

Insight

Spring 2023 Gwanwyn

The official newsletter of
St Joseph's RC High School

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



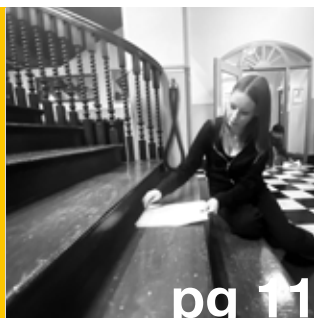
SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER

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Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth

Mrs J Jarrett Headteacher

What an amazingly successful and productive Spring term we have had! Here we are, 27 weeks into the school year with Easter upon us and we cannot believe how quickly it has gone.

Easter is about love; a love that comes from the knowledge of God's love for us and that, in Christ, life has hope and meaning. The Easter message calls us all to have faith and trust in the God who brings life out of death, hope from despair and the opportunity for new beginnings out of endings. Through faith, hope and love, I hope that we may be transformed by the power of the risen Christ to know the real joy of Easter.

I am sure, just like us, you are looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the Easter break. I want to thank you for all your continued support this term. We have achieved a great deal and I am very proud of the students and staff.

I hope you enjoy reading the school Newsletter and on behalf of everyone at St Joseph's, have a wonderful, prayerful and restful Easter.

“For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, debate.” Margaret Heffernan



YOUTH SPEAKS S.WALES COMPETITION 2023

Every year, the Rotary Club of Great Britain and Ireland host a National 'Youth Speaks' Competition where schools debate a range of topics in Area, District and National Rounds.

This year, SJHS entered a team at both Intermediate (year 7-9) and Senior (year 10-13) levels. Both of the teams were successful in winning through to the Southern Wales Final where they represented the Newport and Torfaen areas.

This was the first time that SJHS had teams in both levels in this prestigious event. The year 8 team, consisting of Alyssa (Proposer) Joe (Chair) and Evangeline (Opposer) proposed the motion "This house believes that digital technology makes children's lives better."

The year 12 team, consisting of Max (Proposer) Phoebe (Chair) and Jasmine (Opposer) proposed the motion "This house believes that criminal reformation is achievable."

Both teams were superb ambassadors for the school and faced tough opposition from schools right across South Wales. Although neither team won the overall Best Team; Joe Wakeman won the Best Chair prize which is a massive achievement.

Well done to all the pupils who took part and thanks to the Newport Uskmouth Rotary Club for their support throughout the competition.



Easter Message

Easter is quickly drawing upon us and we, as a faith community, look to celebrate God's saving activity in the gift of the Resurrection. How deeply we long and yearn for our God who loves us unconditionally.

"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." **Romans 4:25**

Why is that we joyfully anticipate the glory of Easter Sunday but do our best to ignore, or at the very least de-emphasise, the emotionally draining events of Holy Week?

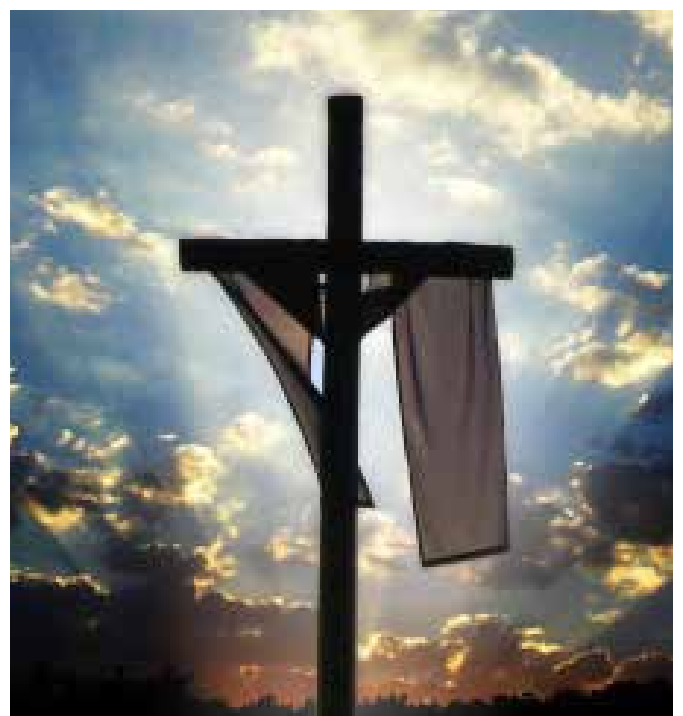
To shop for colourful spring clothing is far more satisfying than symbolically wrapping a rough towel around our waists to humbly serve others as Jesus did at the washing of the disciples' feet. What joy in preparation for a sumptuous Easter Sunday family reunion meal while how meagre, and heart-rending, to contemplate the meaning of the bread, wine and bitter herbs that Jesus and his friends ate just before going out to the Mount of Olives. Triumphant is the music of "Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today." Sombre are the notes of Braham's Requiem.

New clothes, good food with friends and family and uplifting music are all rightful celebrations of the resurrection, what the Apostle Paul preaches as the bedrock of our faith. But I wonder how much more meaningful would be our Easter joy if we first took the time and concerted effort to walk thoughtfully through Jesus' last days, if we asked God to let us more deeply glimpse his agony of relinquishment in Gethsemane, if we wept over his human cry, "I am thirsty."

During these final days of Lent, be sure to take the opportunity to spend some quality time with Our Lord. Let us openly walk with Jesus through Holy Week and fully embrace the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the ceremonies that are made available to us. The mystery of Passion Sunday with the palms reminds us of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the city where He gave His life for us; Holy Thursday, which recalls the institution of the Eucharist (the source and summit of our faith) and the gift of priesthood (the source of service in Jesus); Good Friday, which asks us to follow the path of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross and embrace the redemptive value that the cross holds out to us; and Easter, the culmination of these days of grace and strength.

You are an Easter People! You live in the light and the love of the Lord and inspire greatly! May we continue to work together in building God's Kingdom and extending Easter joy to all those we meet. May the grace of the Risen Christ be with you and your loved ones this Eastertime.

