



# St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig ac Anglicanaidd  
Sant Joseff

ISSUE 1 FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

## Beginning of a new term

### Service of Welcome



We officially welcomed the Year 7s to St. Joseph's with the Service of Welcome on 9th October. One of our most meaningful traditions is where we anoint the students' hands, to symbolise their becoming part of our school community. In Scripture, kings, prophets, and priests are anointed, set apart for a special purpose. We anoint pupils twice in their time at St. Joseph's: once in Year 7, at the beginning of their journey with us, and again in Year

11 as they prepare to leave and go out into the world. As they were anointed, each child was given a blessing and an angel card. The theme of the service was Angels; we urged pupils to learn from angels and, like them, protect and guide others, be representatives of God's love to the world, and make time to praise God in gratitude for God's constant presence in our lives. Thank you to all who helped lead and all who attended the service.

### Whole School Worship

On Friday, 20 October we celebrated our whole school Anglican Eucharist. The theme was **"For I Know the Plans I Have For You"** from the prophet Jeremiah 29:11.



Many thanks to all who participated in the service: singing, playing instruments, reading, drama, acolyting, and serving Holy Communion. We also thank our guests for joining in the special occasion. It was a wonderful time to gather as a community to worship God and give thanks for a new school year.

*The Chaplains*



Da iawn to all the pupils who took part in the beautiful Eucharistic service this half term, the readers, the pupils acting out the drama presentations, the musicians, the members of the choir, our very own conductor and of course everyone who participated and sung your hearts out. It was such a lovely occasion to share with you all and one I hope you will remember.

*Mrs Greenhalgh and Mrs James*

### Here's what Nicole had to say...

"Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October our whole school community came together to celebrate our Anglican Eucharist led by Reverend Lara. The theme that ran through our Eucharist was "I know the plans I have for you". I found this to be a comforting reminder that God is always by our side and has a plan for each of our futures. It is important that we remember this especially as we have started a new school year and have to face change and readjustment. I felt that the year 11s were particularly touched by this message as we are working hard to complete our final year in St Joseph's and we are getting ready to move on next year. The time is slipping away from us! We had a truly beautiful service filled with pupil participation and incredible musical talent. Lots of preparation and practice allowed us to come together in prayer, a perfect end to our first half term of this year!"

*Nicole Corcoran*

## Lunchtime in the Chapel

### **Monday**

Taizé Prayer

### **Tuesday**

Check-in with the Chaplains

### **Wednesday**

Fiction & Flicks

### **Thursday**

Check-in with the Chaplains

### **Friday**

Noonday Prayer

## School Council

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, representatives from the School Council attended a School Council Network, run by the Youth Parliament liaison team from Wrexham Borough Council and held at Bryn Alyn High School. The pupils met with council members from other schools and they discussed ideas and procedures and further developed their skills of leadership and communication. It was wonderful to see our pupils leading, participating and planning for school council work they intend to pursue at school. They were full of enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed their visit, it was a real pleasure to accompany them.

*Michelle Woodward*

*(Chaplain & School Council facilitator)*

## TCC

This half term TCC (Together Creating Communities) met with Councillor Phil Wynn, lead for education, to discuss our **No Hungry Learners** campaign to eliminate school dinner debt in Wrexham. At the request of the Children's Commissioner of Wales, students recorded a promotional video that will be shown to Welsh government officials as part of the child poverty strategy for Wales.



Over the half term break, members will take part in an intensive residential training and on the 10<sup>th</sup> November they will participate in a workshop at Tŷ Pawb.

If you have any questions or would like to join TCC, please speak with Rev. Lara.

## Meet our Pupil Leaders

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

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### Nicole Corcoran

Hi! My name is Nicole Corcoran and I'm in 11 Devereux. In my free time I love to read and spend time with my family. So far as Head Girl I have contributed to our whole school Anglican Eucharist and been selected as a form buddy for my year 7 form: 7 Devereux! I feel privileged to have this opportunity and I'm excited to see the challenges and joys we face together this year!

### Krish Lavan

Hi! I'm Krish Lavan. I'm in 11 Kolbe and I love programming solutions to problems. As Head Boy, so far I have begun a buddy system for years 7 and 8 pupils and I have been involved in the Eucharist. I am extremely honoured to be in this position and to be able to execute my ideas to improve school life for all pupils.

### Dylan Blackwell

Hello, my name is Dylan Blackwell. I am in 11 Kolbe. I am very grateful, happy and excited to contribute to the school community. The hobbies that I have are football, working on cars, solving problems and CAD. I have been involved in the school Eucharist this half term.

