



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd
Gatholig ac
Anglicanaidd
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 4 FRIDAY 8TH APRIL 2022

Reflection by Our Chaplains

This half term has been chock-full of activities; on the first week back, we marked St. David's Day, Ash Wednesday, and World Book Day. We had prayers that week reflecting each of these themes. On Ash Wednesday, the chaplains opened the chapel at lunchtime in order to distribute ashes to those who wished to receive them, both pupils and staff. We were impressed with the turnout and the reverence shown while waiting to receive the ashes.

The second week's theme was Lent: Almsgiving. Normally, the staff receive a small gift from the chaplains relating to the theme (this could be sweets, bookmarks, candles, prayer stones, etc.) following Friday morning staff prayer. However, because the theme was almsgiving, we instead asked the staff to donate spare

change or any amount of their choice to give to an organisation aiding refugees from Ukraine. The staff (and a few pupils) managed to raise £200 for UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)! We'd like to thank everyone for their generosity and giving spirit.

The third week the theme was Lent: Prayer. The chapel was open four days that week, and we were happy to be reunited with our regular pupils once again. In our Justice & Peace offering, the pupils wrote beautiful prayers for the people of Ukraine. Although we ended up having to close the chapel again that Friday due to rising Covid cases, we enjoyed our brief stint and are eagerly awaiting our return sometime after the Easter Holidays.

In our final week before the Easter Holidays, we prepared for Holy Week (next week) in our daily form worship as well as in the Lenten Assembly. The theme for this year's assembly (on iMovie) was meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross, and it was a whole school effort. Many thanks to the students and members of staff who read the meditations and Mrs Taylor's years 7-9 pupils who brought these holy words to life in their illustrations.



We pray that you have a safe and blessed Holy Week and a joyous Easter.
The Chaplains

Teddy Fest

On Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th of April, we are holding a Teddy Fest for our Year 8 Charities. It will be held in the Social Court at lunchtime. Prices will range from 50p up to £5 – so bring plenty of cash! All money raised from the Teddy Fest will be donated to the following charities: CAFOD and Christian Aid.

Ruby White, Zac & Ruben Wheeler

School Council

Now that the school council are able to meet again as a group they have been very active during this term. They have had meetings with Mr Wilkinson to ask for consideration for the ideas and suggestions made by pupils they represent. The most immediate ideas and plans they are working on currently is to create a memorial for Kirsten, our beautiful Year 10 pupil who tragically died last year. As they make progress we will let everyone know what is planned. The school council have also started to make short video recordings about what is discussed and decided each meeting and these are played during registration form time to keep everyone informed of the Council's work and to encourage others to make suggestions and contribute to ideas and plans. They are a wonderful group of young people who are keen to contribute to school life; it is a pleasure to work with them.

We would like all pupils, over the Easter holidays if possible, to respond to the questions posed by

Y Fanc (the Senedd youth group) in a follow-up survey about "Mental Health and Well-being". The questions will be posted on the IT Google Classroom, and the results will be sent to the Senedd.

Ms Woodward

Year 11 Revision Workshop

As GCSE Exams are fast approaching, we had a very useful workshop session on how to effectively revise. Here are the top tips we learnt from this session:

1. **No-one can multitask when revising!** It is a common misconception that we can listen to music and/or on our phones whilst revising. However it is confirmed by scientific research that we can't! Instead, we should put our full concentration on the task in hand – revise. So, get rid of distractions.
2. **Organisation is key!** During this session, we were given an image of a fully charged battery. The idea is to do the hardest piece of work first, whilst you have a full battery, instead of completing it with on '20% of battery'. Also a routine with fixed times is really important. For example, waking up and going to bed at the same time ensuring that teenagers get a minimum of 9 hours of sleep. You can't catch up on sleep – so lots of lie-ins will not help!

This is so important as it will help you reach 100% charged battery for the next day.