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



PASSIONTIDE

The last week of Lent is known as Passiontide and next week we enter the most important and solemn week in the Church year which is Holy week. It is a time to commemorate the last events in the life of Jesus Christ leading to His death on the cross. The death and resurrection of our Lord is at the heart of the Catholic faith and our school life.

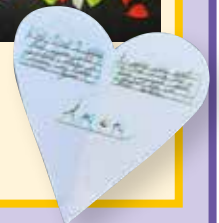
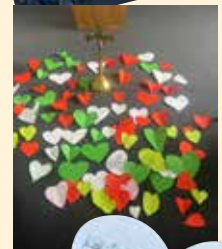


Rosary

During October all classes celebrated the Rosary in the chapel. Pupils were invited to bring in their own Rosary or pupils were provided with one. Pupils and staff said a decade of the rosary together as well as taking part in a liturgy.



Prayers for Syria



ST JOSEPH CELEBRATION MASS

To celebrate our patron St Joseph, two masses were celebrated on Tuesday 21st March with Fr Doyle and Fr Hanson. Fr Doyle gave an inspiring sermon on how St Joseph, one of the central figures of the Nativity story never speaks a word in the Scriptures. Joseph is silent and his silence was his expression of patiently allowing the Lord to reveal all that He had in store.



KINTBURY

16th-19th January, 12 year 11 pupils went on retreat to Kintbury. The time spent on retreat enabled our pupils to meet other young Catholics providing them with the space to breathe, identify what really matters to them and encounter God. The retreat is a journey with its own theme encouraging students to develop their awareness, experience Reconciliation and discover the Good News Mass.

JUNIOR CHEF ACADEMY GRADUATION DINNER

“I was really nervous to start with, because I had never cooked anything before! But I absolutely loved it. Chef Carl was really patient with us”



(sung with the tune
'Oh What a Night...')
On what a night! Late March 16th in 23
I had made for me a fantastic tea, oh, oh,
oh what a night!

**Graduating with
honours and a very
special set of chefs'
knives...**

Ella Cooper
Sophia Ibrahim
Florencia Cappellini
Ruby Ryan
Olivia Murdoch
Rhys Gadd
Marissa Jones
Mike Gumsley
Luca Ibrahim
Taslimah Begum
Blake Carter
Martyna Warchol
Omar Cemaledin
Kai Ahern





Graduation Menu

Canapes: Just too delicious for words!!!!

Starter Course: Fish cake with spicy mango salsa

First Course: Stuffed chicken, with daphinoise potatoes, roasted carrots and onion jus.

Dessert Course: Chocolate fondant with red berry ice cream, chocolate tuile and red berry coulis. Even followed by hand made truffles and coffee.



A huge thank you to Chef Carl and his team from Chartwells and Compass Group

Wales' First Junior Chef Academy!

Parents, carers, siblings and teachers were so proud of the Year 10 and 11 pupils that have completed the Junior Chef Academy. The Junior Chef Academy Graduation was a wonderful night both for the pupils, seeing their hard work and dedication finally come together with a three course dinner, but also the Chef Carl and his team from Chartwell's and Compass Group, who watched everything they had taught their SJHS team of caterers with both enthusiasm and confidence.

In the 10-week course, pupils learnt a wide range of catering and cooking skills before hosting a graduation meal and awards ceremony.

A huge thanks goes to Chartwells, Head Chef Carl and his team for nurturing these catering skills but also helping our pupils develop wider life and employability skills.

We hope to have inspired some pupils to follow a catering career and we will be looking to run a similar programme again in the future.

Mr T Nunn



Chartwells
EAT LEARN LIVE

COMPASS
GROUP





“ What a fantastic evening Thursday was! I have a special place in my heart for St Joe’s and it is lovely to continue to visit over the years and see the passion and enthusiasm you have as a school for supporting young people”.

Aimee Roberts, Business Development Director, Eurest UK.



St Joe's' are off, once again, on a spectacular Media Studies and Art adventure...this time all the way up to Aberystwyth!

By Isobel Fowler, Year 12

This trip started with a visit to the University of Aberystwyth's Media Production facility and Film School and the Aberystwyth University of Art, both of which were highly entertaining and interactive for our students and ended at Devil's Bridge the next day! This trip was a mix of both adventure and learning, with opportunities to explore the local town and experience a hands-on production - shooting a short film on professional film cameras, as well as seeing the potential university choice of some of our students.



Day One

The day started out early, with the short journey through the great Welsh countryside, mountains and finally through the neighbouring towns surrounding Aberystwyth. After all those windy roads, we had made it to the University where we were greeted with a special lecture by the Media Journalism teachers Professor Jamie Medhurst and Dr Greg Bevan, on social media's impact on film making and our society, as well as some film analysis on the Kuleshov Effect and how it translates to film and television. Not only were students actively involved in the lecture, but it also opened up questions into press regulation and how the battle of social media regulation will forever be a spectacle of question, one that our students had a lot to say about it.

After this, we had lunch and separated into our respective Art or Media groups; the media group enjoyed a filming workshop, that allowed our students' creativity to truly shine through the creation of short films and eventually walk away with fantastic new knowledge on how to work and use large, professional cameras. Meanwhile, the art students enjoyed a short talk from artist Dr Harry Heuser and then moved into the practical side of art having fun with ink printing with current Year 2 students, drawing each other with lecturer Dr Julian Ruddock, without looking at the paper (hilarious!) and sketching and transferring texture around the university using graphite pencils - everyone produced a great illustration.

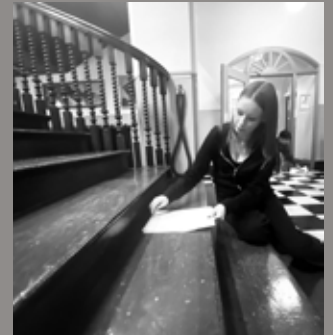
Later on, we then took a short walk down into the town and students were given free time to have a wander round the town and get some food and sightseeing done, especially the much discussed starlings, which we were fortunate enough to see in action above the pier. After that, it was off to our home away from home for the night, a delightful little youth hostel right on



"The workshops were really helpful because you got an insight of what to expect in college and different materials you can use and how to use them." Tanaka, Year 12.

