



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 3 FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2022

Reflection by Our Chaplains

This half term has flown by! The themes for prayer the last few weeks have been Peace, Christian Unity, Remembering the Holocaust, Justice, Compassion, and Love.

During the week of Christian Unity, we opened



the chapel during lunchtime for pupils to come and light a candle in prayer for Christians in the Middle East.

This reminded us of the danger many Christians face because of their faith and caused us to reflect with gratitude on the privilege of living in a country where we can worship Christ freely.

The pupils have been through a lot these past few years, so the chaplains wanted to remind them that they are loved.

For Valentine's Day each pupil was given a Valentine from the chaplains by their form teacher. The cards reference Bible verses that demonstrate God's unconditional and unchanging love for all of God's children.

At the end of the day on Valentine's Day, we were blessed with a double rainbow as we left school, another reminder of God's love for us.



St Joseph's former chaplain, Mary Stallard, has recently been chosen as the Assistant Bishop of Bangor, whilst remaining Archdeacon of Bangor.

Her appointment was confirmed at a meeting of all the Church in Wales Bishops and took place after Compline in St Giles' Church on Monday, 7th February.

Lord, you led us out of darkness to hope in Jesus.

Unite us in our commitment to establish your reign of love, justice and peace, bringing light to those living in the darkness of despair and disillusionment.

Shine your light upon us and surround us with the warmth of your love.

Lift us up to you, so that our lives may glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

School Getaways...

Soli House

Last week 41 pupils from across Year 10 attended Soli House Retreat. Soli House has, in the past, been a favourite experience of many pupils and this year pupils enjoyed a chance to develop their faith and also their friendship.

Mrs M Davies, Head of Year 10

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

"Last week, many of my peers and I were lucky enough to visit Soli House Retreat.

Soli was a life changing experience for me, not only because I deepened my relationships with others, but I also deepened my relationship with God.

At Soli, we took part in activities such as mountain biking, archery, trekking, a low ropes course and a blind folded trail. All of these activities improved our teamwork skills and were great fun to participate in.

As well as taking part in many activities, we also had sessions in small groups. In one of these sessions, we learnt about refugees and their journey, which made us think about how we can help refugees.

We also had many other sessions including a session where we were given the subject of 'Who is God?' and we thought and discussed in a

group about how we can get to know God and ways in which we can connect to God. All of these sessions were completed in a way so that we thought and learnt about these topics, but they were also very enjoyable.

In our first small group session, we had to write about what we are hoping to achieve during our time at Soli. I wrote that 'I would like to get a better relationship with my peers and God' and I can say that after my time there, I have definitely achieved this.

Many people who went to Soli, including me, feel like they now have a closer and stronger connection with God. As well as learning about my faith, I feel I have learnt and discovered a lot about myself.

The Soli team and the teachers who came with us were all very enthusiastic and made Soli a memorable experience, one which I will never forget, thank you so much!"

Lottie Conway, 10 Romero

World of Discovery

For one of our first educational visits since the coronavirus pandemic hit, in early January it was great to be able to take almost the whole of Year 8 for a science curriculum enrichment day at the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum in Widnes. As well as having time to explore the many 'hands on' experiments at the centre, the children took part in a workshop about 'Fantastic Plastics' and another entitled 'Explore Your

Universe'. It was a pleasure to see Year 8 having so much fun and being so inspired by science.

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

"On our trip to the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre, I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of exploring the museum. I discovered things that I never knew before for example I didn't know the EXTREMELY LARGE telescope was being built until we got taught about it. I also loved making keyrings out of plastic pellets, but my favourite part was the interactive room where I loved to play in."

Ella Underhill, 8 King



"The trip to the catalyst museum was great. It was fun there because it had lots of interesting stuff to do. I loved the gallery because it was very interactive."

Elisha Kumar, 8 Romero

"The school science trip to catalyst museum was really fun and enjoyable for all sorts of audiences. The interactive gallery was good for people who like to see practical science in action and the lectures were really interesting because they told lots of interesting facts about many different subjects."

Kieran O'Connor, 8 Romero

Art Attack...

