

# Insight

Autumn 2013 Hydref

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

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol  
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG JOSEFF SANT

ST JOSEPH'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

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### School Blog

Welcome to our newly redesigned website. Whether you are a current or prospective parent or a member of the wider community we hope that you find the site easy to use and the information you require...



SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER - YN GWASANAETHU DUW TRWY DDYSGU GYDA'N GILYDD

CONTACT US

## THE NEW WEBSITE IS HERE

[www.sjhs.org.uk](http://www.sjhs.org.uk)

Earlier this term we were very proud to launch our brand new website.

The redesigned website has brought together the combined creative skills of students, staff, parents/carers and governors. All involved in the design hope that whether you are a current or prospective parent or a member of the wider community, that you find all of the information you require in an easy to navigate site. It was important to us that the site was designed to be 'live' and therefore regularly updated. The main news stories can be found on the Home page along with a weekly school blog. Twitter and Facebook are also a prominent feature of our new design and are a perfect tool for keeping all of our community updated.

As always we pride ourselves on being a listening school and would very much like to hear your thoughts and views on our new design.

Make sure you keep up to date on news and events by joining us on Twitter or Facebook at the addresses below.

[twitter.com/sjhsnewport](https://twitter.com/sjhsnewport)

[www.facebook.com/pages/St-Josephs-RC-High-School/232617756863077](https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Josephs-RC-High-School/232617756863077)



Serving God Through  
Learning Together

Yn Gwasanaethu Duw Trwy  
Ddysgu Gyda'n Gilydd

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## Acting Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth dros dro

Mr T Brown Acting Headteacher

**This term has been particularly busy with many events and activities taking place.**

These included the very successful Year 7 Retreats to Belmont Abbey which have given our Year 7 students the opportunity to get to know each other, to form new friendships which will last long into the future and to have an opportunity to reflect upon the movement of God in their lives.

The Christian spirit of the students at our school has been prevalent at this time of year as we build community through our personal action.

Our charitable fundraising activities this term have been aimed at supporting a range of charities including a response to the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. This spiritedness, Christian living and sense of community embodies all that is

good about the students of St Joseph's RC High School.

This edition of Insight provides a flavour of the breadth of the achievement and successes of our amazing students. I would like to express my thanks to the staff whose hard work and dedication make these and other events throughout the year possible. Parental support is also a very important and essential element of any good school

and we are very fortunate that so many parents support the everyday work of the school. I am sure that all parents/carers are justifiably proud of their children's achievements this term.

Finally as the term comes to a close, on behalf of everyone at St. Joseph's RC High School we wish you and your families a restful and Merry Christmas and peace, joy and contentment in the New Year.





# Year 7 D.E.A.R Day

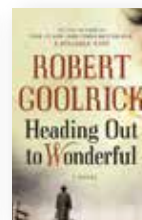
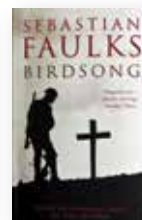
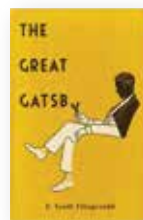
## Drop Everything and Read Day...

On Wednesday 13th November, Year 7 took part in our first 'D.E.A.R Day' (Drop Everything And Read Day). Students were encouraged to bring in something that they are reading at home, ranging from a novel to a computer game manual! The students were told that at some point on that day a bell would sound to signify the start of the event. Great excitement spread

through the year group in anticipation of the bell. The sense of anticipation spread to other year groups when posters and information were discovered across the school.

When the signal was eventually given, during a Science lesson, the whole of Year 7 stopped what they were doing, and began reading! Before and after the event, students were given an opportunity to discuss their reading habits and to share their favourite books with their form classes. The event has begun the process of raising the awareness of reading across the school.

D.E.A.R Day will return in the Summer Term so keep a look out for the posters!!



Some of the staff put forward their favourite literature to help inspire the future readers. As you can see it was a varied and interesting collection of classic and modern novels...



# The Moon Rocks!

*“As we held the rocks it felt as though we were almost holding the Moon in our hands. We also got to try astronaut ice-cream!”*

**Amelia Alder-Woolf**





As part of the Skills Based Curriculum in Science, Year 8 students were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to investigate the origin of actual Moon rock and meteorites.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of touching and studying these rare meteorites.

The lunar samples, provided by the UK's Science and Technology Facilities Council were collected during NASA's manned space missions to the Moon in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

During these missions the Apollo astronauts brought back to Earth 382 kilograms of lunar material. Most of this material is used by scientists to study the Moon, but NASA decided to use a small proportion of the rock and soil to develop lunar and planetary sciences educational packages.

