

Insight

The official newsletter of
St Joseph's RC High School

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant

Spring 2026 Gwanwyn



SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER

YN GWASANAETHU DUW TRWY DDYSGU GYDA'N GILYDD

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Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth

Mrs J Morgan Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the joy of the Easter season, I reflect with great pride on a successful Spring term.

It has been inspiring to see our students demonstrate courage, determination and commitment across a wide range of activities, truly living out our mission: Serving God through Learning Together.

This year, we have encouraged pupils to take risks, embrace challenge and step beyond their comfort zones, knowing this is where meaningful learning happens. Their successes, from debating and cyber competitions to National Literacy Trust competitions, show how rewarding this can be.

World Book Day was a highlight, especially in this National Year of Reading, and we look forward to continuing to celebrate reading across the school. We are also excited for the journey towards the Urdd Eisteddfod 2027 and to ending the term with our evening celebrating Welsh culture.

We were proud to share the work of our pupils, staff, and governors with Estyn inspectors in March, and we look forward to the publication of the report on 7th May.

As Easter approaches, we are reminded of Pope Leo XIV's words that "Easter gives hope to our everyday lives." In a world that can feel uncertain, we are reminded that Jesus Christ is the hope that does not disappoint, and I pray that this season brings joy and peace to all.

Diolch yn fawr iawn for all you do for our school community, and I wish you every blessing this Easter season.

**With every blessing,
Mrs J Morgan**



“We learn more from disagreement than from agreement”

Margaret Heffernan



DEBATE SUCCESS

Once again, St Joseph's took two teams to the annual Youth Speaks Competition in December. The two teams consisted of: Layla, 8H, Arabella, 9S and Isabella, 9T in the Intermediate category and Erin, 10H, Alyssa, 11E and Joe, 11E in the senior category.

The intermediate team presented the debate *"This house believes that we are too quick to give people medical labels."* and the senior team presented the debate *"This house believes that it is nature not nurture that defines who we are."* Both teams were successful in the local rounds beating off competition from across Newport and Torfaen to become Newport and South East Wales Champions in both categories – something we have only achieved once before. The two teams also collected four individual awards with Arabella, Isabella, Erin and Joe taking home four out of the six individual awards on offer; almost a clean sweep! Both teams then went on to represent the South East Wales Region in the Rotary Club's Southern Wales Final in Queen Elizabeth High School, Carmarthen.

The teams faced tough opposition from schools right across South Wales. In the Intermediate category they came runners up and Isabella won the individual prize for Best Opposer. The Senior team gave a superb presentation but were beaten on the day by the host school. **A huge congratulations to both teams for their outstanding achievement in the Youth Speaks competition this year.**



Easter Message

As we approach Easter, we are invited into the heart of the Christian story a journey from darkness into light, from sorrow into joy, and from death into new life. For Catholics around the world, Easter is not just a single day of celebration, but the culmination of Holy Week, where we walk with Jesus through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Easter prepares our hearts and minds to fully appreciate the most important aspect of the season: The Resurrection! For in the Resurrection of Jesus, we find our hope of eternal life. This event in the life of the early disciples changed everything. Before the Resurrection, they were cowering behind closed doors – hiding out in fear but after the Resurrection, their faith was renewed and strengthened.

In our busy school lives, it can be easy to move quickly past these profound moments. Yet Easter gently calls us to pause and reflect. It reminds us that hope is always possible, even in difficult times. The Resurrection teaches us that love is stronger than fear, and that new beginnings can emerge from even the most challenging experiences.

For our school community, Easter is also an opportunity to live out these values in practical ways. Acts of kindness, forgiveness, and compassion reflect the risen Christ in our midst. Whether it's supporting a friend, showing patience in the classroom, or reaching out to those in need, we each have the chance to be signs of hope.

As we celebrate this joyful season, may we carry the message of Easter in our hearts: that we are called to be people of light, bringing peace and love into our school and beyond. May the joy of the Resurrection inspire us all to grow in faith, kindness, and unity. The Resurrection of Jesus was given to us as proof for the Gospel – the Good News. Build your faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ just as the early church did. Love starts here!

Wishing all members of our community a blessed and joyful Easter.



Lord God, you loved this world so much that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. Amen



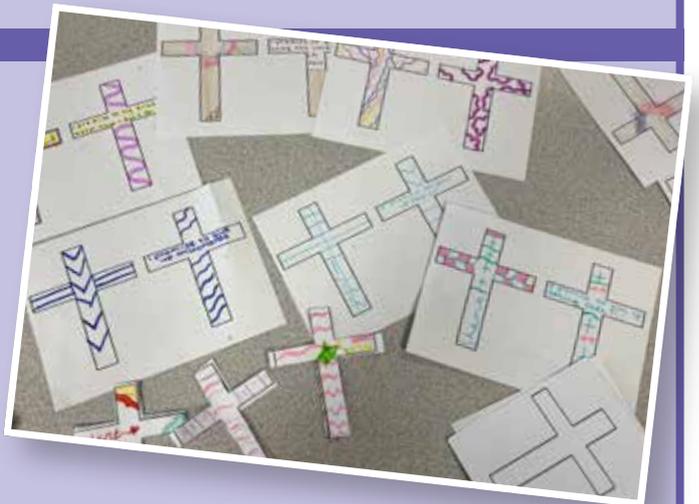
LENT RETREAT

Throughout the season of Lent, pupils have visited the chapel to learn about the season of Lent and its importance. During their experience, they have had the opportunity to develop virtues such as being curious and active by being able to ask questions and explore how they can participate in the season of Lent.



