

Insight

Spring 2014 Gwanwyn

The official newsletter of
St. Joseph's RC High School

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



ENGAGING WITH TECHNOLOGY

“The way we will be delivering education will be completely different in the next 7 to 10 years” says Professor Sir Lessek Borysiewicz, Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

Today we live in a digital world and it is the digital world that has been a revolutionary force over the last 10-20 years, a force that will change the way we will deliver education. Yes, we will still have to be able to read, write and add up – these are all very important skills, but another layer has been added to learning. At St Joseph's RC High School we have made the decision to take digital technology head on and not ban it. We feel that we should put it in the hands of our students and work with them in a collaborative way so that the brave new technological world underpins learning rather disrupts it.

In helping us to engage with this new technology and ensure that it's all about the learning and not the technology, we have begun to pilot the use of digital devices in a number of classes across key stages. And although it is early days, we are really pleased with the way iPads are being used to enhance learning. We will keep you updated with how we are piloting the use of iPads to enhance learning in future editions of Insight. From May 9th find out more about our vision for iPads by visiting our new You Tube channel via our website Interactive page: <http://www.sjhs.org.uk>



Serving God Through
Learning Together

Yn Gwasanaethu Duw Trwy
Ddysgu Gyda'n Gilydd

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Acting Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth dros dro

Mr T Brown Acting Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is an old African proverb, '*It takes a village to raise a child*'. This edition of Insight highlights just some of the ways in which the school is nurturing and developing our 'village' of students through rich learning opportunities within and outside of the classroom. Whether through trips and visits, sporting endeavour, cultural experiences, charitable

working or engagement with the spiritual and liturgical life of the school, our young people never cease to inspire and amaze us with their talent, energy and enthusiasm.

As we approach the examination season, we wish good luck to all students, especially in years 11, 12 and 13 who are sitting their public examinations. Staff are working incredibly hard with learners to ensure that they perform

to the very best of their ability in the summer. The dedication of staff, both in the school day and through the provision of extra revision classes, whether after school, during lunchtimes or in the holidays is testament to their dedication and desire for every learner to fulfil their potential.

One of the many (and possibly most important) strengths of St. Joseph's is the support and encouragement you, as parents and carers, offer us

in our mission to become the best possible school for your child.

We need to be relentless in our pursuit of this goal. I want to thank you for all that you do to reinforce the messages we give at school and the sacrifices that you make to support and encourage outstanding Catholic education at St Joseph's. We are truly blessed and could not do it without you.

Congratulations to our sporting students...and their achievements in and out of school hours



Wales U17 Football: Rollin Menayese

Wales U16 Rugby Union: Max Williams

GB Under 19 Ice Hockey: Owen Griffiths,

Wales U18 Rugby Union: Leon Brown

GB Synchronised Swimming: Holly Morgan

Welsh Youth 60k Boxing Champion: Kieran Finnerty

Newport Schools Rugby Union:

Curtis Barnes, Jake McDonald,

Connor Morris, Josh Healey,

Liam Derrick and Richard Hennessey

WOW!

Sporting achievements at SJHS



Top left: Back row: Rhiannon Smith, Steffi Johnston, Lucy O'Brien, Myah Seivwright, Bethan Doughty (C), Georgia Shwartz, Rose Evans, Grace Cook (GK), Caitlin Morrison. Front row: Carys Waters, Niamh Mullan, Elana Hoobs, Caitlin Finnerty, Freya Stevens.

Top right: Back row: Tegan Waters, Martha Powell, Natasha Kasweshi, Bethan Doughty (Umpire), Tegan Givvons, Eve Richardson. Front row: Caitlin Barry, Lucy Thomas, Natalia Shwartz (C), Neve Aldington-Rackham.

Bottom right: Back row Megan Gibbons, Jasmine Morgan, Steffi Johnston, Elana Hobbs, Bethan Doughty (Umpire), Rhiannon Smith, Niamh McHigh, Katie Hood, Niamh Lynch. Front row: Daisy Jenkins, Emily Channing, Carys Waters (C), Freya Stevens, Niamh Mullan, Grace Cook (GK), Caitlin Morrison.



13-14 Hockey Round-up

Congratulations to all the girls who have participated in and represented the school during extra-curricular hockey this year. This season has seen four out of five teams finish in the top two in the South East Wales Hockey league (SEWHL) for each age group. Four out of the five teams qualified for the SEWHL semi finals. Each team fought hard during the semi finals, resulting in three teams qualifying for the Finals, which were played Tuesday 1st April 2014 at Caerleon High School.

I want to again congratulate each and every player who has made this season a huge success. Come rain and shine each pupil has demonstrated complete dedication and commitment towards their team and each other.

You girls are a huge credit to the school!!! Ymdrech ardderchog drwy gydol y flwyddyn. Da iawn!!!

