

Insight

Spring 2015 Gwanwyn

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

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



SJHS DIGITAL LEADERS 2015

In December 2014, after much deliberation, we elected 19 pupils to form our Digital Leaders @ SJHS: Class of 2015!

The choice was extremely difficult and each individual was selected because of their knowledge, variety of skills and willingness to work with others. We would like to extend our thanks to all of those who applied and who have supported the project so far!

We were blown away by the level of skill each candidate possessed and their sense of responsibility, which shone through. This year, we've managed to recruit a range of talented individuals from Internet bloggers, music and video creators, social networkers, technicians and coders. One example of the level of talent at our disposal came from one candidate who won a national competition after designing a child safety app and was invited to spend a day at the headquarters of Google in London!

So keep an eye out for any of our Digital Leaders and stay tuned for some of the exciting projects we have lined up in the near future. **In the meantime, you can keep up to date by following us on Twitter: @iSJHS or by visiting our blog: iSJHS.wordpress.com**



Serving God Through
Learning Together

Yn Gwasanaethu Duw Trwy
Ddysgu Gyda'n Gilydd

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Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth

Mr T Brown Headteacher

As we come to the end of our Lenten journey and head towards the joys of Easter, this edition of Insight gives us an opportunity to reflect on the breadth and quality of experiences that our young people have engaged in throughout the term.

Many of you, like me, will have been wowed by the spectacular performances of 'Hairspray'. It was a fantastic production and

we are all enormously indebted to the staff and pupils who worked tirelessly for 6 months to bring it all together. This edition highlights many other events that have enriched both pupils' learning experiences whether it be through participation in our recent Eisteddfod, our fabulous Year 7 'Islands Project' or in the range of trips and visits that have been undertaken. We are fortunate to have such talented and hard working students

who want to contribute to every aspect of school life and staff who really do go 'the extra mile' in offering students these opportunities.

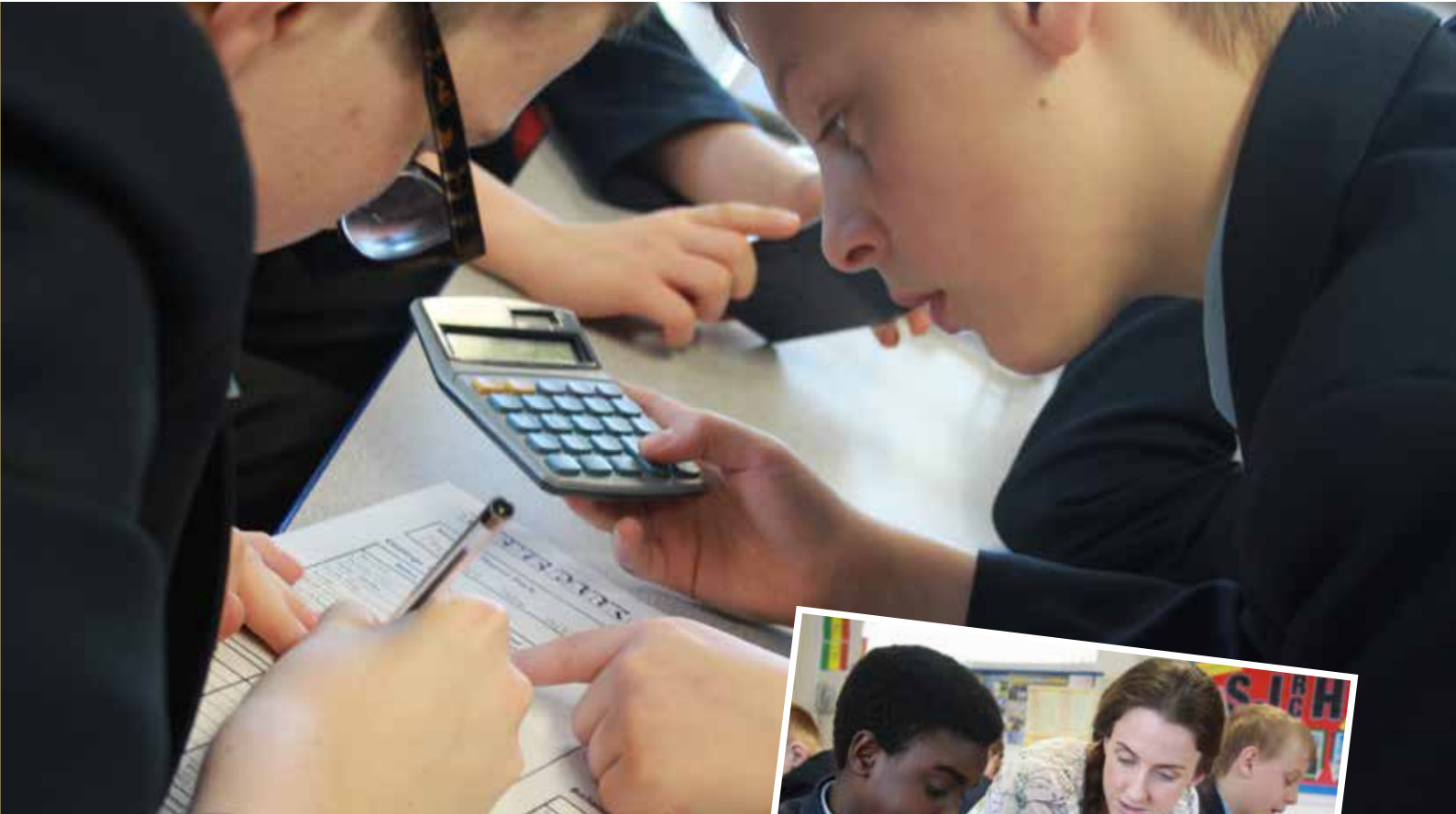
As we enter the summer term we will be approaching the public examination season and many of our students will be using the Easter break to revise and prepare. Please keep these young people who will be sitting these exams in your thoughts

