

Insight

Autumn 2012 Hydref

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

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



OUR NEW LOOK...

Why 'Insight'?

As you can see the Newsletter of last term is no more. Say hello to the new look termly publication. Insight.

Where does the name come from? Well, unanimously the School Council decided that they wanted the termly newsletter to be more visually contemporary so as to appeal to its wide audience. They also wanted the name to reflect its purpose – that of giving everyone an inside view of what school life is like, whether it be about a recent happening in a lesson or department, information regarding school activities such as field trips or sporting fixtures or simply a reminder about upcoming events.

The School Council were also adamant that the name should reflected the fact we are a Catholic High School. They felt that the symbol of the cross behind the letter 't' would be a reminder of our strong Catholic identity and how very important this is to our school community.

G Mainstone School Council



Serving God through
learning together

Yn gwasanaethu Duw trwy
ddysgu gyda'n gilydd

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Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth

Miss S M Jenkins Headteacher

This term has been a very busy one for both students and staff, as we continue to work together on our school improvement journey. In line with our school improvement priorities for 2012/13, students and staff have been developing the use of starters and plenaries to support learning in lessons. Another

of our priorities is to develop further opportunities for reading, writing, oracy and numeracy. We were delighted that the Welsh Government invited the school to pilot the new Literacy & Numeracy Framework LNF guidance materials to be published nationally in 2013. Students and staff have welcomed

the opportunity to impact on this important agenda across Wales.

Thank you to all parents/ carers who have registered for **Parentmail** our new email system, if you have not already registered please can I encourage you to do so, the feedback from parents

who are already receiving communication via email is extremely positive. If you require any support with registering please contact Mr Alex Guest at the school.

In this season of Advent we wish you peace, joy and contentment now and in the New Year.

Student Council

The School Council provides a voice for all students in the school. We are a democratically elected group of students from each year group council. Our purpose is to represent students' views and opinions on a variety of issues. As well as a forum for activity and constructive student input into the daily life of the school community.

This term we have embarked on several projects that we believe will improve the quality of school life. Firstly, we have been discussing the School Improvement Plan that has been drawn up by the staff at St. Joseph's. In consultation with each year group's teaching and learning representative, we are investigating how starter activities and plenaries can support and develop learning in the classroom.

Secondly, the Council wanted to play a part in raising the Catholic identity of the school. We are achieving this by planning and designing a large cross that will sit proudly on the exterior of the school.

Thirdly, we wanted to tackle the view that more outside recreational facilities are needed. We are now looking at buying and installing extra seating and tables for students to use at breaktime or lunchtime.

The Student Council is the voice for all students, and as a members of it, we understand how important our role is within the school and that we have a real opportunity to leave a lasting legacy at St. Joseph's RC High School.

R Mainstone School Council

RYLA

On the 15th October, three students from St. Joseph's RC High School celebrated their Rotary Leadership Awards at a dinner with St Woolos Rotary Club.

Rotary support young people with leadership potential by sending selected candidates on a one week outward bound course at Dolygaer in the Brecon Beacons, where they experience rock climbing, caving, canoeing and the opportunity to develop their leadership, problem solving and team player skills; working with other students from all over

South East Wales. The Rotary Club of St Woolos invited the students back to the Club to share their experiences, which they always refer to as 'life-changing'. The students said that they developed friendships that will endure for many years. The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) will also boost their CVs ahead of university or other career applications.

Below: Jordon Snelgrove, Zoe Holloway, Jessica Pickering & Zou Itani



Youth Chaplaincy Team

We were delighted earlier this year when a number of students volunteered to become members of our newly formed Youth Chaplaincy Team.

The main aims of the Youth Chaplaincy is to take into account that the students and staff will be in different places when it comes to spirituality. They endeavour to offer a contemporary model that the current youth culture will accept. The Youth Chaplaincy team's role is to be positive role models that young people can trust, and to understand youth trends in art, music and technology and apply these trends creatively in Liturgical Services in the search for spirituality. Whilst young people are wary of anything institutional, they are often interested in exploring issues of spirituality, as long as it is done creatively, is life-applicable, is relational and is respectful of another's position and beliefs.

Gospel values permeate sensitively throughout our school and our Youth Chaplaincy Team is present to help young people find that inner compass to help them face life's challenges with confidence. Youth Chaplaincy are working on the Advent service at the moment writing bidding prayers and music. They are also reviewing collective worship. Next term they will be looking at how the school can celebrate the Year of Faith.



