



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 13 FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2019

A reflection of prayer and worship by the Chaplains

Liverpool Trip

On the 13th of November pupils from year 8 had the opportunity to visit three places of worship in Liverpool. Before going into each place, they were reminded of the importance of these sacred places and the need for reverence and respect. In each place, the children had a tour guide to help them understand different aspects of faith and worship.

The Anglican Cathedral is a huge, imposing building with the main altar as the focus for worship, as well as a number of places where people can pray and reflect. The children were taken on a tour of the many facilities in this magnificent building. There was a huge central place called the well

for visitors to gather before approaching the more sacred areas of the church. It was, therefore, in this place that we all gathered together for lunch.



In the Catholic Cathedral of Christ the King, what arrests one's attention is the shape of the cathedral. Unlike most Christian churches, which have the altar at the front of the congregation, this church has the altar in the middle of the congregation. This

emphasises the fact that the faithful are gathered round the altar, where the bread and wine are consecrated and become the body and blood of Jesus—and all the people share in the Eucharist. There is also a special shrine where Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament for adoration at all times.

The Jewish Synagogue was also a special place of worship. Before entering the synagogue, the boys put on the cap they had brought with them as a sign of respect. If they had not brought one, they were given a skullcap to wear. Inside the synagogue was an



imposing area where the rabbi would read from scripture. We were able to see some of the artefacts related to worship. A guide explained clearly the significance of these items. At the very top of the place of worship were the two huge doors of the ark, behind which were kept the scrolls of sacred scripture, together with sacred vessels, many of which were made of gold. This was clearly the most sacred place in the synagogue. The eternal flame in front of the ark reminded us of the sanctuary lamp in front of the tabernacle in Christian churches, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. The children were very engaged in all the places we visited. They were respectful, thoughtful, and asked some very apposite questions, indicating their attentiveness and interest in the faith issues being considered.

Social Justice and Peace

The Year 11 chapel prefects helped us to prepare and distribute the soup and bread on the day of our Hunger Lunch. The Social Court was set up as a soup kitchen, the atmosphere was lively, and our pupils very generously responded to the needs of the poor in our world. Money raised was sent to CAFOD.

We invited a member of the Salvation Army community in to school to talk to the pupils about homelessness, which we recognise as a particular issue in the town. The pupils offered

prayers for all the homeless in Wrexham and beyond and were given some insight into the experiences of homelessness; the theme became the main focus of an assembly on Giving.

The school is a member of Amnesty International. This year we have participated in the "Write for Rights" Christmas Card Campaign. Pupils were invited to come into the Chapel to write a message in support of people who have campaigned or been detained around the world for their beliefs and values, we sent over seventy messages of support.

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal by Teams4U was, as always, a huge success. At this time of year the pupils generously show compassion and empathy for children who are less fortunate than they are by bringing in their shoeboxes filled with goodies so that they, too, can celebrate Christmas with joy.

Reconciliation

In the lead-up to Christmas, with all its frantic preparations, we can often lose sight of what is important. Advent is a penitential season, where we ready our hearts and minds for Christ's return. To help the pupils prepare themselves spiritually, the RE



classes led reconciliation services, offering the students the opportunity for self-reflection, prayer, and confession. We are grateful for local Catholic clergy who made themselves available to offer students the sacrament of reconciliation.

Advent Liturgy

The Advent liturgy took place for parents and carers on Wednesday, 18th December at 6:30pm and on Friday, 20th December for students. Thank you to the Year 10s, to Mrs. Clark, and to all others involved for their hard work on a meaningful service that helped ready our hearts for the coming of the Christ child.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and blessings for the new year ahead.
The Chaplains

The Climate Emergency

Did you know that on September 25th this year Wrexham Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency? This will probably come as no surprise since the Climate Crisis has had - and is continuing to have - a massive impact on communities all around the world.

Practically every day the news reports on flooding, droughts, wildfires and food shortages, and it is heartbreaking to hear that lives and livelihoods are being lost, people are being displaced and that many wildlife species are on the verge of becoming extinct.

