

Insight

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

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant

Autumn 2022 Hydref



SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER

YN GWASANAETHU DUW TRWY DDYSGU GYDA'N GILYDD

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Headteacher's Message

neges y pennaeth

Mrs J Jarrett Headteacher

The Christmas holiday is almost here and, as always, it seems not very long ago since I was welcoming everyone back after the summer break. It is hard

to believe that we are already over a third of the way through the academic year.

It has been a very busy and extremely productive term and this copy of Insight shares with you just some of the many amazing achievements and highlights from the last 15 weeks. Our newsletters serve as a reminder to us all how impressive our students

are. The breadth of activities they throw themselves into is staggering and the dedication, altruism and talent they display cannot fail to inspire. Our students deserve this special recognition.

Once again, I can say how overwhelmed I have been with how hard students and staff have worked, and how supportive you as parents and carers have been of your children's education.

I would encourage all students to ensure they rest and spend quality time with friends and family, so they can

return to school on Monday 9th January 2023 (Week 2) refreshed and ready for the learning ahead.

I would like to leave you with a message of love, peace and hope... My hope for you is that you have a wonderful Christmas filled with love, joy and peace and that you will experience the good will towards human beings on whom God's favour rests. My prayer too is that blessed as we may be, we will be given grace to remember the vulnerable and those less fortunate than ourselves.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

“Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand” **Colin Powell**



SJHS winning Debate Teams

The great debate

Rotary Youth Speaks Success

Last week SJHS entered two teams into the Newport round of the Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition. We are delighted to tell you that both of our teams won Best Team beating some tough competition. They will represent Newport in the area finals in the New Year. There were a few individual prizes as well:

Year 8 Joe Wakeman (Chair) **won** Best Chairperson
Alyssa Bidhendi (Proposer) **won** Best Proposer
Evangeline Davies (Opposer)

Year 12 Phoebe Lynch (Chairperson) **won** Best Chairperson
Max John (Proposer)
Jasmine Gibson (Opposer)

We are so proud of them all; they were fantastic ambassadors for our school.





LEST WE FORGET



£382 raised.
Thank you for your support.

On the 11th of November our school once again fell silent at 11am to remember all.

Those that have fought and sacrificed their lives in war and conflict.

Miss Burke led a remembrance service for the whole school and Libby Doverman played the Last Post before a minute of silence.

At 2pm, a smaller service was held around the poppy emblem painted on our school fields. At this service, Year 7 pupils, along with representatives from the Cadets and St John's ambulance, laid over 200 crosses in remembrance of all those that have died and suffered in the battle for our freedoms today.

We were also proud to donate £382 to the British Legion to support them in their work, so thank you if you donated online via the Just Giving page.





Patron His Majesty The King

Russell Newton
Poppy Appeal Organiser Rogerstone

T 07808275867
E russell.newton16@outlook.com
W www.rbl.org

Registered Charity Number: 219279

30th November 2022

Mr T Nunn
St Josephs High School Pencarn Way,
Treddegar Park, Duffryn, Newport NP10 8XH

Dear Mr Nunn

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank you for the very kind donation of £382.00

As a result of the public's support in the last year The Royal British Legion spent £1.7M a week on vital support for our beneficiaries in answering more than a million requests for help from the Armed Forces community. The Legion uses donations to offer support in many ways including providing crisis grants, researching the long lasting impact of blast injuries on the body, lobbying the government on issues that affect our community, dementia support and advising on benefits and money problems.

The work of the Legion is as relevant and vital today as it was in the aftermath of the First World War when the charity was founded. The time and effort you give to help the Poppy Appeal will help to preserve the memory of the fallen and the future of the living.

Thank you so much again for your donation.

Yours sincerely,

R. Newton

Russell Newton
Poppy Appeal Organiser Rogerstone KLA07

Registered Charity: The Royal British Legion, Hag House, 188 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA



Advent 22

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

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.



*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*

COMPUTER SCIENCE WINNERS

BEBRAS

We would like to share some fantastic news regarding our school's recent participation in the Oxford University Coding competition (aka Bebras) which is an international competition aiming to promote Informatics (Computer Science, or Computing) and computational thinking.

All of our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils took part in the competition in late November. Together with over 185,000 other pupils from across the UK (that's over 1000 UK secondary schools) and even more from across the world, pupils completed a variety of computational thinking, maths and coding challenges in 40 minutes. They have had no support in the competition of these challenges and build up to the competition, which is internationally recognized.

They have been invited to compete in the final round which will take place in January 2023 and have been given special access to resources and support from the University of Oxford for the final stage.

Our results have been fantastic and 11 of our pupils are within the top 5% and 10% nationally. They are:

Year 7

Jakub - Highest in Year 7 with 178/200

Year 8

Nicholas - Highest in Year 8 with 140/200

Alongside Joe, Bryony, Annis, Lily and Maelie.

Year 9

Luke - *Highest in Year 9 with 146/200

Alongside Austin, Adam and Caitlin.

It was amazing to see so many pupils engaged in a challenging event which encourages young people to use problem solving, critical thinking and analytical skills. Their resilience and effort were outstanding.

A big shout out goes to the Maths department, Miss Thomas and Mr Wood who have supported this new initiative to encourage more pupils to consider a career on STEM. We are planning to make this opportunity available to all students next year following this successful pilot. **Mr Rhys Driscoll, Digital lead**



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS 22

We loved wearing a festive, brightly coloured jumper this year. On Wednesday 14th of December, some pupils and staff really brought out their fashion creativity flair after the challenge by Mr Nunn. There was a strong emphasis on recycled and pre-loved jumpers and existing jumpers decorated with Christmas flair!