### Samantha Scott

My name is Samantha Scott. I am in 11 Cassidy. One of my hobbies is Girl Guiding. So far as Head Girl I have made Gospel Value reward slips and read in the whole school Anglican Eucharist. I am really grateful to be given this opportunity and I am looking forward to the many more contributions I can make in the St Joseph's school community.

# School Getaways...

## Year 7 Cardiff Trip

In September, we took 114 pupils to Cardiff for our first Transition Cynefin Visit and what a fantastic few days we had together. I'd like to thank all Year 7 pupils who came to Cardiff and made our visit so amazing! They were absolutely delightful and threw themselves into all activities!



On our way to Cardiff, we made our way to St Fagan's Museum which is the largest our door museum in Europe. It was fascinating to learn about how our history has changed over the last few centuries.

During our time in Cardiff, we met our local Assembly Member and we had a visit around the Senedd and even debated in the chamber!



We brought our Geography lessons to life with our expedition to Cardiff Bay to look at how the barrage has transformed Cardiff docks.

We were lucky enough to secure an exclusive slot at the fabulous Cardiff International Swimming pool and have fun in the fun pool with the slides and water features.



A highlight of the visit was when we had the opportunity to meet Cardiff Blues rugby staff and were lucky enough to train at Cardiff Arms Park.



Whilst in Cardiff, no visit is complete without a tour of Cardiff castle and its grounds and we learnt about the castle's history – from the Roman period to its use as a tourist attraction.



So many memories were made and friendships built that will be cherished forever.

*Mrs Roberts-Thompson*

## Year 7 Retreat

On 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September our new intake had the opportunity to spend a day at Pantasaph Vincentian Divine Retreat Centre. 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.

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 Massey*

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

"When we went to Pantasaph we went to a big spacious room. We all sat in a big circle of chairs, we played fun games that involved cooperation. I really enjoyed when we had to create a scene of helping others. The theme for the day was 'Community'. After the games we practised and had a lovely community Mass. I learnt the true meaning of what a community is. Not just about being together and following one rule, but helping and loving each other. We are all a community, we are all different."

*Joakim, 7 King*

## Year 8 Chester Zoo

On 19<sup>th</sup> September all pupils in Year 8 enjoyed a brilliant trip to the Zoo. They attended a workshop delivered by the expert zoo educational team where they learnt about endangered animals, animal adaptations and

ecosystems. They were able to walk about in some of the animal enclosures and were lucky enough to see, very close up, Madagascan lemurs!

*Mrs Arnall*



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

*"Chester Zoo was a marvellous experience that opened my eyes to the beguiling wonders of nature. I most enjoyed seeing the penguins diving into the crystal waters, and the orangutans swinging, agile through the trees. I hope to visit again soon!"*

*Back at school we had to write about the pros and cons of zoos and come up with our own standpoint."*

*Wilfred, 8 Cassidy*

## Year 9 BING23 STEM

30 pupils in Year 9 recently visited AMRS in Hawarden for the BING23 STEM event. The pupils had the opportunity to walk around various exhibits, where they were encouraged to

participate and ask questions. The aim of the trip was to promote STEM as a career.

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

"On Thursday the 20th of October I participated in a STEM trip. We were there for half a day and the compound was filled with interesting things to do and to see. Firstly, we walked through a facility filled with robotic arms, some of them could assist a surgeon with a surgery or 3D print objects. Next, we walked into a tent where companies would talk about themselves and the benefits they have for us if we were interested in their projects. They were all interactive and I enjoyed every single one of them. My favourite part of the trip was when I used the VR headset to fix a machine. The trip has helped me to be more confident with what I am picking for my options and the general thing I want to do when I get a job."

*Hugo Bielich 9Cd*

"I really enjoyed it; It was informative, creative and truly fascinating. There were a variety of stalls, each explaining their company/university/organisation: what they do, what they offer for students/people looking to work, apprenticeships, and personally, what I think is most important as a student in year 9: necessary subjects. The stalls that I was engrossed by were the ones where the people running it actually had a conversation with me. They gave anecdotes and personal experiences about where

they work, as well as explaining reasons as to why they work where they do. They asked me questions about what I'm interested in, to cater better to me and also recommended different stalls. I preferred it much more to those who just explained what their gadgets were and what their organisation does. Because they didn't help me to understand myself any better. I attended the STEM trip to expand my horizon of career opportunities, and it definitely has. There were also a LOT of freebies available, which is always appreciated."

