

Insight

Summer 2023 Gwanwyn

The official newsletter of
St Joseph's RC High School

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER

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Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth

Mrs J Jarrett Headteacher

As we come to the end of another incredible year, it is with great joy and pride that I address you all through this edition of our school magazine. The pages of this publication are filled with stories of growth, achievements, and memories that we have created through our core purpose of "serving God through learning together".

To our remarkable students, you have once again showcased your determination, resilience, and passion for learning throughout the year. Each one of you has contributed to the vibrant tapestry of our school, embracing challenges, and striving for excellence in every endeavour. Your thirst for knowledge, creativity, and compassion continues to inspire us all. Your accomplishments, both big and small, deserve to be celebrated and cherished.

This year, we have recognised numerous achievements and milestones that deserve recognition. From academic accomplishments to artistic endeavours, athletic triumphs to community service, our students have excelled in various domains. It fills me with

immense pride to witness the growth of our students, not only as learners but as responsible citizens of our global society.

Within this edition of Insight, let us also acknowledge the bonds that have been forged within our school community. The friendships, camaraderie, and shared experiences which have created a warm and supportive atmosphere that encourages collaboration and empathy. Through our students' interactions and collaborations, they have embodied our Catholic virtues of respect, kindness, compassion, eloquence and inclusivity.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of our school. Together, we have created a vibrant and nurturing community that nurtures the seeds of knowledge and growth. As we embark on a well-deserved summer break, I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable summer.

“I enjoyed looking at the history of the castle and how it was built along the river” **Merci Powell - 7J**



History & RE

Tintern Abbey and Chepstow Castle

In June, Year 7 had the opportunity to explore Tintern Abbey and Chepstow Castle. At Tintern Abbey, students explored the remains of the Abbey and learned about its history. Students were able to imagine the life of the Cistercian monks and explore its ruins. At Chepstow Castle, pupils engaged in its history by visiting one of the first Norman strongholds in Wales.

“I enjoyed working together in small groups to complete the activities” Tai Hooper, 7J

“I liked how the castle had secret passages and the gift shop!” Gracie Jane O'Brien, 7J

“I liked the activities that we did and I liked how big the castle was” Sean Mbulawa, 7T





AN EXCITTING TRANSITION



SJHS Transition Days

Throughout June, we undertook a range of different transition experiences with our Primary cluster schools to help our new Year 7 pupils acclimatise to life in high school as smoothly as possible.

We extended our very successful Mock High School week to the majority of our cluster primary schools, and over 40 lessons by 28 members of staff from the high school were delivered to Year 6 pupils. At the end of June, we welcomed all of our new Year 7 pupils and their parents into school to experience what life is like in high school.

Parents and pupils were able to meet their new form tutor, and during the two days they toured the school, attended lessons and were expertly supported by our Transition Ambassadors who even produced a film to welcome them (with the help of Mrs Kent!). They even had a whole day dedicated to wellbeing activities, superbly led by our PE department. The day ended with the return of our transition Mass in school, and we were very grateful to Fr Michael for celebrating Mass and offering our pupils his words of wisdom on coping with change.

We were very lucky to have been so effectively supported by our primary colleagues during all of these events. Our transition period concluded with a visit from Year 5 pupils for a day at the start of July which Mrs Price led.

During this day, pupils worked in their schools on developing their skills, especially group work as they designed a theme park and considered how they would market this to the public. We are very excited to welcome our new Year 7 pupils in September, and whilst we know that moving up to a new school can be daunting, we are sure that these experiences will help alleviate some of the worries.



“Congratulations to all the teams taking part in this year’s competition - and especially to those who emerged victorious in their respective finals. The 2023 CyberFirst Girls Competition has been a great success, and I’d like to pay testament to the teachers who have inspired and supported their students throughout and also thank industry partners for their support in making this all possible”. **Chris Ensor, NCSC Deputy Director for Cyber Growth**

CYBERFIRST

Teams of schoolgirls across the UK have been crowned cyber security champions after winning the finals of a nationwide contest.

Thirteen teams claimed the top spot at their respective finals last weekend after successfully seeing off competition from thousands of challengers to win the 2023 CyberFirst Girls Competition, which is run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ.

The competition aims to inspire girls aged 12 and 13 to pursue their interests in technology and consider a career in cyber security, where women make up just 22% of the workforce.

This year’s contest, which was entered by more than 8,700 girls from across the four nations of the UK, saw pupils tackle challenges covering topics from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking.

**Our school won the competition this year for the first time.
Congratulations to our winning finalists:**

Sophie 8P

Chloe 8V

Annis 8J

Mailee 8P



The winners from each regional final have been invited to a grand prize-giving dinner and celebration day taking place later this year.

The girls’ outstanding victory in the competition, which saw them triumph over more than 2,000 competitors in Wales, is a remarkable achievement for both them and the school.

Our school is fully committed to engaging with the NCSC and other organisations involved in promoting cyber security education. We view this as a top priority for young people, as it enables them to gain a better understanding of the opportunities and threats presented by our digital society, and to learn how to protect themselves and others.

We provide a wide range of extracurricular opportunities for our school community every year, which we publicise during school assemblies, lessons, and through our new digital signage system. Additionally, we disseminate this information through our social media channels, such as our school Twitter account (@sjhsnewport), and emails to parents and guardians.



SCHOOL



National Cyber
Security Centre
a part of GCHQ

*Delivering **excellence** in cyber security education*

Cyberfirst GOLD

I am thrilled to announce that we have received confirmation from the government that we have been awarded the CyberFirst Gold award. This prestigious achievement is a testament to our unwavering dedication to fostering a strong foundation in cyber security, computer science, and digital education within our school community.

In the realm of digital education, this accomplishment is

truly remarkable. It serves as a resounding testament to the resilience, attitude, and aspirations displayed by our students across multiple year groups. I am immensely proud of their collaborative efforts with my team and the countless organisations that have supported us through workshops, enrichment activities, trips, and more.