Members of the Team Mrs K Burke, Connor Clement, Isoken Omusi, Melissa O'Niell, Niamh McHugh, Morgan Canniff, Alex Lewis, Isaac Sperduti, Bethan Delahaye, Rebecca Harper, Amelia Alder-Woolf, Hannah Brunnock, Natasha Masini, Paige Knight-Davies, Hope Johnson, Tyler Prendergast, Jacob Griffiths

November is always an important month in the history of our country. It is the month when we remember all those who have given, and who continue to give the greatest sacrifice so that we may have freedom. For me, it is a very poignant time of year as I come from a military family and currently have over thirty friends and family serving in either Iraq or Afghanistan. I am also a member of the Royal British Legion and try to promote the Poppy Appeal to the younger generations to ensure that the heroic deeds of so many are never forgotten.

For the last three years I have led the Remembrance Service for Year 10 and I am always impressed with the maturity and compassion shown by our students. The service focuses on all victims of war and not just the soldiers. In our world of action films and video games it is easy for all of us to become desensitised to the true horrors of war and I have always felt that our students need to see the reality of war at an age when they are able to understand what truly happens.

The service focused on the stories of six individuals who

had been victims of war. They included Gary Box, who was a fireman who lost his life in the 9/11 attacks, Tim Parry who was a 13 year old boy killed in an IRA bomb attack while out shopping and Anne Frank, possibly the most well-known victim of the Holocaust. The students were then shown a presentation illustrating some of the atrocities that have taken place

in various wars since the turn of the 20th Century. Each image they saw was real and not from a Hollywood film or a 'staged' photograph for a text book. This presentation was accompanied by a song by an American Rock Group called 'Shadow Falls'. The song – 'Another Hero Lost' was their protest against the War in Iraq and was extremely fitting for the images shown.

A big thank you to the students of 10S who took part in the service. They were absolutely magnificent in the way they read and brought the stories of the victims across to their year group.

Mr D Brown



LET US remember

St. Joseph's honours the fallen

All carefree, childish chatter was left behind when Years 10 and 11 joined together on the 12th November to solemnly remember the continuing sacrifices made by the members of our armed forces.

The devastating impact on families was poignantly brought home by the images selected by Mr Brown,

that illustrated the terrible conditions and some of the horrendous injuries our soldiers have endured.

For many of the audience the most upsetting and perhaps shocking details were that some of the soldiers we were remembering were as young as thirteen. Another disturbing fact we heard was that two

children involved in present day war and conflict would have died before our 30 minute service had finished.

Everybody who was present at the Remembrance Service would agree that it was an important occasion because it reminded us that war is still happening and it is closer to home than some

people might think. The service also reminded us that Remembrance Day honours soldiers throughout the ages in various wars, and also the innocent people that die as a result of armed conflicts.

Thank you Mr Brown for organising the service.

Hope Johnson 10S



Lord, help us prepare our hearts and remove any sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope that your presence will bestow upon us during this season of Advent. As we approach the Christmas season, let us look forward to the celebration of your birth. Let us pray in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen

Advent Prayer written by Melissa O'Neill Year 12

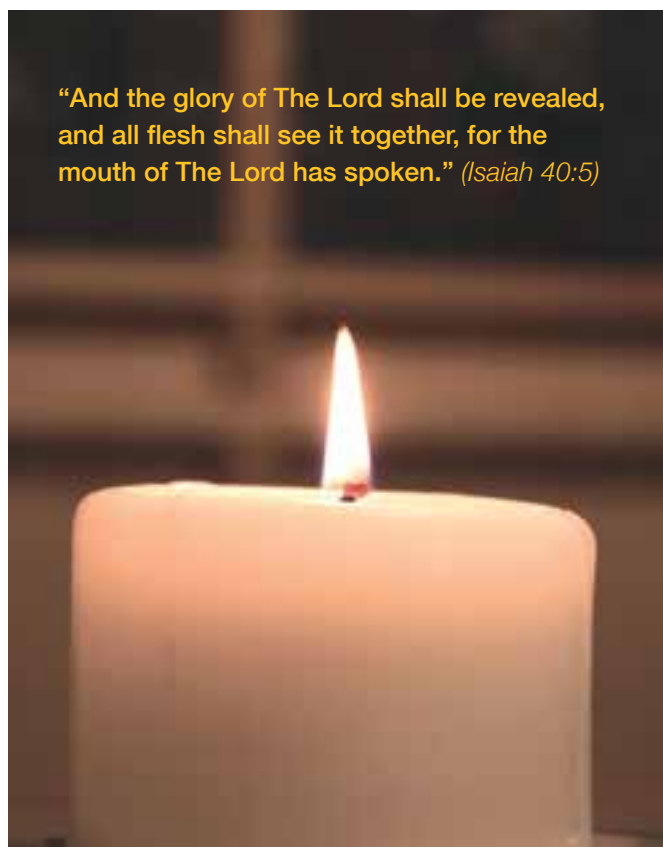
The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin *adventus* which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. The first season of the liturgical year begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditionally observed as a "fast", its purpose focuses on preparation for the coming of Christ. Preparation for Christmas is an important theme for Advent, but more is involved. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life. The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian. First we celebrate Christ-become-human. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. But Jesus knew that the human heart could not live in isolation. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing. Together we find real meaning.