*Divya Manoj g Devereux*

## Year 9 Talacre

Since September, Year 9 have been investigating different marine environments. From our local sand dunes to far off coral reefs, pupils have been considering the different characteristics of these environments whilst learning a little about the creatures who inhabit them. On the 19th September the whole of year 9 ventured to Talacre to find out a little bit more about these coastal ecosystems. Pupils completed transect surveys across the sand dunes, found out a little about the salt marshes, undertook a strandline survey, litter picked and joined the land owner conservation officer to hear about the management of the sand dunes. And of course a trip to the seaside wouldn't be complete without an ice cream!

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

"We had a very good day at Talacre, we had a guided tour of the sand dunes, explaining the nature of the area and also a little about the history too. I enjoyed the litter pick it was fun, we then headed to the ice cream shop which was expensive but really nice."

*Aaron g Cassidy*

"I thought that the trip to the beach was a great experience, in particular the sand dune transects. We have since used the information on sand dunes to complete an assessment, so it has helped to see the sand dunes and be able to decide where some plants grow."

*Noah Barnes-Ward g Romero*

"I really liked the trip to Talacre, I enjoyed walking in the sand dunes and of course the ice cream shop, it was delicious."

*Bart Motylewicz g Romero*



## Nant BH

On Friday the 20th October, 29 Year 11 pupils headed out to the Nant BH outdoor centre for a GCSE maths revision trip. The trip

started with a night walk activity consisting of following map bearings around a path near to a lake and then back to the centre.

The next day we were off to the nearby lake where we had a session on Canadian Canoes. The course we went on was pre planned and followed a right angled triangle.



There was a short break on the opposite side, where pupils learnt how to light a fire with a flint and toasted marshmallows. When we got back to the centre, we could work out the angles that we turned through on the course and the distances travelled using Pythagoras and Trigonometry.



The other activities were high ropes, orienteering and to conclude the weekend a gorge walk. Each activity had a maths

problem to solve back at the classroom and there were many more topics studied throughout the weekend.



Excellent progress was made, with Maths topics covered at every opportunity including a special drop in Algebra session during some of the activities.

The group had a fantastic time and learnt many skills in both Maths and Outdoor Pursuits and was a fantastic way of revising Maths for their GCSE exam starting on Monday 13th November with Unit 1 and Wednesday 15th November is Unit 2.

*Mr Donlon*



## Geography Field Trip

Fieldwork is an essential aspect of Geography and it is a requirement for WJEC Geography that all pupils undertake fieldwork.

Yr 11 Geographers have completed two very busy fieldtrips for their NEA. One to the River Clywedog looking at cycles and flows and the second one looking at a survey of the new 20mph speed limit restrictions in Wales. This was very emotive as I am sure you will appreciate.

*Mrs Greenhalgh*

## Enfys: River Dipping

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, Enfys was fortunate enough to take part in two sessions with Groundworks. We went to the River Clywedog, where we conducted some investigations to look at how healthy the River is. We used a PH test kit to see how much acid is in the River, we tested how much Phosphate it contains, we conducted two River surveys in different parts of the River and we looked at what wildlife is in the River.

From our investigations, we decided that the River is relatively healthy and we had a great time trying to find out. We were able to get into the River to have a real good look with nets and identification cards to help us.

One of us even caught a small fish! Everything was left and put back exactly as we found it to keep the natural environment as it is. We did get quite wet, but we all really enjoyed it. Thank you very much to Groundworks!

*Miss Ledsham*



## Enfys: Myths and Legends

Thursday, Enfys went to visit King Arthur's Labyrinth and the Welsh Legends Maze. We had an absolutely brilliant day! The Labyrinth is in Corris, near Machynlleth, deep within the Welsh mountains. Our boatman led us through the caverns, where we were told stories of King Arthur and the dragons that protect the caves. At one point, we were over 300 meters below the ground, learning about the myths and legends that surround that area of Wales. It was an incredible experience to be inside

the caves. Enfys described it as 'interesting, medieval, magical, fun and awesome'.



After the Labyrinth, we entered the Welsh Legends Maze, where we had to try and escape. The Maze was beautiful and a great way to get everyone to work together. We had to find the dragons and solve some puzzles along the way. We did make it out together (which they won medals for) and Enfys were very proud of themselves for completing it all.



I would like to thank King Arthur's Labyrinth for a fantastic day and I would like to thank Enfys for being amazing.

*Miss Ledsham*

## Suspended Timetable Days

There have been three suspended timetable days during this half term. Some of the 'school getaways' previously mentioned took place during these days together with a range of subject activities. Here is a roundup of some of the activities, which took place at school...