3. **Test yourself.** After you have revised a topic, do a mini test or quiz to make sure you have really understood the information and embed it into your memory.
4. **Revision Techniques.** Summary.
 1. Don't revise with music or any other distractions. Put your whole concentration into what you're revising.
 2. Do the hard tasks first in the morning and reward yourself later on in the day – going for a walk, exercise, TV, etc.
 3. Test yourself with mini quizzes.
 4. Remember 'a weak note is better than a strong memory'.
 5. Get at least 9 hours of sleep – you need it to recharge your brain. This is probably the most important tip. There are lots of different ways to revise, but the worst method is to just read over your notes – DON'T DO THIS!! Instead, make notes, revision cards, do some past papers, look at YouTube video/Bitesize for difficult topics.

Message for Art pupils:

Those who missed the workshop, the 2 sessions have been uploaded to the SCC Google Classroom.

Wythnos Gymreictod 2022 Welshness Week 2022

We celebrated Welshness week at St. Joseph's during the week of February 28th.

As part of the celebrations, Years 7 and 8 participated in a carousel of activities. Pupils enjoyed participating in workshops which were arranged and led by teachers at St. Joseph's, the Welsh Ambassadors and guest speakers. These workshops covered topics linking to Wales, such as; designing and making love spoons, baking Welsh cakes, learning the 'Sosban Fach' song, creating a group dance to 'Hey Mr Urdd!', learning about and creating artwork on Welsh landscapes, learning about the Urdd and doing Welsh activities with the Welsh Ambassadors, taking part in a musical workshop, taking part in a drama workshop based on Welsh tales and legends and taking part in a Welsh marital arts workshop. Pupils enjoyed the day and I am very grateful to staff for their hard work, for supporting the celebrations and for enabling the day to be such a success.

During Welshness Week pupils also learnt about St. David in morning worship, they studied Welsh topics in their normal lessons and took part in offstage Eisteddfod competitions. Each

form group also took part in a quiz competition on Welsh topics and teachers received training in the Welsh language. The feedback from the activities has been very positive and I'm glad that the week was enjoyed by all.

Diolch i bawb am gymryd rhan!
Thank you to everyone for taking part!
Mrs Atkinson

Llongyfarchiadau i Romero am ennill!

Congratulations to Romero for winning!

1st / 1^{af}

Romero – 130 points

2nd / 2^{il}

King – 122 points

3rd / 3^{ydd}

Cassidy – 119 points

4th / 4^{ydd}

Kolbe – 118 points

5th / 5^{ed}

Devereux – 114 points



Welshness Week Quiz As part of Welshness Week all forms were asked to take part in a general knowledge quiz about Wales. The

response was ardderchog and pupils demonstrated how much they knew about the country, its history, culture and current affairs. There were some very high scores and there was a tie for the top spot - 7 Cassidy and 11 Kolbe both scored an impressive 21 out of 22. Da iawn a llongyfarchiadau i chi gyd.
Mrs Jones

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

I had an incredible time leading and teaching a lesson to the Year 7's for Welshness Day. It was an incredible opportunity that allowed us to promote Welsh within our school community and have fun in helping the bilingualism within the younger years to thrive.
Grace Roberts

I had a lovely time teaching the Year 7's some new Welsh phrases and having lots of fun doing different activities during our Welshness Week lesson. We also created new logos for the Urdd's 100th Anniversary. Happy Birthday Urdd!
Tom McGrady

The teaching experience was a lot of fun and the children engaged well. My favourite job was interacting with the Year 7's and they understood/took part in the tasks given.
Victoria Szymala

I've been a Welsh Ambassador for a few years now and I'm always happy to help out with the school when it comes to advocating

Welsh Bilingualism. The Year 7's took part in a variety of activities such as designing an Urdd poster for the Urdd's 100th Anniversary and participating in a quiz all about Wales and the World!

Daphne Panglinan

I was glad to help out once again with the Welshness Week activities as always, the experience of teaching younger children and promoting Bilingualism was amazing and the Year 7's had participated very well. They engaged with all the tasks, but especially with the quiz where selected individuals had to say out loud

"Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychw yndrobwlilllantsilogogoch!"

Vilas Lavan

When teaching the Year 7's Welsh for the day, I had a really enjoyable time but ultimately found it incredibly rewarding. Not only did we get to teach them new phrases but we also got to know them all as individuals. This activity has just further encouraged me to help out the department as a Welsh Ambassadors.