As I prepare to depart this week, I reflect on our collective success in attaining this award with a deep sense of pride. Moreover, our victory in the CyberFirst girls competition in March further solidifies our commitment to inspiring and challenging learners at SJHS in all things digital.

As we embark on new adventures, I kindly request that you continue to support this program within our community. It has undeniably made a significant impact on our students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the digital landscape.

Mr R Drsicoll

Summer Message



“For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for.”

2 Corinthians 13:9

The beginning of summer is upon us! For many, this is a time of celebration and excitement—as we watch our pupils go through transition and move on to pastures new. As we prepare to take a break from the pace and rhythm of the school year, it is easy to simply go leaping into the summer without really intentionally closing the school year. It is so important to take time to reflect on our year and take stock of how we have grown and changed.

God sent his Spirit to create his Church as one family of God - to make us all brothers and sisters called by his Son and gathered by his Spirit from every nation, every people, and every language under heaven. We have seen the fruits of the Spirit's work every day here at St Joseph's. The Spirit is living and active everywhere — in our charity work to help the poor and to those who are suffering and hurting. The Spirit has been alive in our sporting and musical achievements as well as the many other practical and theoretical subjects. The Spirit is alive in every child, every member of staff and all those who are associated with St Joseph's. The gift of the Spirit is working in all the little ways that each of us tries to spread the joy of our love for Jesus to others.

As we enter the months of summer, remember that it is a wonderful time for all of us to relax a little and be renewed and to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

Lord,

Bless all in this school as we seek to end our year with the grace you so generously provide.

We give thanks for the pupils and all who have contributed to this year of nurturing and growth.

We affirm all the positive moments, of insight, of the excitement of learning, of accomplishment, of creativity, of laughter, of a sense of community.

We recognise the times of struggle, of difficult work, of misunderstanding, even of failure - we give these to you for transformation.

So they can become seeds that will find fertile soil.

As we leave for the summer, may we take with us the knowledge that you will keep us all in your embrace so we may rest and be restored, and so we can continue in the on-going discovery of your Love.

Amen

St Joseph...Pray for us



Chaplaincy Team

Our Youth Chaplaincy team continue to be very busy producing resources to aid the Catholic life of our school. Over Lent, the group made and sold Lenten prayer bracelets raising over £50 for CAFOD. They also created a set of Lenten prayers that were distributed to all form tutors to be read every day during in this contemplative time.

May proved to be no different with our team busily preparing for our Pentecostal retreats. We also hosted short services in the Chapel and prayer garden for the crowning of Our Lady in dedication to our blessed Mother. We also welcomed Father Elliot who celebrated a beautiful Mass for us for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (May 18th).

June saw us getting very creative for our Litany of The Sacred Heart of Jesus (16th June). The Chaplaincy team cut out over 1500 red hearts from recycled card to represent each learner and staff in our school community. These were used to create a large heart centre piece to be displayed before our altar. The junior members also wrote and led bidding prayers in reflection of our local and wider community.

On the 22nd of June, four members of our team along with Mrs Lloyd were invited to attend the Pallium Mass of Archbishop Mark O'Toole. We were in awe of the incredible choir that sung with such grace and were amazed to see so many familiar faces in with the assembly of all the parish priests in our Diocese. The Archbishop was really pleased that we were in attendance of his

special day and thanked us for coming before allowing us to have photo opportunity.

The team, on behalf of the school, would also like to extend our thanks to Father Michael Doyle who lead Mass for us on the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29th).

Over the Summer term, the team have been greatly focussed on the theme of sainthood. The junior members have taken ownership of the 'Saint of the Week' information slide that is updated weekly on our Twitter page and school digital signage monitors. The senior members have taken on the challenge of creating displays of subject patron saints that will be issued to each teacher to place in their classrooms. Did you know that the patron saint of Physical Education was Saint Sebastian? We do now! It has truly given us an insight in to the life and works of saints and we hope that the saints will guide and inspire us through our learning journeys in the years to come.

Finally, we would like to thank each student and member of staff for supporting our work throughout the year. We are especially grateful to all our competition winners to took part in our Easter Egg and Gifts of the Holy Spirit hunts and also the very popular Catholic Catchphrase Competition. We couldn't have done it without your enthusiasm which inspires us to look for bigger and better ways to bring the ways of the Gospel to you all.

**Have wonderful Summer...
God Bless, The SJHS Youth Chaplaincy Team**

‘Pitter patter it doesn’t matter.’ The rain did not stop the laughter, fun and excitement at the Enterprise Fair 2023.

<https://www.velindrefundraising.com/>



Velindre Cancer Centre provides specialist cancer and blood services across South and Mid Wales through Velindre Cancer Centre and the Welsh Blood Service. Delivering quality, care and excellence to their patients and donors is at the heart of their organisation.

#VELINDRE

With a welcome return for a second year, the Enterprise Fair was yet again a huge success. This year, Year 10 raised £5,892.80 for Velindre Cancer Care as creative and innovative entrepreneurs, producing and selling hand crafted products.

The event, organised by Mrs Price, the Head of Welsh Baccalaureate, and the Year 10 Welsh Baccalaureate team, directed learners in their planning and dedication to a worthy cause. Year 10 were the true superstars showcasing their business techniques as enterprising individuals. With over 50 stalls, Year 10 sold a variety of products ranging from, ice cream and sweet cones, to jewellery and pom poms.



Year 10 raised £5,892.80 in total. Fantastic!!!

The whole SJHS community were thrilled with the large inflatables taking their best shot at laser tag, holding on for life on the bucking broncho and jumping for joy on the total wipe out. The day even included Mr Doughton having his hair and beard shaved off for charity by Wales and Lions Captain, Mr Sam Warburton - it was a spectacular sight to see.