*“I thought being given the opportunity to have a hands on look at some fragments of meteorites was a great experience which I will remember for a long time”* **Harry McInerney**

*“Having the experience of studying 4.5 billion year old rocks was a very exciting activity because I have never held anything that old before!!!”* **Eleanor Haley**

*“Knowing that these rocks came from NASA made this experience ten times better”* **India Farkes**



# ARMY DAY

On Friday 15th November Year 10 and 11 Public Service students took part in an Army Day as part of their BTEC coursework. The BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Public Services requires the students to contribute to team-building tasks and provide instruction to others.



*“I really enjoyed the Army Day, in particular working as part of a team. It was good to interact with the army officers and it helped me to develop my communication, teamwork and problem solving skills.”* **Cerys Murphy 11T**

The Army Day allowed them to achieve these objectives and the students thoroughly enjoyed participating in tasks which enabled them to develop various Public Service Skills such as teamwork, communication skills and decision making.

The day consisted of students being split into small groups with the objective of working together to achieve a number of set goals. Activities included working together to avoid obstacles

and pass a golf ball from one end of the field to the other using a number of tubes and pipes. Students also were required to work together to pass objects from one side of “the river” to another using a number of ropes and a stretcher.

Students particularly enjoyed a strenuous assault course which saw them dodge poles, scramble through a net and negotiate hurdles. It was much harder than it looked!



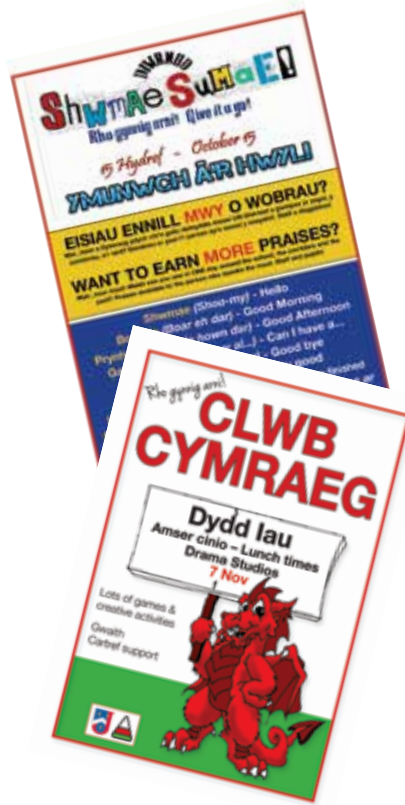
# Year 10 & 11's date with the **ARMY**



## Diolch!

Diolch i bawb am ymuno â'n diwrnod o siarad Cymraeg yn y coridorau ac ar draws yr adrannau. Mae'n holl bwysig i ni fel ysgol bod y disgyblion a'r staff yn cael y cyfle i gyfathrebu'n ddwyieithog lle mae'n bosib. Da iawn i bawb a daliwch ati!

Thank you to everyone for joining in with our Welsh speaking day on October 15th, in all the corridors and across all departments. It's important to us as a school that students and staff have the opportunity to communicate bilingually where possible. Da iawn everyone and keep up the good work! Cofion.



## Clwb Cymraeg

Ar y 11eg o Dachwedd, lansiodd ein 'Clwb Cymraeg' yn Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant. Mae'r adran Gymraeg yn falch i annog disgyblion yn CA3 i ymuno er mwyn ymarfer eu hiaith tu fas i'r ystafell ddosbarth. Mor belled, mae ein gweithgareddau yn cynnwys amrywiaeth o gemau, cwis a chystadleuaeth cynllunio crys rygbi newydd, ac mae amrywiaeth o weithgareddau wedi cael eu cynllunio er mwyn siwtio pawb yn ystod y tymor nesaf. Mae ein chweched dosbarth hefyd ar gael er mwyn helpu disgyblion sydd angen cymorth ychwanegol gyda gwaith cartref Cymraeg. Gallwch chi ein ffeindio ni yn G.17 amser cinio bob dydd Iau. Beth am roi cynnig arni?

On the 11th of November, our 'Clwb Cymraeg' was launched at St Joseph's RC High School. The Welsh department are proud to encourage students in KS3 to come along and practice their Welsh outside of the classroom. Thus far, our activities have included a variety of games, a quiz and a rugby shirt decorating competition. We also have a variety of activities planned to suit all for the forthcoming term. Our sixth formers are also on hand to help students who require any extra help with their Welsh homework. You can find us in G.17 every Thursday at lunchtime. Why not give it a go?