When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us.

When Christ comes again, his presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of

Advent

"And the glory of The Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of The Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 40:5)



the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community.

This is the "greater significance" of Advent. With the 'Year of Faith' in mind and in these few short weeks, we take in the sweeping panorama of time – from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ.

Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

Advent Poem

(provided by the Youth Chaplaincy Team)

**Do you hear me when your friend turns to you,
to ask forgiveness and trust?**

Do I not forgive you always?

Do I not give you a merciful ear?

I am not coming soon, I am here!

**In this season I was born unto you,
fulfilling the promise of God's care.**

Look for me, listen to me,

I am not coming soon, I am here!



Charity update



The Feast of Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King is the last holy Sunday in the liturgical Year. The feast of Christ the King celebrates the all-embracing authority of Christ as King and Lord of all. It is celebrated on the final Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Sunday before Advent.

To celebrate this special feast, two forms from Year 7 and Year 8 joined together in the chapel. The service was led by Mrs Burke and Liam Gunter, Katherine Mareverwa, and Jocelina Ndongala. Students from Year 8 participated in the readings. The service was particularly special as Fr. Mike Evans also celebrated with us. Fr. Mike is the new priest for the parish of All Saints and it was his first celebration with the students. In his reflection Fr. Mike spoke of how Christ was a king for all people and that Jesus' throne was not a golden throne like the kings and queens of this world – Jesus' throne was the cross and his crown was made of thorns. The service included the song 'The Servant King' and concluded with a short and appropriate rap of how we should live our lives like Christ.

Mary's Meals

The school has supported Mary's Meals in the past by providing children with back packs filled with books, pens, t-shirts and small gifts. This year there is a great new initiative introduced by our catering suppliers Chartwells. They have joined forces with Mary's Meals who provide food and education to children in the poorest parts of the world. For every 20 meals purchased in the school canteen, Chartwells will donate one meal to Mary's Meals. This is involving every member of our school community in contributing to this wonderful cause.

On Tuesday 13th November we were able to host Ben and Ffiona from Chartwells, who run the Mary's Meals aspect of the company. They gave talks about the charity to students in Years 7, 10, 11 and 13.

We are now focusing on forging even stronger links with Mary's Meals and, along with CAFOD, adopting them as a whole school charity. Many thanks to Mr Humpage, who has acted as our liaison with Chartwells to help us create these links.



Over the years, St. Joseph's students have been brilliant not only in their support of charitable organisations, but also in the ideas they suggest for fundraising events. To ensure that we as a school continue to do our best for this important aspect of Catholic Education, we decided to set up a Charity Committee, made up of students from all year groups to allow the student body to have their say on the direction we wished to take. We were overwhelmed by the amount of students who wished to become part of this committee and had to alter our original plan of two representatives from each year group to accommodate the number of keen and passionate individuals who want to do good in the world.

Exciting Times Ahead!

The first act that the new Charity Committee had to carry out was to decide on a designated charity for their year group. They were presented with the names and descriptions of a number of local, national and international charities and asked to pick two to present to their year group. Each form then voted on which charity they wished to support for the year. The following charities were chosen by the students of each year group and the aim is to carry out at least one major fundraising event each term for that charity:

Year 7	Make A Wish Foundation UK
Year 8	Ty Hafan
Year 9	Blind Veterans UK
Year 10	The Alzheimer's Society
Year 11	Latch, The Children's Cancer Charity.

The members of our first St Joseph Charity Committee are:

Year 7	Amelia Alder-Woolf, Thomas Routley, India Farkas and Eleanor Haley
Year 8	Tamarah Zammimba, Rhys Hoskins, Martin Kramer and Geraldine Fowles
Year 9	Olivia Rowberry, Libby Harry, Keir Bassett and Pietro Gargaro
Year 10	Megan Hughes, Paulina Sulek, Jac Hobbs, Carly Ma and Keiron Barnett
Year 11	Ky Harvey, Ciaran Roche, Morgan Lewis, Emily Ball and Lea Johnstone

St. Joseph's students are also involved in helping others by their involvement in:

Throwaway Thursdays – this is an initiative we introduced at the start of the year. Students are encouraged to bring any spare change that they have at home or in their pockets into school on a Thursday and 'throw it away' to the charity reps who will then collect it in a large tube that is currently housed in my room. The jar is filling up quite quickly with coppers and small silver coins. At the end of the year this money will be donated to Mary's Meals.