It was an absolute pleasure to see all learners laughing and having fun, enjoying the activities but also coming together as a community to raise money for Velindre.

We were very fortunate to have Lucasca Walters from Velindre Cancer Care and a very special guest, Sam Warburton, an ambassador for Velindre, join us at the Enterprise Fair. Sam Warburton stated, *"It is a delight to see such happy faces raising money for a very important cause."*

Thank you to all involved for supporting this great cause. An extra diolch to Miss Read and Mrs Davies for supporting Mrs Price and Year 10 on the day.

A huge diolch yn fawr to our wonderful SJHS family for raising money for Velindre Cancer Care, a very worthy cause.

**The preparation for the Enterprise Fair July 2024 begins...
#TeamWelshBaccalaureate**



Our trip to Oxford University allowed us to understand our options for post-secondary education. At our age, when we are thinking of taking these big steps in our life, it is extremely easy to get overwhelmed with all the options. Having this chance to be guided while so close to this foreign part of our lives was amazing and beneficial to us all.

We learnt that there are many benefits to choosing a college to receive further education. Money will always be something society will be worried about, especially with the living cost crisis. A perk that not only Jesus College provides is that you can receive living cost grants. Students have come straight from homelessness and refugee shelters into Jesus College. At such an alien stage of your life, you will share a communal area with people who have taken the same courses as you.

I learnt that your college experience can completely differ depending on what you chose to pursue. Generally, subjects such as History are only 3 years long but subjects like Medicine can take up to 6 years to complete a course. You will have to rely on self-discipline and commitment because there aren't many contact hours (these include lab hours, which consist of practical and theory work). There are generally only about two hours of tutorials with 15 other students on average and a total

of 32 work hours a week. There is a great quantity of workload but it is there to push you as much as you can. The workload is intimidating to show you just how much you can truly achieve with the correct amount of effort, determination and knowledge.

Jesus College is not only a place of education but one of community. The school is very diverse and accepting of any and all groups of people. Statistics show that 25% of students are from ethnic minority backgrounds. The schools design many events which bring awareness and aim to inform the public, such as in creating an Outreach Programme for British-Pakistani students. Jesus College brings students together from all walks of life to participate in a Mortar Ceremony to officially welcome students to Oxford.

It made me realise that it doesn't matter where you're from, what your situation is or what your background is; if you put in the work you will achieve the goal you set for yourself. We are all capable of accomplishing anything as long as we have the determination.

I have personally really enjoyed being a part of the Seren Foundation as it is a community of very driven individuals who are passionate about providing a good future for themselves and others. The foundation has provided us with many incredible opportunities that will help us in the future.



SEREN FOUNDATION

OXFORD

SPORTS DAYS 2023

Sports Day at St Joseph's is always a very popular event in the academic year, this is why we have four! All year groups 7, 8, 9, 10 were not only a credit to themselves and their forms, but also for us as a whole school community.

Both pupils and staff got fully involved in traditional and non-competitive activities. Each year groups took part in 8 events within their form classes, where they could gain points to coincide with our Catholic virtues for this term Intentional and Prophetic. Points were awarded for teamwork and for all pupils in each form participating. Although there were points available to win for each form class, pupil participation and enjoyment was at the forefront of each sports day.

Pupils did also get to experience some of the traditional athletic events with all form classes competing against each other. It was great to see so many pupils involved, displaying great sportsmanship, resilience, determination, and amazing effort. There were overall form winners for each year groups, but each pupil should be extremely proud of their achievements and performances.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, parents, carers and other home links for your continued support and commitment towards our sporting extracurricular clubs this year!! **We wish you a restful summer and are looking forward to seeing many more of you in September to continue building on our successes from this year in all our extra curricular activities and teams.**

Much love, Mrs Geeves and the PE Team





YR7

YR8







SPORTS SUPERSTARS

Some of our pupils are shining outside of school once more. As a PE Department, we are very proud of these pupils and what they have achieved so far. Please join us in celebrating their fantastic sporting achievements...



Aaron	Regional Boxing	Lily	World Taekwondo, Silver Medal
Theo	Regional Boxing	Jay	Newport County Football
Morgan	Welsh Athletics	Gerard	Welsh Basketball
Chloe	Welsh Football	Harry	Regional Kickboxing
Scarlett	Welsh Football	Yr9/10	Boys - NASUWT Athletics Finals



Boxing Champ!

Congratulations to our very own Mr Walsh who won the Welsh ABA (Amateur Boxing Association) finals to become Welsh ABA Champion in his weight.

A HUGE congrats to Lily in Year 7 who competed in her first World Championship in Coventry this weekend. She won Silver for her individual competition and Bronze in the team event. **WOW!!!!**
Amazing Lily.

CONNOR ALLEN

Writing Workshop

On Friday 19th June four Year 7 classes were lucky enough to complete a workshop with the Welsh Laureate, poet Connor Allen. Year 7 have been studying how we express our identities in English. In the spring term, we looked at the poem 'Knock Knock' and analysed how he expresses his identity and culture through poetry. In the workshop, Connor Allen supported pupils to write their own poems as a way of expressing their identity. He then shared his poem 'Knock Knock' and answered the pupils' questions about the poem. We were incredibly grateful to have a visit from Connor Allen and we hope to welcome him back soon!





LIBRARY NEWS

The Connor Allen Library

On May the 19th we were delighted to welcome Newport poet and actor, Connor Allen, to cut the ribbon and officially open our refurbished Library.

Connor, who is also the Children's Laureate Wales, worked in several lessons with eager year 7 pupils, encouraging them to write poetry which reflected their passions, beliefs and identity. Connor also performed some of his poetry in the library and met with our school diversity group, where pupils from all years asked insightful and interesting questions. Thank you to Mr Nunn who made the arrangements and to Connor for donating a selection of plays to the library and allowing us to name our library after him.