### Year 11 Literacy & Communication

We were delighted to welcome back trainers from the organisation 'Talk the Talk' (specialists in verbal communication and language skills) to lead a day called 'Talk About The Future' for Year 11. The aim of the day was to prepare pupils to succeed in real world interviews. During the day, a range of essential skills were learned and practised encompassing aspects of preparation, communication and resilience. Pupils presented in front of an audience as well as taking part in a one-on-one interview. The Talk the Talk trainers were extremely impressed by the entire year group's efforts and attitude throughout the day; Year 11 were a credit to the school again.

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

"Before the workshop I did not have much of an idea of how to be

successful in an interview but as a result of the day's tasks I now really feel confident."

*Carys Balaba, 11 King*

"The day was very engaging and energetic and really beneficial for my future."

*Adam Monk, 11 King*

"We had many tasks to do that were similar to interview situations. I loved the workshop and would love to participate in a similar one again."

*Joshua Tifase, 11 Cassidy*

"The tasks made us think about our skills and strengths and how we can convey them in interviews. I improved my confidence at answering questions on the spot, which will be beneficial for future job interviews."

*Nadia Andonov, 11 Cassidy*

## Wellbeing Days

Wellbeing Days have taken place for Years, 7 and 11 during this half term. These provide an opportunity for guest speakers to come into school to present to our pupils on a range of topics such as emotional wellbeing, being a young carer, bullying and much more.

*Miss Massey*

#### Here's what Year 11 pupils had to say ...

"It was a day packed with several different workshops, some of which were led by guest speakers, that were based on health and wellbeing. I was able to take part in a range of engaging and informative sessions, some of



which included dealing with homelessness, learning the consequences of taking drugs, drunk driving etc. After the day, I was much more informed and educated about these topics and I had gained information and advice that I wouldn't have gained without this day. What makes the day even more special is that we were able to discuss the serious topics between our form class and understand the views held by others."

**Krish Lavan**

"On the 4<sup>th</sup> October the whole of year 11 took part in their Wellbeing Day. During this day we had guest speakers come in to talk to us and teach us about valuable life lessons. The day was enjoyed by everyone and was beneficial to our knowledge on basic life skills we would require in the near future."

**Samantha Scott**

## Year 10 Enterprise Challenge

On 19<sup>th</sup> September a representative from Hope House came in to school to launch the Enterprise Challenge to year 10. As with every Enterprise Challenge Year 10 will be supporting Hope House as they raise money by developing an idea to sell at the Christmas Fair on Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>.



During this suspended timetable day pupils were given the opportunity to begin creating their business and developing their business idea. Pupils were tasked with holding two meetings throughout the day to discuss ideas and make decisions, with the aim that every group would know who was taking on which role within the company, have a business name and idea. It was fantastic to see all the groups beginning to work together, brainstorming company names and ideas, completing SWOT analyses. Pupils were very busy throughout the day calculating budgets, designing products, creating logos and developing communicating skills. A fabulous start to the challenge year 10, da iawn pawb.

**Mrs Devine**

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

"On the day we all met up in the sports hall and were given a presentation by Cat from Hope House Hospice. She explained what they do at the hospice. We then went to our form classes where we got into our groups to begin planning what we were going to do for our idea over the day. It was a great day, it helped a lot."

**Jessica O 10Dx**

"At first I didn't think much of this day, but when we had a speaker called Cat from Hope House come in I became more interested and she made me realise I can make a difference. After this we had a great day nurturing and developing our business idea with our friends."

**Cain Denoven 10Kb**

"On the day we were in the sports hall and we were given a presentation on what we were doing which I found helped me a lot. We also learnt how important it was to raise money since we found that our money raised would go to Hope House."

**Emma D 10Kg**

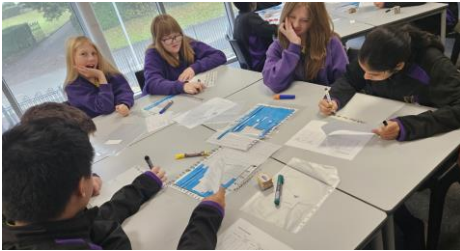
## Year 8 Numeracy

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October year 8 took part in a collapsed timetable day and the theme was Numeracy across the curriculum. Each form took part in 5 different sessions throughout the day where they completed activities in PE, Science, Design Technology, Food Technology and Geography. A rich maths experience was included in the activity to promote numeracy across the curriculum.



The numeracy skills included scale drawings of buildings, understanding ratio to make a smoothie, analysis of statistics collected in fitness and more. Well done year 8 - the work you completed on the numeracy was amazing!

*Ms Jobson*



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

"The numeracy day has been good. We have had so much fun! All the activities were so interesting and fascinating. We learned a lot today. We learnt how to use ratios in cooking and building in design technology, it was exciting and fun. We had many new experiences and we enjoyed all of them."