YOUTH CHAPLAINCY

For chaplaincy this month, pupils created profiles, quizzes and wordsearches on St Joseph in the lead up to St Joseph's day. They also made Lent promises.



GCSE MEDIA WORKSHOP

by Lily 9H and Alessandro 9H

Hour 1: We were visited on Tuesday this week by Tom Betts from Into Film. He was here to teach us about how films are made, what structure they have and how to go about making one. Using great examples, he showed us different genres and explained what makes a film from a particular genre; what a main character is and the different perspectives they are seen by; and how our favourite films are structured and put together. Then we discussed the type of jobs we can get in the film industry.

Hour 2: For the second hour of the workshop we moved onto storybuilding and using our imagination to create story lines for our own films. Then spent some time developing them into 'reality'. For example, we chose a film with a boxing theme and using camera angles and different techniques were able to build different perspective on the main fight scene. Lastly, we learnt what a clapper board is and how it helps the Editors cut, edit and shape the film footage. To round off we really enjoyed our experience with Into Film and recommend to Year 9's next year who are considering GCSE Media.

INTO
FILM





ART & MEDIA HIT

LONDON HEAD-ON

“Such a great trip...I can’t believe we did so much!!!”



ART: What did we do in London...?

by Grace Spencer, Year 11

Day 1

Our trip started by getting on the coach at school and travelling to London. After dropping Media pupils at Warner Studios our first stop was the Huntarian Museum, my favourite part was seeing the two headed calf skull! After that, we went straight to the MOCO Museum which was really interesting - I took a lot of photographs for my research book. The first day took an exciting turn and we decided to take the River Taxi to dinner, Jimmy's in the O2. The boat was great fun and the food was really good - we all ate a lot! After this we got back on the coach and travelled to the hostel where we stayed over night - my friends and I enjoyed the 'sleepover' and had great fun.

Day 2

On the second day we all got back on the coach after breakfast and headed to the British Museum. I learnt a lot about the British Museum, as there was so much history housed there. After this we went to Camden Market for food and a good wander around the stalls. I bought a scarf and mini chocolate pancakes which were lovely. We got back on the coach and headed for the last museum - the V&A, which was outstanding, finally getting back on the coach, having a good sing song and heading back to school where we were picked up.

All in all a great day out in London.



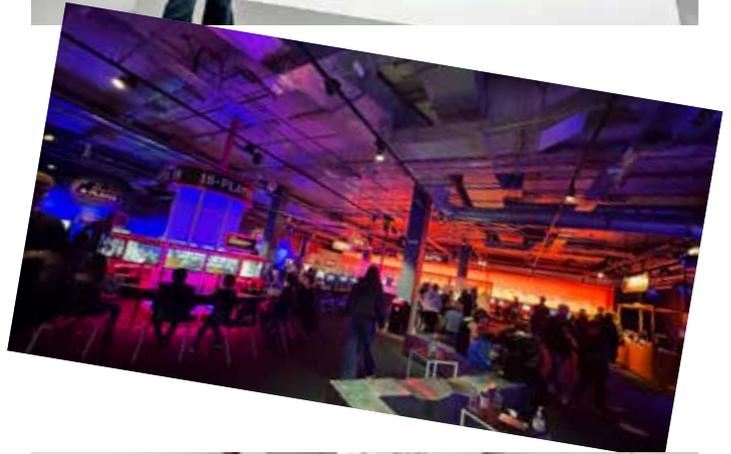
Meallá

ART: What did we enjoy about the London trip and why? Did it improve your work?

Our London Trip by Jenny Law, Year 13

I enjoyed the five museums that we visited over the span of two days. It was actually a little overwhelming how much art and artefacts are inside and how big the museums were. I took a lot of inspiration from them all, especially The British Museum and MOCO. I was not bored one bit during the whole trip!

I was inspired by everything, as a lot of it could be used as research and was relevant to my work for our current topic 'Treasure'. I can tell every art piece I saw had a story behind it, and every artist had the passion to finish these outstanding pieces. Each painting, sculpture, artefact and jewel were both treasures and also treasured by both the people who created them, the museums looking after them and finally the audience viewing them.



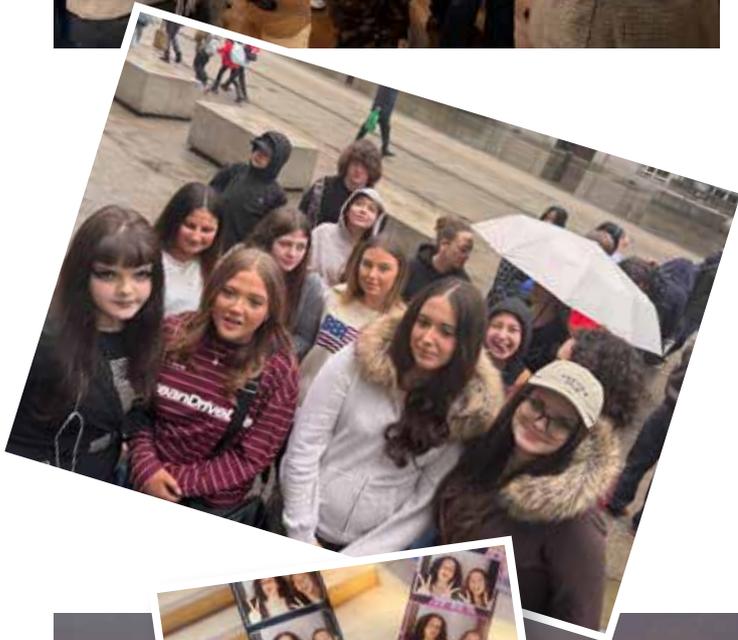


Media: What did you enjoy about the trip the most - how did it inspire you?

by Lucia Boggiana-Lloyd, Year 11

“Without a doubt, the Art and Media trip was a wonderful experience, it was very inspiring visiting London”.

