



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd  
Gatholig ac  
Anglicanaidd  
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 12 THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019

## Beginning of a new term

### GCSE results

This school year began with jubilation, as we celebrated the success of last year's Year 11's GCSE results, placing St. Joseph's at the top of secondary schools in North Wales. We are so proud of their accomplishments; they have done our school proud! Well done to all teachers and support staff who taught and prepared the pupils brilliantly.

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



### New chaplains

This year the chaplaincy team has expanded to include two new additions. Ms. Woodward, newly retired from head of the art department, has joined as part-time Catholic chaplain. Her office hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. The Rev. Lara Stroud, who has been at St. Joseph's part-time since May, is now the full-time Anglican chaplain. Along with Sr. Maggie Catlow, our long-time resident Catholic chaplain, the chaplains are available throughout the week for pastoral support and will begin offering lunchtime liturgies and activities soon.

### Chapel renovation

The chapel renovation has finally been completed and we are thrilled with the changes! Some of the favourite additions include a multi-coloured water feature,

plants lit up by fairy lights, and bouncy chairs. Please come by and enjoy your new space.

### Open Evening

A big thank you to all students who assisted the staff with Open Evening. Everyone we met was very impressed with the school and the students; thank you for being model students and ambassadors for St. Joseph's.

### Whole School Anglican Eucharist

The first whole school Anglican Eucharist was a beautiful worship service with the theme "Put Your Trust in the Lord"; the gym was transformed into a chapel and it was lovely to worship God together as a school. From readers to acolytes, musicians to the welcome group and beyond, thank you to the students and staff who worked tirelessly to make everything go smoothly; we

appreciate you sharing your talents with us.

## Year 7 Service of Welcome

The theme of the service of welcome was centred around angels, and the Year 7s were encouraged to be messengers of good news both inside and outside the school. Their hands were anointed to welcome them formally into the school community; this moving ritual will be observed once more during their time at St. Joseph's—at their leavers' service in five years' time.

## Pantasaph Retreat

The year 7s went on retreat at Pantasaph, where they learned about building community. The retreat centre was a fun place to get to know each other better, bond, and create lasting memories. It was a great day out!

We are off to a great start so far, and we look forward to what the year brings.

*The Chaplains*

# School Getaways...

## Geography Field Trip

Fieldwork is an essential aspect of Geography and it is a requirement for WJEC Geography that all pupils undertake fieldwork on at least two occasions in two contrasting environments, e.g. river and town centre environments. On 24<sup>th</sup> September Year 11 Geography

GCSE pupils visited River Clywedog and on 25<sup>th</sup> September they went to Wrexham town centre.

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

*"We all enjoyed our field trip to four sites located on the River Clywedog in Wrexham. Although the weather was not so good as it was very wet, it was great fun and a few of us got soaked! In addition, the field trip to Eagles Meadow in Wrexham was also a good experience as we made many observations and got the public's point of view by conducting a questionnaire survey. We learnt a lot about the impact of Eagles Meadow upon Wrexham's High Street."*

**Megan Barlow, 11 Cassidy and Alicia Munson, 11 King**

## A Day of Reflection

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

The main aim of the day was to explore the theme of 'Community' and to understand the importance of working together. There was also an opportunity to watch a clip called No 1 which enabled the pupils to discover the importance of not judging others by their appearance, and how



each member of the community should be appreciated and acknowledged as a child of God, precious and important in His eyes.

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

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

**Miss R Massey**

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

*"In Pantasaph I enjoyed playing games, having our own service and acting out the rainbow. The shop had lots of cool things in it and the food in the café was delicious. I had an amazing time in Pantasaph."*

**Eleri Green, 7 Cassidy**

*"I enjoyed playing games, and also the plays we did in little groups. I really enjoyed looking at all the interesting things in the shop."*

**Eva Thomas, 7 Cassidy**

## Soli House

For more than 70 years Soli has always been a place where young people can encounter Christ through residential retreats, and other ministries such as Outreach and music. During the retreat Ministry is designed to meet the needs of young people from different backgrounds.