and prayers. I am sure they will have much to celebrate in August. In our worship at school and particularly in our Passiontide services at the end of term we are thinking about the meaning of the Easter message and being reminded of the gift of God in providing his son as our saviour.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support of the work of the school and for working in partnership with us. I wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Easter.

“We made a theme park. It was really exciting and great fun, and our team won!” Molly Anning & Lois Tunney, Year

8



Maths Day

During March Techniquet visited our school to deliver exciting workshops involving mathematics. Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 took part in these workshops, enabling students to develop and display their mathematical understanding in a real life concept.

Year 7 students became engineers and built a Lego car that had to travel on any terrain, had to be a certain length, carry at least two people and luggage whilst calculating the cost of the car parts...all within a set budget. Year 8 students built a theme park which included roller coasters and the tea cups. In order to design the theme park they had to think about budget, space allocation for the theme park and the reason why their theme park was the best. Their outcome was profit.

The purpose for these Enrichment Days in Mathematics is to allow students to develop their logical and reasoning skills, manage money efficiently and organise their time.



Year 11 Maths Inspiration

Year 11 pupils have attended the ‘Maths Inspiration Lecture’ at The Welsh College for Music & Drama in Cardiff, they were also featured on BBC Wales news.

Matt Parker, the stand-up comedian, hosted the inspiration lecture and showed us how to solve a Rubik’s cube. The world record is under 5 seconds and blind folded is under 25 seconds! As Ifra said “*He was funny.*” We learned about forces on a roller coaster, 4D shapes and Mobius loops, which we found could be used to make a square or two hearts during our lesson on Thursday. In the second talk we learned about gameshow probability - always bank a £20 on the weakest link!

Eisteddfod

15

Dathlodd Blynyddoedd 7 ac 8 Eisteddfod Joseff Sant ar Ddydd Gwener 27fed Chwefror.

Roedd y digwyddiad yn llawn o gystadlaethau a thalent bendigedig oddi wrth y grwpiau blynedd i gyd. Dechreuwyd yr Eisteddfod gan Blwyddyn 7 gyda phob dosbarth yn perfformio cerddi gwahanol o fwyd i'r ysgol. Roedd llawer o wisgoedd lliwgar iawn a chelfi a cheisiodd pob dosbarth eu goaru glas, ond coronwyd 7S yr enillwyr gan Miss Jensevics a Miss Bishop!

Canwyd Sosban Fach gan y dosbarthiadau i gyd gyda llawer o frwdfrydedd, symudiant ac angerdd, ond y dosbarth llwyddianus a'r mwyaf swnllyd oedd 7E!

Dathlwyd llawer o dalent unigol ar y llwyfan enillwyd cystadlaeth ganu gan Courtney Hall ac enillwyd cystadlaeth gerddorol gan Niya Joseph.

Dathlwyd diwylliannau gwahanol hefyd adlonnodd Janice Prince a Teresa Vellachili y cynulleidfya gyda'u canu a dawnsio Hindw yn cynnwys gwisg ddisglair.

Parheuwyd y talent gyda blwyddyn 8 gyda pherfformiadau lleisiol ardderchog gan Tegan Waters a chyfeliodd ar y drymiau gan Callum Penn, Tooichi Chigbo a Tiffany Ngoni, ond barnwyd perfformiad anhygoel Danielle Davies y gorau gan chanu "Reflection" o'r ffilm Mulan.

Roedden ni'n lwcas iawn i weld pencampwraig gymnasteg De Dwyrain Cymru, Shauna Purcell a berfformiodd ei threfn gymnasteg egnus ac anhygoel!

Cafodd Mr Phillips, Mrs Shears a Mrs Randall dasg anodd beirniadu cyd-adrodd y gerdd gydag amrywiaeth o bynciau o bel-droed i sbwriel a cherdd sydd yn carl ei hastudio gan y chweched dosbarth! Yr enillwyr oedd 8S. Canwyd Calon Lam gan y dosbarthiadau i gyd yn uchel ei gloch ond y dosbarth gorau oedd 8T.