# Newyddion Cymraeg...

## Llythyr gan Melissa O'Neill 13W

*Dw i wedi bod yn lweus iawn flwyddyn yma i dderbyn gwahoddiad gan Gyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Addysg a Sgiliau, Owen Evans, i gwblhau profiad gwaith am ychydig ddyddiau gyda Llywodraeth Cymru i gael profiad yn ogystal â hyder i siarad a chyfathrebu yn Gymraeg, ar ôl cyfarfod â Mr Evans yn ystod ymweliad â'r ysgol yn Mai 2013.*

Ar ôl trefnu gyda Cath, Swyddog Gweithredu yr Iaith Gymraeg, cyhwynais ar fy nhaith i byrgeall Canolog Casnewydd ar Awst 12ed am fy nydd cyntaf, pan roddwyd y dasg i mi o fynd i "Sesiwn Darllen Stori" gyda Elin Maher. Yn anffodus, daedd y sesiwn ddim ymlaen, ond ymunais â Elin yn ei swyddfa yn Ngholeg Gwent, Nash a gweld beth oedd ei dyletswyddau. Treuliais y bore yn edrych trwy wefan Menter Iaith Casnewydd a rhai adborth i Elin ar sut i wneud y wefan yn fwy hygyrch a diddorol i bobl sy eisiau dysgu Gymraeg.

Prynawn Dydd Llun, es i ar fy ffordd i Gaerdydd, i Cathays i ymweld â adeilad Llywodraeth Cymru yno, ble baswn i'n edrych ar sut mae'r Gymraeg yn cael ei chyflwyno i Gymunedau a Theuluoedd gyda Catrin Morris. Cyfarfyddais Cath Hammond, a ddangosodd fi o gwmpas yr adeilad a chyflwyno fi i Catrin, sydd yn un o dim sydd yn canolbwyntio ar annog rheini i siarad â'u plant yn Gymraeg. Siaradon ni am y strategaethau gwahanol ac y cynlluniau sy ar gael fel Twf, cynllun i cefnogi "2 iaith o Ddydd 1". Roeddwn i wedi cyfarfod, wedyn, gyda Caroline Turner, Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Is-adran yr Iaith Gymraeg, oedd wedi fy hysbysu fi o'r adrannau gwahanol yn Yr Is-adran Iaith a sut mae pob un ohonny'n rhwng yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd

Dydd Mawrth, roeddwn i yn Cathays eto, a threuliais y rhan gyntaf o'r bore yn fideo-gynadledda gyda Dawn Chadwick, sy'n Rheolwr Cyfathrebu ac Uwch Farchnata ar gyfer y Llywodraeth. Dywedodd hi wrthyf am beth mae'r adran yn ei wneud i farchnata a hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg ac o'r gynadledd fideo yna defnyddiais y wybodaeth i fy helpu gyda'r dasg o chwilio am gynlluniau, grwpiau ac elusennau yn Lloegr a Chymru y gallai'r llywodraeth wneud cysylltiadau gyda nhw. Cyfarfom hefyd â nifer o weithwyr ail iaith, fel Megan, sy'n brentis Gweinyddiaeth Busnes yn Is-adran yr Iaith Gymraeg a rhoddodd hi gyngor gwyb i fi ar ddatblygu fy Nghymraeg ac ennill mwy o hyder i allu siarad Cymraeg yn rhugl ac yn rheolaidd.

Ar fy niwrnod olaf, dydd Mercher, roeddwn i wedi fy lleoli yn Swyddfeydd Bae Caerdydd drwy'r dydd. Yn y bore, roeddwn i gyda Hywel Roberts yng Nghanolfan yr Urdd, sy'n ganolfan hostel a chynhadledd, sydd â ystafelloedd gwely ac ystafelloedd dosbarth ar gael. Roeddwn i'n cynorthwyo ac yn gwylio awrs "Trwy'r lens", a oedd yn gwr's actio a chyfarwyddo wedi anelu at blant 10-16 oed yng Nghanolfan yr Urdd yng Nghanolfan y Mileniwm. Nod y awrs oedd bod y grŵp i wneud rhaglen ddogfen ar Ganolfan y Mileniwm a threulio'r dydd Mercher gyfan yn ffilmio golygfeydd a lluniau llonydd.

Ar y cyfan, roeddwn i wedi mwynhau bob munud o fy mhrofiad gwaith a hoffwn i ddiolch i bawb oedd wedi fy helpu i, gan gynnwys Mr Brown, y Dirprwy Bennaeth, Mr Owen Evans, Mr Hywel Roberts a Canolfan yr Urdd, Catherine Hammond, Is-adran yr Iaith Gymraeg a phawb yn Llywodraeth Cymru. Diolch yn Fawr!