Year 7A drew 3-3 in the final, losing out to Caerleon on penalties. This resulted in finishing 2nd in the SEWHL.

Year 7B lost 4-1 in the Semi finals to Caerleon on penalties. This resulted in finishing joint 3rd in the SEWHL.

U14A beat Croesyceiliog 3-2 in the final, to become champions in the SEWHL.

U14B came 2nd overall in their SEWHL losing out to Croesyceiliog by one point.

U16 lost 7-0 to Croesyceiliog in the final, coming 2nd overall in the SEWHL.

Joe is shooting for the British stars...

Joe (10V) has represented Wales in the British Schools Small-Bore Rifle Association home countries international match this term. This match takes place each year between England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. The Welsh team and Joe performed fantastically.

"Joe has been shooting regularly with the Torfaen Smallbore Rifle Club for some time and has been a pleasure to get to know as a club member. He is a credit to the school" said Mick Crook, Club Coach

Please find more details on the club at www.torfaenrifleclub.com





Holly Morgan GB Junior Swim Squad

2013 was a very good year for me being the first and only Welsh National Synchronised Swimmer. I competed with my team-mates from the Bristol Central National Club, firstly in the British Championships, which is open internationally and very competitive – we did well and won 3rd place overall. Then secondly, in October, my team and I competed in Multi-Nationals, where we won 1st place in the team event. We also achieved 1st place in the South West Region of the UK. I received a bronze medal for South West Figures and 1st place in the 16 Years South West Figures. It was all very exciting

Following this, we competed in the Scottish Nationals, winning 1st place and the title of 15-17 Scottish Nationals Champions. We also won the ASA National Synchronised Swimming Championships and came away with the amazing title of National Champions 2013. My hard work had paid off, but it didn't stop there...I had qualified for the England Talent 2013 (GB Development Squad) and had been invited to try out for the Junior GB trials.

These trials were successful and I have been selected for the GB Junior Squad 2014 and will attend a series of intense training camps to then compete in Croatia representing Great Britain in June 2014. I know that these camps will be very difficult and the competition amongst other international juniors will be huge, but I am really looking forward to an amazing experience and working with some fantastic British coaches.



Shauna and Ceinwyn Gymnastic Fantastic

Congratulations to Shauna and Ceinwyn both in 7S who have taken Welsh gymnastics by storm.

Their first major competition this year was the East Wales Schools Tumble & Vault Championships, held on Friday 14th February 2014 at Kestrel Gymnastics Club in Chepstow.

Both girls completed an amazing performance and Shauna qualified to compete in the Welsh Schools Tumble & Vault Championships at the Sport Wales National Centre, Cardiff on Monday 10th March. Shauna's group came 3rd overall in the Welsh Schools' Competition which was a fantastic achievement against some very strong competition.



Llanwern Dance Festival 2014

Year 7 and Year 9 performed in an amazing dance festival on Thursday 20th March 2014, at Llanwern High School.

As a school they performed in seven dances which were all fantastic and very exciting. Parents and friends were joined by Mr Brown and Mrs Jarrett, who all came to watch and support our students who all performed really well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Congratulations to Year 7 students Lucy Thomas, Martha Powell, Kitty McHugh, Megan Harries, Tegan Givvons, Kidada Chidembo, Neve Aldington-Rackham and Year 9 students Elizabeth Hinds and Rebecca Long.

Marielle wins Best Film

at the Zoom Young Filmmaker Awards 2014



Marielle Wilkinson's film *Mania*, won a Best Film award at the Zoom Young Filmmaker Awards 2014. Marielle wrote and filmed *Mania* over the Autumn Term as part of her Media Studies A-Level, drawing on pupils and staff of St Joseph's as cast and crew. It was clear to Mrs Bartlett (Head of Media), from a very early stage of production, that the finished film would have real potential.

Marielle, with her cast and crew, trod the red carpet at The Sony Theatre, Bridgend alongside the best young filmmakers from across Wales and Europe. The glitzy awards ceremony was the culmination of the BAFTA-affiliated Zoom Cymru International Youth Film Festival (17th-21st March), Wales' largest film event for young people. *Mania* was entered in the 14-18 year old

And the award goes to...
[Envelope opens. Tense pause.]

“I find it absolutely amazing to be a recipient of an award recognising talent of the seventh art. I hope that, by having received this award, I can influence younger pupils to have the faith to take risks by expressing their imagination in film, as well as focusing on excelling in academic subjects and sports”.



category and won against stiff competition from a number of talented young filmmakers from across Wales.