Also a huge shout out and thank you to our amazing canteen and our catering company Chartwells for the amazing Christmas dinner given to all pupils.



A very subtle Christmas jumper



Suits you, sir...



Lots of reindeer jumpers



Jumper pride...



BFFs



Sparkly smiles



Staff angels



The (tinsel) Boys...



Christmas style



Christmas dinner...yum



JUNIOR

CHEF ACADEMY



The whole school community is excited about launching the first Junior Chef Academy in Wales in conjunction with our catering partner Chartwells.

The level of interest from our students has been significant and the atmosphere in the room for the first session was truly inspiring. It was wonderful to see the commitment to learning by our amazing students, under the guidance of an experienced and talented team of chefs and industry experts.

On behalf of our students, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Compass Group and Chartwells and especially Chef Carl for running such an amazing programme.

Compass Group were so enthusiastic about telling the pupils all about who they are and the service they provide, surprising them with lots of big venue destinations such as huge rugby and football events, and giving the pupils a great insight into being a chef and working in the hospitality industry.

After the introduction of the teaching team, it was time to begin the practical workshop. It was fantastic to watch the pupils engage with Chef Carl, watching intently whilst he sharpened a knife at a very specific angle then chopped a simple cucumber at the speed of light! He told stories of working with some very well-known celebrity chefs around the world which sounded rather exciting.

Whilst we hope the course will inspire some of the group to pursue a career as a chef or in the catering/hospitality industry, the many skills learned over the duration of this 10-week course will undoubtedly be invaluable to all those participating, not just now but into adult life, irrespective of whether they pursue a culinary career. **Mr M Rowland, SJHS**



Workshops (December to February)

Week 1	Induction, Knife Skills and Soups
Week 2	Bread & Pizza
Week 3	Pasta Dishes & Sauces
Week 4	Vegetables & Chicken
Week 5	Salads & Healthy Eating
Week 6	Meat Masterclass
Week 7	Poultry
Week 8	Fish Dishes
Week 9	Hot & Cold Desserts
Week 10	Graduation Event

“Whatever you do, do with determination. You have one life to live; do your work with passion and give your best. Whether you want to be a chef, doctor, actor, or a mother, be passionate to get the best result.” **Alia Bhatt**



WORLDWIDE





LONDON

By Mrs Neale

More often than not, a student is asked to write the review of the school trip they attended. But this time I really wanted to share my experience and insights as a trip coordinator.

Myself, Mr Green, Mrs Kent, Miss Doyle, Mrs Ryan and Mr Holder (known to me as "The Dream Team") successfully navigated 57 Expressive Arts students around London during a weekend in late October.

We began our early morning adventure at Kew Gardens with Canadian Geese strolling along side us and my glasses steaming up in the Tropical House. The students were fantastically well-behaved from the outset and engaged perfectly with the fresh air and fun of Kew.

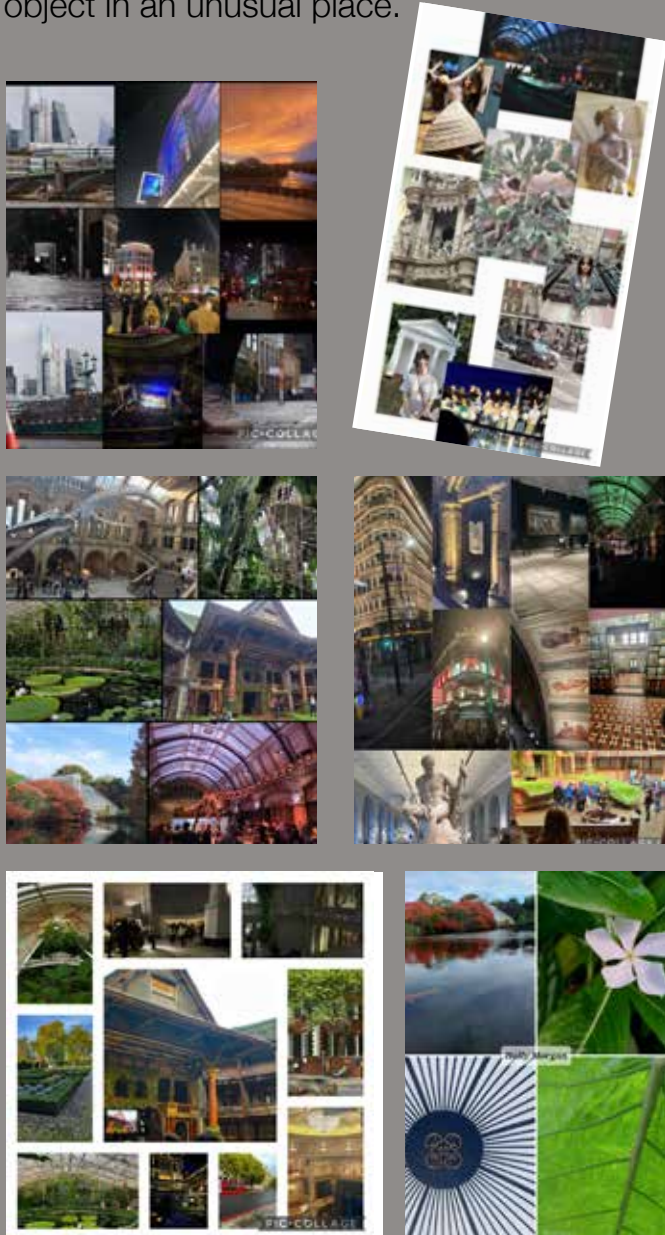
It was then off to Oxford Street to see the hustle and bustle, souvenir shopping and all you can eat pizza buffet (so much pizza!) It was off to the THEATRE! The last night performance of Dear Evan Hansen was a special experience; the cast gave it their all, belting out their musical numbers with not a dry eye to be found during the song "You Will Be Found".