**Wednesday**

St Gabriel's Primary  
St Mary's Primary, Chepstow  
St Joseph's Primary  
St Michael's Primary

**Thursday**

St David's Primary  
St Patrick's Primary  
St Mary's Primary, Newport

As part of the Year 6 transition programme, students of our feeder primary schools are invited to take part in a variety of Science based activities to further their interest in the awe and wonder of Science,

and the impact it has on their everyday lives. It is an excellent opportunity to provide students with hands-on experience in a Science Lab learning environment, whilst exploring

their ideas through a variety of exciting experiments. Students enjoy this experience greatly and look forward to taking part in Science lessons when they join Year 7 at St Joseph's.

# Yr 6 Science Days

# Advent

*Preparation for Christmas is an important theme for Advent, but more is involved. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life.*

**The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again.**

In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian. First we celebrate God revealing himself through Jesus Christ, the incarnation – God became man. We view his life and experience, his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be.

He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. But Jesus knew that the human heart could not live in isolation. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing, together we find real meaning. When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us. When Christ comes again, his presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community.

This is the 'greater significance' of Advent. In these few short weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time – from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ. Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

## *Prayer*

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
King of the Universe.*

*You sent your Son to be the Light of the  
World and to spread his light of love to all.  
May the growing brightness of the Advent  
wreath remind us of the approaching  
nearness of your Son so that the day of  
His coming may find us prepared  
and filled with joy.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

### **Scripture**

**Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD. (Isaiah 2:5)**



# Remembrance Service 2013

In November a service for Remembrance Day was celebrated, which was led by Mr Brown and celebrated by Year 10 in the Hall. This was a very sombre service giving opportunity to our students to be thoughtful and reflective. Students were invited to read real life stories of victims who had died in war. Students watched a very moving, yet hard-hitting PowerPoint presentation of images of war to a very appropriate song called 'Another Hero Lost' by a group called Shadow Falls who are anti-war.

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them".*

The words of Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen' honour the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during World War 1.



# Lourdes

**In July students from Years 10,11,12 and 13 went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France with Mrs Dunn, Mrs Paterson and two other schools Corpus Christi Catholic High School and Arch Bishop McGrath Catholic High School.**

The trip was meant as a short break as well as a religious pilgrimage to broaden our minds, spiritually, through mass and prayer and evaluating ourselves and our position in the faith. We had a lot of time to reflect on ourselves as people and our life experiences. We had the opportunity to go to the bath, which was a daunting experience but after completing it we felt spiritually renewed and healed.

We also completed the torchlight procession as a group. We were all looking forward to this as we had been anticipating it all week and it was meant to be a very solemn experience. Someone was looking forward to it so much (Mrs Dunn) that she managed to kick over a beggar's pot, scattering their money everywhere!! I have never seen anyone go more red in my life! The torchlight procession was definitely the most distinctive part of the pilgrimage to Lourdes. The procession began at 9pm whilst it was still light (during the procession the sun sets and night falls) and the Rosary was spoken. The Our Father was sung in Latin at the beginning of each decade, and then five Hail Marys were said in lots of different languages including French, Spanish, German, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Polish and Gaelic. Next Gloria was sung in Latin and in between



each decade a hymn or chant was sung the first being the traditional Lourdes Hymn. At the Ave everyone held up their candle - this was a very humbling experience and we were enchanted by the presence of so many nationalities.

We also had a short amount of free time to explore the area and do a little shopping. We visited a large fort and after climbing the 351 steps we were rewarded with a fabulous view of the whole of Lourdes. On our way back to the hotel with Mrs Dunn we got horribly lost, but this only added to the excitement of the trip.

*We had a wonderful time in Lourdes filled with friendship and reflection. It was more than a religious holiday and was a great opportunity to reconcile yourself with God. It was emotional at times which actually enhanced the feelings of well being and spirituality and our relationships with others in our life.*

**Hope Johnson 11S**

# COSMESTON Medieval Village

In the Summer term Year 7 History students went to Cosmeston Village to live life like a peasant. There were 38 of us and it was amazing! We were met by our guide who was dressed like a knight. He showed us around the village and told us what life was like during the middle ages. Whilst we explored we discovered the stocks. These were used to punish people - we put Zac in them for while! I then had a

competition with Elana Hobbs to see who could make the best bread, I easily won this competition as Elana was too shy to shout loudly as we beat the dough.

**We finished our adventure with a picnic by the side of the lake. A perfect end to a perfect day.**

**Marc Peplow 80**



# Oxford...culture and art!



**On the 15th November GCSE and A Level Art students were invited to spend a day in Oxford, visiting their wonderful art museums.**

**Journal extract by Fiona Fessey 12D**

The first museum we visited was The Pitt Rivers Museum. It was extremely interesting - its major theme was how different cultures expressed beauty through art and appearance and it gave us a great opportunity to compare cultural diversity.