Firstly, we visited Harry Potter Studios and had a guided talk about the making of the film. This inspired me because it made me realise that there are so many opportunities in the film industry. We were tested on our knowledge and it made me realise that the media industry seems like a fun and exciting place to work. This was proven as soon as we stepped foot through the tour of the studios because we were able to view the sets and see the techniques behind the making of the films. It made me appreciate and acknowledge the effort that goes into the making of a film.



PERFORMING ARTS DISNEYLAND PARIS



“OMG! What an amazing trip. The pupils were not only brilliantly behaved but they all shone on stage with talent and enthusiasm.”

“Years 7 to 13... I am very proud of them all.”
Mrs Doyle

CHOIR

Disneyland
PARIS





A huge thank you to the team at Schools into Europe that helped us fulfil some of the pupils dreams and also help them create some new ones.

Performing Arts in Paris

On 5th March, Miss Doyle lead a trip with the Performing Arts Team, taking 45 pupils to Disneyland Paris to show off their performing skills on the big stage. Even though the journey was delayed and rather long due to motorway problems, all the pupils remained in great spirits and were impeccably behaved even after limited sleep on the coach! After we all arrived at the hotel, a very quick change was needed before we hit the park - a free day on the rides and 'relaxing' in the sunshine. Dinner was provided back at the hotel and a well earned sleep was needed to prepare for the pupils performance the next day.

Day two, brought the pupils face to face with the Disneyland Performing Arts team, with a full tech rehearsal and preparation for the performance at midday: 'Skyfall', 'From Now On', 'Hen Ferchetan' and 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough'.

The Disneyland team praised the pupils professionalism and their conduct back stage, and thought their singing was top quality (as did all the SJHS staff!). We are very proud of all the pupils we took to Disneyland Paris and the way they represented the school was exemplary from start to finish.

"All the pupils were amazing... their performance on the Disney stage was top class, and their behaviour was impeccable all weekend. I was proud to be their accompanying adult"



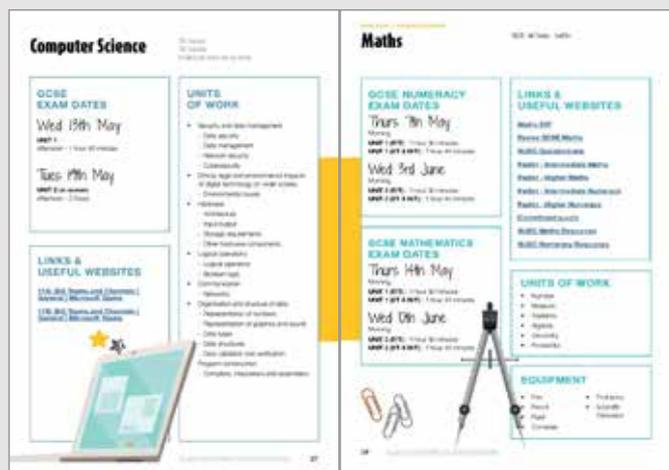
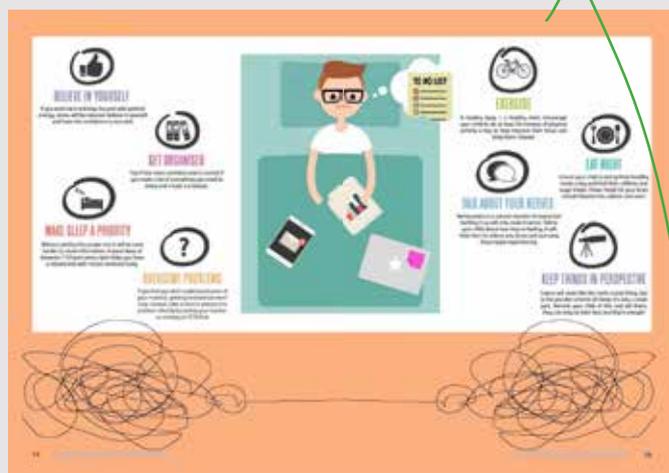
Watch the performance on https://youtu.be/8YE_-s_Wj9I



Revision Books

Year 11 www.sjhs.org.uk/revision

Year 12/13 www.sjhs.org.uk/6threvision



SJHS Revision Booklets include GCSE, AS and A Level exam dates, revision information, relevant links and specifications for every subject.

Please download the SJHS Revision Booklet, designed especially for our students and parents to give you the information and skills needed to revise successfully and do as well as possible in your summer exams. How can this booklet help? Using this booklet will:

- Give you some ideas on how best to revise.
- Help you plan and make the most of your time.
- Boost your confidence.

simply click one of the green buttons above





A big well done to Gabrielle, Sumaiyya, Daisy, Tiago for their winning entry and Logan, and Alan for their efforts in rehearsals.

SJHS

LIBRARY

Congratulations to the St Joseph Book Group for their outstanding success in the National Literacy Trust's Verse Novel Challenge.

Competing against schools from across the UK, the group rose to the occasion with creativity, commitment, and teamwork. A special thank you goes to Gabrielle in Year 8, whose determination to bring the group together and practise their chosen passage in the library made all the difference.

After choosing a powerful passage to perform, the group put in tremendous effort to perfect their reading and meet the strict two-minute limit. They submitted their entry just before the Christmas holidays - an achievement in itself!