ART & MEDIA ABERYSTWYTH

“The experience was phenomenal and if I had the chance, I would go again.... I think it is essential to learning, as experiences like this open our eyes to new experiences and new things; it can further deepen our understanding of other cultures.” Christian, Year 12



the edge of the sea! We had the whole place to ourselves!

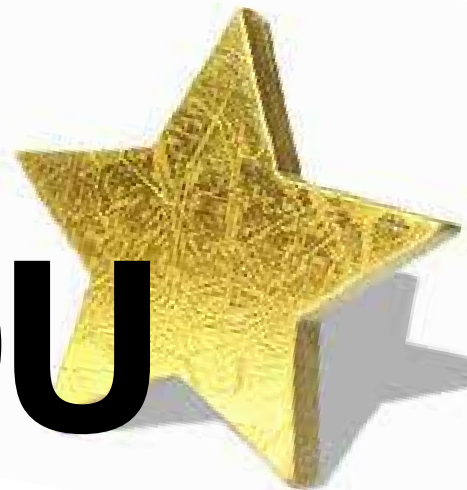
Day Two

After another early start (and a delicious breakfast!) we made our way back into town to look into The National Library of Wales. This was most beneficial for our media students as this is where the film *Y Llyfrgell* or *The Library Suicides* was filmed; this is the set text for the year 12 media students to use in their exam. Not only did this come with our media students seeing where this film took place, it also came with a tour of the library itself and a look into the archives that the library is known for. This tour was filled with curious insights and a deep look into some of the history behind the pieces hidden away there. After the tour and plenty of photo opps inside areas where scenes

were filmed, we were whisked away back onto the coach to get some lunch and have our final goodbye to Aberystwyth town. Then it was off to Devils Bridge, a historical sight to see and the place the year 12 media students will soon be seeing in their year 13 set text to study. This small but mighty sight was accompanied by a flowing waterfall and unfortunately some soggy shoes from the trail down.

“The print workshop wasn’t about your work being perfect but about having fun” Sophie, Year 12

WE WILL ROCK YOU



“I really enjoyed the show because it was really fun being part of a show family. I especially liked being part of the show as a Year 7. I really enjoyed doing rehearsals and being part of a positive group of people. Show week went really well and all the people involved were amazing. I hope to be in more shows.” **Lily Haywood, Dancer**



Tuesday 14th February was a momentous day for St Joseph's High School, as it marked the return of musical theatre to the school. Performing twice in one day, once to our feeder primary schools and then for the official opening night, the cast attacked the stage with energy and professionalism.

As the show run progressed, the buzz about the show grew ready for an explosive closing night on Thursday 16th. Not even a double fire alarm, evacuation and fire brigade visit during Wednesday's performance could stop the energy of the amazing cast, pushing them on to make the last night amazing!

I could not be more proud of the cast who dedicated their time during the winter months, giving up 250 hours of their own time to rehearse.

A huge thank you to parents, carers, teachers, sponsors and everybody who helped make WWRY 2023 the best ever show SJHS has seen.

Mr C Testa, Head of Drama







We Will Rock You Review

by Jasmine Hunter (Killer Queen)

Going into the auditions for the show, I was quite nervous as I was auditioning for one of the lead roles. Despite the initial worries, I was quickly put at ease by the teachers and ended up enjoying the experience. I was very lucky to get cast as Killer Queen, and couldn't wait to begin the rehearsal process.

I thoroughly enjoyed every rehearsal, even if it was after school or on the weekends! The process was long and tiring from learning different songs and lines, but I knew that all the effort we put in would eventually pay off, and leave us with a show that would be unforgettable. The build up to the show was very exciting as we began to prepare ourselves and put on events, such as a quiz night, to raise money for the lighting, set and band. We, as a cast and production team, worked hard to ensure that we had the resources to put on the show we wanted.

Show week in my opinion was one of the best parts of the whole process. Everyone was buzzing and couldn't wait to put on the first school show since Covid. The week was filled with many emotions, from the adrenaline of being on stage to the post show blues. **It was an amazing experience that I am grateful for and will never forget.**





SJHSREVISION

YR 11-13 EASTER REVISION TIMETABLE 2023

Date	Time	Subject	Topics Covered/more details	Teacher
Mon 3 April	09.30-11.30	Media Yr11	Unit 1, Section B: Music	SW
	11.30-13.30	Media Yr13	Unit 3: Television and Video Games industry	SW
Tues 4 April	09.00-12.00	Computers Yr11	Theory content for exam	RD
	09.00-12.00	Digital Tech Yr11	Theory content for exam	RD
	10.00-12.00	Media Yr12	Unit 1: Section A and Section C Advertising/Music Videos and Film	SW
Wed 5 April	10.00-12.00	Spanish Yr11	Further focus on speaking skills	CC/BJ
	09.00-11.00	Welsh Yr10	Unit 1 Speaking Exam	CB (S7)
	11:30-13:30	Welsh Yr11	Unit 2 Speaking Exam	CB (S7)
Thurs 6 April	09.00-13.00	Product Yr11	Unit 2 NEA (11C)	JD
	09.00-14.00	Music Yr13	Composition Unit 4	BD
Tues 11 April	10.00-13.00	History Yr11	Unit 1 Depression, War & Recovery Unit 3 Crime and Punishment	AD/NM/ NA
	09.00-14.00	Music Yr12 & 13	Composition Unit 2 and 4	BD
Wed 12 April	10.00-14.00	History Yr13	Unit 3 American Century 1890-1990	AD
	10.00-14.00	History Yr12	Unit 2 Mid-Tudor Crisis	NM/NA
	09.00-14.00	Music Yr12	Composition Unit 2	BD
Thurs 13 April	10.00-14.00	History Yr12	Unit 1 20th Century Europe	AD
	10.00-14.00	History Yr10	Unit 2 - America 1910-29	NM/NA
	10.00-13.00	HSCCC Yr11	NEA catch up Part A (selected pupils)	LH
	09.00-10.30	Welsh Yr11	Unit 1 Speaking practice	KT (O4)
	10.30-12.00	Welsh Yr10	Unit 2 Speaking practice	KT (O4)
	09.00-13.00	Product Yr11	Unit 2 - NEA (11A/11C)	NA/JD
	10.00-14.00	HSCCC Yr11	Unit 2 - NEA (11B)	GO
Fri 14 April	09.00-11.00	Business Yr11	Unit 1 and 2 (11A, 11C)	LH/VH/ RH

