



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 1 FRIDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2021

Beginning of a new term

As the school year gets underway there is a lot to report about life at St Joseph's. Everyone has made a valiant effort to continue with school life whilst adhering to the COVID restrictions as required.

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



Open Evening

Open Evening took place in September and this year there were lots of visitors to the Chapel, everyone who came in appreciated the lovely

atmosphere created in there for the pupils to retreat to and enjoy a quiet, sacred space. A big thank you to all pupils who assisted with Open Evening. Everyone we met was very impressed with the school and the pupils; thank you for being model pupils and ambassadors for St. Joseph's.

Welcome to the Chapel

During this half term the lower school pupils, Years 7, 8 and 9 came into the Chapel during one of their RE lessons to attend a short "welcome to the chapel" prayer service led by the Chaplains. Due to the pandemic and subsequent home schooling last year, many of the pupils hadn't had the opportunity to come in and see the chapel or experience its quietness and calm.

Chapel Activities

There are activities in the Chapel every day, and all are welcome. We have programme of varied activities at lunchtimes to appeal to the pupils (see list) and many pupils come in to take part and to meet others who attend. Opportunities in the lunchtime activities include short prayer services and film clips and silent prayer time, and of course the Chaplains are always there for a chat.

Whole School Worship

It is always a highlight of our year and a wonderful occasion when the whole school community can worship together and so it has been a real source of disappointment that we have not been able yet to celebrate the Eucharist. Watch this space and we hope to be able to do so as soon as is possible and safe.

COP26: The eyes of the world are on us this year, as Britain hosts world leaders for the United Nation's climate change talks-COP26. It is vital that we raise our voices and ensure the Government uses this historic moment to build a more sustainable world. The social justice issue we have been working on this term is the topic on everyone's lips at the moment, climate change and the COP26 summit taking place in November. Pupils have taken the CAFOD slogan "The Eyes of the World are on us" to produce posters and pictures of eyes which are on display in the Chapel. All pupils from Years 7 to 11 are engaged in COP26 workshops during their RE lessons, doing work based on the current CAFOD campaign and Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si', the aim is understand how the climate crisis is affecting people around the world and to take action to influence world leaders about climate change. Pupils have been working in groups to play a "game" that highlights the unfair distribution of resources around the world and how the poorest countries who produce the least carbon footprint are affected the worst by climate change. *"Over the past year, we have seen how important it is to look after one another. The coronavirus has shown that change is possible and that governments can make rapid decisions when they choose to do so. Now, let's come together to care for the world which is crying out for our help and tackle the*

climate emergency with even more urgency." CAFOD

God of all,
you made the earth
and saw that it was good,
but, like robbers,
we have stripped it of its treasure.

Open our eyes, Lord

Now the earth cries out
and your people hunger and
thirst.

Open our eyes, Lord

Open our eyes to see the
pain of your creation
and move us with compassion
for your world.

Open our eyes, Lord

Lead us to act as neighbours,
who do not pass by on the other
side.

Open our eyes, Lord

So that together we may care
for all that you have made
and with all creation
sing your praise.

Open our eyes, Lord

Amen

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

The Chaplains

Don't be dramatic but...

There is a drama non-examination assessment day for Year 10 on Wednesday, 3rd November.

Mrs M Clark, Head of Drama

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 16th September Year 11 Geography GCSE pupils visited the River Clywedog.

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

"In September we went on a very interesting geography trip to Erddig to investigate the discharge of the river and how the river has changed over time. The trip was for our non-examination assessment which is part of the Geography GCSE.

We were allowed to choose any part of the river and we had to do various tests in that location. During one test we had to time how long a rubber duck took to travel 10m of the river, to measure how fast the flow was. In another test we had to collect different rocks every 1/10th of the river (across). We then had to use the rocks to determine the load type at certain points throughout the river.

When we arrived back in school we used our data to calculate discharge and compared old photographs of the river to new ones.

The trip was incredibly interesting as we learnt how the situation, load type, weather and soil affects the discharge of the river. It was a

great opportunity and I would love to do it again, as I would love to examine how much the river has changed already"

Sophie Pemberton, 11 King

"We walked to the River Clywedog in Erddig in order to investigate its discharge and changes over time.

To make a fair judgement the experience was exhausting yet rewarding – it was a great opportunity to get hands-on and actually get into the river itself.