Although Wrexham has not been hit hard by the effects of climate change yet, we must remember that we are all global citizens and we all have a vital part to play in helping to preserve and protect our planet and everyone and everything on it.

Pope Francis wrote on the theme of Climate Change in his second 'papal encyclical' (circular letter) back in 2015' saying that it is:

"a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for distribution of goods. It represents one of the principle challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades."

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

He also said:

"Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings."

St Joseph's would love everyone within our school community to be a globally responsible citizen and we will be tackling the Climate Emergency in various ways. If you have any ideas, you wish to share with us please do get in touch. Thankyou.

Stop School Hunger

On Monday, November 18th, we, along with several other pupils from St Joseph's TCC Group, were privileged enough to be able to attend the launch of the TCC's Stop School Hunger campaign, or Dysgu Nid Llwg, at Ysgol Y Grango in Rhosllanerchrugog.

The issue of school hunger was raised in 2017, when the experiences of TCC community leaders in secondary schools highlighted that some of the most vulnerable pupils were not getting enough to eat during their school day. Young people who weren't able to have any breakfast at home were spending some of their free school meals allowance on breakfast when they arrived at school hungry. This meant they were unable to afford to buy a full lunch the free school meals allowance is designed to provide.

We heard stories from those affected by school hunger, about TCC's research into the issue, and the proposed solution to raise the free school meals allowance by just 80p per day, so that children would be able to afford both breakfast and lunch.



We thought that this launch was informative, and we gained a greater awareness of the problems and stigma surrounding school hunger. We all thoroughly enjoyed the event, and are looking forward to working with TCC on this matter. We would like to thank Mrs Ellis for taking time out of her busy schedule to take us to the launch.

Scarlett Williams and Thomas Bagnall

School visits

Berlin

During the trip we visited a number of attractions including Topography of Terror, Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Berlin Wall Memorial and Reichstag. We would like to thank all of the pupils for their excellent behaviour during this trip. Despite tiredness due to the very early start on Thursday morning and the full days of activities the pupils were fantastic and we thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the company of the pupils.

Mrs Williams, Mrs Jones, Mr Wilkinson and Mr Donlon

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

We arrived at school at 2.20am and the bus left at 2.40am. When we got to the airport, we went through security very quickly and the teachers directed us to go to the shopping area. We had to stay in groups of 2. We went to the gate and everyone was trying to find out who they were sitting next to. The plane journey was ok, I was sitting in front of Mrs Jones and Mr Wilkinson.

My favourite day was when we went to Check Point Charlie and Berlin TV Tower. In Check Point Charlie, I saw a wheel made out of passports. They were all different colours and all from different countries. When we got back from Check Point Charlie we had our dinner. Part way through Mrs Jones and Mrs Williams stood up and said "today is a special day for a special young lady" and they

started to sing happy birthday soon everyone was singing happy birthday. When the song finished Mrs Jones and Mrs Williams came over to where I was sitting and Mrs Williams gave me a keyring, Mrs Jones gave me a bowl of custard and some sort of jam. They both told me that the bowl of custard and jam was made with love!! We went to the TV Tower and I had a birthday photo with all the year 9s by the bottom of the tower. Inside when we reached the top, Mrs Jones took a picture of me by myself and another with Amiee, Mr Wilkinson and Hannah. It was the best birthday ever, I enjoyed it so much!

Ameya Oliyath



When we went on the Berlin trip, it was very fun and educational. Over the 4 days we went to many museums that focused on life in Germany during the war and memorials of the Berlin wall. We also went up the Berlin TV Tower. After we went shopping in the Berlin Mall, we walked under the Brandenburg gate and later had a tour around the Reichstag

building. On the last day we went to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and saw the chambers and towers. The whole trip was very enjoyable and we all would recommend it again.

Leon Taylor



In October, we got the opportunity to go on the History Trip to Berlin. We spent 4 days there, each jam-packed with amazing experiences and things we will never forget. We got to look into the truth and history of the Second World War from visiting famous museums like Checkpoint Charlie and the DDR museum as well as getting to visit the memorial site for the murdered Jews and getting to see the horrors that went on in the numerous concentration camps around the world. We will never forget this eye-opening experience. As well as looking at the history of Berlin, we went to some of the most famous places in the city like the TV tower and the Reichstag. These places were truly breathtaking and beautiful to visit. Being able to go on such a phenomenal trip with our friends and teachers will be one of the highlights of our school year. Thank you to all the teachers for this amazing adventure!