Now is the time to give all you have got! Set aside distractions like tech and mobiles for each session.
Revise every school night for two to three, 45 minute sessions, with short breaks in between.
Revise every non-school day for six, 45 minute sessions. (Leaves 19.5 hours free)

SCAN THE QR CODES ON THE RIGHT WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE OR TABLET TO HELP WITH REVISION.



Yr 11 Revision



Yr 12/13 Revision



GCSE Bitesize



Revision Apps



Study Wise

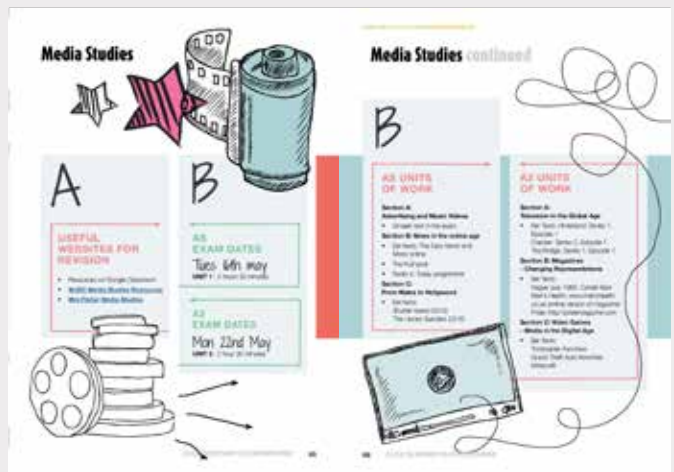
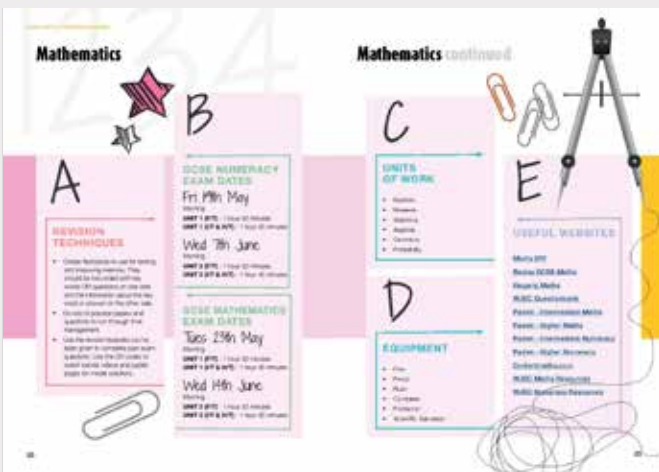
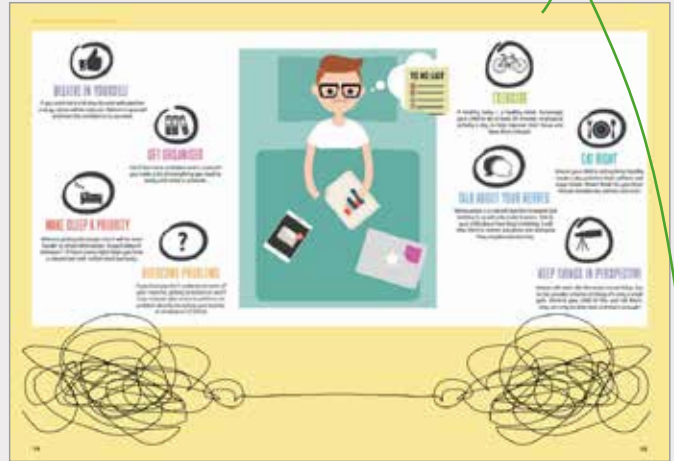
Revision Books

Year 11

<https://www.sjhs.org.uk/revision>

Year 12 and 13

<https://www.sjhs.org.uk/6threvision>



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

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

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

simply click one of
the green buttons above

Staff behind the Daff

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

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

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

Roedd llawer o waith ditectif a oedd yn mynd ymlaen a llawer o gyffro a rhagweld cyn iddo gael ei ddatgelu ar ddiwrnod olaf yr wythnos mai Miss B Doyle oedd y staff tu ôl i’r daff!

Diolch i Miss Doyle am fod yn gyfranogwraig wych a llongyfarchiadau i’r canlynol a ddyfalodd mai Miss Doyle oedd tu ôl i’r daff.

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

There was lots of detective work going on and lots of excitement and anticipation before it was revealed on the final day of the week that Miss B Doyle was the staff behind the daff!

Diolch to Miss Doyle for being such a great sport and well done to the following who guessed that it was Miss Doyle behind the daff.

7 – Emilie Powell

8 – Rhianwen Hickman

9 – Maia Crockett

10 – Poppy Slavin

11 – Jack Griffiths

Staff – Miss N Adams





CYMRAGEG

Year 7 Llangrannog

Ym mis Mawrth 2023, aeth Blwyddyn saith i Wersyll yr Urdd Llangrannog ar gyfer penwythnos o hwyl a gweithgareddau tu allan. Ar Ddydd Gwener 10fed Mawrth, teithiodd 50 o ddisgyblion mewn bws gyda Mrs R Davies, Mr Burton, Mrs J Davies a Miss Hawkins ar ddaith dwy awr i Orlewin Cymru. Roedd y tywydd yn oer ond roedd y daith yn ardderchog ac roedd cyfle i bawb i fwynhau mynd sgïo, beicio cwad, cyrsiau rhaffau isel a rhaffau uchel, gwibgartio, waliau dringo a llawer mwy! Yn y nos roedd llawer o hwyl fel chwarae gemau yn y canolfan hamdden, taith nos i weld y sêr a noson ffilm hefyd. Ar ôl mwy o weithgareddau bore dydd Sul gan gynnwys y wifren zip a saethyddiaeth, mwynheudd pawb cinio rhost Sul blasus cyn deithio adref.