After a long two month wait, the group were thrilled to learn that their reading of *The Crossing* by Manjeet Mann had earned them a prize. They have been awarded £500 to spend on new books for the school library. The group are now gathering ideas from across the school through a survey created by Sumaiyya in Year 7, ensuring the prize benefits as many pupils as possible.

The National Literacy Trust generates several reading challenges throughout the year and there is no doubt that St Joseph's pupils will continue to make their best efforts to succeed in these competitions.

This year's World Book Day celebrations turned our school into a hive of literary excitement, with a day of activities designed to get everyone talking, thinking and reading.

Pupils took part in the Book-Inspired Songs Competition, where pupils were challenged to guess the titles of books that had inspired well-known songs. Some were easy, others had everyone scratching their heads. Congratulations to Malika M, Tianna G and Emilia K, who guessed all the book titles and authors.



World Book Day

Throughout the week, pupils also had the chance to explore literature closer to home by reading extracts from five books set in or about Wales. From dramatic landscapes to unforgettable characters, these stories helped us celebrate the rich literary heritage on our doorstep.

Teachers joined in the fun too, wearing badges that read "Ask me what I am reading" and "Tell me what you are reading." These simple prompts led to dozens of spontaneous book chats in corridors, classrooms and the canteen, proving that sometimes the best recommendations come from the people around us.

The week ended on a high with our Big Book Quiz in the library, where pupils battled it out to show off their knowledge of authors, characters and classic stories.

The following week we hosted a book group from St David's RC Primary school who enthusiastically explored the younger reads from this year's Carnegie Medal Longlist and made their best guesses for which will end up on the Shortlist.

World Book Day reminded us that books don't just live on shelves, they connect us, inspire us and spark conversations that last far beyond a single week.

Diwrnod Ysgol Basaleg Chwefror

Cafodd rhai disgyblion Blwyddyn 11 y cyfle i gwrdd â a sgwrsio gydag amrywiaeth o bersonoliaethau Cymraeg i drafod pwysigrwydd a manteision siarad Cymraeg yn ystod mis Chwefror 2026 yn Ysgol Uwchradd Basaleg. Cymerodd Blwyddyn 11 ran mewn nifer o weithdai gydag lolo Cheung, newyddiadurwr newyddion sy'n darlledu ar y BBC yn Saesneg ac yn Gymraeg, cyflwynwraig radio Molly Palmer sydd hefyd â'i sioe radio ei hun ar Radio Cymru ac Aneurin Owen sy'n chwaraewr rygbi'r Dreigiau.

Roedd Blwyddyn 11 yn gallu gwrando ar bob un o stori'r personoliaethau Cymraeg am sut mae'r iaith Gymraeg wedi cael

effaith ar eu bywyd yn ogystal â defnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg i ddysgu mwy am hanes Cymru fel Tryweryn. Roedd gannyn nhw gyfle ymarfer eu sgiliau newyddiaduraeth a phwysigrwydd defnyddio iaith effeithiol a dal llygaid fel pennawd.

Some Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to meet and chat with a variety of Welsh speaking personalities to discuss the importance and benefits of speaking Welsh during February 2026 at Bassaleg High School. Year 11 took part in a number of workshops with lolo Cheung, a BBC news journalist who broadcasts for both BBC Wales and BBC Cymru, Molly Palmer a radio presenter who also



Roedd y bore yn llwyddiannus iawn a roedd llawer o Gymraeg yn cael ei chlywed a'i siarad gan y disgyblion.

has her own radio show on Radio Cymru and Aneurin Owen who plays rugby for the Dragons.

Year 11 were able to listen to each of the Welsh personalities story of how the Welsh language has had an impact on their life as well as using the Welsh language to learn more about Welsh history such as Tryweryn. They had the opportunity to practise their journalism skills and the importance of using effective and eye-catching language as a headline.

The morning was very successful and lots of Welsh was heard and spoken by the students.



SANTES DWYNWEN

Roedd disgyblion Blynyddoedd 7-9 yn dysgu am Santes Dwynwen ym mis Ionawr a pham mae hi'n santes bwysig yn niwylliant Cymru. Nawddsant cariad a chyfeillgarwch yng Nghymru ydy Santes Dwynwen a gofynnwyd i disgyblion Blynyddoedd 7-9 ysgrifennu neges o garedigrwydd at eu ffriodiau ac athrawon.

Pupils in Years 7-9 were learning about Santes Dwynwen in January and why she is an important saint in Welsh culture. Sanit Dwynwen is the patron saint of love and friendship in Wales and pupils in Years 7-9 were asked to write a message of kindness to their friends and teachers.

Dosbarthwyd y negeseuon hyn ar y diwrnod ar ol Ddydd Santes Dwynwen gan aelodau Cyngor Cymraeg. Roedd yn hyfryd gweld llawer o negeseuon Cymraeg meddylgar a charedig yn cael eu dosbarthu i ddisgyblion a staff. **Da iawn pawb!**

These messages were given out on the day after St Dwynwen's Day by members of the Cyngor Cymraeg. It was lovely to see lots of thoughtful and kind Welsh messages being distributed to pupils and staff. **Da iawn pawb!**



GWENT IS COED



Yn 2027, bydd Eisteddfod yr Urdd yn dod i Gasnewydd a nôl ym mis Tachwedd 2025, roedd disgyblion ym Mlwyddyn 10 ac 11 yn helpu creu rap y bydd yn gân Croeso yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd a gynhelir yn Nhŷ Tredegar.

In 2027, the Urdd Eisteddfod will be coming to Newport and back in November 2025, pupils from Years 10 and 11 were helping to create a rap which is going to be the Welcome song at the Urdd Eisteddfod which is taking place in Tredegar House.