Lottie Fisher-Lacey

Year 10 Brilliant Club

Recently a group of Year 10 pupils were involved in a workshop (3 one hour sessions after school) looking at the sustainable management of rainforests.

Mrs Arnall

We have really enjoyed taking part in the workshop as it has

given us the opportunity to learn about the topic of rainforests in more detail and gain an expert insight on the matter. We had to do some research and write a 1500 word essay which will be marked by a university lecturer. The 'Brilliant Club' also offered a unique look into university life, in which we were able to gain new skills. We are looking forward to being able to use this experience in our future endeavors.

Emma Frankel & Katie Edwards

Cookery Club

With all the stress from the upcoming exams coupled with the fact that we didn't have the opportunity to cook altogether during the Covid period we thought that a little communal cooking would be fun and beneficial to our mental health. Last week, we had our first meeting and cooked up a storm! It was really refreshing to see the variation in cuisines.

Melisha Gunasekera & Aaron Diaz

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day 2022, pupils and staff enjoyed a day of dressing up, reading, talking about books, prayer focused on religious texts and fun book-related activities. Loads of amazing costumes were on show: Gangsta Granny, the Queen of Hearts, Harry Potter, Matilda, Sherlock Holmes, Macbeth and a wide range of more obscure,

lesser-known characters too. As reading and literacy across the curriculum is a whole-school priority, all subjects did something special with Key Stage 3 classes. At lunch time, pupils competed in the 'best costume' competition (won by 'Peter Rabbit' in Year 8!) and in a search around the school for lots of well-hidden 'Where's Wally?' images.

Mrs Samuels

I dressed up as Itachi-Uchiha from the Japanese manga book 'Naruto.' I've helped my form teacher Mrs Sparks to run the Where's Wally competition today.

Francisco Rodrigues

I came dressed up as the Queen of Hearts. In my Welsh lesson today we enjoyed reading and talking about a Welsh story.

Roa Elmagarbi

It's great to see teachers dressed up for World Book Day! I was Mary Poppins!

Megan Harris

I enjoyed taking part in a special day by dressing up as Matilda's father from the Roald Dahl book.

Micah Hampton

My costume for World Book Day was the character of Taliesin the Celt from the Mabinogion.

Cian Roberts

ICT Day

On Thursday 3rd March Year 9 participated in our first ICT day. The activities included coding with Sphero's and Microbits, creating an animation using Adobe Animate and creating a Green Screen Movie within Apple

iMovie. Big thank you to all the staff who helped on the day and the year 9's who all created amazing projects on the day.

Mr Trueman

Animation

The best, I loved animating and using adobe, it was very familiar and it worked as a mash up of a light motion and flipaclip.

Memoona Bhatti

Coding with Spheros

This was very fun as I learnt something new, like drawing the fish design and seeing it follow the main Sphero using code! It was also just fun to drive them around in general, very enjoyable.

Julia Koza



Coding with Microbits

This was really interesting as I have never used it before and there was a lot of variety with it. It was also fun to communicate with other Microbits.

Krish Laven

Green Screens

It was funny and I always wanted to do something with a green screen. I finally got to do it and it was rewarding.

Jeslyne Simiyon

Duke of Edinburgh

After a couple of years of being unable to run the DofE expeditions, due to the pandemic we are finally able to get back to nature.

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are taking place in May and July, and will see the participants learning map reading, route planning and camp-craft skills during the weekends.

Pupils have been working hard to complete the Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections of the award and the expedition will be the final part to their Bronze award.

The expeditions will provide some amazing memories for those taking part, and no doubt some sore feet!

Mr Lambert

Science Live!

The day gave pupils the opportunity to see Britain's top inspirational Scientists, including Professor Robert Winston and Professor Jim Al-Khalili. The day was fast-moving, exciting, thought-provoking and allowed the pupils to raise issues with the Scientists during question and answer sessions. Pupils displayed great enthusiasm throughout the day and hopefully it has inspired our pupils to consider science as a career. Diolch Blwyddyn 10 for a fantastic day!