Marielle says *“I had a great time at the awards ceremony and it was nice to have a bit of front-of-the-camera-Hollywood-like attention, as I’d usually rather be behind a camera. It’s absolutely bewildering to receive an award for something that I have created and it has encouraged me to create more short films and pursue film making as a possible career.”*

Mania focuses on the psychological journey of a young man who enters a mental conflict with himself upon seeing a girl, whose actual existence is questioned by both the young man and the audience. Marielle structured the scenes to coincide with the musical phrasing of *Swan Lake*, and was commended for her excellent editing and shot composition, with the

Director of Zoom Cymru describing *Mania* as giving her “goosebumps”. Marielle adds, *“I was quite content with the fact that they also recognised the amazing acting of my cast (Gabriel Tapfuma, Zoe Groves, Nicole Muza and Aaron Dada) as I consider acting with no speaking parts a true demonstration of talent, as actions are worth more than words.”*

St. Joseph’s is delighted for Marielle and wishes her every success with her promising future in film making, a field in the media in which she very much hopes to work after completing her BA Hons in Journalism, Media and Culture at Cardiff University.

Marielle hopes to do her MA in Film Making at Bournemouth University eventually and is planning to continue creating more short films whilst studying in Cardiff.



Eagles Showcase

WELCOME TO THE HOTEL CALIFORNIA
St Joseph's



Year 13 Music students and St Joseph's new Head of Music, Mr Fitzgerald took us all back in time to the 1970s with a fabulous two night run of their Eagles Showcase performance.

With Cecilia Beirne, Maddi Bird, Joel Fowler, Morgan Lowry, Sianie Mansell, Charlotte Tutton and Laura Westren providing the vocals it fell to George Goom to deliver the country rock riffs and solos on his electric guitar (most notably including his fabulous rendition of 'the' classic solo from Hotel California).

Work began on this project in November 2013 and upon Mr Fitzgerald's appointment in January 2014, they stepped up a gear as the students chose, learned and rehearsed the 11 songs that would ultimately make up the set. Lesson time, after school sessions and weekend rehearsals were dedicated to recreating that signature Eagles vocal harmony sound. Spreading four part harmonies out over seven singers took focus, dedication and hard work on the part of the students. Competition was also high to 'win' a vocal solo with auditions sung to a tough panel of judges (Miss Morgan, George Goom and Mr Fitzgerald).

We knew we could never re-create the authentic Eagles sound without a great band behind us so our starting point was to identify a top quality drummer. The Year 13 Eagles team were quick to recommend an ex-student and good friend of theirs, Liam Jenkins. They assured me he was reliable, dedicated and most importantly a great drummer; Liam proved to be all of these things. Alongside Liam we needed a great bass player to create a solid rhythm section. Who better to ask to join our band than resident bass guitar teacher and four string maestro, Robin Hames? As marvellously talented as George is, we knew we needed additional guitar duties so we called upon the

"We donned our plaid shirts and denim to treat the audience to a string of classic hits including 'Hotel California', 'Take It Easy', 'One of These Nights', 'Life in the Fast Lane', 'Desperado' and a whole heap more..."

talents of the peripatetic guitar teacher from Bristol, Dan Budd. Finally, Mr Fitzgerald and Miss Morgan filled in the guitar and keyboard shaped spaces, so we had our band!

St Joseph's Drama Studio was transformed into a rocking gig venue and the Year 13s took the stage ready, rehearsed and routined. They really pulled it out of the bag and whilst the first night was certainly good the second night saw the students focussing all of their hard work and dedication into an energetic and fun-filled performance.

Mr Fitzgerald said, "I couldn't think of a finer way to start my tenure as Head of Music here at St Joseph's than to have the privilege of teaching, rehearsing and performing some of my favourite songs along with a group of such dedicated, charming, funny and talented Year 13 students. I am so very proud of them. Can't wait for the next gig now!!"

Year 13 will be performing their 'Live Lounge' treatment of the hits of Michael Jackson in May 2014.



From the 17th – 20th of February the Drama studios were transformed into the set of ‘Same’ written by Deborah Bruce. Each night the actors had great support from audiences made up of family and friends.

Same

“It was a really enjoyable process, but at the same time quite emotional. The rehearsal periods brought everyone together and the team spirit increased towards the performance dates. We are all looking forward to the performance at The Sherman Theatre on the 5th and 6th of April.”

Lewis Mitchell 12D. Lewis played Harry in ‘Same’

On Wednesday 19th a representative from the National Theatre came to see the show and on that night we had 120 people in the audience. The representative was very pleased with the show and she sent us a positive and constructive show report, that will help us transfer the show to the ‘Sherman Theatre’ in Cardiff this April.

Students chose the play ‘Same’ after reading all ten plays that were written for this year’s National Theatre Connections Festival.

‘Same’ has a great balance of humour and sensitivity, with the main theme of dementia. The similarities between teenagers and pensioners intrigued students. The cast worked hard in rehearsals to ensure the sometimes difficult messages were conveyed sensitively and convincingly.

Throughout rehearsals we always remembered ‘the body gets old but the soul stays young’. This helped focus the cast on what we were trying to show and what we needed to portray to the audience, especially in scene two where we saw many ‘young at heart pensioners’ talking about their teenage years.