Yn symud ymlaen at Ionawr 2026 a'r tro yma, cafodd aelodau Cyngor Cymraeg YUJS ym Mlwyddyn 7 a 8 eu gwahodd i glywed y gân Groeso'r Urdd yn Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed ac wedi cael eu ffilmio am y fideo cerddoriaeth a bydd e'n cael ei dangos ar gyfrifon cymdeithasol Eisteddfod yr Urdd ac fel rhan o ddarllediad S4C o Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2026 a 2027.

Fast forward to January 2026 and this time Year 7 and 8 members of the SJHS Cyngor Cymraeg were invited for the premier of the Urdd Welcome song at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed and to be involved with the filming for the music video, which will be shown on the social accounts of the Urdd Eisteddfod and as part of the S4C broadcast of the 2026 and 2027 Urdd Eisteddfod.

Ar ôl i fideo cerddoriaeth wedi cael ei ffilmio, perfformiodd Dom a Lloyd gyngerdd gyda rhai o'u caneuon a chafodd y disgyblion y cyfle i gael llun gyda nhw a llofnodion! At ei gilydd, mwynheuedd y disgyblion y profiad yn fawr a bydd rhaid i ni wyliadwrus ohonynt pan fydd y fideo cerddoriaeth yn cael ei lansio yn hwyrach yn y flwyddyn.

After the music video was filmed, Dom and Lloyd performed a concert with some of their songs and had photos taken with pupils and signed autographs for them! All in all, the pupils really enjoyed the experience and we'll have to watch out for them when the music video is launched later on in the year.



Urdd



Staff behind the Daff

Fel rhan o wythnos Cymraeg, dychwelodd y gystadlaeth, “Staff tu ôl i’r daff”

As part of Welsh week, the competition, “Staff behind the daff” returned!

Roedd aelod newydd o staff sy wedi cael ei guddio tu ôl cenhinen pedr a roedd rhaid i’r disgyblion (a staff) weithio mas y cliwiau dyddiol Cymraeg trwy’r wythnos yn ystod amser cofrestru yn y prynhawn i ddarganfod y staff.

Roedd llawer o waith ditectif a oedd yn mynd ymlaen a llawer o gyffro a rhagweld cyn iddo gael ei ddatgelu mai Mr O’Driscoll oedd y staff tu ôl i’r daff! Diolch i Mr O’Driscoll am fod yn gyfranogwr gwych a llongyfarchiadau i’r canlynol a ddyfalodd mai Mr O’Driscoll oedd tu ôl i’r daff.

A new member of staff had been hidden behind a daffodil and pupils (and staff) had to work out the daily Welsh clues all week during their form periods to reveal the staff member.

There was lots of detective work going on and lots of excitement and anticipation before it was revealed that Mr O’Driscoll was the staff behind the daff! Diolch to Mr O’Driscoll for being such a great sport and well done to the following who guessed that it was Mr O’Driscoll behind the daff.

Blwyddyn 7 / Year 7
Winner : Jess Presley

Blwyddyn 8 / Year 8
Winner : Holly Payne

Blwyddyn 11 / Year 11
Winner : Lucas Ward

Blwyddyn 12 / Year 12
Winner : Poppy Pearce

Runners up: Dominic Czokoly 7J, Jacob Sadler 7S, Fern Talbot 7J, Bella Richards 7J, Emilia Talbot 7E, George Truman 7S, Andrea Iadevaia 7O, Laila Griffiths 7O, Oliver Sinkovicz-Mile 7T, Joseph Pitt 7E, Freya Hughes 7T, Tenzin Marsin 7T, Gabriella Winterflood 8J, Lynda Chen 8T, Kai Devonshire 11T, Tilyen Brown 11T, Alalai Paders-Ball 11T and Megan Ormond 11T

Staff
Mrs S Parry & Miss C Griffiths





CYMR AEG

Year 7 Llangrannog

Ym mis Mawrth 2065, aeth Blwyddyn 7 i Wersyll yr Urdd Llangrannog ar gyfer penwythnos o hwyl a gweithgareddau tu allan. Ar Ddydd Gwener 6ed Mawrth, teithiodd 50 o ddisgyblion mewn bws gyda Mrs R Davies, Miss K Read, Mr C Burton, Miss B Moore a Mr C Clarke ar ddaith dwy awr i Orllewin Cymru. Roedd y tywydd yn hyfryd a roedd y daith yn Ardderchog. Roedd cyfle i bawb i fwynhau mynd sgïo, beicio cwad, cyrsiau rhaffau uchel, gwibgartio, waliau dringo, cyfeiriannu a llawer mwy! Yn y nos, roedd llawer o hwyl fel chwarae gemau yn y canolfan hamdden, mynd i'r siop a chwarae pêl-droed ar yr astro! Ar ôl mwy o weithgareddau bore dydd Sul gan gynnwys y ceir gwyllt a saethyddiaeth, mwynheuodd pawb ginio rhost Sul blasus cyn i ni deithio adref.

In March 2026, Year 7 went to The Urdd Activity Centre in Llangrannog for a weekend of fun and outdoor activities. On Friday 6th of March, 50 students travelled by bus with Mrs R Davies, Miss K Read, Mr C Burton, Miss B Moore and Mr C Clarke on a two hour journey to West Wales. The weather was lovely and the trip was fantastic. Everyone had the chance to enjoy skiing, quad biking, high ropes course, tobogganing, climbing walls, orienteering and much more! In the evening there was lots of fun such as playing games in the leisure centre, going to the shop and playing football on the Astro! After more activities on Sunday morning, including go-karting and archery, everyone enjoyed a tasty Sunday roast dinner before travelling home.