Tabitha Daniels and Grace Roberts

Art Residential Weekend

Over the last weekend of November Year 10 spent a long weekend on an Art Residential in Menai, working alongside art professionals learning new techniques. This exciting experience was enjoyed by 14 Art GCSE students who returned home with a design board and final piece which can now accompany their coursework. Different workshops looked at different art techniques culminating in various sculptures, paper manipulation, dioramas and scrolls based on the same theme. It was a weekend of fun, laughter, copious amounts of food, new friendships and a huge amount of beautiful work. The tiredness on Monday morning when straight back in to school was worth it due to the amazing experience had by all. Huge thanks to Mr Farrell for being our own personal taxi driver! St Joseph's students are an absolute credit with beautiful behaviour commented on by other schools... I am immensely proud of you all.

Mrs Taylor



"It was fun, we developed new skills. An amazing opportunity that I'd like to do again in Year 11 if possible."

Molly White

Year 8 visit Chester University

We were all selected to go on an enjoyable day out to Chester University. We were all greeted in a lecture room, where we got a timetable. First we went for a campus tour. We saw the accommodation, the gym, the swimming pool and the library. After a break we had a lesson on looking at things from a different point of view. We learnt about many new jobs, some I had never heard of. We also learnt about subjective and objective. We did a practical where we looked at a can and said subjective and objective things about it. After lunch we had a session on jobs. I never realised there was a wide variety of jobs. We did a practical where we guessed the job from the pictures. Overall it was a fun experience. I now know a lot more on higher education. I found it very enjoyable and I would go again.

Ffion Price

MAT Trip to Cambridge

Cambridge was amazing – not only because of the challenging group discussions or the chance to look into university life, but also because of how pretty it was. The buildings (especially the university ones) were so detailed and people just left their bikes propped against a wall somewhere near the university –

it really felt safe. The place we stayed was an unusually fancy youth hostel (with a very nice pastry selection at breakfast) and the college we went to the next day was just as nice (unfortunately no pastries though!). It's been a great experience that has really made me look forward to studying something I enjoy at university.

Holly Thorpe



I thought that the trip to Cambridge was very informative and helped us with our decisions for the future. We received help and information about A Level choices, how to work as a university student and about Cambridge University itself. Overall, it will help me to implement this into my future education.

Hira Sahi

Year 9 Information Evening

This half term saw the start of the Year 9 Option process. The process began with the Information Evening, which saw parents and pupils attend a series of talks given by Heads of Department. These talks were aimed at introducing the GCSE course to the Year 9 pupils and

gave an insight into the general overview of the GCSE course as well as information on assessment methods and controlled assessment requirements. The Evening concluded with 2 talks, one from myself about how Parent/Carers can support their child in Year 9 and another from Mrs Arnall about the Options Process. It was a real pleasure to see so many pupils and Parents/Carers engaging in the start of what will be a very important process.

Mr Timbrell

Year 11 Study Skills Evening

On Thursday, 7th November a session was held by Mr Andrew Newton for year 11 pupils, parents and carers to learn about different ways of coping with GCSE revision and the stresses that may come with examinations.

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

The Study Skills evening was very informative and useful for those who need help with how to revise.

Katie Stansfield-Jones

The evening was extremely useful and it helped me and my parents to understand the pressures of exams. It was really helpful for managing stress in particular.

Aimee Edwards

The evening helped me with exam stress and useful revision tips. It will help me to do well in my exams in a fun evening.

Mitchell Williams

We talked about dealing with exam stress and methods of revision. We looked into parent and pupil relationships and were given the opportunity to discuss the topics with other parents and pupils. Pupils were given guidance and I found it very useful and interesting. I learnt a lot more about how to revise and deal with stress.