EXPRESSIVE ARTS LONDON

London Life in Photos

Take a collection of photos from a new perspective, an odd angle or an everyday object in an unusual place.



Recreate the Painting

Pupils all had to choose a painting and interact with it - with rather some funny results!



After a "good" night sleep and filling breakfast, it was off to Shakespeare's Globe for a guided tour. St Joe's students always do us proud with their interesting and questioning minds. After learning what a "Penny Stinker" was, we ventured off to the fabulous V&A museum followed by dinosaurs and more at the Natural History Museum. A jam packed and fun trip which took me days to recover from.

I wholeheartedly love running trips. The joy I see on the students' faces, the laughs and inside jokes that I never truly get and the extensive amount of sweets they share with me. The comradery and community that trips create and the memories that last from even just one night away. I have moved mountains (figuratively speaking) to get trips running smoothly post COVID, it is hard work and stressful but I could not do it without the amazing support of all the staff on the trip and

behind the scenes in Admin. It would also not be possible if it were not for the great kids we have the privilege to teach at St. Joe's.

One final word...

Sorry (not sorry) for using my **loudest** outside voice in heart of the Westend, to tell 57 students NOT to cross the road yet (*I have no scruples when it comes to safety*).



By Oktawia (SJHS Alumni)



NEPAL

EVEREST BASE CAMP

I was sitting outside, drinking coffee with my friends on a warm summer day in Spain when I received a text message from Justin, one of the Rotary alumni group members. He said, "Would you be down for a base camp Everest trek for charity?"

I almost dropped my phone! Of course I want to do. I tried to ignore the doubts in my head about the logistics of it. We found three more people that wanted to do it and then the training began. First, I signed up for a gym, five days a week doing heavy weight training, then walking 20-40 kilometres on the weekends. When I came back from Spain, Justin became my personal trainer making me run up and down Beechwood Park with a 10kg sandbag on my back at 7am! The training was hard but it prepared me for the worst.

The beginning of September came and we set off on our journey. We had to take a plane from Kathmandu to Lukla, where the trek starts. We entered the aeroplane, only two seats per row, one on each side of the plane. We sat down and the plane started on the runway. We were going full speed now waiting for the wheels to let go of the ground when the flight attendant began shouting, stop the plane! Flight cancelled! Flight cancelled! After four days of trying, we took a helicopter instead.

We were amazed by enormous mountains, rivers, waterfalls, and blue-roofed houses. It was spectacular. We landed on a piece of land that looked like it came out of a fairy tale. The colour of the grass was unnaturally green and there was a large waterfall right in front of us. It was too beautiful to be true I thought, and then we found the catch, or shall I say the catch found us.

As soon as we stepped off the helicopter, we all found a couple of leeches on our boots. They were everywhere. Even after strict supervision, they managed to make their way to bite us.

We finally set off. I was surprised to see a lot of stairs on the way. I should have done more exercises on the Stairmaster I thought! We passed many locals at this point effortlessly climbing the stairs carrying heavy loads in straw baskets on their backs. Our porters who were carrying 30 kg or more on their backs, were way ahead of us. The most

shocking thing I have seen was a man carrying a plank of wood twice his height and twice his width. The plank had a phone charger attached to it by tape.

Every step of the way was a unique experience. Walking through forest paths, fields filled with yaks, colourful suspension bridges, and small villages with a view of the snowy mountains, you could never be bored. There was always something to see and admire. The sound of bells let us know that yaks or mules were near and unless we wanted to be wiped out, we should get out of their way. I stopped one time when a child's voice started shouting hi! I turned around to find that it was a little girl. She told me to have a nice day. I decided to give her a 2-pence coin as a souvenir. She smiled, said thank you and then all her brothers and sisters surrounded me asking for the same.

As we got closer to the top, my breath grew shorter. Even simple tasks like brushing your teeth made you out of breath, let alone climbing stairs. **We were prove otherwise by the local kids going to school as they giggled overtaking us wearing just crocs or no shoes.** As we got closer to base camp the landscape began to look like something from the apocalypse: grey sky, mist and lots of ginormous rocks. It was cold, to the point that icicles started to form on my eyebrows and lashes. The tea houses were cold too until the heater was turned on in the evenings in the common area. We spent our evenings there playing endless card games with our guide and porters laughing at each other's losses.

Arriving at basecamp was a big moment of happiness and achievement for our team. I once joked about making it to basecamp but didn't think it was possible just for an ordinary person. Yet, here I was standing on the rock with the biggest smile on my face. I was so grateful. If there was anything that pushed my limits was the day we climbed Kala Patthar. It is significantly higher than the base camp (5644m). After almost no sleep because of the cold and my super-fast heart rate from the altitude, we woke up at 4 am to start climbing. The moment we started walking, I was out of breath. It started very steeply. I then realised I forgot my walking poles. My thighs were burning like never before and I couldn't catch my breath. With so little sleep and no food, I wasn't surprised I felt that way.

If altitude sickness had hit me, it was then. I felt nauseous and even considered going back. My feet and hands were freezing; I kept tripping up on the rocks. I sat down breathing heavily. The guide said if my symptoms continue I would have to go down. I refused and said I would carry on just a bit slower. My stomach started hurting and I was feeling dizzy. I felt like my body was shutting down. I was starting to wonder if I would die if I carried on pushing. I could see the top now and it was brightening up meaning I could turn my torch off. I slipped a few times hitting the rocks and my guide held onto me. I stopped for 1 minute and proceeded for the last push. We made it, Everest in sight as well as other beautiful mountains. I cried, I laughed whilst breathing heavily.