Rhan integrol yr Eisteddfod ydy cadeiriau'r bardd a roedden ni'n lwcas iawn i fod yn galluogi coronu dau ddisgybl o Flwyddyn 7 a Blwyddyn 8. Ysgrifennodd Samuel Tait a Niya Joseph am resipi Cymreig perffaith ac ysgrifennodd Aine McDonald a Martha Powell gerdd. Daethwyd yr enillwyr a'r llwyfan gan Mrs Purcell a Ms Turner mewn gwn coch gemog a gofnodd Mrs Davies i'r gynulleidfya "A oes heddwch?" ac ymatebodd y gynulleidfya "Heddwch!".

Years 7 and 8 celebrated St Joseph's Eisteddfod on Friday 27th February.

It was a jam-packed event full of competitions and fantastic talent from all year groups.

Year 7 began the Welsh celebrations with each form performing a different themed poem, from food to school. There were lots of brightly coloured costumes and props and every form tried their best, but Miss Jensevics and Miss Bishop crowned 7S the overall winners!

Sosban Fach was sung by all the forms with great enthusiasm, actions and passion, but the loudest and successful form was 7E!

There was a lot of individual talent celebrated on the stage with Courtney Hall being the overall winner of the singing competition and Niya Joseph winning the piano recital.

It wasn't just Welsh culture that was celebrated; Janice Prince and Teresa Vellachili wowed the audience with their Hindu singing and dancing, complete with glittering costume.

The talent continued with Year 8 with excellent vocal performances by Tegan Waters who was accompanied by Callum Penn on the drums, Tooichi Chigbo and Tiffany Ngoni, but Danielle Davies' superb performance of "Reflection" from the film Mulan was deemed the best.

We were also very lucky to see the South East Wales gymnastic champion, Shauna Purcell, perform her energetic and mind blowing routine!

Mr Phillips, Mrs Shears and Mrs Randall had the difficult task of judging the poetry recital with topics ranging from football to rubbish and even a poem studied by sixth form pupils! The winners were 8S. All the forms sang their hearts out to Calon Lan, but the best form was 8T.

The chairing of the bard is an integral part of the Eisteddfod and we were very lucky to be able to crown 2 pupils from Year 7 and Year 8. Samuel Tait and Niya Joseph wrote about a perfect Welsh recipe and Aine McDonald and Martha Powell wrote a poem. They were brought to the stage in a bejewelled red gown by Mrs Purcell and Ms Turner. Mrs Davies then asked the audience, "A Oes Heddwch?" to which the audience replied, "Heddwch!".

*"The Eisteddfod was fun and entertaining.
I enjoyed it and I hope we have another"*

Yerusha, 8V





Island Project





“The island project was fun - we built an enormous model of our island during form periods...it looked great”

When our Year 7 students arrive from all our different feeder and non-feeder primaries in September, the Year 7 team continue the work of the Year 6 teachers and introduce a project which intends to unite all the students as one form.

The project is called ‘The Island’s Day’ and revolves around each form designing an imagined island which combines the features they had worked on the year before. Each form designed such features as an anthem, a flag, a national costume and even a national dish – yum! The project culminates with an enrichment day in the Main School Hall where the students are able to showcase their talents and one form at a



time explains the island they have created. The awards for ‘Best Dance’, ‘Best Currency’ and ‘Best Island Overall’ were judged by all form tutors and additional teaching staff to ensure no bias!....And the winner was 7O.

Congratulations to all members of Year 7 for a truly enjoyable day where talents were able to shine.

hairspray

● THE BROADWAY MUSICAL ●

“The talented pupils of St Joseph’s RC High School, made easy work of it [Hairspray] in an enthralling two hour roller coaster of fun. Make no mistake, this was a performance worthy of any local theatre, with a large, well-rehearsed cast giving their all.”

Review from the South Wales Argus



At the end of September 2014 over 130 pupils auditioned to be part of ‘Hairspray’; the chosen school show for 2015. By the first week of October the production team had cast the show and had selected a cast of 90 made up of children from years 7 to 13.

A week later rehearsals started and the cast learnt of the hours required to put on a show. The schedule suggested 170 hours were needed to put the show together and cast were required to rehearse three times a week.

Over the first few weeks all cast members had to improve their fitness alongside their dancing and singing ability. Many of the cast had never been in a show before so every aspect was new to them and committing to a prolonged rehearsal period was a challenge. However, the hours of rehearsal paid off and when show week arrived the finished product was amazing. Every performance improved and by the final night the show and the buzz around the school had reached fever pitch. It was amazing to be part of such a success.

The press coverage and the support from everyone in the school was overwhelming and the show proved that musical theatre has a solid foundation and home in the St Joseph’s community.