In March 2023, Year 7 went to The Urdd Activity Centre in Llangrannog for a weekend of fun and outdoor activities. On Friday 10th of March, 50 students travelled by bus with Mrs R Davies, Mr Burton, Mrs J Davies and Miss Hawkins on a two hour journey to West Wales. The weather was cold but the trip was fantastic and everyone had chance to enjoy skiing, quad biking, low ropes and high ropes courses, tobogganing, climbing walls and much more! In the evening, there was lots of fun such as playing games in the leisure centre, a night walking trip to see the stars and a film night. After more activities on Sunday morning, including the zip wire and archery, everyone enjoyed a tasty Sunday roast dinner before travelling home.





Our new school mural...

Earlier in the term, we were asked to help with a Year 8 and 9 workshop with Rhiannon Roberts, it was a lovely experience. Rhiannon Roberts is a local Welsh artist from and she sells her own work globally, she has a unique vision of cityscapes, using striking colours as well as distorting the buildings in weird and wonderful ways.

We were tasked to work on one of the two smaller paintings which is now residing in the chapel. We were encouraged to go bold with the colours and experiment with neon shades that we would never usually use. We were given the sketch already, however, we were told that we could do whatever we wanted. We were also given black paint to use for the contrasting and eye-catching outlines.

Rhiannon Roberts expressed to us that in art there is no such thing as a mistake and to let our imaginations run wild within the painting. She was delightful to work with and really helped the younger students to convey their feelings onto the piece.

Written by Bethan Spruce and Emily Porch, Year 10

RHIANNON ROBERTS MURAL



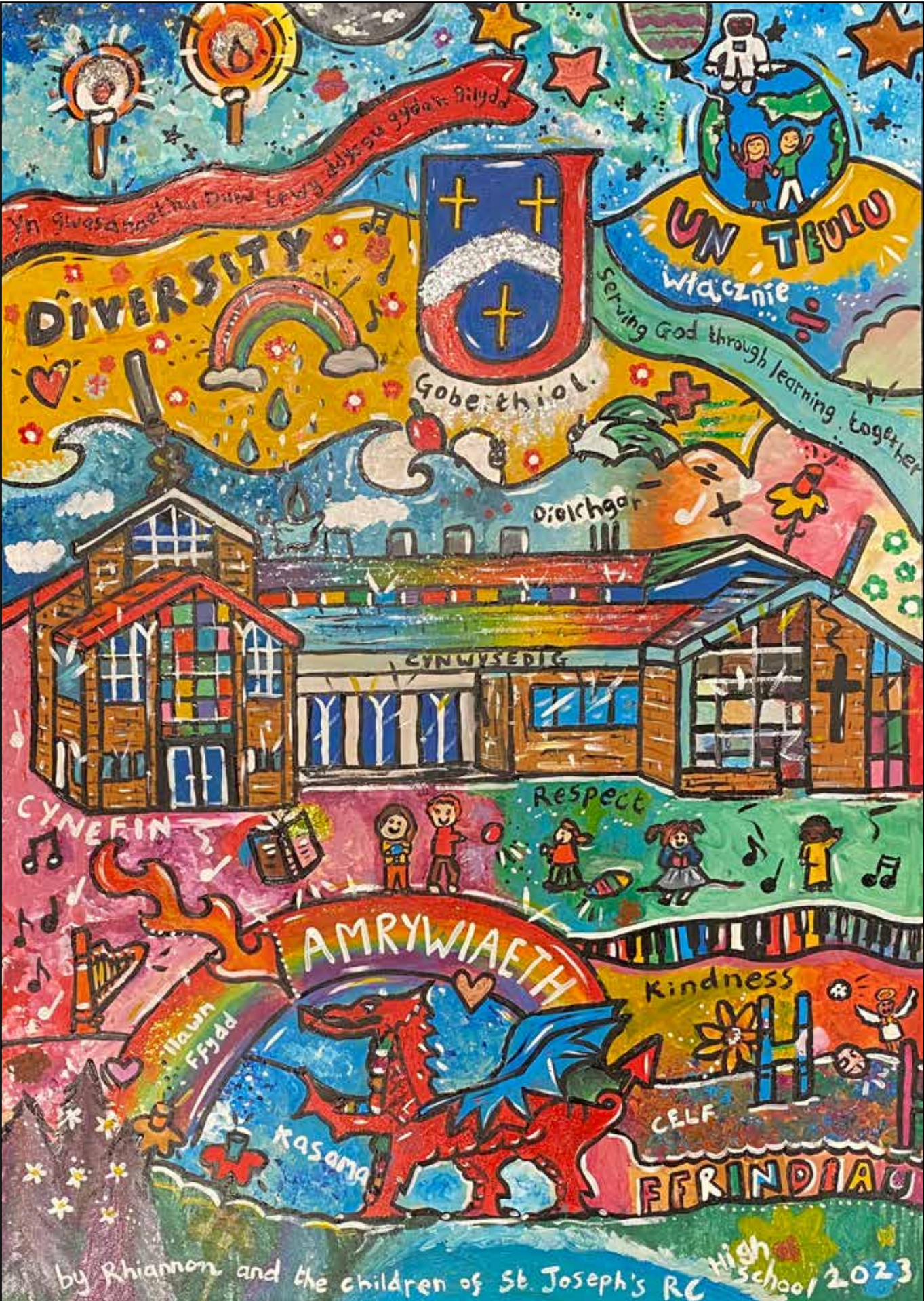
Launch

There will be a grand reveal of the new SJHS mural after the Easter holidays, alongside an interview with artist Rhiannon Roberts...watch out for the date

“ Thank you to artist Rhiannon Roberts for inspiring SJHS students to design and paint a mural that captures the ethos and spirit of our school. I can’t wait to see it installed in its pride of place, the Welsh department”.