Coming down, I fell on the snow twice laughing. We met a dog with blue and brown colour eyes. He accompanied me running down the mountain whilst admiring the views. He found us again after two days of walking. **This was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. Whilst doing it, I said never again. When I was on the top, I considered it.**

The story of my fantastic trip to **COSTA RICA** CAMPS INTERNATIONAL

By Oliver Shailer-Stanway

It was three years in planning, (supposed to be two) but Covid put the trip on hold for a year. I did tombolas, gardening, tree chopping, competitions and was lucky to get a little bit of sponsorship from our opticians, Beresfords in Roath to fundraise the £4000 for the trip.

Fundraising was very difficult during Covid. The Camps International T-shirts and bunting helped to raise my profile while fundraising. We also made lots of signs and posters to support the fundraising with some help from friends and family.

I spent a lot of time in local parks talking about the rainforests and microplastics in our oceans and the devastating effects of it.

With Covid all cleared and finally packed and ready to go, excitement and anxiety were going through my bones at the same time.

At the airport, our school party was grouped with two other school groups and that became our group for the duration of the time in Costa Rica. We also had an amazing camp leader called Gaz who had been on several other Camps International trips which took away some of the anxiety of spending four weeks in an unknown place.

When we arrived in Costa Rica, we travelled to a Ranger Station in the Corcovado Rainforest. We spent the first three days here where we explored the rainforest, going on treks through both primary and secondary rainforest with two different guides called Nito and Giovanni. Then, on the third day, we hiked twenty five kilometres back towards civilization where we got on a mini-bus and headed to our accommodation.

Over the next few days, we travelled towards the coast where we did a surfing lesson and scuba diving around Cocos Island National Park where we saw a large variety of wildlife. We even saw several large sea turtles.

After the first week ended, we moved onto project work. The first camp was called Terraba. When we first arrived we were greeted by the camp leader as well as several other groups at the camp. We worked on a project started by another group to fill gabions, metal cages filled with rocks, with rocks to stop the side of a road sliding into the river. The second project we contributed to was the building of stairs. These led down to a sacred rock which had carvings of a Terraban warrior and they



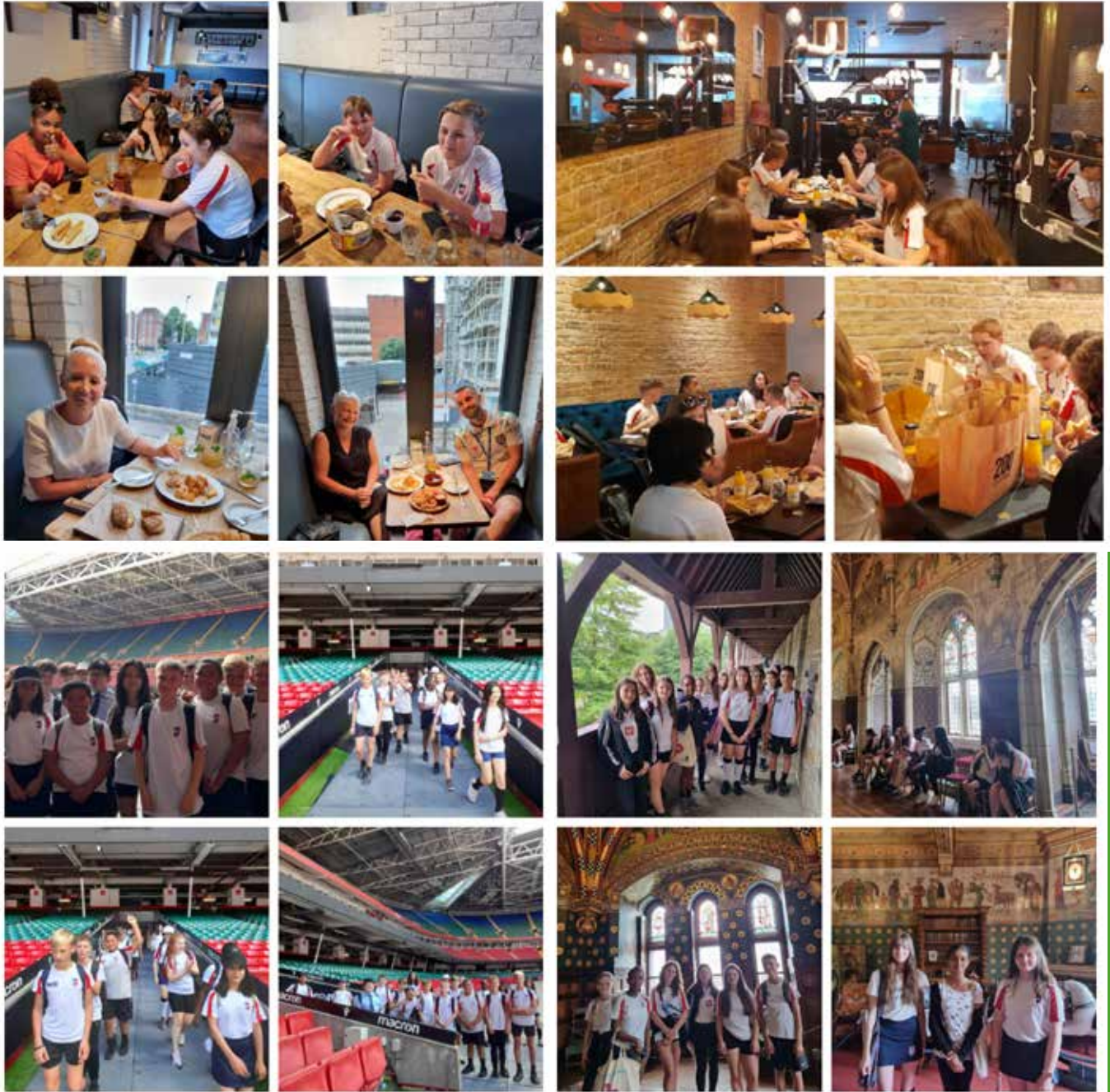
believed that touching it meant you had good luck. The final project at Terraba was the SEND centre. This was a building that helped the disabled and the elderly interact with their families more easily.