It was a pleasure to direct and produce the show with the cast. The final night was very emotional with many of the cast becoming friends and I know are all eager to do the next show in 2017. @SJHSDramaDept





“Amazing talent...”



“As Hairspray was my first musical, I was initially quite nervous to audition or even be a part of the production. However, with the warm and friendly cast and crew, we soon became a close knit family. Every song in the Hairspray score soon became everyone’s favourite tune and we all couldn’t wait for rehearsals. Personally, I knew that the cast were very gifted; however Hairspray showed me the full, mind-blowing extent of everyone’s ability. As a cast member, I was actually jealous of the audience when it came to show week, as they were able to experience the amount of hard work we all contributed. I am so grateful for this opportunity to not just act in a musical but to have also created such strong and long lasting friendships. Can’t wait for next year’s production!”

Mary O’Hagan - Prudy Pingleton, 12G





“Truly spectacular!”



YEAR 7 AWARDS

RECEIVING OVER 100 PRAISES



Bronze certificate winners from 7J



Bronze certificate winners from 7O



Bronze certificate winners from 7S



Bronze certificate winners from 7E



Bronze certificate winners from 7P



Bronze certificate winners from 7H



Bronze certificate winners from 7T



Bronze certificate winners from 7V

Each day at St Joseph's is a busy one, but often students are so worthy of praise that their teachers award a 'Worthy of Praise' comment.

This term Year 7 had received so many that Mr Jones, Head of Year 7, Mrs Bartlett, Assistant Head of Year 7 and Mrs Jarrett, Deputy Headteacher held Praise Awards Assemblies. The assemblies were a recognition of students reaching their Bronze Awards for 100 or more 'Worthy of Praises' and an opportunity to congratulate pupils. As praises are given for effort, classwork, homework, citizenship, behaviour and uniform, our students should feel very proud indeed that over 200 students received this award. We're now aiming for the Silver Award...a mere 150 praises needed!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS :)



“Bullies want to abuse you. Instead of allowing that, you can use them as your personal motivators. Power up and let the bully eat your dust.” Nick Vujicic

Nick Vujicic

YEAR 8 ASPIRE



Winners of Cyberbullying campaigns:

Best contributors to the project:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| J - Zoe Paginton | O - Olivia Weaver |
| S - Aallyah Alcid | E - Emelia Godfrey |
| P - Tom Cowan | H - Ellis Winstone |
| T - Edward Lewis | V - Niamh Griffiths |

Winning videos:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| J - Kitty McHugh's group | V - Molly and Lucy Davies |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|

Best article:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| P - Hannah Abraham | S - Joao and Bart. |
|--------------------|--------------------|



Thanks to 'Misunderstood' for the exciting afternoon concert...

ASPIRE is the new skills based PSE programme the year 8 students are following this year. Through the completion of two projects the students are going to develop a variety of skills we hope they can transfer into other subjects to enhance their learning capabilities.

The projects are tailored to create opportunities for students to work within groups to complete tasks which utilise and further develop their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. The themes of the projects were selected considering the interests of these young learners, as well as to challenge them to solve problems they may face in everyday life or in the future workplace.

The initial project looked at cyberbullying and required the students to research the effects of this nationally and locally. The students had to create a newspaper article as well as a short video indicating the dangers of this ever increasing problem in society. To launch the event, we invited Misunderstood (semi-finalists from Britain's Got Talent) who were supporting the work of the D.A.R.E programme developed by Life Skills Education. This band delivered the important

message about cyberbullying through R&B/Pop music. It was a fantastic event that was enjoyed by the students and motivated them to create some excellent work.

The second project will involve the students planning and designing a theme park around the famous play wright William Shakespeare. They will have to create the advertising material and work out all of the necessary costings ready to pitch their bid to a fictitious local millionaire at the end of the year. Thanks to the links with the Maths department; the launch of this tied in well with a Maths project and Techniquet were invited in to deliver workshops with the students.

We are really impressed with the enthusiasm the students have already show to this new programme and we look forward to further developing this opportunity in year 9 as a means of preparing the students for the WBQ course in year 10.

Good luck year 8!!!

Easter Reflection

For Christians, Easter Sunday celebrates one of the greatest days in history - when Jesus, the Son of God, defeated death and rose from the grave. This is a message to everyone that God loves all. God blesses us through the enchanting beauty of the spring season and it is the time when earth wakes up from a deep slumber and heralds the beginning on new life. Birds' chirps around and vibrant blooms like daffodils, hyacinths and tulips breathe new life and fragrance into nature. However, the bliss of Easter season is not just limited to its natural beauties. In fact, this is a time to feel the real blessings of God and thank him for his eternal gift that he has conferred on us at Easter. This touching poem by Helen Steiner Rice brings out the grandeur of the season and exalts the contribution of God.

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”

Pope John Paul II, (1920-2005)

Poem 'Easter Reflections'

With OUR EYES we see
The beauty of Easter
as the earth awakens once more...