Mark Latham

Teams4U Shoebox Appeal



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

Mrs James

Christmas Gift Appeal

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

Over 25 young carers between 7 and 11 years of age from the Wrexham area attend the WCD Young Carers' group, where they receive support and have the opportunity to have fun and meet other youngsters in similar situations. Christmas can be a difficult time for these youngsters who care for someone close and these gifts have been so greatly appreciated.

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

Mrs Lunn

UNCRC 30th Birthday

On Wednesday 20th November, in the Wrexham Memorial Hall, there was the 30th anniversary celebration of the United Nations Convention of the Right of the Child (UNCRC).

There were lots of stands including the Welsh Youth Parliament, Wrexham Scouts, Senedd Yr Ifanc, a photo booth, as well as a chocolate fountain, popcorn machine, snacks and refreshments. About 175 people attended including the Mayor and a surprise visit from Sally Holland the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Alex Pengelly



Show Racism the Red Card



On Friday, 18th October pupils wore something red to show their support and to send out an important message - that racism will never be tolerated. Thank you to all pupils who took part in Show Racism the Red Card day, we managed to raise £389 for the charity! Da iawn pawb.

Mrs Roberts-Thompson

Year 10 Enterprise Challenge

For the Christmas Fair, my enterprise group, at first, struggled to find ideas. We eventually settled on an idea just a week before the fair – I was so worried that it wouldn't work! Luckily, everything worked out fine, and we even made over £50 for Hope House. The fair itself was very enjoyable, and seeing so



many people enjoy our work felt incredibly rewarding. *Tom Bagnall*

For our Welsh Bacc Enterprise Challenge, my group decided to sell homemade Christmas bakes and cakes at the Christmas Fair. The Christmas Fair was really great as all of my groups hard work had paid off and it was amazing to see everyone eating the homemade goods. *Katie Hill*

For the Christmas Fair we set up a Reptile Petting Zoo with no overhead cost. It was a huge success we raised over our target and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

Ioan Llewellyn-Foster

The Christmas Fair this year was really good! Beforehand it was really stressful but once we had started and were at the fair everything went really well. The atmosphere was brilliant and everyone had loads of fun.

Katie Maclean



Wrexham Healthy Schools Scheme Accreditation

I am delighted to inform you that St Joseph's has been awarded the 'Wrexham Healthy Schools

Accreditation' at a ceremony on the 22nd November 2019 at the Catrin Finch Center, Glyndwr University.



This award was on the recommendations of the Regional Healthy Schools Officer and St Joseph's has gained accreditation for our participation of the Healthy School Scheme for 2018/2019. Two of our senior pupils Katie Hill and Heath Greenall accompanied Miss Massey to receive the award on behalf of the school.

Miss Massey

We really enjoyed the healthy schools award ceremony because we got to learn things which we never knew before, such as how the award works and what other schools had done to achieve it. There was a wide variety of stalls explaining about many different things to do with health, hygiene and the environment. Our favourite part of the whole ceremony was towards the end where a man brought in snakes, frogs and other animals to highlight the impact of global warming and the effects it has on the animal's habitats. It made Miss Massey very scared and was funny to watch!

Katie Hill and Heath Greenall



Keep up to date and follow us on Twitter!



Please follow us on twitter - we currently have 795 followers let's increase this over the Christmas holidays.

@SJ_WXM

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

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

Mr Wilkinson, Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

Monday, 6th January
Staff Development Day

Tuesday, 7th January
School Opens to Pupils
Year 9 Examinations begin

Monday, 13th January
Year 10 Parents' Evening

Tuesday, 14th January
Year 10 Wellbeing Day

Thursday, 16th January
Year 11 Mock Interviews

Monday, 27th January
Year 11 Parents' Evening

Wednesday, 29th January
Photographs Years 8-11

Friday, 31st January
Year 9 Wellbeing Day

Monday, 3rd February
Year 9 Parents Evening

Tuesday, 4th February
Year 8 Maths Info Evening

Friday, 14th February
Year 9 Fundraising Day
School closes for half term

Monday, 24th February
School opens

Friday, 6th March
School Eisteddfod
Disneyland Paris trip departs

Thursday, 12th March
Year 8 Maths trip departs

Friday, 13th March
Year 8 Maths trip returns



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