Headteacher Mrs Jarrett





ECO PLATINUM STATUS



Officer's Recommendations

Thank you for submitting your application to renew your Platinum Flag for the 5th time. Firstly, I would like to thank everyone involved in all of the important eco-actions that the school engage in - everything you are all doing makes an impact to the future of our planet.

Action Plan - your action plan is very good and covers a variety of eco-schools topics. You have energy saving plans, such as extra insulation in the classrooms that require it, and you have excellent recycling procedures in place. It is also great to see that you are taking action to resolve areas that had to change due to COVID, such as the plates/cutlery etc. used in the canteen. Keep the brook clear of rubbish and planting trees in your grounds are also really important

work: well done to all involved. Recommendations for the future would be to measure this impact such as working out how much CO2 has been offset by the trees you have planted or how much had been saved with the energy actions put in place. Also, you could link to the curriculum by doing a subject audit to see what eco-related topics are being taught throughout the school.

I'm also interested to hear more about the conference you have mentioned and would love to support and/or be involved in some way.

Case Study - I really enjoyed reading your case study, showcasing 3 projects, undertaken by the school covering a variety of eco-areas. Well done on the money and awareness that was raised by them all.

I am happy that you continue to run the eco-schools programme at a Platinum level at St Joseph High and it is my pleasure to award you with your 5th Platinum Flag. Well done and congratulations to all involved for your hard work and dedication.

Keep it up St Joseph's!

Trees, trees, glorious trees!

As part of our school Eco plan for 2022-23, we are proud and delighted to announce that a further 60 saplings were planted by school fencing in March, to accompany the 101 saplings planted in 2021.

Native species of Dogwood, Hazel, Hawthorn and Crabapple saplings were donated by the Woodland Trust and planted in a zig-zag formation to hopefully form a hedge in the next few years. A big thank you goes out to the intrepid volunteers from Years 9, 11 and 12 as well as Mr Lewis, a Science teacher currently working with us from Cardiff Metropolitan. Whilst digging the slit holes for the trees, we also found many a worm and it was fascinating what he taught us about them.

We are now looking forward to hosting an Eco conference in July, in which we will share our Eco plan and press on with more important environmental action work.

Please help us protect the natural world.



SAVE THE EARTH



BERLIN



In February half term, 50 GCSE and A Level History students went on a trip to Germany to enhance their studies on Nazi Germany and the Cold War.

We visited many places of historical significance that we have studied. We first visited The Reichstag building, the lower house of Germany's national legislature which was set on fire in 1933, enabling Hitler to advance his ideologies. Afterwards, we brightened the mood by visiting the breathtaking Brandenburg gate, which is an emblem of the reunification of the East and West Berliners after the Cold War.

We also experienced the poignancy of a tour through the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, used from 1936-1945 and sadly, a place whose historical significance as much to be forgotten. Following this, our visit to the Berlin Wall was filled with laughs as we got to observe the comical German art on a wall that used to divide the East and the West during the Cold War into two physically and ideologically contrasting zones. Not long after, we headed to Checkpoint Charlie, the Berlin Wall crossing point between East Berlin and West Berlin during the Cold War. We found this interesting as we could visibly see the architectural differences in the Eastern and Western side of Berlin, still to this day!

To end the trip, we visited the Olympiastadion where we were given a tour of Hertha Berlin's match-day facilities and where the Champions League final 2015 was held. This was also where Hitler conducted his propaganda rallies during the 1936 Olympics which gained him large support.



Finally, we visited the Berlin Zoo , the oldest surviving and best-known zoo in Germany, that was opened in 1844. We all enjoyed this as an end to an educational and fun trip.

By Ryan Merad, Year 13



Year 7 in CAERPHILLY

Caerphilly Castle is Wales' largest and Britain's second largest castle behind Windsor. With towers to explore, a maze to negotiate, a dragon's den and the grandness of The Great Hall to discover; Caerphilly Castle offers the perfect playground for budding historians.



and St Fagan's...

In March, 40 Year 7 students visited St Fagan's and Caerphilly Castle to enhance and enrich their study of history and offer them an opportunity to experience first-hand some of the places and events associated with our inquiry on how life in Wales has developed over time.

The trip began with a walk around the indoor and outdoor exhibits at St Fagan's. We saw the development of homes in Wales. We also saw a Welsh church which had been stripped as part of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. We ended our visit to St Fagan's with lunch and a visit to the popular Derwen Bakehouse.

We then travelled to Caerphilly Castle for a self guided tour of the grounds and the castle. We learnt about the history of the castle and how castles would be attacked and defended.

**All pupils were superb throughout the trip.
Well done Year 7!**





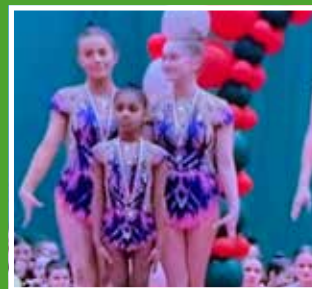
AWARDS



Sophia smashed it at the ICE Qualifier Dance Competition 2023. 1st in the Jazz Small Group (Junior); 1st in Lyrical Small Group (Junior) and 2nd place in the Lyrical (Junior)



Maya is also smashing her dance life, coming 2nd in Jazz (Junior), 2nd in the Hip-Hop (Junior) at the ICE Qualifier Dance Competition 2023.



Lexi won 2nd at the Welsh Acrobatics Championships this term. Well done Lexi.



Chloe has been selected for the Welsh U15 Regionals Football Squad, playing midfield. Well done Chloe.



Scarlett has also been chose to play midfield and defence with the Welsh U14s Football squad. Amazing job.



Jay has been selected for Welsh Schools U14 Football. Fantastic achievement. Well done Jay.



Shay has been selected and played for Dragons Black U16s. He has performed well in every match.



Ethan has also been selected and played for Dragons Black U16s. He has been in the starting line up for every match.