With OUR EARS we hear
The birds sing sweetly
to tell us Spring again is here...

With OUR HANDS we pick
the golden daffodils
and the fragrant hyacinths...

But only with OUR HEARTS
can we feel the MIRACLE of GOD'S LOVE
which redeems all men...

And only with OUR SOUL
can we make our 'pilgrimage to God'
and inherit His Easter Gift of ETERNAL LIFE.

This Easter poem emphasises the beauty of spring merged with the grace of God. Reading this beautiful composition again and again will allow you to experience the true grace of the Lord.



Prayer

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it. Amen

It was a brilliant day, in which I was able to gain a lot of experience and advice. The day itself was enjoyable throughout; the dragons were approachable and were offering advice in relation to our aspirations. The dragons also asked questions about our personal lives to improve relationships with us and to show interest in us as competitors who have pitched to them.

Dragons' Den Event

Report by Luke Conibeer, 13Z

Objective

The objective of the day was to compete against A-Level Business students in Year 13 in a Dragons' Den Event. Each student was required to create a business in which they had to create a cash flow in accordance with the starting and running costs for their created businesses. Each student also had to create Powerpoint presentations and executive summaries to provide to Principality and Legal & General. Students then had to pitch their businesses to the Dragons' Den. After the pitch they were then questioned about their ideas and the business itself. The Dragons had concentrated a lot of questions on the cash flow, running and starting costs, which was beneficial for students as it helped them to understand the implications with the finance section of their A Level Business course.

Summary

We were required to allocate school time and personal time to complete, our executive summaries and Powerpoint presentations for the Dragon's Den event. The preparation allowed us to gain full confidence before pitching to the Dragons. Mock pitches took place as part of this preparation. Each student had a number of ideas before finally choosing an idea to focus on for the event and controlled assessment for Year 13. It was hugely beneficial for us as A2 students, as the event coincided with our controlled assessment; the business plans can be further developed by the feedback provided by the ambassadors of Principality and Legal & General.

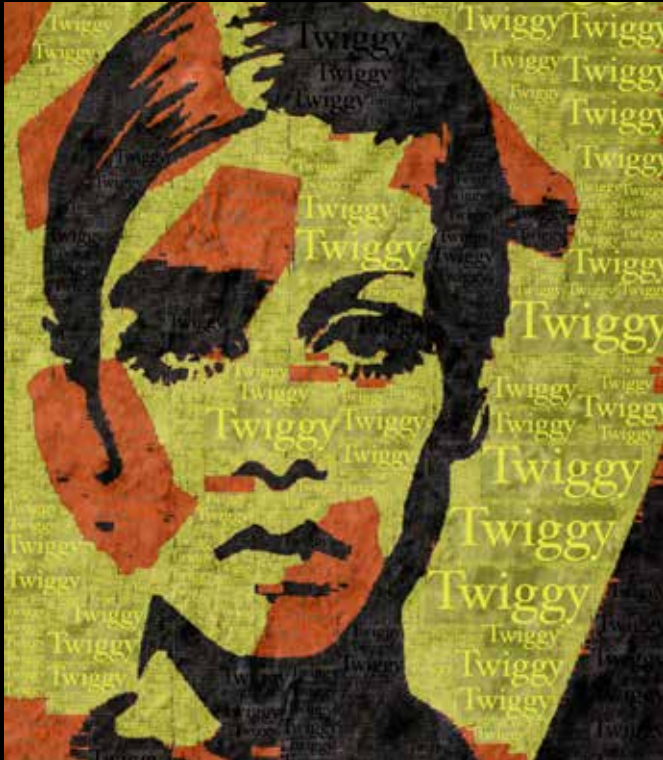
The Dragons introduced themselves at the beginning of the day with half an hour of introductions stating what they and their companies do. The structure of the day allowed each student to pitch to the Dragons, have a break to ease pressure, spend time talking to the Dragons and then prepare for each pitch. The buffet lunch that was provided was key to developing relationships between the Year 13 Business students and the Dragons. We were able to pose a number of challenging questions to the Dragons and the Dragons were able to provide students with high standard answers regarding the workplace and their personal lives.

The latter stages of the day saw us nervously waiting whilst a decision was being made on the winner of Dragons' Den. The Dragons gave feedback individually in relation to our presentations, businesses and reports. We are now able to apply their advice to future presentations and controlled assessments. The advice provided by the Dragons was essential for us as Year 13 Business students as we can use it to improve the quality of our work and presentations.

The whole day was beneficial for all who took part and very enjoyable throughout. The Dragons were approachable at all times and we were able to create relationships and gain relevant feedback. As the winner of the event I was able to gain one-to-one advice from the Dragons and was presented with gifts and a trophy. I was also told that I had made a good impression, had a great presentation and idea. Principality stated that they'd be more than happy to provide me with a reference.