*Bianca, Freya and Ruby 8 Ro*



## English Department

Once again, the English Department has had a busy start to the year. Our aim is always to enthuse students in their learning so we have a host of enrichment activities to upskill them in the literacy skills which underpin all they do.

## Reading

We have continued to foster a love of reading with timetabled lessons for independent reading in our school library. The space is uplifting and exciting and we are constantly updating our resources to stimulate and excite the students.

Other ways we have been promoting a love of literature is by organising visits. **Year 7** have already enjoyed their first visit to Warner Studios for a tour of the Harry Potter set and took part in a costume workshop. A second trip has been arranged for later in the year as so many students (and staff) did not manage to secure a place. It was a very special, if long, day for everyone involved. All agreed it was quite magical to see the sets and gain some insight into how books can be translated to film.



Students can access the pictures on the Google classroom. Code: khiw7cw



"Best school trip EVER!"

*Iestyn Sanger*

"The Great Hall was set up for Halloween which was magical. The students were all brilliant and we had a thoroughly fantastic day."

*Ms Jobson – Harry Potter geek*

## Writing

We have been very fortunate to secure our very own 'Writer in Residence' for St Joseph's. Natasha Borton is not only an ex-pupil of the school but she is also a well-known local poet and writer.

**Year 8** spent a fun-filled and inspiring day with two Welsh-based writers, Natasha Borton and Martin Daws.

Martin Daws, who has held the accolade, 'Young People's Laureate for Wales', has travelled widely representing Wales at International Events. He has also worked extensively across Wales engaging and inspiring young people to empower themselves through their creativity.



Natasha and Martin delivered a creative writing workshop to Year 8 students to encourage and inspire them to become writers.

Pupils wrote a collaborative line poem, a free verse poem and an extended piece of creative writing during the session. Many Year 8 student demonstrated confidence and performed their own poetry.



A great day was had by all!

"I didn't think I was creative but I WROTE A POEM."

*Patryk Puzio*

## Speaking and Listening

Within our new schemes of learning, embracing the principles of The Curriculum for Wales, we have increased the profile of speaking and listening skills.

With the support of the charity, 'Talk the Talk', Year 9 were challenged to produce a talk to present to their peers and with the support of the facilitators were given the techniques to achieve engaging and informative presentations.

Y9 MAT and SEREN students also took part in a Talk About Communication Plus workshop which aimed to support students to communicate confidently, constructively and cooperatively in group talk situations. Students were given the opportunity to develop and apply effective communication skills in group talk situations such as debating, negotiating and planning whilst also considering how their individual vocal, verbal and visual communication can be used to get their ideas across persuasively.

The students participated with enthusiasm with some noteworthy contributions from students recognised as Oracy Champions: Jack Humble, Verity Ellis and Caitlin Rose-James.



"It was fun, playing games together and talking all day."

*Corey Davies*

"I didn't think I'd be able to talk in front of everyone, but I did."

*Chloe Harrington*

On Friday 6th October, our 'Writer in Residence', Natasha, came to support Year 7 students in expressing their own unique heritages, sharing with them her own Heritage poem, 'Home by Definition'. In English lessons this half term pupils have recorded a speech to celebrate their cultural heritage. The workshop supported learners and encouraged them to explore their ethnicity, their community, language and cultural identity. Pupils were lively, engaged and confident throughout.

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

'You're a big inspiration. I love your singing and your poems'

*Julia Marciak*

'I really, really enjoyed Natasha's poetry and workshop. The 'I Am' project that we did was my favourite bit'.

*Phoebe Moreland*

'I loved Natasha coming into school. She is an amazing poet'

*Freya Pace*



## Maths Department

### Sparx Maths

A huge well done to Year 7 for engaging and working hard on Sparx maths homework this half term. Well done also to Year 8 and 9 for continuing to work hard on Sparx too.

A special shout out to:

Charley Olsen, Kobe Jones, and Oskar Slawski who have the most XP points out of year 7, 8, and 9.

#### Year 7

David Marzec - Devereux winner  
and top of year  
Astrid Elano - Cassidy winner  
Elizabeth Chacko - Kolbe winner  
Victoria Madra - King winner  
Solomon Ikpa - Romero winner

#### Year 8

Kobe Jones - L1 winner  
Nishella Abeyakirithi - L2 winner  
Nathaniel Groom - L3 winner  
Charley Olsen - R1 winner  
and top of year  
Jakub Szymala - R2a winner  
Julia Komisarczyk - R2b winner

#### Year 9

Divya Manoj - L1 winner  
and top of year  
Leila Sunil - L2 winner  
James Sibanda - L3 winner  
Glaira Palaganas - R1 winner  
Alona Shibu - R2 winner  
Alannah MacIntyre - R3 winner

If you want a shout out next half term, remember to boost your XP points by completing the extra parts to your homework.