Mrs Earring

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

The trip was very informative, I especially enjoyed Professor Winston's talk. *Georgia Ellams*

I really enjoyed the trip, I found most of the performances really interesting. I was genuinely intrigued and felt like I left with being educated. My favourite was Professor Al-Khalili, I don't normally enjoy Physics but what he told me blew my mind and I understood. I would definitely go again, it was a fantastic experience to meet so many Scientists, like Professor Winston, who has changed so many people's lives. *Ellie Koscińska*

Year 9 Retreat Day

On Tuesday 5th April, all Year 9 pupils took part in a Retreat Day held by the RE department and run as a workshop by Steve Murray, a mime artist from "Behold Ministry". Steve has been a regular visitor to the school, working with our Year 9 children for many years. He uses mime to draw the pupils into scripture and help them to further understand how scripture can be lived in our everyday lives, how the Word of God has meaning for everyone. The Year 9 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and truly appreciated Steve's unusual and unique approach to teaching scripture. *Mrs Woodward*

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

It was very inspirational and interesting as well as fun. We all had an amazing day and will never forget it. Steve Murray is so good at what he does. The day was a great way to have a break from our busy school days and to unwind.

Eleri Spinks

Steve Murray is a Mime artist who has been in this week to talk to us about things and it got very deep and he did a couple of mimes about God and Jesus. He also talks about his own life, like how he grew up. We talked about bullying and self-harm about the bible.

Kai Richards

When I first met Steve he said he might make us cry; I didn't believe him but each of his mimes had an important and sad story. During the mime about the violin, it made me cry because it had such a sad story behind it. Steve helped make me feel good about myself and I'm sure he made others feel the same way. Steve kept us all entertained and was just amazing.

Emma Ford

Steve Murray had some very interesting stories, he found out what type of audience he had and managed to keep us entertained for a long period of time and his mimes were great. All his mimes either hit hard or were funny – just overall fantastic!

John Almeida

Tuesday was an amazing experience and it was cool to see Steve do mime. It was very inspirational and I was very happy I was able to witness his plays. His stories were heart touching. It was

interesting to watch how his mime told a story and it was really engaging.

Leo Binoy and Lois Acton

Community Chat - April and May 2022

Why not join us for Coffee and Chat on Tuesdays at 10am to 11am or 6.30pm to 7.30pm. This is an opportunity to take a break and relax as we get together to discuss a topic with a guest speaker every week. Have a look below for the themes of our next few meetings. If you are interested, then message us for a Zoom link. Text or ring Lynne 07772941347. Alternatively email fis@wrexham.gov.uk or message us on Facebook.

Integrated Autism Service – Tuesday 26 April – 10am to 11am

Nathan Smallwood will introduce the IAS which is available in Wales to carry out adult autism assessments and other support and advice for autistic adults, parents/carers, and professionals.

Disability and Respite Panel – Tuesday 3rd May 6.30pm – 7.30pm

The panel oversee grants which are available for short term respite for children and parents with additional needs including the extra hands grants.

Childcare – Tuesday 15th May 10.00am to 11.00am

Annette Davies and Ffion Hughes from the Childcare Team will tell us more about the work they do to promote inclusion in childcare and grants they have available including the Flying Start and Supported childcare referral and placement grants.

Groundwork - Tuesday 17th May 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Sandra Neve will join us and tell us about saving money on making energy savings in your home and reducing your fuel bills.

Occupational Therapy - Tuesday 24th May 10.00am to 11.00am

Lisa Robertson will explain how OT can help with adaptations and equipment for the home to keep your child safe and promote development and physical well being.

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.

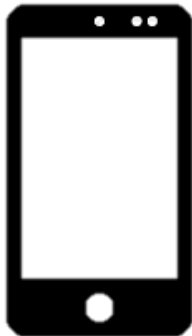
In exceptional circumstances, if pupils need to bring a mobile phone into school then parents/carers must write to me asking permission beforehand and stating the reason for the request.

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. **Please do not use Google Classroom to try and contact members of staff, this platform is for Pupil learning only.**

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



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