DIGITAL ART GALLERY



Ffion Hedderman, Year 10

*"I have discovered a fantastic free app called **aTypo Picture**. You can change images instantly and incorporate words within the artwork."*



Kyron Watkins, Year 10

*"This is a really easy and free app called **InstaFusion** where you can fuse two drawings or images together and create a distorted outcome - great effect!"*



Jessica Nightingale, Year 12

Jessica used the app **Art Rage**. It shows the sequence from start to finish.

"Art rage is a fantastic Art app where you can import an image and use it as a template to draw on top. There is a range of effects to use from pencil to roller to air brush. It's really easy to use and in my opinion extremely effective. This app will allow me to experiment through New Media which is an important development as specified by the examining body WJEC - this app will soon be available to all students via the school app catalogue - enjoy and have fun!"

Our Art students have been creating some amazing pieces using different apps on their digital tablets.



Gwendolyn Jones, Year 12

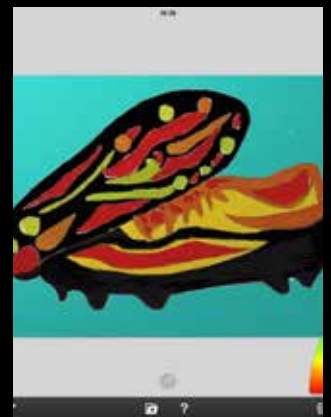
*"I am currently studying the Welsh Artist Mary Lloyd Jones and decided to do my own version on my iPad. I have discovered a useful app called **Paper53** which is great for artists."*



Jamie Spencer, Year 11



Scott Gibbons, Year 11



**Rodrigues Mbongompasi,
Year 10**

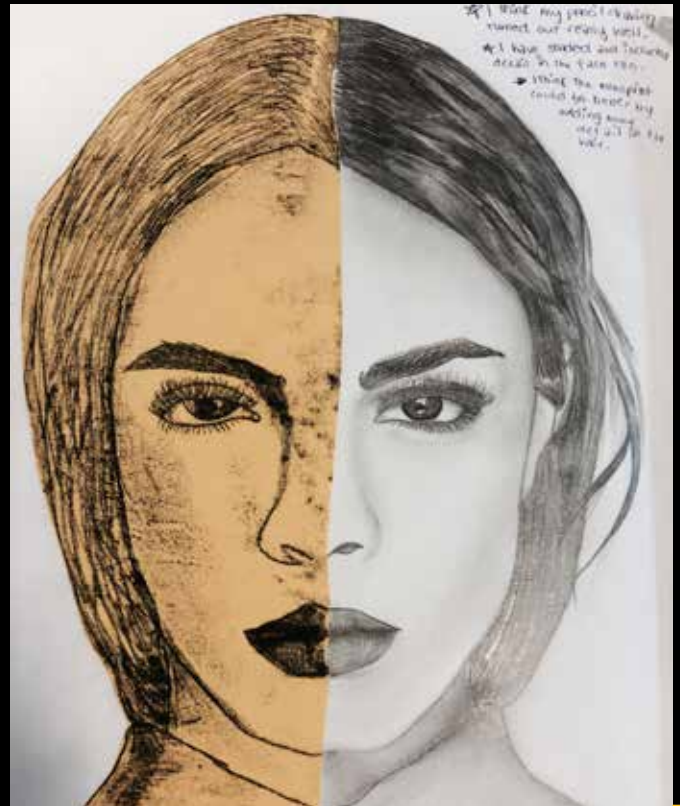
Jamie, Scott and Rodrigues all used the app **Art Rage**.

"It's really good fun learning about art and experimenting in a different way"

PORTRAIT GALLERY



Paulina Mielnicka 9H



Shannon Centeno 9H



Kyle Catalla 9H

Year 9 have been creating fantastic half portraits with Mrs Stevens this term. They have attempted GCSE techniques already!

Shannen Centeno 9H: Portrait of Cara Delavigne

What did you do?

First we chose a photo and ripped it in half. We transferred one side in pencil and added tone and detail. We mono printed the other half.

What did you enjoy?

I enjoyed adding detail to the pencil drawing. I learned how to add detail to the mono print and tone into the hair. I found it really fun! I'm really looking forward to doing more portraits in the future.



Mary Lloyd Jones, famous Welsh artist

In art we have been learning about a famous Welsh artist called Mary Lloyd Jones. To learn more about what sort of art she did, in one of the lessons Miss Morris set out big sheets of paper and we worked in groups to create a masterpiece. To inspire us at the start of the lesson we watched a short clip about Mary Lloyd Jones and her work.