Ollie has been selected for U18s Welsh Regional Hockey Squad, and as a Gwent Hockey Club player is in the Welsh U16s Finals in Cardiff in May. Good luck Ollie.



Jorge has qualified for South Wales cross-country squad. Amazing job!!!



Dylan has also qualified for South Wales cross-country squad. Good luck Dylan.



Dylan has been selected for Welsh U20s Rugby Union to face France.



Sebastian has been chosen to represent Wales in Athletics this year. Well done.



Benson has been selected and already played for Newport Schools Rugby U15s. He is performing well and starting every match.



Joaqui has been selected to play basketball for Wales. Amazing achievement and we wish him well in all his future matches.



Joshua has been selected and played for Welsh Schools U18 Football - tour to Ireland and Italy. Good luck Josh.



Well done to our basketball sides today at the Southern Finals in Cardif, all teams did themselves proud. Years 7 & 8 were undefeated and will progress to the National Finals in Bangor.



Year 8 Hockey showing excellent team work. Well done in the tournament!



Well done to the **Year 7 Netball** team showing great determination and resilience.



Hoping for a speedy recovery for Ashleigh



Ashleigh has been in the Welsh Gymnastics development squad from the age of 6 years. Before moving full time under the Welsh Academy at the age of 10 years.

She trains a staggering 27 hours a week.

Aside from competing for Wales, she was also selected in 2022 as part of the GB espior squad and undertook the GB training camp in Lilleshall. She has been to training camps in both France and Ukraine in 2018 and Cornwall in 2019. In 2022, she suffered a severe hamstring injury resulting in her having to pull out of many competitions including the British Championships. She is

currently under a specific rehab programme with the help of Welsh and British physiotherapists to get back up to fitness and undertaking small competitions to try and gain confidence.

She is currently Junior level where she attempted to take part in the Welsh Championships on the 12th March alongside Commonwealth and Olympic gymnasts

Unfortunately, she suffered an injury during warm up and had to withdraw. She plans on recovering from injury and aiming to attend the British and Welsh Championships next year, along with a selection to the Welsh Team for the Commonwealth Games in 2026.

NEXT STEPS: CAREERS EVENT 23

“The minute you decide to do what you love to do, you have made a life plan for yourself and a career choice”. Huda Kattan

Careers & Events

Next Step Opportunities

Careers Wales

<https://careerswales.gov.wales>

Careers Wales and jobs of the future!

We were delighted to host 10 local businesses for our first ever Curriculum for Wales Careers Day.

All our Year 9 pupils followed a 5-lesson carousel and learnt from employers about the local business and the skills required for the twenty first century workplace.

Crucially, pupils were asked to consider the importance of subject skills and knowledge in each of the six Areas of Learning with the new Curriculum for Wales.

The key points that came through in every employer session were:

- The importance of school references in explaining attendance, punctuality and positive behaviour.
- The need for future employees to have problem solving and creative thinking skills.
- The emphasis on the value that every subject brings to the workplace due to the skills which they promote.

To further support Careers in St Joseph's this year we have:

- All class teachers have been given subject specific resource links to Careers Wales.
- Year 11 pupils have received bespoke 1:1 support with either our Careers Officer Mrs Hughes, Head of Sixth form Mr Green, or both.
- We took over 60 pupils to Nash College to gain an insight into post 16 vocational courses.
- Nash College staff kindly came into school to help enrol over 45 pupils for these courses.
- We have engaged heavily with apprenticeship opportunities for Year 13.
- This month we also took a large group of Year 10 pupils to a Careers event at the Riverfront.

Please sit with your child to use the Careers Wales links as there is a wealth of supporting material and advice available.



Quiero ser - I want to be

Quisiera ser - I would like to be

En mi opinión es un empleo - in my opinion, it is ajob

contable - accountant

importante - important

profesor - a teacher

creativo - creative

útil - useful

mecánico - a Mechanic

bien pagado - well paid

enfermero - a nurse

exitoso - successful

ingeniero - an Engineer

<https://careerswales.gov.wales>

SPANISH:

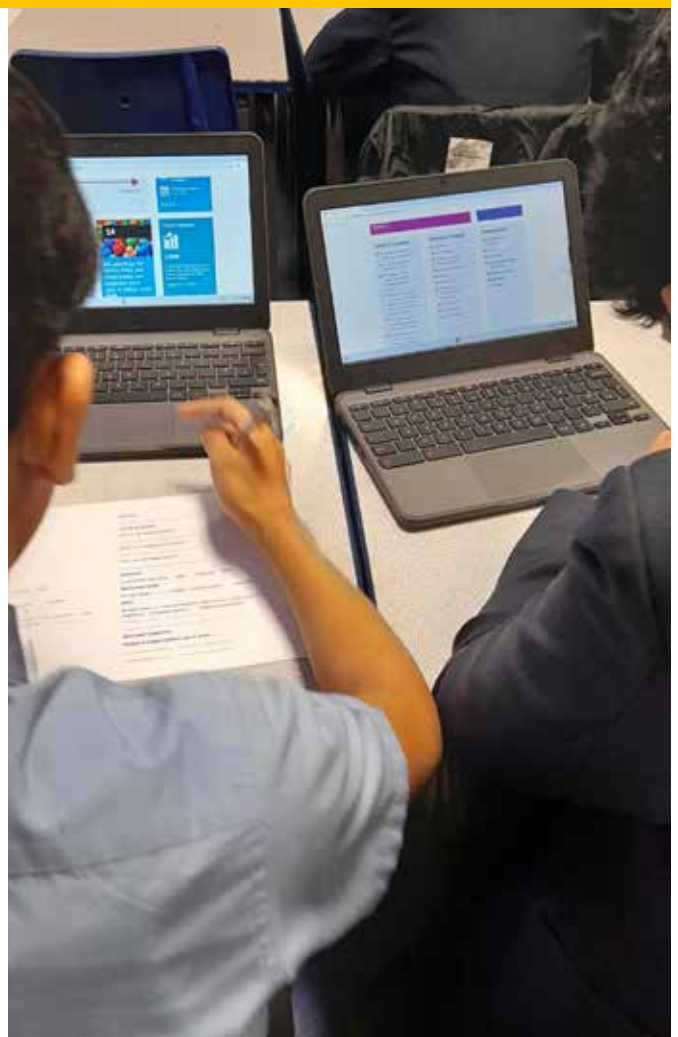
Year 9 students have been working with Nerys Hughes from Careers Wales as part of their "World of Work" topic in Spanish lessons.