Rougemont Carnegie Medal visit

On June 14th our year 7 and 8 book groups hosted pupils from Rougemont School for a morning of Carnegie Medal discussion and activities.

Pupils undertook a range of tasks including creating black-out poetry, quizzing and voting on which of the seven Carnegie nominated titles was their favourite. The pupils' favorite was 'I Must Betray You' by Ruta Sepetys, a thought-provoking thriller set during the Romanian Revolution in 1989, which went on to win the Yoto Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Medal for Writing - voted by school reading groups. The eventual winner of this year's Carnegie medal was 'The Blue Book of Nebo' by Welsh author Manon Steffan Ros, a short dystopian novel translated from Welsh which was also much enjoyed by our reading groups. This and the rest of the shortlist can be borrowed from the library by pupils and staff. We look forward to continuing our connection with Rougemont.

Finally, Ms McCarthy would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Mr Watts who will be leaving St Joseph's this summer. He has been a fantastic support to me in the library since I arrived in September, and has run St Joseph's book-groups over many years. Mr Watts' easy connection with pupils and obvious enjoyment in sharing his passion for words, alongside his wonderful sense of mischief and fun and encyclopaedic knowledge of music and literature, has endeared him to many students. All pupils who have enjoyed his book groups send him best wishes for the future.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT and SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE
at **ST JOSEPH'S RC HIGH SCHOOL**



“It’s inspiring to see young people engaged and enthused about issues that are not only vital to their own well-being but that of the planet also. The children absolutely loved the interactive workshop and it was great to see them getting creative with the ingredients they were given and putting their learnings from the day into action.”

Carl Chappell, Executive Chef, Chartwells

On 18th July, we hosted an Environment & Sustainability Conference which was organised by Mr Rowland, who is the current Chair of the Newport Catering Board and Chartwells, our catering partner. The purpose of the conference being to help educate pupils on the importance of nutrition and sustainability.

With the aim of continuing to support local schools on their sustainability journeys and as part of Chartwells’ own sustainability commitment, the conference held at St Joseph’s RC High School, welcomed both primary and secondary pupils from across Newport, as well as special guests including; The Rt. Worshipful, the Mayor of Newport, Councillor Trevor Watkins and Councillor Davies, Newport City Council’s Cabinet Member for Education and Councillor Forsey, Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity, along with a host of key industry speakers and suppliers including the Welsh Government, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, and Keep Wales Tidy.

Throughout the day, pupils were able to enjoy a range of sustainability talks on key areas such as, food waste, packaging and recycling, food production and conservation, and see first-hand how these businesses affect sustainability within Newport.

To help further educate pupils regarding the interwoven topics

of food, nutrition, and sustainability, pupils also took part in a fun, interactive session, delivered by Chartwells’ Executive Chef, Carl Chappel and a team of nutritionists, where they were challenged to put their own culinary skills and learnings from the day to the test.

Choosing from a selection of five ingredients, pupils were tasked with creating a sustainable dish, before presenting their recipe to the room and explaining why it was good for them and for the planet. Dishes included a berry smoothie called ‘gwaed y ddraig’, as well as colourful vegetable and hummus wrap, but the overall winner went to a bumble bee inspired energy ball, aptly named ‘bumble ball’.

The sustainability theme also carried into the lunch for the day, with Chartwells’ catering team, developing a specially designed menu for the event. Dishes on the menu included; No Waste Cauli Mac n Cheese, made from locally sourced cauliflower; Plant-based BBQ Meatballs with Wheat Pasta; Bumblebee Trust Greek Hummus Salad; and Carrot Cake, made from leftover carrot peelings, veg noodles and chickpea water.

Longer term, Chartwells in partnership with Newport City Council will continue to deliver and drive its ongoing sustainable programme of activity throughout the local area.

“We are very grateful to Chartwell’s for organising this Conference. The ongoing support Chartwells provides in delivering nutritional food and educational sessions, continues to have a tangible positive impact within Newport Schools, and today is just another example of this.”

Mark Rowland, Chair of Newport Catering Board



Jasmine Gibson and Grace Evans spoke eloquently about our own sustainability journey here at St Joseph’s RC High School as did a wonderful group of young pupils from St Andrew’s Primary School.

James Muldoon, Regional Manager, Chartwells said: *“We’re determined to continue reaching young people in Newport and educating them on the importance of healthy and sustainable eating. We’re thrilled that we’ve been able to bring pupils and leading sustainability experts together, and offer young people the chance to enjoy learning about food and the importance of making food choices which are good for them and for the environment.*

We know these are particularly challenging times for everyone and that is why hosting events like this is so important. We need to ensure that everyone has access to the education and resources they need to live a healthy and sustainable life and we will continue to support the Newport community to make sure this happens.”

Mark Rowland, Chair of the Newport Catering Board added: “The Schools present will all be in different places in terms of their sustainability journeys. However, events like this, which encourage wider industry engagement, networking,

knowledge sharing and help to inspire young people to drive positive environmental change, are vital in ensuring we drive more sustainable practices within our schools, whilst also setting children up with the tools and knowledge they need to make positive choices around food, nutrition, wellbeing, and sustainability.



CURRICULUM FOCUS

As part of the New Curriculum for Wales, since September 2021 we have been piloting new schemes of learning with our current Year 7 and Year 8 pupils.

This is to ensure that our pupils learn the skills required to support them throughout their lives, and eventually leave us prepared for the '4 Purposes' of the New Curriculum, namely that they are 'ambitious, capable learners', 'enterprising, creative contributors', 'ethical, informed citizens', and 'healthy, confident individuals'.