The second camp we went to was called Guanacaste. This camp had been wiped out a week before we arrived in Costa Rica, so they set up an area with tents and some temporary buildings with showers and toilets. Here we spent time on a local beach, rebuilding and painting benches since these were also wiped out by the storm. We also built barbecues for the beach. The other project we worked on was digging trenches in a mangrove forest. These act as natural flood defences which is very important since Costa Rica is highly coastal and has problems with flooding.

The third camp we went to was Camp Cuajiniquil. We only spent two days here. Here we did some work in a school which included sanding down some tables.

The final camp we went to was Camp Caño Negro. This translates to Black Lagoon since the camp was surrounded by nineteen different lagoons, the biggest of which was called Caño Negro. There were lots of projects here but the two our group mainly focused on was painting a community hall and making a football pitch more accessible. When painting the community hall, we met the town's mayor called Karen. We learned a dance from some of the locals. Costa Rica also celebrated mother's day while we were in Caño Negro where they had a celebration in the local park.

Overall the trip was a once in a lifetime experience and I would do anything to do it again. I have experienced many new things, eaten lots of new foods and met people that I never would have met if not for this trip. For those that like the sound of this trip, the school is doing a similar one to Kenya in 2024 where you can even earn a scuba diving certification.



Cardiff Visit

July saw students in Years 7 and Year 8 visiting Cardiff with the International Languages department. Year 7 were studying the topic of sports and leisure, so they were super lucky to visit the Principality stadium for a tour in French.

Their day started off with a French breakfast with tasty French croissant, pain au chocolat and juice, I think it led to some new fans of French pastries! The students were delighted to see

behind the scenes in the stadium, even getting a chance to visit the changing rooms!

As a part of Year 8's topic, 'Where I Live', they had the opportunity to visit Cardiff Castle for a tour in Spanish along with a delicious Spanish lunch in a restaurant. Students had the chance to try a range of authentic food, including paella, tortilla española, patatas bravas and calamari. There were mixed opinions on the food, however lots of students were trying different foods!

Keep your eyes out for more International Languages trips later this year! **Mrs Clements, Head of International Languages**

INT.LANG

Say no to Racism

Serving God through Learning Together.
 At SJHS we stand for equality, diversity and inclusion.
 We believe that everyone in our school and global community should have the chance to flourish, free from prejudice and discrimination.

"A new commandment I give you: Love one another as I have loved you" (John 12:34)

What is racism?
 Racism is the practice of discriminating against people based on their race or ethnic background.

What does racism look like?
 When a person is:

- Verbally or physically insulted because of their ethnicity or culture
- Stereotyped, often negatively
- Rejected or excluded from a group because of their ethnicity or culture
- Some people try to hide these behaviours behind the label "banter"

How do we challenge and report racism?
 Teachers ensure that our curriculum and lessons reflect diversity and promote equality.

1. Rephrase Do you mean?
2. Question Do you understand that?
3. Inform Do you know?
4. Direct Challenge That is wrong because...
5. Report to a Teacher, Parent/Carer, Police at 101 or Race Council Cymru
6. Withdraw (if you feel unsafe)

"Racism is a sin that constitutes a serious offence against God,"
 (Pope St. John Paul II, Aug. 26, 2001)

Scan the QR code to read the SJHS equality policy:

Banner designed by pupils in the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Ministry

Diversity Representatives take action and teach 1200 pupils in PSHE!

In November, over 40 separate pupils superbly led two PSHE sessions across the school. These pupils were representative leaders from our Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Ministry. The first session focused on achievements last year (explained in the last Insight) and 5 key targets moving forward. These targets will be publicised once the newly appointed year representatives have ratified the plan.

The second session focused our school approach on tackling racism and all forms of discrimination. This approach has been taught to us by 'Show Racism the Red Card' and is summarised in our school banner (shown above).

The staff of our school wish to congratulate and thank all pupils involved in leading PSHE and for helping to establish our Pupil-Strategic Equality Action Plan (P-SEAP) for 2022-23.

Say no to RACISM



STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL COUNCIL



At St Joseph's RC High School, we expect all our students to be leaders of their own learning and promote positive change in our school community.

Leading student voice in the school, we have democratically elected Year leaders after some amazing presentations from lots of very passionate pupils. These students have demonstrated commitment to the school community, being active participants in the academic and cultural life of the school and role models for others. The Year leaders meet regularly with members of the leadership team to discuss how, together, we achieve our vision for our school.

Welcome to our first School Council report. Our first meeting was all about setting high expectations for our future endeavours and grouping our council members in to different ministries, community, wellbeing, equality and teaching and learning so they can best represent the school community.

Each ministry will meet at least once a half term before coming together as a school council to share progress against priorities and ways in which the school council can work more effectively for the members of the school community. Pupils from KS3, 4 and 5 are represented on the school council having been democratically elected by their peers. They take whole school issues and ideas from their own classes and year groups and feed them in to the school council. They also share ideas and decisions from School Council with their class and year groups. Decisions made within School Council can, and do, have a real impact on the rest of the school.