CAFOD Action Group met for the first time this year in early November with an impressive turnout of students from across the year groups. In total, 57 students have signed up for this year's group, but plenty more will join over the next few months. The first focus for the group this year is a 'Stories For Africa' project. Students have been asked to write a short story of between 500-1000 words about anything their imagination can conjure up. To help them and to develop links with other departments throughout the school, Mr Watts from the English Department gave a presentation on how to write a short story. When the students have completed their stories they will be compiled into a book and copies will be sent to schools in Africa through our new partnership with Mary's Meals. We look forward to sharing some of these stories in future editions of 'Insight'.



Year 9 Fundraising Event

Year 9 were quick off the blocks in organising a fundraising event for their chosen charity. Mr Blackwell and the Charity Reps organised a special sporting event that involved all forms and form tutors. The challenge was to collectively run 100 miles and perform 5000 sit-ups and push-ups. Students were sponsored by their families and friends to participate in the event. It took place over two separate PSE sessions and was a great success. A fantastic £930 was raised. This money will now be divided between their chosen charities, Blind Veterans UK and the leuan the Lion Memorial Fund, in memory of former student leuan Yendle. Well done to everyone in Year 9 who organised and took part in this event. On 21st November, Mr Wayne Yendle, leuan's Father, and Mr John Healey, on behalf of Blind Veterans UK, were invited to the school to receive their cheques. Mr Blackwell (Head of Year 9) said, "It's an honour to be involved with such a generous group of students. It's an amazing feeling to have them raise money for two worthwhile charities. Well done to all students and tutors in Year 9 who took part and contributed." There was also a special guest appearance by the leuan the Lion Mascot who can be seen above with Mr Blackwell, Mr Yendle, Mr Healey and some of the Year 9 students who took part in the fundraising event.

Film Club

CAFOD Film Club has returned this year with a dedicated group of film fans turning up to my room every lunchtime to watch some of the newest blockbusters and some classics that they may not have come across before. Films this year have included 'Pirates in an Adventure with Scientists', 'Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief' and 'The Simpsons Movie'. Students pay £2 every half term to join, with all proceeds going to CAFOD. All that's missing is the popcorn!

Youth SVP

“ I love interacting with the children and helping them. It’s really enjoyable” Seren Berry, 10S



What is Youth SVP?

Youth SVP is a Christian organisation for young people who want to put their faith into action. Volunteers give support to people in their community, meet them person to person and try to assist them in any way they can.

Why should you join the Youth SVP group?

- You will make a real difference to people who need your help.
- You will learn about some of the problems that are around you, and the role you can play to make a difference.
- You will gain great experience which employers and universities will admire.

The Youth SVP in St. Joseph’s

We currently have 20 committed members who meet regularly to discuss ideas about how they can help people in the local community. We have also had an astonishing number of Year 10 students (105) volunteer this year to help in local primary schools. At the moment we have two groups of Year 10 students who give up their lunch break every Wednesday to volunteer in St David’s and St. Michael’s Primary Schools. Students assist in the classroom with a whole range of activities, from listening to reading to making costumes for the Christmas concert!



Thank You PTFA Diolch CRhA

The RE department would like to thank the PTFA who very kindly donated funds to purchase The Stations of the Cross. They arrived just before half term and this addition to the chapel means that all the key features of the Church are present and will enhance the spirituality and faith development of both staff and students. Thank you very much!





Fiction at its finest

The Man Booker Prize for 6th Form 2012

Claudia Williams Year 12

The Man Booker Prize promotes the finest in fiction by rewarding the very best book of the year. The prize is the world's most important literary award and has the power to transform the fortunes of authors and publishers.

In July this year, for the first time in the history of the prize, secondary schools across the UK were invited to be part of this prestigious event as a 'Reading Group Shadowing Partner'. Only six schools were chosen out of the hundreds that applied and we were incredibly proud and pleased to be one of those selected!

An eclectic mix of Year 12 and 13 students who have been committed members of our school reading group since Year 7 were chosen to take part. All of them are voracious readers who, over the years, have enthusiastically read everything we've given them. They have always been ready

with strong, well-considered arguments to debate the merits or otherwise of the books they were reading and now, as sixth formers they were ready to move on, in literary terms, and take on the challenge that is the Man Booker Prize!

We met every week to read, discuss and debate the books, finally voting as a group for the one that we thought should win the coveted prize. Each of the books on the shortlist were very challenging, written by authors that push the boundaries of contemporary literary fiction and it took a huge level of commitment from all those that took part to read them.

The judges voted Hilary Mantel's 'Bring up the Bodies' as the winner, which wasn't our choice; we chose Alison Moore's 'The Lighthouse' as the group's favourite.

"The Booker Prize was really interesting. It encouraged me to read a number of unique books that were both enjoyable and challenging. I plan to study English Literature at university and I think that reading this shortlist of the best in contemporary literary fiction will take my reading skills to another level".