The company was made up of 30 students although there were only 15 in the cast. We chose to direct two casts who performed alternate nights because there was so much interest in taking part we didn’t want to let 15 pupils down. Having two casts enabled more students to benefit from this fantastic festival of youth theatre.





Techniquest Cha

“I didn’t know that organising a pop concert had anything to do with maths”

Year 8 students recently took part in a ‘Back Stage Challenge’ workshop designed to highlight the relevance and importance of good numeracy skills in everyday life.

Small groups of students were given the challenge of organising a huge charity concert in one of several of our splendid Welsh castles. The idea was to make as much profit as possible for their charitable trust.

Tasks included calculating the size of the venue, using a model and working with a scale factor to upscale the measurements to ‘real life’ dimensions; calculating area and audience capacity of venue (using Health & Safety Executive guidelines of course!) and perimeter for overheads such as security, lighting and staging.

Calculating their castle’s income from ticket sales allowed the groups to choose a headline act and support

music, taking into account their costs and compatibility. It was interesting watching several of our students spending far more money than they had!

After much number-crunching the students were able to calculate whether they had made a profit (or a loss in some cases). The students soon realised that the larger their venue, the greater the audience capacity and the higher the income! However, this also meant that those

students with smaller venues did not have the income necessary for the more expensive acts. Consequently much discussion and team work was necessary.

This was a superb two days of ‘real life’ maths thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Techniquest presenters Anthony, Georgia, Danielle & Martin, numeracy champions Callum & Mike from GE Aviation. We are all looking forward to next time!



Maths MAT TEAM



allenge

Students' comments:

“The workshop showed us how much we will need maths in our lives after school”

“I enjoyed building the castle and choosing the music acts that my team could afford”

“I enjoyed working with Callum & Mike from GE Aviation and finding out that they use maths everyday in their jobs as aircraft engineers”

“A different kind of maths lesson”

At the end of last year some of our More Able and Talented Year 11 and Sixth Form students went to a Maths Inspiration Lecture at The Royal Wales College of Music in Cardiff.

The trip consisted of three lectures:

MATHS ON THE BACK OF AN ENVELOPE

PROOF, PIZZA AND THE ELECTRIC GUITAR

THE SACRED GEOMETRY OF CHANCE

These lectures allowed us to see how mathematics worked in everyday life and also the weird and wonderful side that is rarely explored. The lecturers themselves were all highly energetic and provided a great deal of knowledge through games and audience participation.

At the end of the three lectures, we were able to ask questions in a Q and A session, in which the lecturers elaborated on their topics.

On behalf of all the students who went, I can confidently say that it was thoroughly enjoyable for anyone and everyone.

By Ethan Prendergast Y11

NUMERACY Starter Day



On Tuesday 18th March St Joseph's held a Key Stage 3 Mathcymru inspired Numeracy Starter Day. Each department across the curriculum began lessons with an exciting subject related numeracy starter. Pupils enjoyed working on activities such as Time Lines in History, Thermometers in Science, working out the money raised for CAFOD in RE and the Maths skills needed to design a beaded necklace in Design and Technology amongst many others. Teachers were extremely impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the students and their ability to transfer their maths skills across their subjects.

Numeracy is a life skill – vital for you to make informed decisions in your everyday life...



SJHS Charity

CAFOD's 'Dig Deep' Campaign

Throughout Lent students have been raising money to put towards CAFOD's annual Lent campaign.



The focus this year has been 'Dig Deep' which hopes to raise money to provide farmers in the developing world with the best equipment and training to help them sustain crop growth. Activities have included weekly hunger lunches, Treasure Hunts for Years 7 and 8 and grow your own chillies. We have also run weekly 'Throwaway Thursdays' where students have been encouraged to donate any spare change to the cause.

TENOVUS

On Wednesday 5th March the charity representatives from each Year 7 form class visited the TENOVUS mobile unit in ASDA car park. The pupils went to find all about the cancer charity and how the money that they will raise as a year group will help support people that are battling the disease and their families.

The charity reps were shown around the vehicle and asked interesting questions about the services that TENOVUS can provide around Wales and they reported back to their forms and form tutors the next day in PSE. They were also lucky enough to meet Dafydd James who played rugby for Wales and have their photo taken with him!

TENOVUS is a fantastic charity and there will be lots of fundraising activities going on in Year 7 to raise money over the next few months. Please support us and help as much as you can.



YEAR 8 AND 9 'MORE ABLE AND TALENTED' ART CLUB

Since October, we have been meeting once a fortnight for Art Club with Mrs Neale. We have done lots a variety of activities including a printmaking workshop where we tried printing with Lino to create Christmas cards. We have also made clay pots which was challenging but really exciting. Currently, we are working on our own canvases as a conclusion to this term's Art Club. We are really enjoying the array of materials on offer and learning new skills. Diolch Mrs Neale!