The school council is currently in the process of deciding priorities for the new year and eagerly anticipate the work we will complete and the benefit it will have on the wider community. We look forward to sharing these priorities and the progress made towards them in the next issue of the INSIGHT magazine.

Introducing your representatives. Please chat to them about any issues you think may be relevant or need a student voice.

Your School Council has four Ministries:

- Teaching & Learning**
- Community**
- Equality**
- Health & Wellbeing**



CHRISTMAS SKILLS FAYRE

Year 7 spreading the Christmas cheer for all to hear!



Sold out...!



Keyrings for sale



Lots of successful business pupils



Great idea to add a yummy candy cane!



Delicious sweets



These snowmen were soooooo cute

On Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December, Year 7 students welcomed our St Joseph's community to their Innovative Christmas Fayre.

With an array of hand-crafted products from sweet bundles to surprise lucky dips, our enterprising contributors were full of enthusiasm and joy. Throughout the Autumn term, Year 7 have been planning and crafting Christmas products to help raise awareness of poverty in Wales with all proceeds going to our beloved CAFOD charity. The fantastic Year 7 Skills team led this process, supporting students to develop their skills in creativity and innovation.

Year 7 set up their stalls in the quad at lunch time and were full of Christmas spirit. It is evident that we have many budding entrepreneurs in the making. Pupils set their own competitive prices and planned in detail the creation of their products to

ensure this event was a success. There is no better way to spread Christmas cheer other than a Christmas Fayre.

Overall, as a community, we raised **£420.41 for CAFOD**, our winning Year 7 form for raising the most money was 7H, raising a fantastic £100.95! A huge congratulations to all involved!

The Innovative Christmas Fayre was a huge success, and we are very grateful to our Year 7 Skills team, staff and Sixth Form pupils for their support and contribution to ensure the safe operation of this special event. An extra special thank you goes to Miss Read, Head of Year 7, for supporting on the days of the Innovative Christmas Fayre. **Mrs R Price, Head of Skills**



Gorgeous handmade crafts for sale



Teachers in charge!



Beautiful decorations...

DRAGON'S DEN WBOQYR12

1st place - Pwynt Y Dreigiau
Coehan McCue, Oryn Padders-Ball, Freddie Kitchen,
Lukas Pile, Christian Liganay



2nd Place - SNAP
Jasmine Gibson, Ellie White, Grace Evans,
Eliza Thwaites, Katrina Delahaye



3rd place - Statveteran
Benjamin McCoy-Hontebeyrie, Malaine Touray,
Ethan Skrobala, James Norrie, Thomas Larsen



In December, Year 12 budding entrepreneurs were nervous yet excited to pitch their business proposals Dragon's Den style to Monmouthshire Building Society, Principality Building Society, Trigwell Cosmetics, Hortons Lounge, Whiteheads and Stanley Finance.

In front of a panel of eight, Year 12 pitched their pricing strategies, financial resources, marketing campaigns and prototype innovations. From researching bank loans and overdrafts to identifying a suitable target market for their product or innovation, Year 12 students definitely have a better understanding of the world of entrepreneurship. As part of the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, students work in groups to create their own business venture as a product or innovation. Our creative and enterprising individuals had innovative ideas ranging from a new shopping mall in Pillgwenly called Pwynt Y Dreigiau, SNAP - a second hand online shop and Statveteran - a sport and fitness app.

Monmouthshire Building Society kindly awarded a first, second and third place with teams winning Amazon vouchers and stationary.

Gavin Horton, councillor and business owner of Horton's Lounge in Newport City Centre, was so impressed with our first place winners that he has put their business venture forward to Newport City Council and have asked Pwynt Y Dreigiau to pitch their business venture again as they are very interested in gaining the views of young individuals.

All students should be incredibly proud of their fantastic efforts. It is not easy presenting to professionals and pitching their own business idea. Year 12 represented the school as true role models and it is evident that there are many young entrepreneurs in our school community waiting to be given the opportunity to succeed in the world of business.

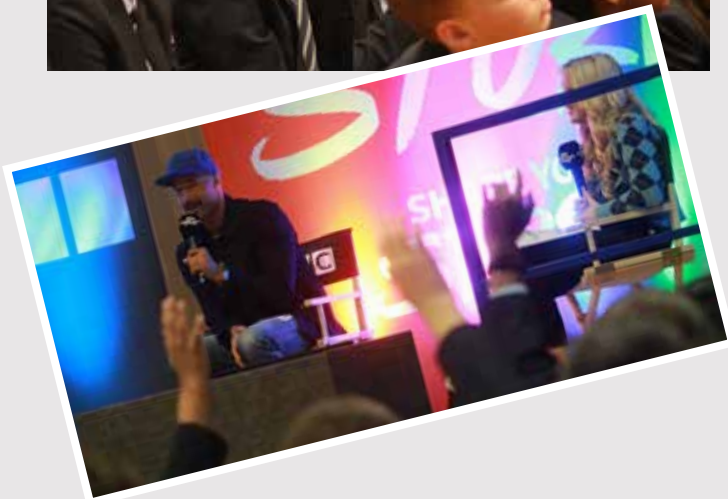
The Welsh Baccalaureate Key Stage Five Team would like to take this opportunity to thank all businesses that joined us to watch our budding Year 12 entrepreneurs and most of all, Yvonne Carroll from Careers Wales for liaising with the above business and helping to make this event a huge success.