Claudia Williams Year 12

Try them for yourself, all the shortlisted titles are available now to borrow from the school library

"I really enjoying doing the Booker Prize because it inspired me to read a much wider range of books" Tilly Lawton Year 12

Back row:

Mr. Watts, Tanisha Haynes, Tyler Prendergast, Ciara Cullen, Claudia Williams, Lucilla Jones, Mrs Hayman

Front row:

Rebecca Miller, Bethan Phillips, Dane Rodriguez, Chloe Peplow



ST JOSEPH'S GOT

TALENT



Congratulations!

CoPE Team: Charley Welsh, Lauren Smith, Abigail Szafnauer, Rebecca Elahi

This year our CoPE team wanted to continue our success by ensuring St. Joseph's Got Talent was the best ever. In particular we wanted to highlight the talent in the younger years at our school.

After our first group meeting we were determined that this event was going to be amazing so we all designed posters to be placed in form

rooms to attract as many contestants as possible. We carried out auditions in the drama studio and were very impressed by ALL the students but eventually decided on ten for the final. These lucky finalists were announced by Abby Szafnauer and Rebecca Elahi, and the big event was organised for Tuesday 13th November. Everyone that competed in the final was fantastic and four students were given outstanding achievement trophies. The audience thoroughly enjoyed their lunchtime and helped us raise over £80.

Our CoPE team would like to thank everyone who took part in this year's Talent Show and all those who helped raise a great amount for our chosen charity, Mary's Meals.



- 1st Erin Flaherty**
- 2nd Jack Spruce**
- 3rd Raelle Millar**
- 4th Callum Hammond**



art

experiences

“She always had a passion to paint.”

Interview with Valerie Ganz



Valerie Ganz in her studio

As part of my A-Level Art course, I looked at Welsh Culture. A huge part of Welsh culture is coal mining, which is what my Artwork is based on.

My Art teacher recommended that I do an Artist Study on the prestigious Welsh Artist Valerie Ganz, who on a whim, I emailed. To my surprise Valerie emailed me back almost immediately asking to arrange the interview at her home in Swansea.

Over half term I travelled to Swansea by train to interview her. Valerie also agreed to let me film the interview to use as part of my course work.

Valerie told me about her early life in the Art world, and how she always had a passion to paint. By the age of 17 she had produced a large scale stained glass piece coincidentally based on coal mining. Later on in her life, she became infatuated with the industrial world. This is where she decided to base a lot of pieces on coal mining. Valerie told me how it was difficult for her to even go down into the coal mines because since it has been illegal for women to work underground, there have been superstitious beliefs surrounding women going underground. Eventually she managed to gain access, however

she was accompanied by a coal miner. She then went on to tell me how it was a whole new experience to be drawing from life and her assistant miner had to shine his light towards the miners in order for her to draw them. Following the interview, Valerie kindly gave me a brief tour of her gorgeous studio. It was quite surreal to see pieces from her website, right there in front of me.

To interview a prestigious Welsh Artist was a huge honour and privilege for me. Thank you Valerie.

13V Joanne Loder

Life Drawing

As part of our A Level Fine Art course Mrs Mone organised a five week Life Drawing class at Coleg Gwent Crosskeys Campus. At first I was extremely nervous, but after the first session I was completely at ease. The atmosphere was extremely relaxed - the model was professional and the tutor was very friendly. We did a wide range of exercises, experimenting with materials, techniques, positions and sizes. The tutor also varied our time limits, making each session different and exciting. I really enjoyed these classes and I feel that they have widened my abilities and improved my talents greatly.

“I look forward to taking further Life Drawing classes in the future”.

Tilly Lawton Year 12





Former student Tony Whyman inspires up and coming artists

Tony Whyman is the Head of Architectural Studies at Cardiff Metropolitan University of Art. He is an ex-student from St. Joseph's and gave a presentation on the options that Cardiff Met has to offer. He prepared a simple but effective PowerPoint presentation with photographs of some of the work produced by students.

Tony talked about the many different courses that Cardiff Met has to offer such as Ceramics, Architectural and Design Technology, Textiles, Fine Art, Illustration and Product Design. He explained that Cardiff Met is also working with other neighbouring schools in Glamorgan and Newport to ensure that as many courses as possible are available to students so that they can choose the best course for them. I found the talk useful as I have considered University options for myself but I was not entirely sure which course to choose. This talk has given me ideas about the courses I would like to take such as Fine Art, as I prefer sketching and painting to sculpting.

Abigail Hinds



The Joshua Foundation is a local charity providing experiences for children with terminal cancer. A small group of us in Year 13 are currently fundraising £3000 each for the Oz Experience. Half of the money goes directly to the charity and the other half pays for our trip to Australia where we will take part in conservation work, and other activities while we're there.

Each of us have tried various things to raise the money and have thoroughly enjoyed doing so...