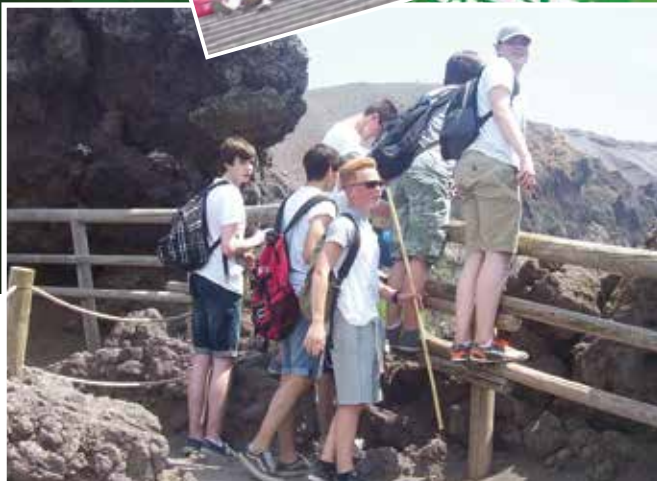
We had an introduction from one of the curators, who told us about Chinese women binding their feet. We regard this as abnormal in our own culture. However, at the same

period women in Britain were using corsets to make their waists as small as possible. This expression of vanity caused as many health issues and bone damage as the binding of feet.

The second museum we visited was The Ashmolean which had a strong link to my own art project. This museum concentrates on fine art pieces, such as great oil paintings with Biblical reference and extraordinary

tapestries and ceramics. We were allowed time to ponder the surroundings, sketch and making notes relevant to our own individual topics. During our visit we went to an exhibition on Francis Bacon - we were told in great detail how he secured his art style by very knowledgeable art critics and curators. We were also shown a documentary showing Bacon at work in his (really untidy) studio, giving us an invaluable window into the life of a real artist.





After a two and three quarter hour flight to Naples we eventually arrived at Solfatara, a shallow volcanic crater at Pozzuoli, near Naples. When we were there we walked around different parts of the crater and stood inside it. We noticed the different temperatures in various places and were fascinated by the restricted areas which contained bubbling mud and the start of a new crater. We had to jump as a group to hear the echo under our feet where the rock had blocked the crater. The stronger boys in the group helped Francesco, our tour guide, to pick up rocks and throw them to witness how easy the sulphuric rock broke. We gathered around Dante's inferno, a man made sauna and volunteers got the opportunity to see how hot it was inside.

On the second day we climbed Mount Vesuvius and stood around the crater where our tour guide, Emanuel, informed us of the characteristics of Mount Vesuvius and gave us an insight into previous eruptions and what would happen if it erupted today. Our visit to Pompeii showed us the impact of the eruption in AD79. We had the chance to stand in the amphitheatre where gladiators fought in battles. We saw the thirteen casts of farmworkers who were engulfed by the eruption in the garden

of fugitives. We also walked the streets of a once popular town and sat in the theatre where the people of Pompeii would have enjoyed evenings of entertainment.

On the third day we visited Herculaneum which was covered in mud after Vesuvius erupted. We saw the three hundred skeletons in the boat house, sat in the baths and stood in what was the middle of the swimming pool in the gym next to a bronze fountain. On our last day we drove for two hours along the Amalfi coast. We saw Positano, coastal features and Sophia Loren's home. When we arrived in Amalfi we went into the cathedral of St Andrew. Inside it was beautifully decorated with paintings and holy statues as well as the relics of St. Andrew. After this we went to the beach to enjoy the sun, swim in the sea and play volleyball.

*Overall it was an amazing trip. We thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend the trip to other students studying GCSE Geography!*

**Katie Adams, Terri Whittington and Amy Bateman.**

# Sorrento 13





DRILL



# Technology Transition

## Transition from Primary to Secondary School...

Year 6 pupils from the non-feeder Primary schools spent a morning in the Technology department as part of their transition preparation. The pupils had a quick tour of the department, met some key staff and took part in a sample lesson which involved designing and manufacturing a simplistic desk tidy. All pupils used a range of equipment including hand held tools as well as the pillar drill and the electric sander. The group produced high quality results in a short space of time and were allowed to take the item home to show their parents / carers.

*“I enjoyed the lesson because I made a new friend. I also made a desk tidy for myself which my mum was very impressed with. I found everyone at the school friendly which gave me confidence for when I started in September”.*

**Isabelle Stephenson 7T**

The pupils were provided with the opportunity to interact with each other, make new friends and experience a typical lesson. They learnt basic practical skills and techniques as well as the importance of working safely in a workshop area. Pupils commented that they felt more confident about coming to the school in September and that the morning had been challenging yet fun. It was good to be able to ask all those important questions.