We did all sorts of activities such as measuring the width and depth of the stream, calculating the speed of the flow as well as using an orange to see how fast it travelled across a distance of 10m!

While we were walking alongside the river, it was interesting how our teacher told us that although the river was shallow on the day, a few years ago if we were standing in the same spot, the ground below us would be completely submerged.

At the end of the day although I was completely drained, I found that I made many memories on the way.

Vilas Lavan, 11 Kolbe

Chester Zoo

On Tuesday, 14th 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 were an absolute credit to the school. Da lawn.

Mrs A Devine

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

"We enjoyed seeing the animals whilst learning about palm oil. From now on I will think twice about buying products with palm oil in."

Marco Frulloni, 9 Cassidy

"I had a really interesting day learning about what palm oil is and where it is used. We also enjoyed the opportunity to see animals from around the world including the anteater and baby meerkats which were my favourites."

Emma Ford, 9 Romero

"I really enjoyed the trip to Chester Zoo, especially the workshop as it was very educational. When I go to the supermarket now I double check the label to check that the palm oil comes from sustainable sources."

Isobel Carter, 9 Cassidy

Year 7 Retreat Days

A day of retreat was held in school this term for the new Year 7 pupils when they learned about building community. The pupils prepared a service for the end of

the day, based on all the things they had done during the retreat, they encouraged each other 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.

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

"I learnt that Mrs James, Miss Massey and Mrs Roe can dance and are really good at it. I think they should go on X Factor as a trio as I am sure they would get the golden buzzer. I learnt that faith is always with us and it was fun."

Isabella Bennett, 7 King

"My favourite part was the games and I enjoyed the songs that Miss Massey taught us. Also I really liked the video that Miss showed us. I learnt how to sing new songs and play new games. It also boosted my confidence a bit with the little performance we did with our groups. It was an amazing day!"

Wiktoria Gutowska, 7 King

I loved playing the games with the teachers. We did not have to do any work at all and we could wear our own clothes too! I made new friends. I also liked designing the angles about community. It was a very fun day and I really enjoyed it!

Olivia Koza, 7 King

Follow us

on Twitter

@SJ_WXM 

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 Tuesday, 21st September a representative from Hope House launched their actual challenge.

Mrs A Devine

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

"I think that the enterprise challenge is not only a fun activity but also allows me to develop my skills which I may need in later life. As the managing director of my team it gives me the opportunity to experience situations which may occur as I go on to bigger things."

Molly Stanley, 10 Cassidy

"I think that the Enterprise Challenge gives us the opportunity to develop exciting ways to raise money for local charities whilst developing our team building skills."

Jake Wilkinson, 10 Romero

"I think that the enterprise challenge is a great way to learn skills that will help us in all aspect of life and teaches us to support our local charities."

Lottie Conway, 10 Romero

Wellbeing Days

Wellbeing Days took place on Tuesday, 21st September for Year 11 and Monday, 18th October for

Year 7. 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 ...

The Wellbeing day was one of the amazing days I've had. It was a really great way to learn to be healthy, keeping clean and all kinds of things.

One of my favourite parts was doing a play with my group.

After, we went to talk about puberty. We of course got separated. Girls went to one class and the boys in the other class. The lesson gave a lot of information on what it's like to go through puberty.

Later we went to talk about health and self-esteem. I liked this lesson because I liked all the activities we did such as what makes us feel great and what words can we use to describe ourselves.

Then, we talked about the worry tree. We talked about what we can do to solve the things we are worrying about.

Finally, we talked about young carers and what qualities a young carer has. This was a fun activity because it was a nice and calming task because it was at the end of the day.

Roa Elmagarbi, 7 Devereux

Health Day was great as we learnt about the body and mental health and how to keep ourselves healthy. We also talked about

puberty which helped all of Year 7 to see that it is normal and encouraged us to embrace the change.

We learnt not to worry about things that are out of our control. We also learnt about being a young carer and how they play important roles in people's day to day life.

Sion Odia, 7 Devereux

Polite Parking

We are experiencing problems with traffic congestion on Erddig Road and Sontley Road. Please note that drivers should abide by the highway code at all times. No driver should park their car on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school! Please consider everyone's safety by parking away from the immediate school site. There have been a number of near misses in the past week or so – all of which are avoidable by being considerate to others. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Mr C Wilkinson, Headteacher

If you want me back, label me!