Mrs Rachel Price
Head of Welsh Baccalaureate



BBC100 Richard Parks

“Being brave means accepting when you are scared and continuing with life, even if you don’t want to. Never be afraid of failure - it’s these moments that can unlock new skills and even opportunities. I wouldn’t be here talking to you if it had not been for my injury”



Back in September, KS3 attended an incredible event held by the BBC to celebrate their centenary. We had the pleasure of welcoming Richard Parks, former Wales international rugby union player turned extreme endurance athlete and television presenter to the school! In rugby, he represented Newport RFC, Pontypridd RFC, Celtic Warriors, Leeds Tykes, Perpignan and Newport Gwent Dragons over a professional career which spanned 13 years. After retiring from rugby due to injury he unfortunately battled with many mental health issues. Since his battle with mental health he has gone on to become an extreme endurance athlete travelling to Antarctica on multiple occasions and summiting some of the world’s toughest peaks!

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students had the opportunity to hear him speak on his career, achievements, experiences growing up in Pontypridd as the only person of colour in his school and his experiences battling mental health issues. This inspiring talk was supported by BBC Newsround presenter, Martin Dougan, who also spoke on his experiences with mental health and disability. Students were then given the opportunity to ask Richard questions about any of the topics spoken about. As staff, we were all blown away with the level of maturity and empathy of our students’ questions.

If students would like to learn more about Richard Parks we have a signed copy of his auto-biography, *Beyond the Horizon: Extreme Adventure at the Edge of the World* available to loan from the school library.

Schools Love Reading

with **Book.ish**

Schools Love Reading is a Welsh Government initiative seeking to ignite a passion for reading and promote the life changing importance of books, reading and oracy.

On December 12th 2022, we were grateful to booksellers Megan and Lindsey from Crickhowell bookshop, Book-ish, who gave their time to set up a pop-up bookshop in the school hall. All pupils in Years 7 to 10 were given the opportunity to choose a book from the bookshop to take home and keep.

There was a palpable excitement throughout the school as pupils came to collect their books, with repeated requests that we do it again and much discussion and comparison of their favoured authors. It was clear to see that there are many keen readers at St Joseph's and that so many of our pupils were visibly buoyed by receiving a book of their own.

Encouraging young readers to make their own choice, by studying the synopses and inspecting the covers of a wide

selection of books, was a vital part of the experience. School librarian, Mrs McCarthy, was delighted that the scheme allowed children to make their own choice rather than prescribing books, as the benefits of reading for pleasure are many and include reducing stress, increasing empathy and developing an understanding of other cultures.

Seeing such happiness and enthusiasm about books and literature, all over the school and all through the day, was a joyful experience for pupils and staff alike and this has carried through to increased pupil visits to the library.

As part of the Schools Love Reading programme, the school will also be receiving a box of 50 books which will be available to borrow from the library in the future. Mrs McCarthy is also planning for Year 11 pupils to be given the opportunity to choose a book in the new year; any pupils absent on the day of the pop-up book shop will also receive a book.





NEW INTERACTIVE WHITE BOARD

“It was great, I really feel part of the discussion”

The library has a great new tool and allows the pupils to interact, research and discuss through webinars and lots of online groups. Pop in to see Mrs McCarthy for further information and future events.



DON'T FORGET: The Year 7 Reading Group meets every Monday in the library to read and discuss books, such as The Diverse Awards and Carnegie Awards. See Mr Watts or our new librarian, Ms McCarthy for more information.



ECO CLUB

World Animal Day

To mark World Animal Day, on 4th October 2022, pupils from Year 7 gathered in the library (or LRC?) to take part in a Webinar on The Lives of Orca and Sharks which was hosted by Anna Burney from ORCA and Chris Lewis from Born Free.

This was a wonderful opportunity to hear from professionals dedicated to the study of and preservation of these beautiful creatures. Author Jay Vincent (@JKidsauthor) talked passionately about his love of sharks, including the fascinating fact that more people are hurt by cows and coconuts than by sharks!

Helena Symonds and Megan Hocking joined from the Orca research station on Hanson Island in British Columbia, Canada - to show footage of Orcas in the wild and to discuss how Orcas are impacted by their environment, diet and mental health. Chris Lewis, Born Free Captivity Research Officer, shared information about the continuing campaigns to end the captivity of Sharks and Orcas, reminding us that while it is 30 years since we have had Dolphins in captivity in the UK, there is still much work to do globally.

As the session came to an end, pupils asked the expert panel many interesting questions including asking which are the longest (The Greenland Shark) and the most common (The Reef Shark). Reassuringly they were also able to explain the many ways pupils can help to spread awareness and protect marine life. For more information please visit the following links:

[Born Free](#)

[Empty the Tanks](#)

[Orca Lab](#)

“We thought that the meeting was interesting, we learnt a lot about Orcas and Sharks and found out the differences between them.”

Jack Hannan, Jorge Decruz and Antonina Stepien.





“We thought the fact we could ask questions and have them answered by professionals was amazing. Also seeing the recordings of Orcas was an experience we’ll never forget.”



We attended an Eco Webinar with various different organisations and groups. One of the groups was Born Free, an animal charity that cares about the welfare of wild animals and about compassionate conservation. They spoke about their charity and all the work that they do with wild animals. Another charity was Orca Lab which focuses on the protection of orcas, Whales and Dolphins, whilst also protecting the hotspots for them. Hotspots are just popular places where these marine mammals gather. They showed a video of a pod of orcas gathering in a cove. We also learned about sharks from an author named Jay. He has written many books for children about sharks and has even swum with them!

I really enjoyed it. I have sponsored a wild animal with Born Free every year since I was five years old, so I was very excited to hear the speakers from Born Free give a talk. I found all the people who spoke as part of the webinar interesting and I really enjoyed hearing about everything they do. I think it’s really important to hear about the different types of people who are trying to make the world a better place. It is really important for people our age to hear from others who are trying to protect and conserve our world and the animals and life in it.

