

After our final activity, we ate lunch, collected our suitcases and met behind the building for one last group photo. We then unfortunately had to say "Hwyl fawr!" to Glan-flyn and head back to Wrexham. We got onto the bus and sang songs on the way back until we reached the school, just in time for the end of day bell.



Here are some comments that the pupils made:

"It was a fun experience, it let us step out of our comfort zones, the activities themselves were well organised. Overall the week was well executed."- Aled Hill 9 Devereux

"I've gained new skills during the three days. In addition to this I've gained new friends that I wouldn't expect I would meet which is always fun!"- Annie Youd 9 Romero

"The week was well organised, met new friends and Ibrahim if you are reading this, I promise I will get you next time!"- Heath Greehall 9 Romero

"It was an amazing experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. I had an amazing birthday surrounded by friends while doing exciting activities- it was simply amazing."- Scarlett Williams 9 Cassidy

"Spending three days with the best people was fun, an experience I will never forget."- Izzy Roberts 9 Cassidy

Niamh Gillon and Jan Kibitz 9 Kolbe - Welsh Ambassadors

**All pupils were exceptionally well behaved for the whole trip. The staff of Glan-Ilyn also commented what a nice group they were. They were a credit to St. Joseph's!
Diolch i Mrs J. Davies am drefnu! Thank you to Mrs J Davies for arranging!**

Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau

Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i mi,
Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwogion o fri;
Ei gwrol ryfelwyr, gwladgarwyr tra môd,
Tros ryddid gollasant eu gwaed.

Chorus:

Gwlad, Gwlad, pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad,
Tra môr yn fur i'r bur hoff bau,
O bydded i'r heniaith barhau.

This is Wales' national anthem. The words were written by Evan James and the tune was composed by his son, James James, both residents of Pontypridd, Glamorgan, in January 1856.

Calon Lân

The words 'calon lân' literally mean 'a clean heart' or 'a pure heart'. The song was originally written as a hymn, but since being adopted as a rugby anthem.

Nid wy'n gofyn bywyd moethus,

Aur y byd na'i berlau mân:

Gofyn wyf am galon hapus,

Calon onest, calon lân.

Calon lân yn llawn daioni,

Tecach yw na'r lili dlos:

Dim ond calon lân all ganu

Canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos.