Clwb Cymraeg

Mae Clwb Cymraeg yn rhedeg bob amser cinio ar Ddydd Iau yn ystafell Mrs Davies yn S9 gan Charlotte o'r Urdd.

Fel arfer, mae disgyblion yn gallu chwarae gemau yn Gymraeg ond ym mis Chwefror, roedd cyfle gyda ni i gymryd rhan mewn cystadleuaeth greadigol Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Casnewydd a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar y thema "Casnewydd Trwy Fy Llygaid". Creodd aelodau'r clwb bosteri sy'n atgoffa nhw o'u hardal, Casnewydd a newyddion gwych, enillodd 3 merch o Flwyddyn 8 y gystadleuaeth yn yr adran 12-16 oed.

Llongyfarchiadau enfawr i Amanda 8J, Ffion 8T a Scarlett 8T a enillodd daleb lyfr £20 a thystysgrif.

The Welsh club runs every Thursday lunchtime in Mrs Davies' room in S9 by Charlotte from the Urdd.

Usually, pupils play games in Welsh but in February, we had the opportunity to take place in the Newport St David's Day creative competition which focused on the theme, "Newport Through My Eyes". Members of the club created posters which remind them of their area, Newport and great news, 3 girls from Year 8 won the competition in the 12-16 year old category.

Huge congratulations to Amanda 8J, Ffion 8T a Scarlett 8T, who won a £20 book token and a certificate.



Yr Urdd Eisteddfod

DIOLCH YN FAWR IAWN am eich cyfraniadau hael a'ch cefnogaeth wrth godi arian ar gyfer Eisteddfod yr Urdd y bydd yn cael ei chynnal yng Nghasnewydd yn 2027. Ar Ddydd Gwener y 23ain o Ionawr, a oedd penblwydd yn 50 Mistar Urdd, gofynnwyd i disgyblion a staff wisgo eitem o goch, gwyn neu wyrdd i'r ysgol i helpu codi arian ar gyfer yr ŵyl ieuenctid fwyaf sy'n cael ei chynnal yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn a llwyddon ni godi £518.20! Roedd Mistar Urdd yn falch iawn o'n hymdrechion!

A great big THANK YOU for your generous contributions and support in fund raising for the Urdd Eisteddfod which is being held in Newport in 2027. On Friday 23rd January, which was Mistar Urdd's 50th birthday, pupils and staff were asked to wear an item of red, white or green to school to help to fundraise for the biggest youth festival held in Wales every year and we managed to raise £518.20! Mistar Urdd was very pleased with our efforts!

CYNGOR YSGOL

EICH LLAIS CHI, EICH DEWIS CHI



Introducing the SJHS pupils for this years SJHS Ministries and Senedd. If you have anything you wish to discuss with them for the future of our school find them during PM Reg.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE



COMPUTERS

Cyber Security & CyberFirst

Our first year taking part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge proved to be a brilliant success, with 59 KS3 students stepping up to test their problem-solving skills.

The challenge is designed to stretch students' logical thinking, pattern recognition and algorithmic reasoning — the very heart of computational thinking.

Students scored points for accuracy as they tackled a series of tricky puzzles, all competing for the prestigious Bebras awards. The most coveted of these is the Gold Certificate, awarded to students who finish in the top 10% nationally.

With over 400,000 students taking part across the KS3 categories this year, the competition was fierce. That makes it even more impressive that several of our students reached this elite level.

A huge congratulations to Finley, Mati, Isabelle, Olly and Arabella, who all achieved the Gold Certificate - an outstanding achievement and a fantastic start to our school's Bebras journey.



CyberGirls Competition Results

The CyberGirls competition results are in - and this year's event was bigger and more competitive than ever before.

Across the UK, more than 500 schools entered the competition, with over 10,000 students taking part in the nationwide challenge. At St Joseph's, the enthusiasm was just as impressive, with over 20 teams competing in our school contest, involving nearly 80 students.

The competition remained incredibly close right up until the final weekend, when everything was still to play for. In a dramatic late surge, the Creative Saviours — Lucy, Summer and Esha — produced a phenomenal final push, jumping from 3rd place to 1st place after scoring over 3,000 points in the final weekend alone to secure the school title.

Following the school competition, it was time to see whether the team had done enough to reach the national finals. Despite the increased participation this year, we were delighted to discover that St Joseph's

once again finished in the top 10 schools in Wales. Even more impressively, this marks the fifth consecutive year that the school has reached the CyberGirls finals — a remarkable achievement that reflects the strength of cyber security talent at St Josephs.

As a result of their success, Lucy, Esha and Summer will now attend the CyberGirls Celebration Event later in March. The event will include a Women in STEM conference, a finals Capture the Flag cyber challenge against other finalist teams, and a three-course celebratory dinner to recognise the achievements of students from across Wales.



Delivering excellence in cyber security education





USW Cyber Security Workshops

We were delighted to welcome back former Head of Computing, Mr Rhys Driscoll, to St Joseph's, where he delivered a specialist Cyber Security Incident Response workshop for our Year 12 Cambridge Technical IT students.

Rhys, now working in the cyber security field for the University of South Wales, introduced students to the growing role of artificial intelligence in preparing businesses for cyber attacks. The session explored how organisations use AI-driven simulations to train staff to respond quickly and effectively when a security breach occurs.

During the workshop, students were challenged to design and manage their own cyber incident scenarios. Working through realistic situations, they had to analyse the threat and decide on the most effective actions to contain and respond to the attack.