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

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

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

*"Soli House offers time for reflection and prayer, in addition to providing valued opportunities to come together as a year group to socialise, have fun and get to know each other on a deeper level. We also participated in a range of different activities. We loved taking part in bubble football and archery. This was an amazing and life-changing experience. Thank you to the teachers and support staff for giving up their time and effort to put up with us!"*

*Isabel Acton and Chris Siji,  
Head Girl and Head Boy*

## Quarry Bank Mill

On Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September Year 9 pupils visited Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire, one of the best preserved textiles mill of the Industrial Revolution.

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

*"I enjoyed going on the trip to Quarry Bank Mill because I learnt lots of different facts about the working conditions in the mills. Mrs Jones and Mrs Williams did a very good job of organizing everyone throughout. The trip helped a lot with my assessment a few weeks later. Mrs Jones was very funny as well!!"*

*Thomas McGrady, 9 Romero*

*"Quarry Bank Mill was really interesting and I learnt a lot about it. It was shocking to see how dangerous and strict it was. I couldn't believe how young the children were and that they were working those dangerous and deadly machines, how long the working hours were each day and lots more. It has been a great experience to learn about it and actually see the machines and where they lived and worked."*

*Rosin Quinn, 9 Romero*

*"The trip was interesting and fun. The tour guides were friendly and polite and made us feel welcome. The mill was very fascinating and informative as we learnt about how the machinery was used and how the water wheel worked. We also learnt about the Gregs and how they treated the apprentices. I can't wait to go back!"*

*Lois Jones, 9 Romero*

## Chester Zoo

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September the geography department and the majority of Year 9 ventured to Chester Zoo.

Throughout the day pupils were involved in fact finding and also attended a workshop held by the zoo education team. The aim of the day was to develop pupils further understanding of palm oil and the impacts it has.

During the workshop pupils also had the opportunity to see some of the illegal items which have been confiscated at customs, for example elephant tusks and crocodile skin handbags. We were also lucky to see many of the animals, highlights included the black jaguar and a baby orangutan. Pupils appeared to have an enjoyable day and where an absolute credit to the school. Da lawn.

*Mrs A Devine*

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

*"I enjoyed Chester Zoo because it was an interesting insight into the reality of palm oil and mass deforestation."*

*Evan Owen, 9 Romero*

*"I learnt so much about palm oil and how you can make a difference to the environment. The trip really opened my eyes to the reality of deforestation and the impact it has on orangutans."*

*Hazel Corfield, 9 Devereux*

## Skills Certificate Challenge

Before the summer holidays Year 9 (current Year 10) participated in a mini challenge in preparation for their Enterprise and Employability Challenge, part of the Skills Certificate Challenge. On the first day back a representative from Hope House launched their actual challenge.

Pupils have begun planning in earnest for the Christmas Fair where they will have the opportunity to generate money for charity whilst test running their business model before pitching to the dragons in January.

Molly White, 10 Romero and Celyn Jones, 10 Cassidy said they are enjoying the challenge as they are working in teams whilst developing employability skills that they will need in later life.

Good Luck year 10, there is no pressure, last year pupils raised early £3000!

**Mrs A Devine**

## Let them eat cake

The staff recently held a Macmillan Coffee Morning (well lunchtime) and goodness, they ate a huge amount of cake! Lots of staff donated and there are a couple of secret Mary Berrys amongst them! We had a lovely

get-together and raised over £200!

**Mrs Large**

## Wellbeing Days

Wellbeing Days took place on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September for Year 7 and Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October for Year 11. The pupils were interested and enthusiastic and, as always, made the day very enjoyable for all who took part.

**Miss R Massey, PSE Co-ordinator**

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

*"Wellbeing day was a great experience for Year 11 pupils. We were able to learn about topics that affect our wellbeing, health and future. It opened our eyes to the sorts of things that happen around us in today's society. It also gave us the opportunity to bond as form groups and understand each other better. Thank you to the teachers who took part to educate us."*

**Isabel Acton and Chris Siji, Head Girl and Head Boy**

## PE Update

'Get Involved Week' was held during week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> September to encourage all pupils to try a new sport in our extra-curricular timetable such as table tennis, dance, basketball to name a few, and there was lots of fun with giant inflatables and competitions. A big thank you to Active Wrexham for their contribution of equipment.

Well done to Year 10 who beat Elfed High School 2-0 in the

Welsh Cup which was played on 24<sup>th</sup> September, with goals from Owain Price and Harvey Smith. Will Edwards in goal is worth a special mention who pulled off a string of fantastic saves as Elfed piled on the pressure in the second half.