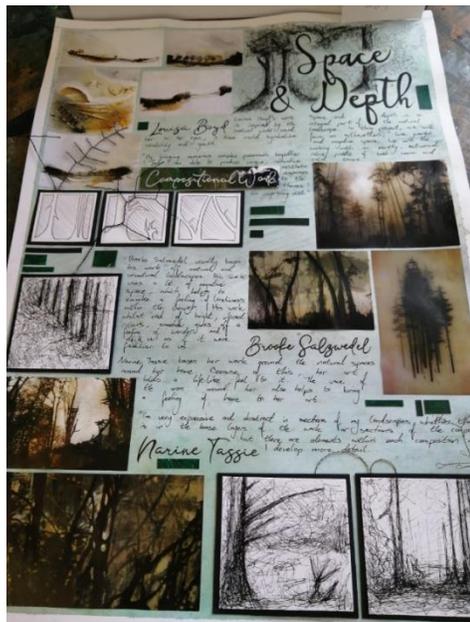
On 28 January and 12 February, Years 10 and 11 pupils spent a long weekend on an Art Residential in Menai, working alongside art professionals learning new techniques.

All students 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, textiles and printmaking based on the same theme of Depth and Space.

Huge thanks to Mr Farrell, Miss Bird and Mrs Roberts who came to join the fun.



St Joseph's pupils are an absolute credit with beautiful behaviour commented on by the artists themselves... I am immensely proud of you all.

Mrs Taylor, Head of Art

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

"I thought the trip was good and taught us new techniques we haven't used and we got the opportunity to get taught by a different artist."



"Going to Conway was a great experience. It gave us an opportunity to work with artists to create beautiful pieces of art. I would recommend going as it was a great experience."

"I enjoyed my art trip very much. Learning new skills really helped me improve my projects in my coursework. My teacher James was the best teacher I could've asked for."

*Evie Price,
11 Cassidy*



"The Conway trip was very educational and interesting. The artists were very welcoming and encouraged me to try new and unique techniques on my pieces. I was so lucky to have the opportunity and am really proud of the artwork I produced."

*Leon Taylor,
11 Romero*



Wythnos Gymreictod 2022 Welshness Week 2022

We are celebrating Welshness week at St. Joseph's during the week of 28th February – 4th March to celebrate the Welsh culture and practice using our Welsh skills throughout the week.



Due to Covid-19 we will be celebrating slightly different this year. Although we will not be holding the school Eisteddfod in its usual format, there are a number of activities.

Years 7 and 8 are having a collapsed timetable day on **Thursday, 3rd March** based on Cwricwlwm Cymreig / links to Wales. Workshops will be running throughout the day with a number of teachers and guests delivering the sessions.

Also on Thursday, 3rd March pupils across all year groups are invited to wear **red**, **white** and **green** to support the day. Jeans and tracksuit bottoms can be worn instead of school trousers, and

clothing must be in line with the usual rules for non-uniform days.

Remember to use your Welsh throughout the week and receive golden reward slips.... we will be holding a special prize draw for Tocynnau Gwobr Aur at the end of the week for rewards earned during Welshness week..... so **Think Welsh, Speak Welsh, Creu Cymuned Gymraeg!**

Marie Curie Daffodils will also be available to purchase.

Mwynhewch! Enjoy!

*Mrs H Atkinson,
Head of Welsh*

Welsh for the Month

March

Mawrth Dydd

Gŵyl Dewi

St. David's Day

Ga i helpu chi?

Can I help you?

Cewch

Yes you can

Dim diolch

No thank you

Grêt - Great

Da - Good

Da iawn – Very good

Da iawn ti! – Well done you!

Gwych - Splendid

Ardderchog - Excellent

Gwaith ardderchog -

Excellent work

iawn - Fine

Bendigedig - Splendid

Disglair iawn! – Exceptional!

Dyna seren! – There's a star!

Anhygoel – Outstanding

Taclus iawn - Very tidy

Gwaith da - Good work

Eitha da - Quite good

Dal ati – Keep on / Keep it up

Ateb da – Good answer

Ffantastig – Fantastic

Ymdrech dda – Good effort

Forget the timetable...

On Wednesday, 12th and Thursday, 13th January the timetable was collapsed across the year groups.

Here is a flavour of what the days entailed.

It's crucial!