This is an exciting time in education as we are able to explore new ideas and issues which are especially relevant to our pupils and our community. Part of the process is that pupils have a greater say in what and how they learn, and throughout the last two years we have consulted widely with a range of pupils on their experiences. From listening to learners interviews, Google forms questionnaires, votes in class, and in book look discussions, our pupils have been very forthcoming in what they feel is important for their curriculum focus.

For example, last year in their whole year group feedback, the current Year 8 pupils said that they wanted to experience topics which were more celebratory of life, rather than always learning about how things went wrong. In response to this, the Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience (Music, Drama, Art) are producing a scheme on social justice for Year 9, and how this can be explored and celebrated through their subjects.

As part of the Humanities AoLE (History, Geography, Skills), pupils stated that they would like different methods of assessment to be employed rather than just written work. History are now using both presentations and poster work as different methods of assessment when pupils have completed

a scheme and are ready to answer the Big Question they have been exploring. Trips have also been organised to both St Fagan's and Caerphilly Castle, after pupils wanted first hand experiences of what they were learning about in the classroom.

In Mathematics, pupils commented that they wanted to see more diversity in their learning, so the department have designed a scheme where researching a celebrated mathematician from another country is part of the learning process. The Science department are introducing new assessment ladders so pupils can track their own progress and understand what they need to do in order to improve. In the Languages, Literatures and Communication AoLE (English, Welsh and MFL), the English department will be devoting more time to reading full novels, and using voting systems in class so that the pupils have more choice over the topics within a scheme, enabling learning to be more student led.

This is just a brief overview of some of the consultation we have undertaken as a school regarding the New Curriculum and how we have acted on what our pupils want. We have previously surveyed parents and carers through Google Forms, and moving forward will continue to do so.

It is essential to us that all of our stakeholders feel involved and valued when it comes to the learning experiences of our pupils, and we hope that our curriculum offer is truly reflective of our Catholic values, our community, our country, and of course our brilliant pupils.

SPIRAL OF INQUIRY



In September, we were invited by the Public Health Wales from Gwent to join a community of local schools in what is called a 'Spiral of Inquiry'. A Spiral of Inquiry creates the conditions where curiosity is encouraged and sustained so that creative approaches are developed to positively influence wellbeing.

Scanning

In the first of the 6 stages we really looked with an open mind at what was happening in our school community. We actively listened to pupils and became really interested in points pupils made about the importance of belonging, tough love and safety after the negative impact of Covid lockdowns and absence from school.

Focussing

To help focus we started to collect further information so that we could understand in more depth if pupils feel physically and mentally safe in our school. Over 120 pupils were questioned in a 20-question survey and this identified that nearly all pupils really do feel physically and emotionally safe on the school site and in lessons. The survey, coupled with wider reading also emphasised further the significance of safety as the foundation for all other aspects of wellbeing in school and our wider lives. (See Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs')

Developing a hunch

Can our pupils identify a trusted adult in our school community? An adult that they trust to help them with a personal issue?

At this stage we started to reflect further about the theme of safety. Our first hunch was that very possibly our pupils would 'not' be able to go further and identify with a trusted adult in school after the negative impact of Covid lockdowns. Consequently, we started to test this hunch by gathering data from 5 forms across 5-year groups. Pupils were asked if they could write their name and the name of a trusted adult on a thank you card and then hand these in for a confidential data review. The positive news was that our first hunch was wrong as 115 from 120 pupils could name a trusted adult in school to which they would turn if they needed support linked to a personal or more serious issue. The 5 pupils who did not identify with an adult were later given 1:1 support.

Learning

Simply knowing that trusted adults could be identified for 96% of the pupils questioned was not enough. This did not tell us what a trusted adult looked like and how they develop this relationship with pupils. We started to modify our approach by reviewing our evidence base further and learning directly from our pupils as to why they chose the trusted adults identified. At this stage a fantastic insight was gained into the genuine strength of these relationships as many pupils delivered a thank you card to their trusted adult or gave permission for the working group to do this for them. This learning stage also helped cement the idea that a new way of doing things is often better than previous practices, in this case we saw the benefits of pupil focus groups over surveys as we were hearing first-hand what our pupils believe.

Taking Action

In the learning stage we had truly discovered that our nearly all pupils could identify with a trusted adult and that this was very closely tied to feeling safe in school. With a growth mindset can do attitude we then started planning for three separate actions with measurable outcomes.

1: Explicitly share our findings about trusted adults so as to help 'all' staff further develop the key characteristics of a trusted adult. 2: Help all (1500) pupils identify with a trusted adult using the criteria shared. 3: Simultaneously ensure all staff can identify with a trusted colleague to support their wellbeing. These actions are all measurable in quantitative and qualitative data. Consequently, we have now started planning for how we will succeed in all 3 actions.

Checking

At the checking stage we can celebrate that over 120 pupils have nominated one or more trusted adults in school. The vast majority of these adults have received a thank you card which identifies them in this role. This has created a buzz around the staffroom and in conversations with staff that are proud and happy to be recognised in such an important position. We can also celebrate that we already have established a much clearer insight into what our pupils think makes for a trusted adult. The weakness of our spiral work so far is that we have not had an impact on the whole school community or made a tangible long-lasting difference to the emotional wellbeing of our pupils and staff.

Moving forward, we have started planning for the best way to share what we have learned. We have set high expectations and we expect this work to make a substantial impact on all staff and pupils in 2023-24. In the next issue of Insight, we will share the feedback from pupils with regards to the adults they trust in school

[Thank you for taking the time to read about our 'Spiral of Inquiry'. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Nunn, Miss Read or Miss Price.](#)

[A huge thank you is also extended to Dr Ian Smillie, Dr Charlotte Montgomery and Dr Robert Brooks for all their support and guidance in the Spiral workshop sessions this year.](#)

EISTEDDFOD

Blynyddoedd 7 ac 8 \ Years 7 and 8

Dathlwyd ein heisteddfod flynyddol gan Flwyddyn 7&8 ar 5ed Gorffennaf ac roedd yn ddiwrnod llwyddiannus diolch i waith caled ac ymarferiadau'r disgyblion a'r athrawon.