And remember, if you are finding any of the homework difficult pop along to Sparx Maths Homework Club. This runs every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime up in the maths rooms.

Well done everyone and keep it up.  
*Ms Jobson*

## Year 6 Maths Transition

On Monday 16th October, we welcomed 84 year 6 pupils for a maths and transition experience. The pupils took part in maths activities, led by a fabulous team of year 9 pupils. The activities included finding the average speed from sprinting, orienteering, problem solving, and more.



I was extremely impressed with the year 6 pupils' motivation and determination in all the activities. I was very impressed with the way they conducted themselves in and around the school and hope that they had a positive experience in secondary school!

*Ms Jobson*

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

"In the activity we taught measuring without any measuring equipment. The year 6s were very ambitious and hardworking and were definitely a good bunch!"

*Ivan Lleses 9 Cd*



"The activity we were doing was the speed test. We recorded how long it took the year 6's to run 10 meters and then figured out the average score of the group. The year 6's were all well behaved and enthusiastic!"

*Henry Ellis 9 Kg*



## Year 11 Maths

Pupils are currently studying for their early entry Maths Exam taking place on:

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November** and  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November.**

There will be a revision session held in **October half term** on

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov: 10am - 2pm**  
along with after school classes for on Tuesday and Thursdays.

You can support your child by encouraging them to revise using MathsWatch, Corbett cards, past papers and MathsDiy. Please make sure your child has the correct equipment including a scientific calculator, pens, pencils, protractor, compass, ruler and rubber.

There is a weekly year 11 podcast that is available every Tuesday via google classrooms (2b6gqme) which also contains strategies for solving maths questions and parent information. Miss Jobson also has youtube channel with excellent maths videos to assist with understanding of key topics.

## Music



Wrexham Music Cooperative came into school Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September to give a concert for pupils in years 7 & 8.

It was a lively, fun event where pupils and staff were encouraged to get involved, dancing and singing. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. What a wonderful way to start a day!



## Technology

### WJEC Innovation Awards

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October in Bangor University, a number of different schools from around North Wales were at an event to celebrate innovation in Design and Technology as well as take part in training sessions designed for GCSE and A-level pupils.

Leaver, Orpheus Ioannides' work was exhibited- congratulations!



# Sporting Success

## Urdd Netball

### Match Report

On Thursday the 12th of October 2023 the St Joseph's girls' year 10s and Daisy M from year 9 represented the school at the North Wales Urdd Netball Tournament in Bangor. The first game was against a school called Ysgol Y Creuddyn, at half time it was 4-2 to us with amazing goals from both Tamzin and Daisy. At full time it was 11-3 to us with a brilliant effort from the whole team. For our second game we were against Ysgol Glan Clwyd, Daisy started us with a 1-0 lead very early in the game. After Daisy's 4th goal Mrs Breward quoted that "Daisy's accuracy is just phenomenal!" Tamzin also scored some great shots from quite far out from the post, at half time we swapped and subbed some of our players. At the end of the game it was very clear 16-1 win against Ysgol Glan Clwyd. Our third match was against Ysgol Tryfan where confidence was high after the success of the first 2 matches, but after watching Ysgol Tryfan play we knew it was going to be a tough match. Daisy started us with the 1st goal putting us in the lead, after a bit of rocky start. Not long after Ysgol Tryfan were in the lead, but the St Joseph's girls weren't going to give up, so Tamzin made the equaliser for us just before half time. In the second half we were on to a good start and took the lead with Daisy

making it 5-3, at full time it was 7-5 win a very tight game but a fully deserved win. For our 4th game against Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni we made a few switches to our team however unfortunately Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni took the lead but we quickly caught up at just a few minutes into the game it was 2-1 to the Joeys girls with Ffion making the equaliser and Hannah's goal helped us keep up and take the lead. However it didn't stay like that for long as Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni took the lead again! At half time we made yet another change to our team in the hope we would be able to take the lead again! However it was an unfortunate loss to St Joseph's with a very close but scrappy game with a 8-7 loss. Here it was our 5th and final group game against Mold Alun a very bad start for us with a disappointing performance it was already 3-0 to the Alun School, from the sidelines we could already tell it was going to be a hard game and a fight to get into either the cup or plate finals. The score was getting closer and closer every minutes but at half time it was Mold Alun 5- SJ's 3. In the second half we were hoping for a more consistent half, at the end of the second half it was 8-8 and what a comeback it was! We worked our best and payed off as it ended in a very difficult but deserved draw! After a well played 5 matches we fort hard and made it into the cup finals! Our game in the cup quarter final was against Ysgol Botwnnog, it was a close game both scores constantly over taking each other