*“The experience was very different to what I had been expecting, but I really enjoyed the challenge and liked working with the Sixth Form. I was also pleased with what I had made too!”*

**Joshua Scott 7T**





# Technology & Maths

## **MAT TEAM CHALLENGE**



Eighteen More Able and Talented students of Technology and Mathematics were invited to participate in an Engineering team challenge at Cardiff University.

Their aim was to design and construct a model that was earthquake resistant from limited materials, which was then tested until destruction on seismic shakers (vibration machines). This challenge gave students a unique hands-on insight into the work of civil engineers and how they are instrumental in today's design, build and economic processes.



# Chartwells **BAKE OFF**..at SJHS



*Newport primaries put fun back into food with culinary contest...*

**Chartwells gave primary school students from 32 schools across Newport a chance to show their culinary skills recently in a local cookery competition.**

They were tasked with creating and cooking two portions of a healthy and nutritious main course or dessert, suitable for inclusion on a school meals menu for primary school children. From over 500 entries, four students from each year group were short-listed to go into the cook-offs; one of these finals took place in the Food Technology Department at St Joseph's RC High School. The finalists' dishes were then judged on a number of criteria including: flavours, colours, textures, presentation, nutritional balance and the use of regional and seasonal products.

Amongst the judges were: Lynne Phillips – Newport Healthy Schools Co-ordinator; John Ishmael – Chartwells' Regional Manager; Sandra Davies – Head of Technology at St Joseph's RC High School; and Paul Evans. All were impressed with the high standard demonstrated by this year's competitors.

**This year's master chef winners were:**

- Natasha Griffiths, Year 3, St Joseph's Primary School (winning dish: orange and chocolate scones)
- Jacob Murdoch, Year 4, Glan Usk Primary School (winning dish: chicken pepperonata)
- Ciaran O'Donnell, Year 5, Malpas Court Primary (winning dish: bacon and courgette pasta)
- Darcie Childs, Year 6, Caerleon Endowed Junior School (winning dish: chicken and orange kebabs with salad)

At the final cook-off Mrs Davies said; "Absolutely amazing! The standard seen in this competition is that of much older students." Jacob Murdoch asked "I've really enjoyed the competition, can I enter again next year please?"







# Match of the Day...

**As part of their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification a group of very confident Year 12 students challenged the staff to a game of football which was enthusiastically accepted. In the days leading up to the match, friendly banter could be heard being exchanged between students and staff about what was going to happen creating a buzz of excitement throughout the school.**

The students were confident that they had superior skills compared to the older but more experienced staff. On the day of the match, the staff were inspired by a rousing team talk from their captain, manager and superstar, Mr Blackwell. They took to the field feeling quietly confident, but were shocked to see the names of the players they would be facing. Messi, Luiz, Ronaldo and Suarez were running around on the field, passing the ball back and forth to each other.

The game kicked off in front of a healthy crowd who cheered, booed and laughed in equal measure. It wasn't long before the staff took a hold of the game with two

quick goals from Mr Blackwell (with what he insists was a 50 yard screamer) and Mr Wood knocking the wind out of the sails of the Sixth Form team. However, they were given hope when the referee gave a controversial penalty against Mr Fry for pushing at a corner. Despite the valiant efforts of Mr Brown in the staff goal (he got a hand to the penalty) Louis Moss scored from the spot - the Sixth Form were back in the game. The players embraced. The crowd cheered. Game on!

Alas, that was to be the end of the scoring for the Sixth Formers. Mr Wood, showing why all the top clubs once wanted his signature, completed his hat-trick

before half time with two well taken goals. Half time came and both teams enjoyed the oranges and squash provided by Mrs Patterson. Then it was back to the action. In the second half the Sixth Form improved their game dramatically, forcing Mr Brown and then Mr Fry into a couple of saves each. At the other end, Sixth Form goalie Jack Doogan was putting in an impressive performance, although he was shown a yellow card for bringing down Mr Sylvester just outside of the penalty area. Mr Wood though was on fire and scored another three goals to make the final score 7-1 to the staff. The biggest cheer of the game though was saved for Mr Gibbons who was

put clean through on goal, took a shot, missed the ball completely and fell over.

At the final whistle both sets of players shook hands after a fantastic occasion. The phrase 'we want a rematch' was uttered several times by the Sixth Formers and was met with smiles from the staff, with Mr Seymour responding, 'I want a doctor'. A big thank you to all staff and students who took part, especially to Mrs Patterson for the refreshments, Mr Humpage for running the line and Stewart the caretaker for refereeing.