Rydyn ni'n lwcus iawn gan fod llawer o ddisgyblion talentog gyda ni yn ysgol Joseff Sant a chawson ni ein hadlonni gydag amrywiaeth o ganu ac offeryn cerddorol. Ym mlwyddyn 7, enillwyd cystadleuaeth ganu a cherddorol gan Erin Thomas (7H) gyda'u perfformiad bendigedig, *"Burn"* o'r sioe gerdd Hamilton. Daeth Elliott Champs a Liam Linton (7O) yn ail yn canu *"Thinking out Loud"* gan Ed Sheeran. Daeth Jeron Liril, Joel Gibson, Jeeven Chacko, Joe Thomas a Josh Benny (7O) yn drydedd gyda'u perfformiad cerddorol Samba.

Ym mlwyddyn 8, enillwyd cystadleuaeth ganu a cherddorol gan Genni Dinham (8V) gyda'i pherfformiad hardd ar y piano gyda *"Bohemian Rhapsody"* gan Queen. Daeth Alvin Binnoy (8S) yn ail gyda'i berfformiad ar y piano gyda *"Für Elise"* gan Beethoven a daeth Leanne Fernandes a Gwen Aderyn yn drydedd gyda'u perfformiad

Prif ddigwyddiad y diwrnod oedd cadeirio'r bardd, lle ydyn ni'n gweld enillwyr cystadleuaeth greadigol

Saesneg yn cael eu coronu a gosgordd i'r llwyfan yn gwisgo clogyn. Ar y llwyfan, chwaraeodd Mrs Davies rhan hen dderwydd sy'n gofyn i bawb y cwestiwn, *"A oes heddwch?"* Ac mae pawb yn ymateb gan weiddi allan, *"Heddwch!"*

Llongyfarchiadau i Erin Thomas 7H ac Isabel Davies 8S a enillodd ac am roi caniatâd i ni i ddarllen allan eu gwaith felly gallai pawb werthfawrogi eu talentau creadigol.

Gyda chystadleuaeth dosbarthiadau enillwyd cystadleuaeth farddoniaeth gan 7P gyda eu ffersiwn o'r gerdd, *"Y Carib"* ac enillwyd cystadleuaeth ganu gan 7H gyda *"Sosban Fach"*.

Ym Mlwyddyn 8, enillwyd cystadleuaeth farddoniaeth gan 8E gyda'u ffersiwn o *"Sglodion di-ri"* ac enillwyd cystadleuaeth ganu gan 8J gyda *"Calon Lân"*.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i'r barnwyr gweithgar i gyd ac yn gwneud penderfyniadau'n heriol ac i Miss Doyle am helpu gydag eitemau cerddorol!

Da iawn pawb!



"My first Eisteddfod at St. Joseph's was truly great". Izaiah Abdie-Waite 7E



Years 7&8 celebrated our annual Eisteddfod on the 5th July and all of their hard work and rehearsals paid off to make it a very successful day.

We are very lucky to have lots of talented pupils at St Joseph's who entertained us with an array of singing and musical instruments. In Year 7, the singing and musical contest was won by Erin Thomas (7H) with their wonderful performance of "Burn" from the musical *Hamilton*. Elliott Champs and Liam Linton (7O) came 2nd singing "Thinking out Loud" by Ed Sheeran. Jeron Liril, Joel Gibson, Jeeven Chacko, Joe Thomas and Josh Benny (7O) performed a spectacular piece of Samba music and came third with their performance.

In Year 8, the musical contest was won by Genni Dinham (8V) with a captivating performance on the piano with "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen. Alvin Binoy (8S) came second with his piano performance of Beethoven's "Für Elise" and Leanne Fernandes and Gwen Aderyn came 3rd with their performance.

The main event of the day was the churning of the bard, whereby we see the winner of the creative English competition crowned and escorted to the stage draped in a cloak. Once on stage, Mrs Davies played the part of the ancient druid who asks, "A oes heddwch?" "Is there peace?" and everyone responds by shouting out, "Heddwch!" "Peace!"

Congratulations to Erin Thomas 7H and Isabel Davies 8S for winning with their poem, "Who I Am?" and for allowing their work to be read aloud so that everyone could appreciate their creative talents. As far as the form competition went in Year 7, 7P won the poetry competition with their rendition of "Y Caribi" and 7H won the singing competition with "Sosban Fach".

In Year 8, 8E won the poetry competition with "Sglodion di-ri!" and 8J won the singing competition with "Calon Lân".

Thank you to all of the hardworking judges for making some challenging decisions and to Miss Doyle for helping with the musical items!

Da iawn pawb!

"The St Joseph's Eisteddfod enriches us with our passion and pride in our roots, through art, song and poetry". Alyssa Bidhendy 8E









THE LAKE DISTRICT



Despite a rather long journey up north, this trip turned out to be one of the best! From art workshops to canoeing, we didn't stop... but it was totally worth it.

Canoeing

To start off we grouped into threes and told to stand alongside an oar and a canoe. We were given instructions on how to control the canoe and off we went...! Rowing was tricky to start with as we pretty much going round in circles BUT we didn't fall in and after a bit of practice (and timing collaboration) we started going forward. We raced up and down and played mini-games, the best one was stuck in the mud where we had to grab other people's ropes; once both ropes were gone you were out.

Abseiling

Later on that day, after having a nice packed lunch, we went abseiling. Abseiling is climbing down a rock face backwards



attached to a harness and ropes. When we were ready, one at a time, we gently lowered ourselves over the edge with our feet planted securely on the rock face, and at the same time fed the rope with your hands at the pace you felt comfortable with. It was nerve-racking going over the edge but great fun. As well as abseiling, we also did rock climbing, again we were wearing harnesses and clipped into safety ropes. The instructor gave you helpful tips and helped us put our hands and feet in the right places. Everyone tried to get to the very top, but only a few people managed it - it was quite hard and very high.