Can parents please ensure that school uniform, PE kit and tracksuits have names on the label please. This will greatly reduce the amount of lost uniform and PE kit and will also help us to return items to their rightful owner. Please remember items go missing and rarely make their way back but named items do! Thank you.

Meet our Pupil Leaders

Here is a little bit about St Joseph's Head Girl and Head Boy in their own words...

Leon Taylor



I have a very significant role within the school, where I supervise the prefects on their lunch duties and organise workshops and whole school events throughout the year.

St Joseph's has always offered me the best opportunities to reach my potential, and I hope to ensure this continues for other pupils.

I would also be enlightened to hear suggestions from pupils within our community to improve our school environment. Since the return to school from the pandemic, finding a working routine has been difficult. However, our teachers have strived to offer us the best learning atmosphere they can provide. The atmosphere between the pupil years has been extraordinary, and I can only hope this is maintained in future years.

Lucy Ford



My role in school is to provide support to other pupils. I also help organise the prefects and listen to the suggestions/ideas from my peers.

St Joseph's has helped and supported me since Year 7. The school follows a religious and friendly ethos, giving pupils the space to learn and grow.

In previous years I have been a member of the school council, working with the team to provide the best area possible. Currently the school council is looking to introduce more sheltered areas for rainier days.

Throughout Covid-19, learning for pupils became challenging. Pupils experienced lack of motivation and daily repetition. However, with the teachers' help, we were able to push through, returning to normal back in September. Since then we have been able to reintroduce assemblies and briefings as well as a usual timetable; however continuing to take regular precautions with face masks, Covid levels and sanitising.

Book Club - Coming Soon!

A new book club will be launching soon. If you like reading and talking about books in the warm and cosy school library, come along! All pupils welcome. The date of the first meeting will be announced soon. For more information, please myself or Year 10 pupils Isobel Scarsbrook, Rachel Bygrave or Erin Crosthwaite.

Mrs G Samuels, English Teacher

Duke of Edinburgh

There will be no further Duke of Edinburgh meetings on Tuesday evenings until further notice. Any information that needs to be communicated will be done through Form Tutors or DoE Google Classroom.

Mr D Lambert, DoE Leader

Bags2School

We have arranged a Bags2School collection on Tuesday, 16th November. This is a fantastic opportunity to clear out the old! It also allows you to help with the fantastic fundraising efforts that our PTA constantly does to help provide all those extra special things for your children. Bags2School will accept the following items: men's, ladies' and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together or with an elastic band around them), handbags, belts and accessories. **No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please.**

Thank you...

to everyone for your contributions to the food bank. We dropped off the many items on Tuesday, 5th October; we are grateful for your generosity! The food bank relies on the support and goodwill of the community. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Reverend L Stroud



New members of staff

We extend a warm welcome to five new members of staff at St Joseph's. Here is a little bit about them in their own words...

Mrs L MacDonald



I have been a teacher of English, MFL and Drama for 20 years. Completing my initial NQT year

in Wakefield, I then moved back to Wales to teach in Denbighshire and Flintshire and now I am happy to say I am teaching back in my home town of Wrexham!

I have a languages degree from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and taught in a French lycée for a year as part of my degree course. I completed my PGCE in Chester.

My favourite place in the world is the Cours Saleya in Nice on the Cote D'Azur and my favourite authors are Maupassant and Voltaire. I am also a fan of French films and French television.

Miss C Jones



I have been a maths teacher for a couple of years now and taught in several different types of school.

My undergraduate degree was in Environmental Earth Science, however, I have always enjoyed maths.

I hope to help the next generation to also learn to love maths. In my spare time I am a Beaver Scout Leader and I enjoy spending time outdoors.

Mr B Long



I used to work in St. Joseph's at the very start of my career, where I was here as maternity cover before spending some time working in Special Education.

My undergraduate degree is in Computer Science (which I obtained in Bangor University) so I am delighted to be back teaching IT, especially with the new Digital Technologies GCSE that we are delivering.

In my spare time I love to watch football, I have a season ticket at Wrexham and also like watching Aston Villa and Wales whenever I can. I also train and occasionally compete in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, where I am currently ranked at blue belt.

I'm also a huge nerd, as you'd expect, and love anything to do with games, technology or comics.



Miss M Roe



Working as a Teaching Assistant in the Enfys Centre, here at St. Joseph's is a new and amazing experience for me. Working in this department, in this school, is such a privilege and I am thoroughly enjoying my time here. I am working alongside brilliant colleagues and with wonderful pupils.