By Elena Hobbs and Holly Watkins, Year 8



In the More Able and Talented Art group every Monday night, we are given the opportunity to explore different materials and we are encouraged to experiment with a variety of drawing techniques. Everyone is in charge of their own project, focusing on things which interest us personally. So far this year we have created many different things including large scale group drawings, a recycled fashion project, pattern design, mixed media paintings, large scale portraiture and used clay to create gargoyles and experimentation tiles. We have also been given the chance to come in during our lunch hour and break times to finish work. I have loved coming to the Club after school, it has persuaded me to continue with art and take it as one of my GCSE options.

By Cami Bajjada, Year 9



Art

Kintbury14



On the 3rd March 26 Year 11 students, Mr Brown and Mrs Dunn all travelled to Kintbury in Berkshire. Kintbury is a religious retreat aimed at young people, allowing them to seek a reflective week during their busy lives whilst studying for GCSEs.

On arrival we met the team who were very welcoming and we were shown around the old house - once St Cassain's retreat. They were led by Sian and included Brother Gus, the resident priest and Youth Team/Small Groups leaders Dana, Emma, Matt, Katy and Sarah. We were then organised into smaller groups, and discussed relevant themes together each day. The small groups allowed us to get to know each other a little better and also reflect on the relationship we have with ourselves, others and God. We had lots of fun and even managed to get Mr Brown and Mrs Dunn to sing!

The most reflective part of the retreat was 'quiet house', when the entire house was in silent reflection in The Quiet Room, the Ceder Room and the Chapel. We also managed an Emmaus walk, where we joined one of our peers, walked and talked, and got to know that person even better. It was a great chance to create friendships with people you didn't really know.

Kintbury was a wonderful experience for everyone. It is a great place to relax and find yourself through reflection and meditation. The grounds are beautiful, although a little muddy this time due to the very wet weather. The team are truly inspirational people; it is an incredible, contemplative experience.

by Hope Johnson, Paige Knight Davis and Lowri Giles.

Literacy at St Joseph's



The Parable of the Mustard Seed

At St Joseph's we attempt to tackle all aspects of literacy and since September Year 10 have helped enormously with supporting Year 7 students. The Year 10 students have regularly met with their spelling buddy using the 'Nessie' literacy programme, as well producing strategies to help Year 7 become confident with difficult words. One of the significant advantages of the programme is that the Year 10 students have not only helped their buddies, but

have become friendly faces for them as they settled into school life at St Joseph's. A huge thanks to Stefan Garcia, Rebecca Harper, Emily James, Laura Williams, Amy Penn, Rose Evans, Kathryn Mulcahy, Kailem Williams, Josie Ash, Curtis Dyke, Kate Harrison, Cerys Walsh, Ifra Inayat, Michael Murray, Saad Ahmed, Kelly Sarsfield, Oktawia Van Tienderen, Jamie Medina, Chloe Norton, Luciana Oliver, Kerry Ruthven and Ayleigh Mochizuki-Ward.

“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.” **Corinthians 15:14**

Passion Tide

Passiontide is the period of Lent that commemorates the increasing revelation of Christ's divinity (see John 8:46-59) and His movement toward Jerusalem.

During Passiontide we remember Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. As the school was not in for Holy Week, three services were celebrated for Passiontide on the last day of term. The hall was lit with candles and the faces of every student in the school was placed on the wooden cross as a symbol that Christ died for each and every one of us. Students took part in readings and Ruby Davies and Kalechi Chigbo beautifully sang 'How Great Thou Art' unaccompanied. All services were very solemn and students were given an opportunity for silent reflection in preparation for Holy Week and the Easter season.

Easter Message

Many people think that Christmas is the most important day in the Catholic liturgical calendar, but from the earliest days of the Church, Easter has been considered the central Christian feast. As Saint Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:14, *“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”* Without Easter, without the Resurrection of Christ, there would be no Christian Faith. Christ's Resurrection is the proof of His Divinity.

Easter is not only the greatest Christian feast, it is the fulfillment of our faith as Christians. Through His Death, Christ destroyed our bondage to sin; through His Resurrection, He brought us the promise of new life, both in Heaven and on earth. His own prayer, *“Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in Heaven,”* begins to be fulfilled on Easter Sunday.



Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to earth so many years ago. Thank you that He paid the punishment for my sins by dying on the cross. Thank you that He rose again to prove that death was truly defeated. I place my trust in You to be my Saviour. Guide me through the dark times of my life and give me courage to live for You. Amen



ST JOSEPH'S DAY 2014

St Joseph's Day began with the celebration of Mass. All students and staff celebrated Mass in honour of our school Patron St Joseph.