On Thursday, 13th January the Crucial Crew made their annual visit to give Year 7 vital information about how to stay safe, and how to contribute to their local community. Thank you to all the following agencies who delivered excellent sessions:

Fire Service
Young Carers
British Transport Police
Dog's Trust
Women's Aid
Food Standards Agency

*Mrs L Roberts-Thompson,
Head of Year 7*

Make your life add up...

The Maths Challenge day was truly spectacular with rich and varied activities to try. Pupils worked on a carousel of tasks throughout the day. These included the chance to try coding using Ipads to control Sphero balls, maths puzzles and even an escape room task. All the pupils

enjoyed the tasks and could enjoy maths in a different context. A big thanks to all the pupils and staff for making the day really special.

Mr N Donlon, Head of Maths

Hakuna Matata

Year 9 pupils enjoyed looking at the importance of modern languages in the global world.

Each form had 5 different sessions during the day including a virtual visit from 'Lisa M', an agent at GCHQ! Pupils were introduced to the work that goes on at GCHQ and then they had to decipher an intercepted text from suspected terrorists. Once done, they had to translate the deciphered message from French or German into English to help stop a potential terrorist attack.

Another session included an Options talk on how important languages are in the world and how they can help people get into further education. There was also a session with Tim Penn, a local jockey turned businessman whose business involves him selling equestrian equipment around the globe and taster sessions of both Chinese and Swahili, taught by current students studying French and Chinese at Bangor University.

Overall, pupils enjoyed the day, with many now more open to the possibility of continuing a language at GCSE and beyond.

Mrs R Large, Head of MFL

Year 11 Mock Interview Day

The feedback from our guest interviewers on the day was excellent, as always! Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Arnall and the team of Welsh BaccaLaureate teachers along with myself are extremely proud of the way Year 11 conducted themselves on the day. I know that Year 11 gained valuable interview experience which will help them in the future.

Mr M Timbrell, Head of Year 11

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

"For me and many other of my peers, mock interviews was an incredible experience; allowing us to gain some knowledge and skills that will be vital to use in the future. This has enabled me to feel confident when under pressure and in situations with unknown outcomes as well as more comfortable speaking with potential employers. Overall, it was a worthwhile opportunity which I thoroughly enjoyed."

Melisha Gunasekera, 11 Kolbe

"Before the actual interview I was very nervous because I was talking to a stranger. However once I went into room I felt confident about it and everything ran smoothly."

Nicol Walczak, 11 Kolbe



World Book Day Get Involved!

We will celebrate World Book day in school on **Friday 4th March**. All pupils (and staff) are invited to dress up as part of the book-related fun and activities which will include a Costume Competition with prizes.

IMPORTANT NOTE

This is not a normal non-uniform day. Any pupils choosing not to wear a specific costume must wear full school uniform as normal.

Mrs G Samuels, Literacy Co-ordinator

PE Update

Netball

Congratulations to the following pupils on being selected to represent North East Wales in netball.:-

Under 14s

Harriett Roberts – 8 Romero
Lydia Griffiths – 9 Devereux
Phoebe Sydenham – 9 King
Zoja Biraga – 9 King

Under 16s

Hannah Humphries – 11 Romero
Olivia Brereton – 10 Devereux

It is a great achievement especially after such a tricky time with limited netball being played!

They will now go on to represent the North East as the School National Inter counties on 25th February.

Cross Country

Amazing performances at the Welsh National School Cross Country Finals last Saturday in awful conditions. Joseph Pridding who came 26th in the Boys Under 12 race, Ella Davis who came 11th in the Girls Under 14 race and Harvey Davis who came 13th in the Boys Under 16 race. Brilliant!

GCSE PE Moderation

Good luck to our fantastic Year 11 PE cohort, who have their practical moderation on Tuesday 1st March.

Clubs

We are delighted to announce that our extra-curricular timetable will be starting from Monday, 7th March. The timetable will be shared on pupil's Google classrooms, Twitter and the school website very soon!

Parent / Carer Contact details

It is important that contact details for your child are kept up-to-date so that the school can contact you in case of emergency. Please would you therefore ensure you notify school if you change address and / or telephone numbers. Thank you for your co-operation.

Mr C Wilkinson

Lateral Flow Tests

Lateral flow tests will be distributed to those pupils where parental consent has been received. The next distribution date will be week commencing 28th February.