We were given oil pastels, marker pens and coloured pencils to use. We used symbols from the baraic alphabet and also used ogam. Mary Lloyd Jones incorporates Welsh words in her work so we did the same. We had lots of fun and in the end our big plain sheets of paper were really bright and colourful.

by Anna Boggiani-Lloyd, 7J



Artes Mundi Trip to Cardiff

When visiting the Artes Mundi exhibition in the National Gallery in Cardiff, we saw many different styles and medias used by a collection of established artists who had been nominated for the Artes Mundi Award 2014. We visited the exhibition in October with both GCSE students and A Level students. A tour guide showed us around the exhibition and talked through the exhibits explaining the reasons behind the pieces. Without the explanations behind each piece, I don't think that I would have understood the exhibition as much and I would not have appreciated it to its full potential. I have managed to gain ideas from this trip and be inspired in my coursework project as one of the exhibitions helped me to progress into film and photography medias.



Ffion Amos, 8V



Amy Turner

This term, Art have been focusing on the theme 'Organic', looking at natural forms like fruit and flowers. In my flower painting, I have included a range of vibrant colours in watercolour paint and it helped me create a soft but detailed effect on the petals and in the centre of the flower. These flower studies were inspired by the Artist Georgia O'Keeffe. We have also designed illuminated letters inspired by the Artist William Morris which were lots of fun to make. **by Ffion Amos, 8V**

A Creative Career

Last month Ms Rocke, our Design, Display and Marketing CoOrdinator joined the Art Department to talk about her creative career and to give us inspiration and show us opportunities that we could have within the art industry. She started by showing us a portfolio of her work which was really motivating. She told us about all the brands she has created for several well-known companies and also about websites that she has developed, which I found very interesting. She mentioned that there are templates online to help you create your own website which I will definitely be experimenting with! Ms Rocke told us she then wanted to try something different one day, so started to paint on canvas and has since sold many of her paintings.

Ms Rocke finished her talk by explaining some of the aspects of her job as Design and Display Co-ordinator at our school which includes taking photos, school website, designing many things for the school production of Hairspray and the newsletter and much more. She gave us a hand out with examples of many different career opportunities within the creative industry which was very helpful. The thing I found most interesting was when Ms Rocke told us that she had thought about going into fashion design but didn't because she "couldn't sew a thing"! and had always loved graphics. This is exactly the position I am in so I had a chat with her and she gave me some fantastic advice, which has really boosted my confidence when considering my career choices. **by Joanne Williams, Year 12**



Girls' Football looking good...

Our girls football team have secured a brand new football kit that will further showcase our talent. The kit was a prize for winning a competition through our young volunteers project, co-ordinated by Brad Williams (5x60), who said *"the volunteers worked tirelessly in securing the kit and is thoroughly deserved"*.

Well done girls and a massive than you to Sport Wales for the funding and making this new kit possible.

Carys Waters joins Welsh u15s Football Squad

"I attend training every week and have a camp every 6-8 weeks. I will be attending camp from 16th-18th March staying and training in Sophia Gardens".

"This involves four hours training a day and technical activities after training such as outside and inside of foot passing through gates". **Congratulations Carys.**



Champion Gymnasts

Katelyn, Olivia and Tianna from Year 7 and Ceinwyn and Shauna from Year 8 competed in the East Wales Schools Tumble and Vault Championships on 13th February 2015 at the Kestrel Gymnastics Club Chepstow.

All gymnasts were fantastic and represented the school brilliantly. In the individual competition Shauna came 1st and Katelyn came 2nd and in the team competition St Joseph's RC High School came 1st.

Shauna and Katelyn also competed in the Welsh Schools Tumble and Vault Championships on Friday 6th March. Both Gymnasts were fantastic and Shauna Purnell came an impressive 2nd place.

Well done to all gymnasts. Fantastic!



Bethan Doughty is hockey superstar

Mrs Yates and all the PE staff are very proud of Bethan's achievement in Welsh Hockey.

"I'm honoured to be selected to play in an U18 test series against Ireland and Scotland over Easter. The games will take place at the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow, where the Commonwealth Games were held. It is an amazing opportunity! I am also awaiting selection for the EHC Hockey Europeans which will be held in Italy for the Welsh U18 squad, as well as for my home club, as we are travelling to Prague, Czech Republic for the European Club Championships, which will be incredible!"



Leon's Cap

Leon Brown has represented Wales U18s Rugby in this years Six Nations and has earned a call up to the Wales U20s team that played in Scotland.

Da lawn Leon, the future looks bright.



Sporting Excellence

Liam is a Year 10 GCSE student who is excelling in school sport. Impressive in both school rugby teams and considering he only started playing in Year 9, he has cemented himself as a pivotal part of the team. Liam has also become captain of the school football team and has consistently impacted every game, scoring sixteen goals in five games. Liam also plays football for Cwmbran Town and has had trials for Swansea and Newport County. The determination to improve every asset of his sporting prowess is a characteristic that has been truly inspirational.

Da lawn Liam!



Cerys Bell - Kayaking Queen

Cerys's confidence has been building over the past few months and the results are starting to flow in.