Arts

The next day, we went to a lovely Arts Centre where we had an opportunity to experience two different creative workshops - Tie Dye and clay. Some of us had taken a white t-shirt or white top, and some used squares of material to dye bandanas. Firstly, we had a quick lesson from the Arts Centre teacher and then set about tying marbles and twisting string or rubber bands around our material to make patterns. Then we had to dip them or splash them with fabric dye - there was lots of colours to choose from and it was VERY messy! While they were soaking in the pots we swapped with the other group to the clay workshop. We were given flat circles of clay slabs to decorate with runny coloured clay called slip. We got to pick flowers and leaves and using a roller, pressed them into the clay, then we painted over the whole thing with slip. When we pulled the flowers away it left really pretty patterns. Mrs Neale collected everything up so we could fire our pieces back at school.

Charcoal Drawing

In the afternoon, we got to do some close up art whilst sat in the sunshine. We visited Kendall Castle, and after a walk up a very long hill, we sat around on the grass and were given charcoal and paper to draw the ruined castle. We all tried to add as much detail as possible and concentrated on doing our best work.

Leven's Hall Gardens

We visited the Leven's Hall Gardens which was a bit like how we imagined Alice in Wonderland. They had hundreds of trees shaped in unique shapes and lots of brightly coloured flowers. Everyone could split up and explore the gardens and nature; some of us even had an ice-cream.

Steam Train and Aquarium

On our final day, we took a steam train ride through the Haverthwaite countryside - it was really fun! We also went to the Lakes Aquarium in Windermere and met some local otters and water life from the local area. We had a tour guide show us around and tell us all about the different animals we could see.

Next, we had some lunch as waited for the boat. When it arrived we all sat on deck and 'set sail' for Bowness, it was hot but windy so really lovely. We even got to see a massive RAF plane fly over us really low.

It was a great trip, full of loads of things to do and see.

Written by Constanza Collela and Olivia Hard, Year 9



High above the Lakes...



So proud of our pupils for facing fears



#smashedabseilingtoday

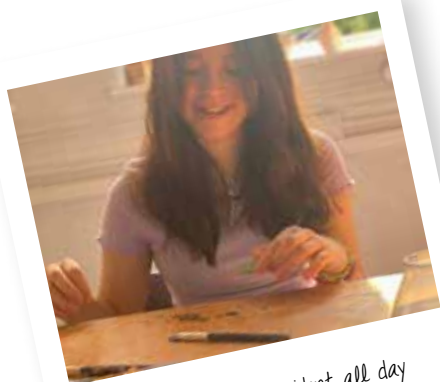


A quick tie-dye lesson



“

What a great trip...! The pupils got to enjoy art workshops and be creative in some great spaces; be challenged into doing activities they would never normally have considered, like abseiling and canoeing. The hostel was in a fantastic location which gave them all freedom to run around and have the odd water fight to end each busy day” **Mrs Kent**



Creative passion was evident all day



Such a mess! But worth it for the results



Carefully does it!



The colour choice was fab.



Creating patterns with flowers on clay



Sketching at Kendall Castle



Charcoal, paper and relax...



Leven's Hall Gardens



Full steam ahead...not for Mrs Neale's finger - which she trapped in the door

ARTextra



Art History Field Trip to Tredegar House

Working to embed the cross curricular focus of the new Curriculum for Wales, an Art History field trip to Tredegar House was organised for a group of Year 7 pupils.

This was an exciting opportunity to investigate wealth and poverty through art pieces, architecture and the social history of those who lived and worked in the country house. Celebrating local history month, historical connections between St. Joseph's and Tredegar House were also explored. The weather was glorious and it was a great day for exploring the beautiful grounds and buying an ice-cream from the local shop too.

What the Year 7 pupils said:

"I learnt about the visitors, like Charles the 1st"

"I learnt about the servants"

Thank you to Cardiff Met University Teachers Mrs Pitman and Miss Breen for running this trip.

"I had so much fun on the trip and would like to do it again"



SJHS alumni Sophie Cridland is Student of the Year

Congratulations to ex-student Sophie Cridland for gaining WJEC excellence award for outstanding achievement.

Sophie became Student of the Year on the Foundation Art & Design Diploma at Coleg Gwent. Her fantastic work was exhibited at The Riverfront, Newport so our Year 12 pupils were invited to go and view it, they were in awe of her superb talent. We wish her luck in her next adventure - studying Fine Art at Bristol University.



A LEVEL GALLERY



(above) **Faceless** Acrylic painting by **Coehan McCue**

(left) **Cat** Acrylic painting by **Trinity Phillips**

(right) **Nude** Multimedia painting by **Megan Hitchmough**



Sketchbook by **Kaysha Rose**

Sketchbook by **Jasmine Gibson**



Sketchbook by **Ella Trew**

(right) **NHS Digital Art** by **Louise Castillo**



(Below) **Hedgehog** Multimedia painting by **Kaysha Rose**



GCSE GALLERY



(Above) Sketchbook by
Marcus Gibbons-Barrington

(Left) Blossom Painting by Sophia Chua



Sketchbook by

Apple Ceramic by
Liliana Martin



ARTificial Intelligence Multimedia
illustration by Oliver Rocke



Portrait Multimedia painting by Nneoma Maduako



On Saturday 8th July 2023, we held our first Summer Fete since the new school opened. The event was organised to support pupils going on a Trip to Kenya with Camps International to raise money to support their overall fundraising target!