Fr Mike Evans, the parish priest of All Saints, celebrated two Masses with students from Years 7-10 and Fr Brian Cuddihy; parish priest of St. Patrick's, celebrated Mass with Years 11, 12 and 13. In his homily, Fr Mike explained how we can be 'builders' like St Joseph instead of being 'destroyers' with unkind actions and unpleasant words. Fr Brian in his homily explained how we should be willing to sacrifice our love and time and put people first just like St Joseph put Mary and Jesus first. In all three Masses the students remained reverent and reflective and it was the perfect way to begin celebrating this very special feast day.

Ash Wednesday 2014

Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which Christians all over the world receive ashes to the foreheads to signify an inner repentance. The season of Lent was marked with three services on Ash Wednesday. The service was led by Mrs Burke and each service began with a

meditative mini-movie asking reflective questions about our actions during this Lenten season. Students and staff were given the opportunity to receive the ashes during the services and left with the Lenten challenge of carrying out prayer, fasting and alms-giving.





EISTEDD



Eisteddfod Joseff Sant 2014

Cynhaliwyd Eisteddfod yr ysgol fore Llun, Mawrth y 10fed yn y neuadd. Arweiniodd Mrs Burke wasanaeth arbennig i ddathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi cyn i ddisgyblion bl.7 ac 8 gael cyfle i fwynhau perfformiadau amrywiol yn cynnwys canu, barddoniaeth, dawnsio ac eitemau offerynnol.

Bu'r disgyblion yn dysgu 'Cwm Rhondda' yn eu gwersi cerddoriaeth a braf iawn oedd clywed dros ddau gant o leisiau yn bloeddio canu i ddechrau'r diwrnod. Yn eu tro, daeth pob dosbarth i'r llwyfan i berfformio cân a cherdd Gymreig (ac ambell un Ffrangeg!). Y corau buddugol oedd 7H, 8O, 8S a

8P, a'r grwpiau llefaru buddugol oedd 7T ac 8J. Dylid crybwyll perfformiad rhagorol Tegan Waters (7H) a gododd y to gydag un o glasuron Whitney Houston.

Uchafbwynt y diwrnod oedd seremoni'r cadeirio. Traddodiad yw gwbrwyo cadair i'r bardd gorau ac ar ganiad y corn gwlad cododd yr enillwyr sef Caitlin Bridge (7P) a Shireen Balouch (8S).

Mawr oedd ein diolch i'r beirniaid ar y diwrnod sef Mel O'Neill (Blwyddyn13), Jade Maber (Blwyddyn12), Martha Pole (Blwyddyn12), Mr Brown, Mrs Morgan a Mr Rowlands.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i'r holl gystadleuwyr... ymlaen at Eisteddfod 2015!

DDFOD



St Joseph's Eisteddfod 2014

The school Eisteddfod was held in the hall on Monday, March the 10th. Mrs Burke led a special service to celebrate St David's Day before students from Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of performances including singing, poetry, dancing and instrumental items.

Pupils had been busy in music lessons learning 'Cwm Rhondda' and hearing over 200 students sing in unison was a great start to the day. In turn, all classes performed a Welsh song and poem on the stage (as well as a few French songs). The victorious choirs were 7H, 8O, 8S and 8P, and the best

poetry recitals came from 7T and 8J. One notable performance was that of Tegan Waters (7H) who raised the roof with a rendition of a Whitney Houston classic and received a standing ovation.

As always, the highlight of the day was the chairing ceremony. Its tradition is to award a chair to the Eisteddfod's best poet, and when the fanfare sounded the winners were revealed: Caitlin Bridge (7P) and Shireen Balouch (8S).

We were very grateful to the judges Mel O'Neill (Year 13), Jade Maber (Year 12), Martha Pole (Year 12), Mr Brown, Mrs Morgan and Mr Rowlands, and hope they enjoyed the experience.

Congratulations to all competitors... onwards to Eisteddfod 2015!



CAUTION JACK THE RIPPER

On Tuesday 4th February we were shocked to find that the notorious **Jack the Ripper** had left a victim in our history classroom.



Investigating the killings was fascinating and involved much problem solving and team work as we placed together the clues we were given. These clues included maps of Whitechapel and horrific eye witness accounts.

We were able to pull the evidence together to begin to get an idea of what Jack the Ripper may have looked like, including his height and his

clothes. Using the evidence found we were able to decide what type of person he was and we found connections between all of the murders that took place.

Unfortunately though, we will not become overnight celebrities as the Ripper's identity remains a mystery...

by Joe Alley (9P)

Economics



A big thank you to Mr Mark Prendergast, ex-pupil, parent and Managing Director of Harris Pye Engineering and Mr Andrew Banks, ONS Economist for their in-depth discussion on our current economic climate and economics.



The two guest speakers gave insightful talks into their respective positions and the impact economic changes have upon how they do their jobs. The astronomical figures they talked about in relation to contracts and international trade, gave students a real perspective on the economics they study at GCSE and A Level. The students commented on how interesting it was to see and hear about exchange rates, inflation and economic growth happening in the real world in everyday business.