Jeysri Kalyanasundaram

Total £1700

Charity dinner £400
Uncle casual Friday £1000
Raffle tickets and cupcakes £300

Rosie Higgins

Total £1100

Cake sales £300
Sixth form party £600
Coffee morning £200

Francesca Garcia

Total £1160

Cake sales £300
Sixth form party £600
Coffee morning £200
Bag packing £60

Jacob Pumford Jones

Raising the money through a part time job

Daniel Pearson

Total £2010

Sponsored bike ride £600
Car boot sales £200
Sixth form party £650
Company grants £500
Bag packing £60

Caitlin David

Total £3075

Coffee morning, cake and plant sale £450
Handmade jewellery £200
Quiz night £350
Two sixth form parties £2075

Paige Hannan

Total £1300

Sponsored five mile walk £600
Disco, raffle and tombola evening £400
Bag packing £300

There are future plans for activities such as a race night, more bag packing, sponsored leg waxing and a sponsored bike ride.

Catenian Association Interviews

Each year the sixth form students who are making applications to university are fortunate to receive mock interviews from members of the Catenian Association and their guests.

The Catenian Association is a Catholic society which exists to foster brotherly love and social bonds between members and their families, and to advance the interests of young Catholics and assist them in the choice or pursuit of a career.

Grouped into subject area specialities, students are 'grilled' about their choices and aspirations by professionals from both



the public and private sectors and this is seen by all as invaluable preparation for potential university interviews. Last year the Catenian's interviewed over 80 Year 13 students. With yet another increase in university applications this year, they have very kindly agreed to extend their time with us to ensure that as many as possible undergo this process. We cannot thank them enough for all of their time and advice given over the years.



Craig Yates, Only Men Aloud



Tim Rhys-Evans Musical Director of Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud and Only Kids Aloud, and director of the Aloud charities.



Rhian Williams, Music Producer & Director

Special guests for Year 13!

St. Joseph's hosted a wealth of special guests this term all thanks to the Year 13 Performing Arts Music students.

Our collaborative group interviewed three people from the Welsh world of Media and the Performing Arts as part of their Unit 4 project work on 'The Performing Arts Industry'. First was Craig Yates, singer in Only Men Aloud and administrator for Only Boys Aloud. Craig was quizzed by our students on his life and education, how he started singing and how he maintains his busy lifestyle of being a performer and an administrator for one on the busiest choirs on the planet!

Next Rhian Williams, Music producer and director from the BBC in Llandaff spoke to us about her varying job roles, and how much time and work goes into making a one hour Music

programme. She showed us a showreel of BBC Wales' output from 2010. Did you know that BBC Young Musician, R3 Choir of the Year, Cardiff singer of the world, and the Dr Who proms are all made by the BBC here in Wales?!

Finally our students had the opportunity to interview the big boss himself, Tim Rhys-Evans, the man behind anything with 'Aloud' in the title! He is of course the brains and driving force behind Only Men, Boys and Kids Aloud, and is the director of the 'Aloud Charity'.

The Performing Arts Music group thoroughly enjoyed interviewing our special guests and hope that all we learnt from them will help us to achieve brilliant results in this unit of our course! We are very grateful for Craig, Rhian and Tim giving up their time so generously to help us. Thank you guys!



St Cecilia's Day Concert

Thursday 22nd November saw our second annual St Cecilia's Day concert, celebrating our patron saint of music and musicians. The evening was a showcase for the A Level Performing Arts Music students, and gave them all an opportunity to gain valuable experience performing in front of an audience. The 19 AS Level students in Year 12 each performed a solo number on their chosen instrument, and in addition the singers performed 'Hail Holy Queen' from Sister Act. Our more

experienced Year 13 students had arranged a diverse selection of ensemble items which ranged from Green Day and Florence and the Machine, to Duke Ellington's 'It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that Swing', and Elgar's Ave Verum. The audience were thrilled by the performances of all our students and responded well to the enthusiasm from the stage. It was a truly enjoyable evening, and an excellent showcase of our A Level talent!

Well done to all involved.

Only Boys Aloud!

As you may have heard, Only Boys Aloud, (Only Men Aloud's little brothers!) came third in this year's ITV1 show 'Britain's Got Talent'. This was a fantastic achievement and the exposure on the show viewed by an average of 12 Million people each week, won them fans from right across the UK and beyond. OBA now have a whopping 11,100 followers on Twitter and 11,840 likes on Facebook! Following this success the boys Musical Director Tim Rhys-Evans secured London-based management, concert agents

and an album deal with Sony Records. The OBA debut album was released on 3rd December, and features Welsh male choir favourites such as 'Calon Lan' and 'Sospan Fach', modern classics 'Paradise' by Coldplay and Take that's 'Never Forget', and a few Christmas numbers old and new! St. Joseph's students Gareth Wassall, Emyr Bassett, Tyler Hannan and Conor Clement, and past students Jacob James, James Mulcahy, and Dan Hampton are all members of OBA and have a great deal to be proud of! Well Done boys!