The session provided valuable hands-on experience with real-world cyber security challenges, while also directly supporting the knowledge and skills students will need for their summer examinations. We are pleased to confirm that Rhys will be returning later in the year to deliver additional expert cyber security workshops for our KS4 computing students, continuing our strong links with industry and higher education.

ACE Cyber Security Competition Finals

For the second year running, St Joseph's successfully reached the ACE Cyber Security Competition Finals — an impressive achievement that continues to highlight the school's growing reputation in cyber security.

Once again, three teams battled their way through the earlier rounds to earn a place in the final. For most of the students, the event was an exciting first experience of competing at this level. However, for Nandor, Nicolas and Lamiek, it was familiar territory as they proudly returned for their second appearance in the finals.

The competition, open to KS4 and KS5 students, has grown significantly since last year. This year saw over 1,600 students from across South Wales, the South West, and the South East of England competing for a place in the final. Simply reaching this stage was therefore a significant accomplishment. During the finals, teams faced a series of demanding cyber security challenges, designed to test their teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. While we didn't quite secure a podium finish this year, all three teams showed tremendous determination and skill throughout the competition.

Most importantly, they represented St Joseph's with pride and continued to demonstrate the school's strong and growing reputation in cyber security excellence.



Enigma Escape Room Experience

In January, CyberFirst Wales brought an exciting piece of history to life at St Joseph's with the Enigma Experience — a thrilling escape-room style event for all Year 7 students.

Set inside a World War II-themed bunker, students were challenged to step into the shoes of Alan Turing and his famous code-breaking team. Their mission: work together to crack the Enigma code through a series of puzzles and cryptography challenges.

Across two action-packed days, every Year 7 tutor group took part in the immersive experience. Students tested their problem-solving, teamwork and logical thinking skills as they raced against the clock to break the codes. The event was also supported by our fantastic Digital Leaders, who helped run the sessions and guide teams through the challenges. At the end of the event, prizes were awarded to the highest-scoring teams, adding an extra layer of excitement to the competition. The Enigma Experience served as a brilliant introduction to the world of cyber security and codebreaking, while also helping to promote St Joseph's CyberFirst Gold status and inspire the next generation of cyber specialists.

As we move further into the spring term at St Joseph's, students are preparing for milestones ahead, teachers are guiding and encouraging, and families are offering vital support at home. This season gives us a chance not only to focus on exams but to consider the future.

CAREERS

BY MISS L TODD, CAREERS ADVISOR * SJHS WORKING WITH CAREERS WALES

Approaching Exam Season

Exam season offers more than an academic challenge—it is a valuable moment for students to reflect on their skills, strengths, and the progress they have made throughout their learning journey. Understanding what you are good at, what you enjoy, and where you excel is an essential step in future career planning.

Careers Wales provides helpful guidance to support this reflection, including tools for identifying personal strengths and exploring how these link to different pathways: <https://careerswales.gov.wales/plan-your-career/skills-and-strengths>

As learners begin to think about sixth form, apprenticeships, or university, it becomes important to consider what employers value. UCAS offers a clear and student friendly overview of the qualities and skills that give young people an advantage in the workplace:

<https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice/how-to-get-into-work/what-are-employers-looking-for>

Using exam preparation as a chance to identify qualities such as resilience, communication, determination, and time management can help students recognise experiences they can later draw upon in applications, interviews, and personal statements.

Labour Market Information: Wales and the Space Sector

Wales is developing a strong reputation in high growth industries, and the space sector is one of the most exciting examples. From satellite innovation to engineering, space related careers are becoming more accessible and more diverse.

A recent article highlights how Wales is increasingly recognised on the global stage for its contribution to space exploration and technology:

<https://businessnewswales.com/astronaut-highlights-wales-growing-role-in-the-future-of-space-exploration/>

For students interested in STEM, this sector shows that groundbreaking opportunities are closer to home than ever before.

If you wish to speak with our Careers Wales adviser, Lindsay Todd, please email lindsay.todd@careerswales.gov.wales

In keeping with our school's Catholic values, we offer a blessing for all our learners as they approach the summer exam season:

"May God's grace shine upon you as you prepare for your exams. May He grant you wisdom in your studies, calmness in your hearts, and strength in your efforts. May the Holy Spirit guide you toward the future prepared for you in love and hope. Amen."

National Careers Week 2026 (2nd–7th March)

National Careers Week is a nationwide celebration of careers education, and at St Joseph's it provides an excellent opportunity for students to explore evolving job sectors, discover new interests, and reflect on future ambitions.

One of the most insightful current resources is the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025, which offers an engaging look at global employment trends, emerging careers, and the key skills expected to be most in demand. Students and families can explore the report's visual summaries and infographics here:

<https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/infographics-94b6214b36/>

Engaging with these materials during Careers Week can open meaningful conversations about how subjects studied today connect to the skills needed in tomorrow's world.



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales



SIXTH FORM



Congratulations Javier

This spring, we would like to extend an enormous congratulations to one of our Year 13 students, Javier Gonzalez, for winning the South Wales area and district rounds of the Rotary Young Musician competition! Congratulations Javier!

Earlier this academic year, Javier entered his first ever competition playing solo piano and achieved success in the first two rounds against competitors from Newport and across South Wales. Javier's competition programme included Chopin's 'Fantaisie Impromptu' and Debussy's 'Claire De Lune', where both pieces demonstrated high levels of technical skill and musicality.

As part of the next stage of the competition, Javier will now be going on to compete regionally in Bristol at the end of March where if successful, he will progress to the National round and compete against competitors from all across the UK. This achievement represents a truly exciting prospect for Javier and a proud moment for our school music department and wider school community.