Pupils should revert to testing twice per week from Monday, 28th February. Normally, this would be on a Sunday evening and on Wednesday morning. Many thanks, for your continued support regarding LFTs and thank you for making swift contact with us when a child tests positive.

Mr C Wilkinson

Extra- curricular

We are pleased to be restarting our extra-curricular programme from Monday 28th February.

This means that lunchtime and after-school clubs and activities will start to be offered again. Staff are already gauging uptake and are alerting pupils to the initial offer.

Once the full timetable is 'firmed up' we will publish in full however we can confirm there will be a maths club for Year 8 pupils which will run for the first 25 minutes of lunch time on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Maths 5.

Amazing Castles

Year 7 have been making some absolutely amazing castles for History. They also made brilliant presentations about castles.

Mrs Y Williams, Head of History



Dragon's Den

On Wednesday 26th January, Year 10 presented their Christmas fair fundraising ideas to a number of business people from around the Wrexham area as part of their Enterprise Challenge.

Although very nervous they arrived smartly dressed and prepared to perform a 10-minute pitch to the 'Dragons' before answering questions about their idea.

Year 10 did not fail to impress, the feedback I received from the Dragons was incredible, Year 10 should be very proud of what they achieved.

Da lawn Pawb!

*Mrs A Devine,
Welsh Bacc Co-ordinator*

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

I really enjoyed Dragons Den because we can use this when we are older. It helped me improve my communication skills and to be more confident in presenting to others.

Lily Davies 10Ro

I enjoyed pitch day because it improved my communication skills and confidence, however beforehand I was quite nervous.

Ethan Bartley 10Ca



I enjoyed the Dragons Den pitch as it gave us all an insight into public speaking and improved our communication and teamwork skills.

Lottie Conway 10Ro

Smart Watches and Fitbits

Smart watches should not be brought into school. Examination regulations ban the wearing of smart watches on the grounds of potential malpractice and cheating. However, there are other implications of smart devices which are of concern: distraction, loss/theft, and safeguarding issues. These devices fall outside our insurance

policy. Fitbits are allowed in school as long as they only display the time and count steps. Thank you.

Mr Wilkinson

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones and other electronic devices such as iPods, iPads and cameras are not allowed in school.

In exceptional circumstances, if pupils need to bring a mobile phone into school then parents/carers must write to me asking permission beforehand and stating the reason for the request.

If the request is granted, a contract will be signed to ensure that strict guidelines are adhered to e.g. the mobile phone must be kept in a transparent pencil case with the pupil's name clearly marked on it and the phone must be handed to **pupil reception** immediately upon arrival and collected at the end of the day.

For those pupils with agreements in place, there are an increasing number of phones that are brought for safe-keeping in unsuitable cases and inadequately labelled. Therefore if phones are not presented in a transparent pencil case, clearly marked with pupil's details, the agreement will be withdrawn. Clear plastic pencil cases are available to purchase from pupil reception for 50p.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

Mr C Wilkinson

Contacting the school

Contact with staff can be arranged via the school at

mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk

or through a request made at the school office.

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

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

Mr Wilkinson

Follow us

Please follow us on twitter - we currently have 1000 followers, let's increase this over half term!



@SJ_WXM

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

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 28th February
School opens to pupils

Monday 28th – Friday 4th March
Welshness Week

Thursday, 3rd March
Years 7 and 8 Welshness
Year 9 ICT Day
Year 10 Skills Community Challenge
Year 11 – Normal lessons

Monday 28th – Friday 11th March
Year 11 Second Assessment Wk

Friday 11th March
Year 9 Fundraising Day
[Non-uniform Day -£1 donation]

Monday, 21st March
Tempest Photography Yrs 9-11

Tuesday, 22nd March
Year 10 'Science Live' Trip

Wednesday, 30th March
Year 11 Drama Examination

Tuesday, 5th April
Year 9 Retreat Day

4th April – 6th April
Year 11 Welsh Speaking Exams

Friday, 8th April
School closes for Easter

Monday, 25th April
Staff Development Day

Tuesday, 26th April
School opens to pupils

27th-28th April
Year 11 MFL Speaking Exams



Contact Details

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