A huge congratulations to Morgan Burke, Aimee Edwards and Isabelle Winter who have been selected to represent Wrexham Under 16s in this year's County Netball tournament.

In the Welsh Cup, St Joseph's were losing 2-0 before goals from Gabriel Pebereye, Elijah Marvin and David Brylowski which secured a 3-3 draw. We showed 'nerves of steel' to go through 6-5 on penalties. Thanks to Mold Alun High School for a cracking game.

Six of our amazing pupils represented Wrexham Under 14s and Under 16s at the Netball County Triangular tournament on 18<sup>th</sup> October. All six pupils have been invited to trial for North East Wales.

**Mr K McComb**

## Panto Time

A letter giving details of this year's Expressive Arts trip to Theatr Clwyd to **Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December** can be obtained from pupil reception. The cost of the trip is £19.50. Don't delay!



## Helping Charities at Christmas

Year 10 pupils, as part of their Skills Certificate Challenge - Enterprise Challenge, will have a number of stalls at the annual PTA **'Here Comes Christmas' Fair on Thursday 28th November**. Stalls will range from Hot Chocolate and Sweets to bath bombs, there may even



be an appearance from Father Christmas. All proceeds will be donated to Hope House.

## Student Assistance Programme at St. Joseph's

Every school in Wrexham is being encouraged to run support groups with specially trained staff, and these groupings are known as "Group".

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

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

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

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

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

If you do not wish your child to attend any of the SAP groups run while they are at St Joseph's please send in a letter addressed to Mrs N Ellis. If you have any

questions concerning SAP please phone Mrs J Richards, (SAP co-ordinator) on 01978 360310.

## New members of teaching staff

We extend a warm welcome to four new members of teaching staff here at St Joseph's. Here is a little about themselves in their own words...

### Mr P Cook



I have worked at St. Joseph's previously, and it was working here that made me want to be a teacher.

My favourite subject in school was Design Technology, so it was an obvious choice for me to want to teach it! After getting my degree in design, I carried out my PGCE via Chester university and was lucky enough to be taken on at St. Joseph's; the result of years of hard work paid off, with my dream job back where I started!

When I'm not in school I enjoy playing computer games and watching movies. I'm hoping to start running and cycling again, but might wait for the better weather!

## Mrs S Taylor



I'm originally from Hertfordshire, hence the Cockney accent! Whenever I wanted time out or to be alone as a child I lost myself in drawing... I remain this way up until today! At school my art teacher was my hero!

After spending my teenage years in North Wales I went to University in Portsmouth and studied Graphic Design. This was my career for a few years in London before deciding that I wanted to go in to Social Work. My mum spent time in care as a teenager and sometimes found herself homeless after sadly losing her mum at aged 12. This was always in the back of my mind so I ended up working with the homeless and children and young people in care for some years, up until I had my first child nearly 18 years ago.

Fast forward to 10 years ago a change in circumstances led me to rethink my career once again. I decided to combine my love of art with my love of wanting all children to have the same choices and love in the classroom that I had so I retrained as a teacher...

you are never too old to learn and retrain!

Five children later, little sleep, but a whole heap of happiness and I find myself here! Being Head of Art at St Joseph's is the icing on the cake!

## Miss A Ledsham



Being back at St. Joseph's feels like coming home to me. I am very excited and privileged to be starting my teaching career here, especially in the Enfys Centre.

After leaving St. Joseph's in 2011, I studied for my A-Levels at the Catholic High School, Chester, then graduated with a Psychology degree and went back to university to complete a PGCE. I am passionate about teaching and because St. Joseph's is such a supportive and caring school, I believe all who come here can thrive.

In my spare time, I like to be with my family and friends. I enjoy watching films, going to concerts and the theatre, reading and travelling as much as I can. I am a big Marvel fan and I like to keep up to date with new trends (I still haven't been able to master 'the floss' though!).

## Mr T Trueman



I am not really a new member of staff but I have taken on a new role as Teacher of ICT. I have been at St Joseph's for over four years and I have carried out the roles as Business Manager, Finance Manager and Network Manager in that time.