but the Joeys girls weren't giving up. In the game against Ysgol Botwnnog the girls teamwork and communication really was improving which helped them in the long run, at half time it was 5-5. After a motivating speech off Miss Breward, the girls seemed ready and confident to go into the second half with their heads held high. However unfortunately it wasn't enough the girls tried their hardest to fight back and try to overtake Ysgol Botwnnog but it was a difficult match for the girls the final score was 11-6. This now meant that after the cup quarter finals it was time to head home and try again next time and come back even more confident! We had a great day out at the netball and would like to thank Miss Breward and Miss Dutton for taking us and supporting the team all day.

*Rhia, year 9*



# Show Racism the Red Card

We supported the charity Give Racism the Red Card last week where pupils showed their solidarity with the charity by wearing red. What an amazing sight – a sea of red! We have not finished counting the money, but will let you know soon how much we raised for this worthy cause.



Below is a Saratou Mbaye's entry to Give Racism the Red Card from when she was in Year 6. What an amazing poem and gained 1<sup>st</sup> place in the competition! Da iawn ti Saratou!

## Under My Skin

People tell me "Go back to your country"  
but I still stay  
But these words get worse day by terrible  
day.  
It's making me cry and feel horrible  
inside.  
There's a voice inside me that tells me  
"don't mind them"  
But my heart is aching and screaming  
"BUT WHY US?"  
I can't cope with these feelings at my  
tender age  
I shouldn't be able to feel this never-  
ending pain.  
My body can't take the mental scars that  
these make,  
I start to tremble, to cry, to shiver and  
shake.  
The hurtful things that they say to me day

after day,  
Make me want to lock myself in and  
throw the key away.  
As I try to sleep through the night  
The words come out and tell me to fight,  
Although I know that violence isn't right.  
It's making me hate the whole world that  
I live h

But not everyone's making me feel this  
hurt.  
Although it feels like they're watching and  
thinking "who's she?"  
And yet people I trust say I'm "being  
dramatic!"  
Me dramatic?  
Just a few words?

Do you know how it feels to be this hurt?  
Unless you have mentally been in my  
place  
DON'T tell me "They said it just by  
mistake"  
"You're acting like it's always about your  
race"

Then proceed to laugh at me "You're not  
even trying to say it Silently!" Maybe  
that's why I have social anxiety?  
Yet a while ago I made a mistake of not  
telling someone I feel this Way,  
Day and night overthinking each step I  
take

because "People might laugh at the  
slightest mistake".  
Although I may be fierce with my  
writing,  
I would nowhere near think of saying it  
like this,  
The thinking I do to say a sentence seems  
endless.

Although it may seem easy saying a few  
words  
When they say harsh things I freeze and  
turn.

I tell you all to STOP THIS NOW, as so  
many people have been Treated like dirt  
And because it starts from a very young  
age,  
Childhoods have been mercilessly  
drowned.

So stop messing around making me feel  
like I don't belong here.  
Filling my child's mind with fright, denial,  
and fear  
Stop this game you're trying to play with  
my body and mind.  
Remember what I went through- and  
other people too,  
Watching and making up mean phrases

and rhymes  
That hurt more than getting stabbed in  
the spine seventeen times. Once they all  
leave I scream and shake  
"I hate you all tell me you see!  
I'm stuck like a bird. I just want to break  
free!....  
I'm stuck in a time loop till someone says  
stop...

But no one has.

I'm still stuck with people watching me  
break  
Not moving the slightest bit from their  
place  
So raising awareness does help a lot  
But will it just make it all STOP?  
"No matter what, it'll never stop"  
I know this world can be tough, but we  
have to stand up.  
To keep this world a happy place, keep  
those thoughts inside your Head,  
Do not say them all out loud.  
Keep those words inside you mouth  
It may seem a funny joke to you, but do  
you see me laughing?  
I cry each night because he said this or  
she said that,  
Words that absolutely squash me flat  
And even if you stop right now, it will still  
be in my head.  
All of the mean stuff that YOU said.  
Floating around no matter what you do,  
you can NEVER undo That mistake,  
So stop judging because of my race  
Calling me my parent's mistake  
So don't say stuff that you know would  
hurt if you were in my place,  
Why can't you all just understand.  
I just simply cannot change my race.  
WHY SHOULD I CHANGE MY RACE JUST  
FOR YOU?  
I'm proud of who I am  
It's YOU who should change.