The event was well attended and enjoyed by several hundred visitors. We are delighted that The Right Worshipful, The Mayor of Newport, Councillor Trevor Watkins and Mayoress Catherine Karlson and Councillor Debbie Davies, Cabinet Member for Education were able to join us.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the craft stall holders who joined us, AJ Kickboxing, Morris's of Usk, New Directions, Chartwells (our catering partners and in particular the wonderful Carl Chappel), Lucy Anna Music, the Welsh Target Shooting Federation (Cardiff Bay Club - Paul Scourfield, James Wheels, Torfaen Small Bore Rifle Club - Lawrence Blake, Welsh Target Shooting Federation - Mat Goodwin, Richard Stepney, John

Dallimore and Alan Green) and Newport Transport for their support. A very big thank you also to all the amazing PE department and the wonderful dancers and gymnasts who performed (although some were sadly rained off) and Miss Doyle and the choirs from St Joseph's Primary and St Joseph's RC High School and not forgetting our MC Mrs Neale. A huge thank you also to all our amazing site team, staff, Max John and the 6th Form and Year 11 pupil volunteers and Mrs Kent, without whom this fete wouldn't have been possible.

Congratulations to St. Mary's RC Primary (Newport) who defeated St. Mary's RC Primary (Chepstow) in a nail biting 7-a-side football final. Even after full-time and with an extra 5 minutes golden goal failing to split the teams, we had to go to penalties to find a winner. The game was played in excellent spirit with some fantastic football played by both teams.

Not even a thunderstorm mid-afternoon could dampen our spirits and everyone who attended left smiling!

Mark Rowland
Business Manager



Aim and fire...!



A wet but amazing football tournament



Congratulations to the raffle winners...

iPad

Claire Daniels

Principality Stadium Tour

Lisa Coburn

Chromecast

Tim Seghiri

Gwent Dragons Tickets

Adrian Neale

Pandora Gift

Dayna Edwards

Pandora Gift

Ira Delegancia

Wagamamma

Voucher

Yohanas

Bottle of Prosecco

Matt Trogmar

Quality Street

Lisa Carter

Bottle of Pinot Grigio and Sanctuary Spa

Mike Dovernan

Book & Puzzle

Louise Harris

Books & Cards

Preemo

Welsh Cream Liqueur

Alex Connors

Bottle of Asti

Vanessa Davis

Entertainer Voucher

Zena Ramejkis

Whisky Miniature Trio

M. Sanders

WELL DONE MARISSA

Young Chef Academy follow up...

Marissa Jones has got a job in the Heathcock in Llandaff Cardiff (part-time initially whilst she finishes school but with a view to then pursuing an Apprenticeship). They are pursuing a Michelin Star, so this is quite an achievement!



Spanish Spelling Bee

Over 100 Year 7 pupils competed in a multi-stage Spanish Spelling Bee. Students dedicated lots of time working independently learning spelling and meaning of around 100 new Spanish words! There were multiple stages that meant the students were tested until we ended up with the final finalists! The finalists (in the picture) were extremely impressive and learnt another 25 new Spanish words, writing them out under timed conditions in front of a panel (including Mrs Jarrett and Mrs Morgan!). The winner was Jess Humphreys in 7V!

**We look forward to hosting
Y7 French and Y8 Spelling
Bees next year!**



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY

We are delighted to share a poem written by a Year 10 pupil. This pupil was inspired by the work of Connor Allen a Newport born, Welsh poet that has visited our school (see page 20). Connor focuses on the importance of identity and this powerful poem echoes that sentiment. Wow!

It Never Dawned on Me

I'm 14
Such a boring number
Sometimes it never dawned on me
How much I can't remember
About my heritage
What I was born a part of
What the community of the people before me
was like
What the stories that were told around me
were like
It never dawned on me

I feel separated
From what I could be
A stranger to who I was meant to be
An African
A person of dignity
A culture with every possibility
It never dawned on me
How many hours it takes
To weave every hair on our heads
To make us look like we belong
It never dawned on me

My Mum and Dad all spoke the language
Even Google translate won't understand it
The communication of my ancestors
The feeling of belonging is an understanding
It never dawned on me
The creativity of Black and Samba music
The Jazz from Louis Armstrong
The words of 'what a wonderful world'
Bringing smiles of recognition to the faces of
world

That was our music
Our time to shine
But I'm 14
And it never dawned on me
What being black truly meant to me.

WMS



GOODBYE & GOODLUCK

The end of the summer term marks a time of transition for many, and this year, it brings with it the departure of some exceptional members of our school community. Each of them has left an indelible mark on the lives of our students, fostering their growth and nurturing their talents. They have not only been teachers but also mentors and role models, guiding our students on their journey towards success and happiness.

Their commitment to our school's mission and values has been unwavering and their passion for education has been evident in everything they do. Their tireless efforts have brought about positive changes in the lives of countless young minds, and we are eternally grateful for their dedication and hard work.

We are all better for having known and worked with these members of staff. Farewell, and may their future endeavours be filled with success, happiness and fulfilment.

Dates for your diary 2023

Autumn Term TYMOR Y HYDREF

September	
1	Inset Day
4	Year 7 and 12 Induction Day
5	Academic year begins - all years
13	KS4&5 Celebration Evening
14	School Photographs (Years 7, 9, 11 & 13)
28	Year 7 Welcome Mass
October	
5	Year 7 Pastoral Evening
17-19	Open Mornings
20	Inset Day
27	Year 9 Careers Day
27 Oct-2 Nov	Computer Science Trip to San Francisco
30 Oct-3 Nov	Half Term

November	
23	Year 8 Parents' Evening
27	Inset Day
30	Year 13 Parents' Evening
December	
7-8	Flu Immunisations
14	Year 12 Parents' Evening
	Advent Service
21	Last Day of Term
22	Inset Day

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

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

www.sjhs.org.uk

twitter.com/sjhsnewport

www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport

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