I am originally from just outside Mold and following my A levels I went onto train as a Chartered Accountant and worked in an accounts practice for nine years. I never quite found the job very fulfilling and with my love of music and technology decided to go back to university to study a degree in Music Technology. Following completion of this I started my new role as Business Manager at St Joseph's which made me realise a career in education was something I wanted to pursue. Therefore, I completed a PGCE in Further Education alongside my role at St Joseph's and a year after completing my studies the opportunity to teach ICT became available.

I am also the Support Staff Governor at St Joseph's and I have undertaken this role for the past couple of years.

In my spare time I enjoy going to gigs and music festivals with family and friends. I have a large vinyl record collection, which occasionally I DJ at the odd event with; even if that doesn't quite fit with my love of new technology! I also enjoy playing squash for Wrexham Brymbo Squash Club and play each week in the North East Wales Squash Leagues. My other big passions are cars and motorsport and you can usually find me at a car or motorsport event most weekends.

## Glittering Robot Designer

We have a budding robot designer amongst our amazing pupils.

April Prince from 8 King appeared on *Robot Wars* with her 105kg glitter-pink fighting robot 'GlitterBomb'. The media went crazy about her, and she was dubbed the star of *Robot Wars* in media all over the UK and internationally.

She designed the robot herself, and since then she has designed several more robots of different sizes, and has been able to do more of the construction work as her skill set develops. She was even taken out to China to

compete with her beautiful pink, Welsh dragon robot 'Princess of Wales', as part of the Clash Bots show in Beijing, winning 2 of her 3 fights for over 500 million viewers! She did more of the work on this robot than most of the adults in the sport, and it was a wonderful thing.

April works hard as a STEM ambassador (though she is too young to be registered through the regular channels) and visits schools, colleges, and universities inspiring girls her age to pursue STEM based careers such as engineering.

She has given talks and presentations at Cardiff university. She has been presented with a role model award and been a guest presenter at the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) in London for the last 3 years. She has also supported events at many other places such as Techniquet Glyndwr over several years.

She has been invited to compete in Battlebots in California in 2020, which has always

been her dream, as it is the best robot fighting show in the world.

She has some of the robots on display in her own makerspace in the town centre (Wrexham General Market) if you would like to see them for yourself.



Well done April! We will keep you posted on April's development in the robot field as I am sure we will be seeing a lot more of her in the future!

## Budding Artist



Artwork produced by Katie Maclean, 10 Devereux was displayed at Ruabon Library last week. Katie who is currently studying Art GCSE, has inherited her love of art from her grandmother, Mrs Christine Davies, who was holding an Art Exhibition there.

## Follow us

Please follow us on twitter - we currently have 755 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> November**  
School opens to pupils

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 11 Study Skills Eve.  
(6.30pm)

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 9 Information Evening  
(4.30pm)

**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 8 RE Trip  
(Places of Worship, Liverpool)

**Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
Non-uniform day  
(chocolate donation for PTA  
'Here Comes Christmas Fair')

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 11 History Trip  
(Ruthin Gaol)  
Year 8 Wellbeing Day

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November**  
PTA 'Here Comes Christmas' Fair  
(6pm)

**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas Concert (4pm)

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 10 Fundraising Day  
(Non-uniform day)

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 8 Parents' Evening  
(3.45pm)

**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
Expressive Arts Pantomime Trip

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Advent Liturgy for Parents  
(6.30pm)

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December**  
School closes for Christmas

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January**  
Staff Development Day  
(School closed to pupils)

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January**  
School opens to pupils

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January**  
Mock Results  
Year 10 Parents Evening  
(3.45-6.30pm)

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January**  
Year 10 Wellbeing Day

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January**  
Year 11 Mock Interviews

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January**  
Year 11 Parents Evening (3.45pm)

**Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> January**  
School Photographs  
(Years 8, 9, 10 & 11)

**Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January**  
Year 9 Wellbeing Day

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Year 9 Parents Evening  
(3.45-6.30pm)

**Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February**  
Year 8 Maths Trip  
Information Evening 5-6pm

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February**  
Year 11 Science Live Trip

**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February**  
Year 8 STEM  
Enrichment Programme

**Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February**  
Year 10 STEM  
Enrichment Programme

Year 9 Pantasaph Trip Departs

**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February**  
Year 9 Pantasaph Trip returns  
School closes for half term

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February**  
School opens to pupils  
Year 7 Parents' Evening (3.45pm)



## Contact Details

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