**The Sixth Form raised £180 for Cancer Research.**

**Well done to all involved.**



# Charity Update



Photograph by South Wales Argus

## Philippines Appeal

As a result of the terrible situation in the Philippines the staff and students of St Joseph's wanted to help in any way they could. Collections were carried out by Year 13 and Year 9 students throughout the school with over £800 being raised in a matter of days. This money has been sent to the Cardiff offices of CAFOD who are running their own appeal to help the people of the Philippines.

Year 8 have also decided to raise money by attempting a sponsored climb of Mount Everest. To climb to the top of the world's tallest mountain would take 49,674 steps. Each student and form tutor has been asked to make 213 steps up and down on the benches in the Sports Hall to recreate this feat. Money raised from this activity will also be sent to CAFOD to aid the appeal.

## Annual Poppy Appeal

Once again the community of St Joseph's responded brilliantly to the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal. Due to the closure of the Rogerstone Branch of the Legion we are now affiliated with the Marshfield Branch. This year, as well as the traditional paper poppies, staff and students had the opportunity to buy pin badges and wristbands. These proved to be extremely popular and sold out in two days. More stock was delivered to the school and again these were quickly snapped up. Our new liaison with the British Legion, Russell, was very impressed with the response and said he felt humbled by the generosity of our community. We raised a grand total of £301, even more than last year! Thank you to all those who helped us reach this fabulous figure..

## Sixth Form Charities

The Autumn Term is always busy with the Sixth Form students running their own fundraising events for their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification. In the New Year, each Year Group will be taking part in their own fundraising activity for their chosen charity.

## Year Charities and Charity Reps

After the success of last year's fundraising activities from the year groups there has been an even bigger interest in students wanting to get involved in helping those less fortunate. The role of Charity rep has proven very popular with at least one student from every form in Key Stage 3 and 4 volunteering for the role. The chosen charities for this year are:

**Year 7 – Tenovus**

**Year 8 – Make a Wish Foundation**

**Year 9 – Ty Hafan**

**Year 10 – Ieuan the Lion/Blind Veterans UK**

**Year 11 – The Alzheimer's Society**



Since September Year 7 have been working on their 'Island Project'. The task was to create their own unique, imaginary island. The 'Island Project' was a continuation of a project started in their Primary schools and was a transition activity for Year 7.

# Island Project



*The project was an opportunity for the new form classes to work together to create new friendships in High School as well as using their strengths and talents.*

On Friday 22nd November, Year 7 presented their 'Island Projects' to their year group, form tutors and the judge of the event, Mr Humpage.

Form classes and form tutors had worked tirelessly from September to create their own unique form island complete with their own anthem, map, currency, national costume, flag,

sport, food and the myth of their island. The event started with a fantastic film created by Mrs Rocke to set the scenario that there had been a shipwreck and the shipmates were looking for a new island to live on. It was up to the form classes to present their islands as best as possible to make a bid for the 'shipmates' to choose their island and be awarded the title of 'Best Overall Island'.

The standard of work produced was excellent. There was fantastic use of ICT skills, drama presentations, dances and lots of singing! Every form won a certificate for an aspect of their presentation with 7S winning the 'Best Overall Island' prize of lots of chocolate! It was lovely to see the year group supporting and cheering each other when each certificate was won.

A big congratulations goes to all members of the year group for a very impressive and enjoyable day and to the form tutors for all their hard work.

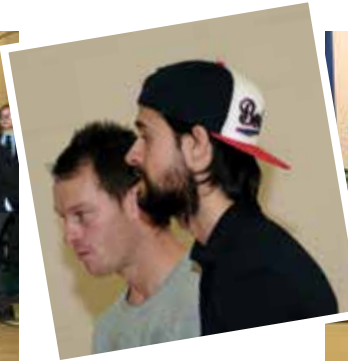






# PE's Special Assembly Visit

## with professional footballers Mike Flynn and Byron Anthony



Our girls team pictured with Mike Flynn, Byron Anthony and Norman Parselle (right) were the runners up in the Newport U13 Girl's Football Festival, held on the FAW's Newport training grounds on Wednesday 20th November. The girls have been training weekly as part of the 5x60 programme with Bradley Williams also in the picture along with Danielle Seivwright our school's 5x60 officer. The Professional players were invited in to have a question and answer session with our Year 8

students during their assembly. Both Mike and Byron spoke fondly of their time as students at St Joseph's RC High School and encouraged our students to work hard, use all the help available to them at school and most importantly follow their dreams. We were very proud of the mature questions our students posed to our guests and were very pleased to be able to give 3 students tickets to Newport County's home game.