By Seren Bailey

At the Eco club, I went to see a meeting about orcas and sharks. On the call there were people from all around the world from Canada to Australia telling pupils in schools, including St Joseph’s, about the importance of orcas and sharks. We also listened to a video about orcas in their natural habitat and why we don’t put orcas in captivity. Then there was a person called Jay and he was an expert on sharks and talked about his experience diving with sharks. He discussed a number of species of sharks and how some might be endangered. They may need to stay in captivity, and others may need to be in their natural habitats. The pupils learned about the diet and lifespan of sharks and orcas.

It was very good fun and the librarian held it in the library and other students from other form classes attended because they were interested just like me. At the end of the call, we did a quiz about sharks and orcas and we answered all the questions correctly. Pupils at the eco club asked some questions about the significant creatures. I think the club was fun and I learned a lot of new things about the world around me. I thought it was a valuable and enjoyable experience for young people that love keeping our world safe.

By Mihali Sklavos

[Born Free](#)

[Empty the Tanks](#)

[Orca Lab](#)

NEWS

So much talent...

We love celebrating our pupils achievements inside and outside of school...



SJHS Senior Rugby Team



SJHS Year 10 Netball Team



SJHS Year 11 Football Team



SJHS Year 11 Hockey Team



SJHS Year 7 Football Team



SJHS Yr9 Football Team



Newport Schools U15 Football



SJHS Year 7 Hockey Team



ACES U14 Basketball



**Seb, Year 10
Welsh Pentathlon**



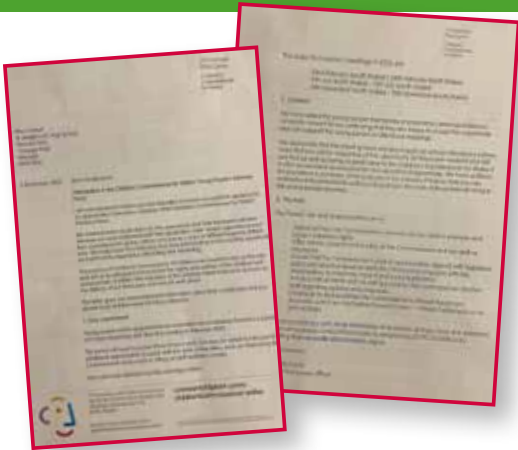
**Newport Schools
U14 Boys Football**



**Newport Schools
U13 Girls Football**



Congratulations



Congratulations to Tata in Year 7 for a fantastic achievement...

Tata has been successful in their application to become a member of the Children's Commissioner for Wales Advisory Panel.

Tata will hold this post for two years, with the first official meeting in February next year. Their role will include duties such as advising the Commissioner on how their power can be used to promote and protect children's rights; offer the Commissioner advice and support; and even act as a critical friend and sounding board for the Commissioner and her staff regarding policies and proposals! WOW Tata - we are very proud of you using your voice for something so important.



Goodbye & Goodluck

On the last day of term, we will be saying our fond farewells to Mr James and Mrs Williams.

In September 2010, Mr James joined St Joseph's as a teacher of Welsh. From day 1, it was obvious that for Mr James teaching was his vocation. His love and passion for inspiring young people to learn the Welsh language and his innate desire to share his love of learning and of Welsh with all of our community made him stand out as an excellent teacher and a future leader in education. In 2013 Mr James accepted the position of Second in Welsh and in January 2015 Head of Year. Mr James' compassionate and caring nature made him an ideal candidate for Head of Year. He constantly championed and challenged his year group to be the best they could possibly be. In this role he excelled and was a perfect leader to take on the role of Head of Sixth Form in November 2021. Mr James has always been relentless in his mission to provide the best possible care, support and guidance and has forged strong and trusting relationships with students and their families. We all wish Mr James the very best as he moves on in his career as Assistant Headteacher in Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed.

Mrs Williams began her career in St Joseph's in September 2015 as a teacher of Design and Technology. In the seven years she has been with us, she has been dedicated to ensuring that all pupils in her classes learn to design and make products that solve genuine, relevant problems within different contexts whilst considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. Mrs Williams has ensured that there is a vast array of wonderful activities that encourage children's creativity and encourages them to think about important issues. Being appointed as Head of Design and Technology in September 2021 was a natural professional progression. Mrs Williams' ability to build strong and trusting relationships means she will be missed by students, staff, parents and carers. We all wish her well in Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

You will be missed

Christmas Hampers 2022



A huge thank you to everyone...

With the help of our generous pupils, we are following the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel. Thank you to all pupils, parents/carers and staff that have donated items to the hampers for our community members that need a little extra help this year.

Dates for your diary 2023

Spring Term TYMOR Y GWANWYN

January	
9	First day of Spring Term
16-19	Year 11 Kintbury Retreat
19	Year 11 Parents Evening
26	Year 11 Pathways Evening
February	
2	Year 11 Collaboration Pathway Evening
14-16	School Production 'We Will Rock You'
16	Year 12 Progression Evening
20-23	History Trip to Berlin
20-24	HALF TERM
20-21	Media Trip to Aberystwyth

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

March	
1	Eisteddfod
10-12	Year 7 Welsh Trip to Llangrannog
11-12	Year 10 History Trip to London
13	Inset Day
16	Year 9 Parents Evening
17-19	Year 7/8 PE Trip to Liddington
23	Year 9 Pathways Evening
30	Year 10 Parents Evening
30	Passiontide Service
31Mar-8Apr	Year 8 MFL Trip to France
31Mar-8Apr	Year 7/8 Ski Trip to Austria
April	
3-14	Easter Holidays
19-21	Vaccinations

Catch the St Joseph's RC High School news as it happens on:
www.sjhs.org.uk
twitter.com/sjhsnewport
www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport



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