Saratou Mbaye

SHOW  
RACISM  
THE  
RED  
CARD

# Hunger Lunch

On Friday 6th October we held a hunger lunch in the social court. Year 11 prefects helped prepare and serve soup and bread.



Pupils and staff paid £1 to take part, and we raised over £125 for CAFOD, a charity our school supports that serves people in poverty.



Thank you to all who organised and participated.

## Teams4U Shoebox Appeal



After half-term, we will be launching our annual shoebox appeal in partnership with Teams4U. Pupils are asked to get involved by donating a shoe box filled with gifts for children in Eastern Europe. We have supported this local charity for several years, donating hundreds of shoe boxes, and a pizza lunch prize is awarded to the form which contributes the most.

In the words of the charity - "Your shoebox will be given to a vulnerable child, or family, through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages. Our aim is that each box is given in relationship with the local community as part of a long-term commitment to these children. Please be a part of this ongoing story that is continuing to impact and change lives by donating a shoebox to this year's appeal!

***"Christmas is coming, and, right now, I think, children need us to be more present for them. Now is the biggest need."*** – Dima

All the information needed to fill a shoebox can be found at the following website: <https://teams4u.com/>, however, leaflets containing the same information will be given out during the first week after half-term. Each box requires a donation of £3 which can be paid online or in cash in an envelope taped to the box. This is necessary to pay for transporting the boxes to their destinations.

Any boxes prepared during half-term can be brought to school afterwards, however, we do have a supply of boxes in school which can be collected by your child to fill.

*Mrs James*



## New Staff

We extend a warm welcome to...

### Mrs S Sharpe



Here is a little bit about Mrs Sharpe in her own words...

"I qualified as a teacher in 2012, completing my PGCE at Manchester Metropolitan University in Design and Technology with a Food and Textiles specialism.

As a complete food enthusiast as well as teaching food, I am excited to share my skills and knowledge with our students of St. Joseph's. It is my aim to encourage, inspire and nurture our students to become healthy and responsible citizens of our community.

Looking ahead to the future; I am keen to offer Food Technology and Nutrition as an option for GCSE.

It is a great honour and privilege to take up this fulfilling role at St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and supportive team of people and wonderful students. "

## Bus Passes

As of Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, all pupils traveling to school via school transport will be required to show the driver their valid bus pass. Failure to do so will result in refusal to travel. If your child has misplaced their bus pass, please contact the School Transport Department within WCBC to arrange for a replacement.

## 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 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.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

*Mr C Wilkinson*

## Lost Property

Can parents please ensure that coats, 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 also label drinks bottles, pencils cases, basically anything you can put down, label it! Thank you.

## Contacting Us

Our preferred method of communication is a pre-organised, mutually convenient meeting. Contact with staff can be arranged via the school at [mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk](mailto:mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk) or through a request made at the school office.

We will try 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 behavior will not be tolerated. Thank you for your co-operation.

*Mr Wilkinson*

## Follow us

Please follow us on twitter - we currently have 1,165 followers, let's increase this over half term!



**@SJ\_WXM**

## Dates for the Diary

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
School opens to pupils

Year 9 Options Information  
Evening  
4.30pm-6pm

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
Ann Smart Netball Tournament

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 8 RE Trip

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 11 History Trip

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November**  
Wrexham Schools' Cross Country

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 7 Science Day  
Year 8 Wellbeing Day  
Year 9 Hope Workshop (am)  
Study Skills (pm)  
Years 10 and 11 SCC Day  
KS4 EnfyS Qualifications

Year 10 Art Residential  
depart 2.30pm

**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 7 Football Tournament

**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
Years 7 -11 Flu Vaccinations

**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November**  
**'Here Comes Christmas Fair'**  
**3.30pm-5.30pm**

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November**  
GCSE MFL trip to Bruges  
Departs 8.30 am

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 11 NEAs for L1:  
History  
Geography  
Drama

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 7 Humanities Trip to Erddig

**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 11 NEA for L2:  
Geography

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 11 Mock Examinations begin

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December**  
Staff Development Day  
(School closed to pupils)

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 10 Fundraising Day  
(£1 donation for non-uniform)

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 8 Parents'/ Carers' Evening  
3.45pm-6.30pm

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December**  
Year 7 Cinema Trip  
Year 11 Senior Prefects Trip

School closes to pupils 3.30pm

**Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December**  
Staff Development Day  
(School closed to pupils)

## Contact Details

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LL13 7EN

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