'Only Boys Aloud' is open to all boys aged 14-19 living in or near the South Wales valleys. Our nearest group is in Cwmbran and is run by Director of Music Nick Bristow. Please see Mr Bristow or visit www.onlyboysaloud.co.uk



leaders

OF THE FUTURE



We are great believers in not only refining the performer but we also want the students to understand how they can develop as performers within a variety of officiating and coaching opportunities. The Key Stage 4 and 5 students are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of their sport in a variety of experiences. Many of them go on to use either officiating or coaching roles within their examination classes. A number of students within the GCSE and A Level courses develop their coaching experiences within the Year 10 and 11 core games lessons. They demonstrate a confident and mature approach when delivering their planned sessions to their peers.

We are particularly pleased with the links with NISV which enables us to use the swimming pool on a Friday afternoon. Both Elizabeth Smith Year 12 and Zoe Holloway, Year 13 have made excellent progress in developing water confidence with some of our Year 11 students.

In September 31, Year 10 girls enrolled on the Junior Sports Leaders' Award. This again develops their leadership characteristics and allows us to further extend the variety of activities available to our Year 10 girls within their core games. All of the girls have responded really well to their peers delivering the sessions and we have seen more girls participating.

Star Performer Profiles:

We are very proud of Lili Dunn Year 11 who has continued to excel in both Hockey and Netball. This season she has been selected to represent SE Wales in both sports for the second year running. We are really happy to have two other girls from Year 9 following in her successful footsteps. Bethan Doughty and Myah Seivwright-Williams have also been selected to represent SE Wales in both Hockey and Netball.

We have enjoyed watching these three girls develop into fantastic sportswomen and we wish them every success for the season.



Things you might like to know	Myah Seivwright-Williams	Lili Dunn	Bethan Doughty
Sporting achievements	South East Wales Netball, Welsh Development Hub, Newport Netball. Two years running school hockey champions, runners-up for school champions, South East Wales Hockey, Championships for Newport and Torfaen Schools	Hockey – South Wales, South East Wales and Newport, Gwent. Netball – South East Wales and Welsh Hub Academy	South Wales winners hockey for three years. Welsh Cup Finalists for three years, winning this title twice. South East Wales school hockey league winners for two consecutive years. County Athletics finalist in the shot putt. County Netball Development, County Netball, County Hockey, Welsh Academy Hockey, Welsh 360 Hockey and Welsh Hub Netball
Favourite food	Curry, chicken and prawns	Pasta	Fajitas and stir fry
Favourite subjects	PE, Games and History	English, PE and Maths	PE, Humanities and Science
What you like about being a student in St. Joseph's	Getting the opportunities to do what you enjoy doing best and getting the support and help from the staff.	I really like being at St. Joseph's as I love competing as a team with my friends, I also enjoy the opportunities that are offered. I enjoy competing at tournaments.	The opportunities that have been made available to me and being with friends.
Proudest moment	Being selected for Welsh Development Hub	Being selected for the Welsh Academy for hockey	U16 Welsh Trials 2011 and being selected for Welsh Academy
Advice to others	Never give up. Good things come to those who wait. If you want it hard enough make it happen	Always stick at your sport and try and encourage others to achieve as a team to the best of your ability	There are lots of opportunities available in school. Do as much as you can and use them to find something you like and work at it



Games Galore!

We have had a very busy start to the season and appreciate all the commitment from students and support from parents. So far the boys have competed in 18 matches against local and Cardiff based schools. They have won 45% of the games, lost 50% and drew 5%. The girls have faced 41 matches, winning 66%, drawing 5% and losing 29%.

We are particularly pleased with the U14 hockey team who have not lost a single league game. This team won both the A and B SE Wales leagues in Year 7. The team went on to win this tournament again in Year 8 beating Rougemont 3-1 in the final. The team won all five of the Year 8 games

in their pool scoring 31 goals with no goals scored against them. They have started off well again this year winning their first match 11-1 against Monmouth.

We want to wish the U16 Netball team every success in the final of the Ann Smart tournament which they qualified for earlier this month. Within the qualifying stages they beat Duffryn 8-0, Rougemont 10-0, Caldicot 7-4 and then drew 5-5 with Gwyn Llyw.

The U16 hockey team are also through to the final of the SE Wales School Girl Cup later this month. We wish them lots of luck in this tournament and know they will play some fantastic hockey.

Football Update

Rolin Menayese Year 10 and **Tom Pearson** Year 11 continue to impress with their football skills. These boys have been selected repeatedly for the Welsh development squad and have been invited to attend Victory Shield training camps in preparation for international matches against Scotland, England, and Estonia. Rolin started for the U16 Welsh side against England and he also played for the U17 Welsh side against Estonia. Tom is currently taking part in the training camp preparing for the Northern Ireland game at the end of the week.