We would like to wish him the best of luck in the next stage of the competition! Good luck Javier!

Cooking Classes

Sixth form students recently took part in a second culinary session led by Technology teacher Mrs Griffiths, giving pupils another valuable opportunity to develop their cooking skills in a fun, supportive, and hands-on environment.

The sessions were organised by Year 13 student Angelica Winterflood, who not only promoted and marketed the events, but also liaised with staff, checked student allergies, and distributed consent forms to ensure everything ran smoothly. The ingredients were purchased by Angelica and Oliver Trangmar and earlier in year, students had also organised a cake and drinks sale to raise funds for professional chef's knives, enabling students to work with high-quality equipment throughout the sessions. During the first session students prepared fajitas, the second session they made carbonara - one of the most popular choices from the student survey. Mrs Griffiths began by demonstrating the full recipes step-by-step before pupils independently recreated the dishes themselves, putting their newly developed skills into practice.

As many Sixth Form students will soon be moving on to university or independent living, learning how to cook simple, nutritious meals is an essential life skill. Overall, the sessions were a great success and gave students the opportunity to learn new recipes, build confidence in the kitchen, and enjoy cooking together in a relaxed, calm, and harmonious environment. Students worked independently and supported one another, showing real maturity and initiative throughout.

Well done to all involved, and thank you to Mr Green and Mrs Griffiths for giving up their time to support students after school.





NEWPORT RFC

A huge thank you to Friends of Newport Rugby for their sponsorship of the tournament.



RUGBY 7s

We were delighted to host the Newport Schools Year 11 Rugby 7's tournament on Thursday 19th March. The tournament was inaugurated by Newport RFC to celebrate their 150th season last year and how the continued contribution school rugby has made in developing young players who have gone on to wear the famous black and amber jersey over the years.

Four schools attended for a round robin format across a full day of rugby with WRU affiliated referees giving up their day to oversee proceedings. Members of the Newport RFC medical staff were in attendance to support, as well as club Chairman Mark Workman.

The rugby on display was excellent and every game was played in good spirits. However, there was one dominant team who were particularly clinical with ball in hand and continued their energy throughout each match, ending the day undefeated. Rougemont lifted the trophy and become the second name on the trophy (made by Miss Griffiths in the DT department). There was also a Player of the Tournament Award, named in memory of the former Newport RFC, Wales and British & Irish Lions player Dai Watkins, which was received by Rougemont pupil Matty Tsvara.

Click below to watch the video on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/B379v77nKWA>

We look forward to next years event and seeing which school and pupil will have their names etched onto the trophies.







SJHS Senior Boys Rugby Team



SJHS Year 10 Basketball Team



SJHS Year 10 Netball Team



S Year 9 Netball Team



SJHS Year 9 Netball Team



PENEWS



CONGRATS



BALLROOM CHAMPION

A huge congratulations to Melissa in Year 9 for winning the Junior Beginner Champion U16 at The All England Championship 2026 held at Tower Ballroom Blackpool in February.



LORD-LIEUTENANT'S CADET

Tom in Year 12, is currently serving as a one of only four Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets of Gwent and he is the only Sea Cadet. Being a Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet is not something every Cadet gets the opportunity to do; Cadets are put forward by their units then hand picked by the Lord-Lieutenant himself.

Tom has supported the Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent at several events such as remembrance Sunday, where Tom recently read the Royal Navy prayer and British Empire Medal ceremonies. The British Empire Medal (BEM) is awarded to those who have been recognised by His Majesty the King for services to the



local community through long term charitable or high impact work over 3-4 years. Tom has assisted the Lord-Lieutenant at three BEM ceremonies helping to recognise these individuals for their service to their communities, Mr Picken, for services to cricket in South East Wales, Miss Creswell for her 'Tasty not Wasty' initiative and services to the community in Cwmbran and Mr and Mrs Berry for their services to education in Fiji. During the BEM ceremonies, Tom reads a citation explaining why the individual is being awarded the medal then helps the Lord-Lieutenant in presenting the medals. During one ceremony Tom also had the opportunity to be interviewed by Cwmbran Life. Tom would like to thank Mr Wood, who was his Head of Year from Years 9 to 11 and form tutor beforehand, for his statement which helped Tom in becoming the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet. **Well done Tom and thank you for all the brilliant work you do in the community.**



Dates for your diary 2026

Summer Term TYMOR YR HAF

April	
13	Summer Term
16	Year 12 Science Trip to Swansea University
16-17	Year 9 Vaccinations
18	PE Trip to Liverpool V Everton Match
21	Year 10 Parents Evening
24	Year 10/11 Welsh Trip to Urdd
May	
4	May Day BANK HOLIDAY
7 May - 17 June	GCSE & A Level Written Exams
25-29	HALF TERM
24-28	Years 7-9 RE Trip to Rome
June	
1-3	Year 12 Skills Days
4-5	Year 12 UCAS/ Apprenticeship Days
19	Year 12 Trip to Reading University
19	Year 11 Leavers" Celebration
23	Year 7 Parents Evening
24	Sports Day
26	INSET DAY
30	Eisteddfod

July	
1	Year 6 Transition Evening
1	Year 13 Leavers Celebration
2-3	Year 6 Transition Days
3	Year 9 Welsh Trip to Urdd
6-10	Year 12 Science Day Trips to Porthcawl
8	Celebration of Excellence Evening
10	Skills Enterprise Summer Fair
13-17	Year 12 Work Experience Week
15	Summer Concert
17	LAST DAY OF TERM

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



Catch the news as it happens on: www.sjhs.org.uk
twitter.com/sjhsnewport
www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport

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