After completing 3 A Levels in the Sixth Form at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in May this year, I chose to take a gap year before going to Liverpool Hope University. When I heard about this job opportunity, I was so excited at the prospect of working at St Joseph's, because not only is it a great school, but to be able to work with children is something I have always wanted to do. I'm already getting emotional at the thought of leaving!

In my spare time, I like to socialise with my family and friends. I enjoy having quiet time on my own, as I love to read. I enjoy going to the theatre to watch musicals. My favourite has to be *Les Miserables*, even though it always makes me cry!

I am so excited about my journey here so far and what is yet to come.

Miss G Dixon



I became a TA in 2016 after graduating from the University of Cumbria with a Joint (Hons) degree in Dance Performance and Musical Theatre Performance.

I decided I wanted to help children within a school setting, starting with supply work to gain experience. I was lucky enough to be offered a job here at St Joseph's, in 2017, where I stayed for 2 years. In this time I was able to qualify as a Brailist, and work alongside a visually impaired student.

I left St. Joseph's for 2 years, and now I am back and I could not be happier. It is such a joy to work with so many dedicated members of staff, who have made me feel very welcome and part of the wonderful community here at St. Joseph's. It really is a pleasure and I cannot wait to see where my journey takes me.

Empowerment Poems

Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been entered into a National Poetry Competition where they have composed poems based on the theme of Empowerment. The poems range from writing about who inspires them to imagining that there are the Prime Minister for a day. The English Department have been impressed by the pupils' inspiring and creative poetry. Good luck to all those entered!

Mrs K Hatfield, English Teacher

Sporting Success

It has been brilliant to see pupils participating in lunchtime and afterschool clubs again, with huge attendance to our badminton, football and netball clubs. Keep your eyes peeled for new activities after half term. Also after half term the under 14s boys football will have the next round of the Welsh Cup after overcoming Mold Alun in a thrilling encounter that finished 5-5 in normal time with St Joseph's winning 5-4 on penalties.

The under 15 girls will also have their Welsh Cup fixture against The Elfed School to play. Other dates for the diary will be the Ann Smart Netball tournament on 10th November and the Wrexham County Cross Country Championships on 18th November.

Mr K McComb

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 1st November
School opens to pupils

1- 12th November
Years 7 & 10

First Assessment Weeks

Wednesday, 10th November
Year 9 Reports distributed

Thursday, 11th November
Year 7 Maths Day
Year 8 Subject Day
Year 9 English Day
Years 10 and 11 SCC Day

Friday, 12th November
Year 11 Reports distributed

Monday, 15th November
Year 9 Information Evening
(4.30pm)

Thursday, 18th November
Year 8 Reports distributed

Thursday, 25th November
Year 7 Reports distributed

Friday, 26th November
Staff Development Day
(School closed to pupils)

Monday, 29th November
Year 8 Parents/Carers Evening
(3.45pm-6.30pm)

Friday, 10th December
Year 10 Fundraising Day
(Non-uniform day)

Friday, 17th December
Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday, 21st December
School closes to pupils

Wednesday, 22nd December
Staff Development Day
(School closed to pupils)

Thursday 6th January
Staff Development Day
(School closed to pupils)

Friday, 7th January
School opens to pupils

Monday, 10th January
Year 10 Parents/Carers Evening
(3.45-6.30pm)

Wednesday, 12th January
Year 7 English Day
Year 8 Maths Day
Year 9 MFL Day
Year 10 Wellbeing Day
Year 11 Mock Results

Thursday, 13th January
Year 7 Crucial Crew
Year 8 Science Day
Year 9 Wellbeing Day
Year 10 SCC Day
Year 11 Mock Interviews
and SCC GCSE Project

Monday, 17th January
Year 11 Parents Evening (3.45pm)

Wednesday 19th January
School Photographs
(Years 9, 10 and 11)

Monday, 24th January
Year 11 History/Drama Trip
(Hitler on Trial)

Wednesday, 26th January
Year 10 Skills Certificate
Challenge

Friday, 28th January
Year 10 Art Residential

Monday, 31st January
Year 9 Parents/Carers Evening
(3.45pm-6.30pm)

Year 11 Art Residential
To be advised



Contact Details

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

Telephone

01978 360310

Email

mailbox@
st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk

Website

stjosephs.wales