Hopefully it inspired them to be the next Lord Sugar or George Osbourne!!!!

Right side of the law...



Earlier this term our Year 12 A Level Law class enjoyed a special talk on becoming a solicitor from Mrs Sarah Williams-Martin, Partner and Head of Criminal Law at Watkins and Gunn Solicitors, based in Newport.

The eager students were made aware of the routes to qualification and the wide variety of work undertaken by legal practices. Many of the students are considering a career in the legal profession so seized the opportunity to ask lots of challenging questions.

Smiles lit up the classroom when Mrs Williams-Martin dressed up in her horse hair wig and gown which she wears to Court, leaving our students to wonder if one day *they* will be wearing the same interesting outfits themselves!



Blwyddyn 7 yn Llangrannog

Ym mis Ionawr, aeth Blwyddyn 7 i Llangrannog am daith anturus iawn yn y gwynt a'r glaw ond cafodd bawb llawer o hwyl ar y gweithgareddau gwahanol. Ar ôl cyrraedd, dawnsion ni yn y ganolfan hamdden, chwaraeon ni gêmâu a bwytton ni lawer o fwyd poeth.

Roedd y gwynt yn gryf iawn yn ystod y nos ond roedd pawb yn barod i gymryd rhan ar y gweithgareddau dydd Sadwrn fel, sgïo, gwibgartio, beiciau modur a llawer mwy. Roedd y plant yn ffantastig dros y penwythnos ac hoffai Mr James a Miss Monks ddweud diolch yn fawr iddyn nhw am fod yn gwmni da iawn!

On a wet, and very windy weekend in January, Year 7 went to Llangrannog for an adventurous and memorable trip! Everybody who went had lots of fun taking part in a whole variety of challenging activities, and enjoyed dancing and eating afterwards in the leisure centre.

On Saturday the wind was very strong but everybody was ready to take part in the activities like skiing, tobogganing, quad-bikes and lots more. All of the pupils were fantastic over the weekend and Mr James and Miss Monks would like to say a big thank you to them all for their good company.



Auschwitz

Personal accounts from Year 13...



In February 2014 I was lucky enough to have visited Poland as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Project. Firstly we visited the town of Oświęcim, which was home to thousands of Jews before the Holocaust. I was shocked by its emptiness. The only indication that Jews ever lived there was one remaining synagogue, as everything else had been destroyed.

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the camp that affected me the most. Unlike Auschwitz 1 it was a purpose built extermination camp and there were reminders of this wherever I looked. Its largeness put into perspective the monstrous amount of people that would have been imprisoned and killed there. Walking towards the camp along the train track is something I will never forget, as I realised that I was about to enter a place where such horrifying things happened. It was a very eerie place to be, especially as it grew darker. Nevertheless, the experience was mind-blowing, upsetting and extraordinary all at once.

by Evie Taylor 13

As part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project' I was chosen to visit Auschwitz. The first part of our visit involved walking through the small town of Oświęcim, where a large majority of its population who were Jewish were evicted and murdered. The only sign of pre-war Jewish life was one synagogue.

We then visited Auschwitz 1 (a political prisoner and work camp) and shortly after Auschwitz 2 known as Auschwitz-Birkenau, a purpose built execution camp designed to exterminate Jewish people. A truly humbling experience occurred as I walked the same route children, men and women walked into the gas chambers where they were executed in their thousands at a time. Auschwitz-Birkenau saw the deaths of an estimated 1.1 million Jews. The eerie, cold atmosphere and the knowledge of the events that unfolded there made this an experience I will never forget.

by Samuel Manship 13Y

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd 2014

Nos Wener, Mawrth 21ain, roedd disgybl o flwyddyn 8, Jade Carberry, yn cymryd rhan mewn rownd ragbrofol ar gyfer Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd. Roedd hi'n adrodd darn o farddoniaeth o'r enw 'Ysgol Haf'. Gwnaeth ei gwaith yn dda iawn a daeth yn gyntaf yn y gystadleuaeth.

Bydd hi nawr yn mynd ymlaen i gymryd rhan, ac i gynrychioli'r ysgol, yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd yn y Bala, gogledd Cymru, ym mis Mai. Llongyfarchiadau mawr Jade.

On March 21st, Jade Carberry, a pupil from Year 8, took part in a preliminary round for the Urdd National Eisteddfod. She recited a piece of poetry called 'Ysgol Haf'. She performed extremely well and came first in the competition.

She will now go on to compete, and to represent the school, in the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Bala, North Wales, in May. Huge congratulations Jade.