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

### Bethan Doughty



Congratulations to Bethan who was invited to attend the Welsh Hockey U18 training camp on 1st December.

*"It was a good, intense set of sessions throughout the day. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt challenged throughout and am looking forward to the next NAG training on the 15th".*

**Well done Bethan!**

### Rolin named Young Player of the Year



Rolin has been named Young Player of the Year in the FAW Community Awards. He received the award from Welsh legend Ian Rush at a ceremony in Cardiff Stadium. He has been earmarked a player to watch and is being nurtured by the Wales Nation System as well as the Bluebirds.

**Congratulations Rolin!**

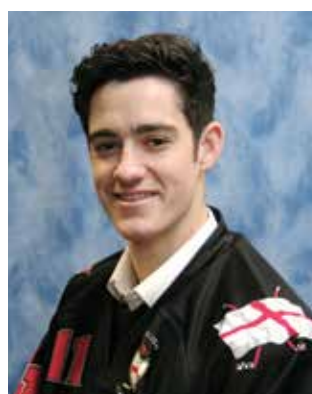
### British Bronze in Taekwondo



An enormous congratulations to Paige on winning Bronze in the British Taekwondo National Championships. The tournament was held at the Cardiff Metropolitan University on 17th November and Paige beat excellent competition from around the country.

**An amazing achievement, well done Paige.**

### English cap for Ice Hockey



Owen has been playing Ice Hockey in the Elite League, which has been an outstanding achievement due to him being a junior playing at a senior level. He is currently trialling for Great Britain, which indicates the natural talent he possesses.

**We wish him every luck in the future with his studies and Ice Hockey career.**





# WJEC AWARD

**Congratulations to Georgia Price, Head Girl last year, who has been awarded the WJEC prize for the highest mark in English Language and Literature in the 2013 exam series.**

Beating stiff competition from across England and Wales Georgia was awarded the highest possible mark of 400/400 for all of the modules studied at AS and A2 level, indicating that she received full marks for every aspect of the course. She was also awarded the school's Joseph Witherington Shield in recognition of her outstanding A Level results. Georgia has now embarked on an undergraduate degree in English at Bristol University.



**Nine of our Year 11 students led two assemblies last week, in which they shared their Kintbury experiences.**

Whilst speaking to Year 10 students at Corpus Christi Catholic High School in Cardiff, and to Year 10 and 11 students at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School in Bridgend staff from both schools commented on how impressed they were with our students. A number of their students have now signed up to go to Kintbury on retreat!!



**On Friday 29th November the school celebrated with many schools across the UK the outstanding work of the Learning Support Assistants.**

The celebration day was a fantastic chance to and give thanks to the team for all their hard work and determination in supporting our students in school. In the afternoon some of the students that the Inclusion team support were invited to a small tea party with the team to highlight the excellent working relationships that exist within school.

## welcome & goodluck...

*A big welcome to Mr B Fitzgerald who will be joining us in January as Head of Music and Mrs L Lane who will be taking on the role of Head of Mathematics.*



*Good luck to Mr Sylvester. He is leaving St Joseph's to take on a new appointment at Brynmawr Foundation School as Numeracy Co-ordinator.*

*Also good luck and safe journey to Miss M Ryan who is leaving on a great adventure to a new teaching post in Dubai...*



At the newly refurbished International Sports Village in Newport, a very large picture is up in the changing rooms for the Welsh Football team.

These pictures of the crowd are designed to inspire future generations of Welsh footballers! In the picture you can see, Mr Garrett, Mr Tinkler, Mr Blackwell, Mr Seymour and our Acting Headteacher Mr Brown, we wonder how inspired our footballers are really going to be!!!!

# Dates for your diary 2014

## SPRING TERM TYMOR Y GWANWYN

January	
6	Start of Spring term for all students
8	Year 9 London Trip
15	Sixth Form Parents' Evening
22	Year 10 Parents' Evening
February	
4	Year 9 Pathways Evening
7	Year 7 Llangrannog Trip
13	Year 7 Parents' Evening
17-21	Year 12 BTEC work experience
18-21	School Production
21	Inset Day
24-28	HALF TERM

March	
3	Year 11 Kintbury Trip
7	Year 9 Glannllyn Trip
24-27	Year 10 Kintbury Trip
27	Year 9 Parents' Evening
31	Vaccinations: Yr 8 Girls HPV and Yr 10 Boys/Girls School Leaver
April	
3	Year 7 Cadbury World Trip
4	Inset Day
8	Year 12 Collaborative Parents' Evening
9-11	Year 10 Afon Llwyd Geography Trip
12-19	Skiing Trip to France
14-25	HALF TERM

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

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