In addition to lots of new Spanish vocabulary, the students have had the opportunity to start thinking about future career options, looking at the skills and subjects needed. It generated lots of excitement and interest as students took the time to look at the fantastic opportunities that are in the wider world.

Students have been shown how to use the internet to find a job; they have then carried out independent research, thinking about what the Employer is looking for and what they could offer in order to their own CV in both English and Spanish! There have been lots of really enthusiastic positive discussions.

Year 9 are currently thinking about their future learning pathways - the Careers Wales website offer lots of information and support. As a parent, guardian or carer, you play a key role in supporting your child to make decisions. On the Careers Wales website, under the PARENT section, you can find advice and information on how you can support your children. If your child is in Years 7, 8 and 9, Nerys is also offering 'Parent & Student Meetings', which can take place after school, face to face or over Teams if you would like to discuss your child's options and future plans. Here is the booking link needed:
SYP NEWPORT WEST-Parent Interviews (office365.com)

Mrs Clements, Head of International Languages



Reading Buddies

Here at St Joseph's our Sixth Formers decided to make a change, one that **wouldn't just benefit themselves, but others as well and possibly other school communities.**

We have recently introduced a Reading Buddies program that involves having Sixth Form students read with Year 7 students in our new and improved school library! This short trial, which was graciously led by our Deputy Head Girl, Eve Lewis, sought out the opportunity as a good way to help our new Year 7's be embraced into reading but also our school community and unity with the older and more experienced years. Having spoken to some of the people involved, it is safe to say that this scheme is one that is vital throughout different schools. This scheme helps to grow a students ability to read, understand different styles of literature, and grow their interest in different types of books. This develops an independence that is needed for school life and

by Isobel Fowler, Year 12

outside life when it comes to reading and the possibilities and opportunities that it can bring

After speaking to Eve, her insight fully highlighted the importance of this scheme, not just to the students being helped but also the students who were at the core of running it. Her inclusion in helping others has not just been from this scheme but also in a Spelling Buddies scheme, so it's clear that this pupil is determined to make others shine just as much as she does! Eve is not only determined to help further her own academic career but that of others as well. After working with our Head Girl Sneha, to establish different ways to help the younger year groups, they resulted in creating the Reading Buddies scheme and support groups for other important subjects such as maths and science. It's safe to say that we hope these two pupils are going to smash it in their applications to university, as they are a fantastic role models.





“If I could help just one pupil improve their reading skills then it would be worth it.”

Eve Lewis, Year 12

The passion for this scheme is not only due to Eve's love of reading, but also that of the determination she put into it, stating that *“I knew that it may be challenging as not everyone enjoys reading but I thought that if I could help just one pupil improve their reading skills then it would be worth it.”* This demonstrates how our students truly do work for future generations and that a generational love of reading can truly change lives. There were some challenges that the pupils involved had to overcome, such as confidence, but, once again, our star pupil overcame them: *“something like this helped me to improve my own confidence and leadership skills.”*

I was also given the opportunity to talk to some more bright and incredible students who were part of the scheme and when asked if this opportunity should be introduced in other schools their responses were that *“other children would really appreciate and benefit from this scheme”* as well as *“reading is a key skill, and they should be given this opportunity”*. As these students have been crucial in helping to introduce and explore diversity and its importance within our school, who knows what they could do if they

became ambassadors for this scheme. With Eve's help, they could help initiate this scheme in other schools in Newport or even so far as Wales! I'll finish with the very important advice she was kind enough to share *“I think that if you want to run a group like this one, you need to be passionate about the subject, as that means that you will enjoy it more and you can also share that passion with others. I think patience is also another important quality to have when running a group like this as some students may need more encouragement than others so it's important that you take the time to support and motivate them the best you can.”*

So there you have it...

Another bright and promising future from one of our most impactful students, imparting some much needed wisdom for those wanting to start out this scheme as well as any others. At this rate we will have many more students wanting to reach out to teachers, in order to start their own student groups. Nothing is too far out of reach for these ambitious young students!

Dates for your diary 2023

Summer Term TYMOR YR HAF

April	
3-14	EASTER HOLIDAYS
19-21	Years 8-9 Vaccinations
27	Year 10 Parents Evening
May	
1	May Day BANK HOLIDAY
8	Coronation BANK HOLIDAY
8-11	Year 9 Kintury Retreat
15May-23June	GCSE & A Level Written Exams
27-30	Years 9/10 Lake Windermere Trip
29 May-2June	HALF TERM

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

www.sjhs.org.uk

twitter.com/sjhsnewport

www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport



June	
15May-23June	GCSE & A Level Written Exams
9	Years 8-10 Jesus College, Oxford Trip
22	Year 7 Parents Evening
26	Year 10 Afon Llwyd Trip
26	Year 6 Transition Evening
27	Year 7 Tintern Abby Trip
28	Year 10 Geography Trip
27-28	Year 6 Transitions Days
30	INSET DAY
July	
5	KS3 Celebration Evening
7	Year 7-8 Cardiff PE/Cricket Trip
10	Year 5 Transition Day
14	WBQ Summer Fayre
3-7	Sports Week
19	Summer Concert
21	LAST DAY OF TERM
21-25	Year 10 French Trip

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

St. Joseph's RC High School

Pencarn Way
Tredegar Park
Newport
NP10 8XH

Telephone: 01633 653110

Email: sjhs@newport.gov.uk

www.sjhs.org.uk

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

Ffordd Pencarn
Parc Tredegar
Casnewydd
NP10 8XH

Ffôn: 01633 653110

Ebost: sjhs@newport.gov.uk

www.sjhs.org.uk