Business Studies Year 10 Entrepreneurs

Congratulations to our Year 10 Business Studies students for reaching the regional finals of 'The Real Business Challenge 2014' sponsored by Coca Cola. Nearly 5000 students entered the national competition where they had to produce and present a new, healthy, juice brand. 80 students reached the Welsh Regional Final in February held at Cardiff Millennium Stadium, including St Joseph's. Students worked hard all day on a new campaign to promote the charity "street games" which encourages young people in disadvantaged areas to engage in sport. Our students impressed the judges by working on the live project creating a viral video and a very professional presentation! The financial and commercial director of Coca Cola enterprises

commented on our students' "great team work as a whole and in smaller groups!"

Although we did not win the competition to attend the final in London, pupils developed their skills and the attributes needed to succeed in a business environment. They will also be able to add that they worked with Coca-Cola enterprises on a live project which will speak volumes on their future CVs and UCAS applications! Pupils were already asking Miss Dack if they could mentor the next group of Year 10 Business Studies students when they prepare for the challenge next year! Well done to the following pupils:

Aaron Thomas, Luke Di Franco, Kent Rosario, Ethan McMahon, Jacob Pyne, Christel Bodonia and Maciej Byles.

Congratulations...

Welcome to Mr B Fitzgerald who has joined as Head of Music, already leading the students through the fantastic Eagles Showcase and Mrs L Lane who has taken on the role of Head of Mathematics.

**WELCOME
CROESO**



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Congratulations to 'Imperial' the St Joseph's Young Enterprise Team, who won Best Trade Stand and Best Interview at the Young Enterprise Awards held at University of Wales, City Campus.



Homework help

Homework and topics can be really difficult to start as you can't find the information you need. From the Victorians to science and from minibeasts to countries. Why not pop into your local library where staff will be able to help your child find the books and websites they need to help them get the best marks?

Using the internet safely

Anyone can use the computers in your local library for an hour for free. You can play games, type up homework etc. Library staff can help you be safe while using the internet and there are some safety games for children at www.thinkuknow.co.uk which can help your child become a safer internet user.

Bookstart

All parents of babies and toddlers in Wales are entitled to receive Bookstart bag of free books and information on sharing books with their children. If you would like extra information and books in other languages please do let your Health Visitor know.

Bookstart Book Crawl

We are rewarding all children between 0-4 years who visit the library. Every time your baby or toddler visits the library they will receive a sticker. Once they have collected four stickers they will receive a certificate, all designed by children's book illustrators.

First reader collection

Not all children find learning to read easy. But don't despair, help is at hand at your local library. Children learning to read need books with pictures to give them clues, simple words, clear and large text size, as well as a good story. We have a variety of series in our First Readers collection which you can use to supplement their reading scheme books from school. Ten minutes reading every day will help build their confidence and stamina. Remember it's hard work learning to read!

For more information on the books or any of the above schemes visit www.opac.newport.gov.uk or www.newport.gov.uk/libraries.



CAFOD

**School
Volunteers
needed!**

CAFOD are looking for volunteers who care about global poverty, can work with children and young people and are able to travel to school and parishes in their local area to deliver a short presentation on an aspect of their work. CAFOD have a wide range of exciting educational resources for volunteers to use, and full training and support will be given in this enjoyable and rewarding role.

If you think that this is something you may be interested in then please contact CAFOD South Wales on 029 20 344 882, email southwales@cafod.org.uk or visit www.cafodsouthwales.wordpress.com for further details.



PS4

**Our very
lucky Year 10
PS4 winner..**

During the last few weeks of the Christmas term Mr Brown, RE Teacher, was able to offer a brand new Sony Playstation 4 console as a raffle prize to raise money for CAFOD's Philippines Appeal.

A total of **£520** was raised and the console was won by Ross Szafnauer in Year 10. Runners up prizes of £25 itunes vouchers were won by Jessica Williams in Year 8 and Miss Mills in Admin. Thank you all for your support

Dates for your diary 2014

SUMMER TERM TYMOR Y GWANWYN

May	
1	UK Maths Challenge
5	May Bank Holiday
20-22	Year 6 Performing Arts Days
21-27	Year 8/9 Spanish Trip
26-30	HALF TERM
June	
17	Year 12 Geog Trip to Kenfig Sand Dunes
23	Year 10 Work Experience
23,24,26	Year 5 Transition Performing Arts Show
27	Year 7 Techniquet Trip

Please be aware that if there are any unforeseen circumstances, these dates might change.

July	
1-3	Year 5 Transition Performing Arts Show
3	Year 7 Science Day Event
3	KS3 Celebration of Excellence Evening
3-4	History Trip to France
8-11	Year 12 Biology Field Trip
8	New Year 7 Non-Feeder Day
8	New Year 7 Parents' Evening
9	Summer Concert
11	Years 7/8 Boulogne Day Trip
12-16	Years 10/11 Lourdes Trip
15-19	Years 8,9,10 Paris Trip
18	END OF SUMMER TERM

Catch the St Joseph's RC High School news as it happens on:

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