Francesca is a member of Newport Velo Cycling Club and after being invited to train with the 2018 Commonwealth Development Squad it was sadly later discovered that she was not old enough to participate in the track aspect of the training. She was also nominated by her coach to spend a day training with the DHL Sprint team, only to find out that she was too young for that also! However, she has been the U12 Club Champion for the last year and will be competing in the same event on December 9th to defend her title.



Congratulations to Ruby who has just successfully completed her grading for a Black Belt in kick boxing.



Well done to Zoe who competed in the Welsh Cross Country Championships in Brecon on Sun 18 November recording a personal best time of 20 mins.

Welcoming the new PE Teachers to the team...



Miss Millichip

Sporting achievements: From a young age I have always been involved in sport. I enjoyed netball, swimming, dance and judo. I regularly attended ballroom dance classes from the age of 6. When I was 15 I was chosen to represent South Wales in a competition held in Blackpool. Whilst at University I was part of the dance society, which gave me the opportunity to experience different dance genres and perform in many shows. I played netball for the school team and currently play for the Cuckoos.

Favourite food: Chicken fajitas, apples and to be naughty, chocolate fudge cake.

Favourite subjects: PE and Science

What do I like about being at St. Joseph's: I feel like I have been welcomed by all members of staff and students alike. The friendly atmosphere was evident from day one. I like the opportunity to teach a variety of sports and am happy to have been given the responsibility of setting up the gymnastics club and the JSLA qualification with Year 10 girls.

Mr Reeves

Sporting achievements: Team Celtic Crossfit Competitor, Mumbles RFC, West Wales Assistant Gymnastic Coach, Head Coach Gorseinon Gymnastics (Boys), International gymnastic representation, County Rugby representation, Swansea Academy Football

Favourite food: Chicken fajitas

Favourite subjects: PE

What do I like about being at St. Joseph's: The opportunity to develop my skills as a teacher.

Apologies to Paul for not recognising and celebrating his achievement in GCSE Spanish in our last newsletter. Paul's dedication to learning a new language resulted in him being awarded an A*. This is an outstanding grade for any pupil to achieve. However, it is more impressive as Paul is a pupil in Year 8, and was only 12 years old when he sat the exam. Bien hecho!!!



Special Goodbyes to Mr Lord, Mr Nicholas and Mrs Evans



Mrs Evans. Staff and students would like to say a big thank you to Mrs J Evans who will be leaving us to take up an appointment as a Secondary Mathematics Intervention Adviser with the Education Achievement Service. Mrs Evans has been a highly respected Head of Mathematics and we wish her every happiness and success in her new position.



Mr Nicholas. Mr R Nicholas is leaving St. Joseph's to take up an appointment as Head of Science at Cardinal Newman RC School, Pontypridd. This appointment is well deserved, coming after a 13 year career at St. Joseph's RC High School in which Mr Nicholas has been an inspiring Head of Chemistry and a very popular Sixth Form tutor. Mr Nicholas has been an outstanding role model and his commitment to teaching will be missed. He leaves us with our very good wishes and prayers.



Mr Lord. St. Joseph's has a huge thank you and goodbye to say to Mr Lord. Mr Lord has given 17 years of wonderful service to the school and he will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. It is very hard to sum up the contribution that Mr Lord has made to the school. His work within the PE department and as a Head of Year has been outstanding and has made him popular not only amongst the pupils and staff at our school but also within many schools in South Wales. Having spoken to some of the pupils in his year group to try to get their views, the general consensus is that he will always make time to speak to you, he never shouts, he is the most positive man ever and without him they would not have made it to Year 11! We wish him all the best in his new post as Deputy Head at Sir Richard Gwyn in Barry and urge him to continue making an impact as he has done so consistently at St. Joseph's.

Dates for your diary 2013

SPRING TERM TYMOR Y GWANWYN

January	
7	Start of Spring term for all students
14-25	Year 9 internal examinations
16	Year 10 parents' evening
24	Year 9 pathways evening
31	Year 7 parents' evening
February	
4-8	Year 12 BTEC work experience
6	Year 12 information evening
8	Inset day
11-15	HALF TERM
27	Sixth form pathways evening
March	
4-15	Year 10 internal examinations
13	Year 9 parents' evening
20	Year 9 pathways deadline
22	END OF TERM

SUMMER TERM TYMOR YR HYDREF

April	
8	Start of Summer term for all students
10	Year 12 collaborative parents' evening
May	
6	May Day bank holiday
27-31	HALF TERM
June	
3-14	Year 7 & 8 examinations
24	Year 10 work experience
27	Sports' Awards evening
July	
9	New Year 7 parents' evening
10	Summer concert
11	Sports Day
15-19	Year 12 work experience
19	End of term for all students
22	INSET DAY

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

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