In the Usk River race 8m Cerys not only came 1st in the under 14's ladies BUT she also came 1st in under 18's ladies AND won the Fastest Lady at Croesyceiliog Canoe Club. The race took place on 14th September 2014, and Cerys' winning time was 93 minutes and 54 seconds. The next race is on 21st June and Cerys hopes that these times will help her towards training with the Welsh team for sprint kayaking.

Congratulations Cerys!



Year 8 Netball Team

Congratulations to the Year 8 Netball team who qualified for the semi finals of the Year 8 South East Wales School Netball League. Sadly, they lost for the first time this season, to a very talented Tredegar school team, who we wish every success to in the final.

Back row (Left to right)

T Chigbo, N Shwatz, M Powell, K McHugh, J King

Front row (Left to right)

T Waters, T Givvons, L Thomas



On the 16th December forty excited Muggles from Years 9 and 10 and four (even more excited) Professors made their way to The Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio Tour in Watford.



Visit to Harry Potter World

The group was made up of the Year 9 reading group and their Year 10 mentors as well as members of the Year 9 MAT group as a reward for their hard work this year. The magic of Harry Potter has captured the imagination of millions of children and adults around the world on page and screen with J.K Rowling's boy wizard being credited with making reading cool again amongst the young.

The studio tour started at the famous Great Hall of Hogwarts and from there we were able to see a myriad of costumes, sets and props from all eight films. Rowling's work has been amazingly brought to life with many features of the book created for the films but only glimpsed briefly on screen (including a full colour, 48 page programme from the Quidditch World Cup Final between Ireland and Bulgaria).

Pupils were able to take part in special effects sessions and trained in the art of wand warfare. There was even the chance to sample Butterbeer (a mix of Iron-Bru and squirty cream) in the outdoor eating area. The finale of the tour was the magnificent scale model of Hogwarts Castle. There were plenty of gasps and wide eyed wonderment at the detail used. There was just enough time to stop in the gift shop where chocolate frogs, Gryffindor scarves and replica wands were in abundance. Our own Knight Bus brought us safely home to Newport. The pupils were exhausted but very happy and had been a credit to the school throughout the entire day.

SJHS Catering Champions



The SJHS Catering Staff and school canteen have won three awards for excellence. Ms Karen Breen and Ms Sue Hodge won 'Displays an Exceptional Passion for Quality' Awards and the whole catering team won Chartwells Team of the Year 2015.

We are so proud of our catering staff who have been awarded these prizes. It is a reflection of their dedication to good food and healthy eating. The kitchen staff produce fantastic meals every single day of the school week and they do so with cheer. Our students receive a choice of delicious meals and sometimes the catering staff will go out of their way to make food an exciting part of the day. For example, we recently had Mexican Food Day and International Cuisine. Well done to the whole team!



Goodbye and Good Luck...



Staff and students would like to say a big thank you to Miss Morgan who will be leaving us after five years to take up a well deserved appointment as Head of Music at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry.

Her commitment and dedication within the music department, the Catholic life of the school and as a Head of Year has been inspirational. We wish her every success and happiness in her new position.



Mr Chaplin joined St Joseph's technology department in September 2009. During the five years he has been with us he has been a committed and dedicated teacher who has inspired many students both inside and outside of the classroom. His appointment at Monmouth School is well deserved and we know he will continue to be an outstanding role model for future generations. He leaves us with our very best wishes and thanks.



St Joseph's has a huge thank you and goodbye to say to Mrs Dunn who will sadly be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Dunn has been an inspirational teacher at St Joseph's for ten years. Her work within the RE department and across the whole school Catholic community has been outstanding. Her commitment, passion and enthusiasm for teaching and learning has been inspirational. We wish her all the best in her new post as Head of Religious Education at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School, Bridgend.

Dates for your diary 2015

Summer Term TYMOR Y HAF

April	
13	SUMMER TERM BEGINS
14-17	Year 10 Geography Trip to Afon Llywd
20-24	Year 10 Religious Retreat to Kintbury
20	Year 9 School Leavers Booster and Meningitis C vaccinations (+ Year 10 mop up)
28	Effective Mentor Training Yrs 12/13 (1 day)
May	
1	Training Day
4	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
11	Year 12 Five weeks study leave
20	Year 13 Last Teaching Day
21	Celebration of Pentecost
20-26	Year 8 MFL Trip to Barcelona
25-29	HALF TERM

June	
1-12	Year 7/8 Exams
15	Year 12 Teaching Resumes
17	Year 12 Geography Trip to Kenfig Sand Dunes
22	Year 8 History Trip to Bullace Hill
23-26	Year 10 Work Experience
30	Year 11 End of KS4 Celebration
July	
2-3	Year 10 History Trip to France
6	UCAS Information Evening
7	New Year 7 Parents Evening
7	Non-feeder Transition Day
7-10	Year 12 Biology Trip to Porthcawl
8	Summer Concert
9	Sports Day
17	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR
20	Training Day

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

www.sjhs.org.uk

twitter.com/sjhsnewport

www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport

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

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