

Insight

Autumn 2023 Hydref

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

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER

YN GWASANAETHU DUW TRWY DDYSGU GYDA'N GILYDD

Contents...



pg 5



pg 22



pg 28



pg 26

Maths Challenge	3	Student Voice - Community	20
Advent 2023	4	Year 9's The Chase	22
Charity Update	5	Revision Books	24
Christmas Jumpers	6	Cluster Schools Foodbank	25
Art 'Home' Workshop	8	Harry Potter Event	26
Careers Insight Day	10	Library Forthcoming Dates	27
Computers Trip to USA	12	Cyber First & Cyber Girls	28
Year 8 Visit St Fagan's	16	PE News	30
Diwrnod Shwmae	17	Attendance Update	31
School Council 2023	18	Diary Dates	32



Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth

Mrs J Jarrett Headteacher

positive and nurturing learning environment.

This term has been filled with growth, discovery, and resilience. Our students have exhibited dedication to their studies, compassion towards one another, and a commitment to the values that define our Catholic identity. Together, we have fostered an atmosphere where every child feels valued and inspired to reach their full potential. This superb edition of Insight, our school newsletter, reflects just a tiny proportion of how our community has lived out our mission statement of 'Serving God Through Learning

Together.' I hope you enjoy reading about all the events and activities that have taken place this term.

I want to thank our dedicated team of educators and support staff who have worked tirelessly to provide a holistic education that not only focuses on academic excellence but also nurtures each student's spiritual, social, and emotional development. Their passion and commitment to our shared mission have been truly commendable.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past few months, let us also take this time to reflect on the values that guide us. The spirit of

compassion, kindness, and service to others is at the heart of our Catholic education. Let these principles continue to inspire us as we look forward to the challenges and opportunities the coming terms will bring.

During the upcoming break, I encourage you to spend quality time with your loved ones, fostering the bonds that make our school community unique. May this holiday season be filled with joy, peace, and the warmth of family and friends.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I look forward to a new year filled with hope, growth, and shared achievements.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I want to reflect on the journey we have shared so far and express my heartfelt gratitude for the collective efforts that have made this term meaningful and successful.

First and foremost, I thank you, our valued parents, and carers, for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. Your partnership and support have created a

“It’s not a boring place to be, the mathematical world. It’s an extraordinary place; it’s worth spending time there.”

Marcus du Sautoy



UKMT Maths Challenge

Year 12 and 13 UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge

Pupils from Year 12 and Year 13 sat the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge earlier this term. It was a national event where pupils had 90 minutes to answer 25 multiple choice Challenge questions aimed at Year 13 or below. The stimulating problems are designed to make students think.

A special mention to Aaron Kunje and Joseph Dunster in Year 13 who achieved silver certificates which is an enormous achievement. Also, Year 12 pupil, Tennessee achieved a Bronze certificate and Jins achieved a Gold certificate, an incredible achievement! **Jins was invited to take part in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Challenge later in the year.**

All pupils that took part achieved fantastic results!!!

Congrats to all competitors:

**Tennessee
Cedrik
Antonio
Aaron**

**Jins
Maksims
Joseph
Eliza**

Advent23

“And the glory of The Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of The Lord has spoken”. **Isaiah 40:5**

As we journey through Advent, we await with hope the coming of Christ, who is our light and our salvation.

The Lord comes to redeem the earth: to set us free. In the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that creation is a gift from God. Through the mystery of the Incarnation, Christ is intimately present in the world around us. When we see the gifts of the earth in the light of the Lord, we have a deeper understanding of how to care for our common home.

Advent is a time when we are called to prepare a way for the Lord, to reflect and make changes so that we are ready for the coming of Christ who is the light of the world.

As we journey through Advent let us continue to pray that we may be ready to receive the light of Christ, to share that light with others and to build a society that can journey towards a future of hope. Let us celebrate the mercy of God in sending his

only Son. Let us live this year in the light of the Lord's words, “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

We keep particularly in our prayers today all those among us who are persecuted at war, hungry, or who lack the basic necessities of life both materialistic, and more importantly spiritually.

Advent is a season of waiting in a very particular way. Amidst the world's expectations of what it means to celebrate Christmas, the church year gives us something that is more than just a countdown of the shopping days that remain until Christmas Day. Advent offers us a time to wait: to wait for the past and to wait for the future. Year upon year, we celebrate the birth of Christ and Advent is our time to prepare for this celebration. It is a time to ponder the great wonder of the incarnation, God's great gift to us. However, we wait too for the Second Advent, when Christ will come again; we wait for our future – the future of all creation - as God intends it. We may not think of waiting as being about past, present and future. We more often think of it as solely relating to our future: Advent invites us to wait differently.

Lord, help us prepare our Advent hearts and remove any sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope that your presence will bestow upon us during this season. As we approach the Christmas season, let us look forward to the celebration of your birth. Let us pray in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen



CHARITY UPDATE

September

This September, the Chaplaincy team took a step back into the past and came up with a super idea to run an event with an arcade class – Pacman! The team produced posters and recruited players to enter the tournament aptly named Go Retro for CAFOD. The competition ran over three days and the pressure was immense. So many gamers came forward to show off their skills. The winner, with a score of 25680, was Jessica, 8V. Jessica took home a huge bag of goodies for her efforts. In second place was Adam, 8S who was in the lead throughout and narrowly missed out. He did amazing! Thank you for supporting the cause. Also, a big thank you to the staff who showed off their gaming skills! The pupils loved it! Thank you for being part of the fun! £20.50 was raised for CAFOD and we are looking forward to running a similar event in near future.



October

October saw us revisit the beauty of the Rosary in honour of Our Mother. October continues to be a special time for us to reflect on the discipleship and special intercession of Our Lady. The pupils always enjoy the special time they have in prayer and recite the rosary with such reverence.

November

We continued to be very busy during November. The chaplaincy group took the time to cut out over 300 poppies in dedication to those who fell in combat. These were used as displays in the Chapel to compliment a beautiful service written by Mrs Lloyd and led by the RE department.

November also saw the return of our much loved CAFOD Café. First established in 2017 by Mrs Lloyd, the café has welcomed all pupils into a cosy hub where they can build friendships and also learn about the fantastic work of CAFOD. Unfortunately, the café had to take a break from operation in 2020 but its safe to say that the café is back and booming! Hot Chocolate continues to be our best seller – who can resist a sweet treat to brighten up your day? So far, the café has raised over £150 and this all down to the generosity of our pupils and staff donations.



Advent Bracelets

Lastly, we are pleased to say our Advent Prayer bracelets have completely sold out! Every year, the Chaplaincy team work hard to produce prayer materials to help our community reflect on the Liturgical season. We are so grateful to those who made a purchase and hope that you have a blessed Advent.

May we take this opportunity to wish our school and wider community a peaceful Advent and joyous Christmas. Thank you for your support, Mrs S Lloyd.

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS²³

We loved wearing a festive, brightly coloured jumper this year. On **Wednesday 13th 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.



Mr Nunn's Advent Quiz jumper... complete with prizes - excellent!



Enjoying Christmas lunch, yummy!



Grumpy the Elf...funny!



HoHoHo Mrs Lloyd



Still got my tie on sir!!



Suits you sir...



Festive football...



Nice one Lucas...



Christmas red...



Rocking around the yard



Battle of the reindeer jumpers...!



Festivite smiles :)

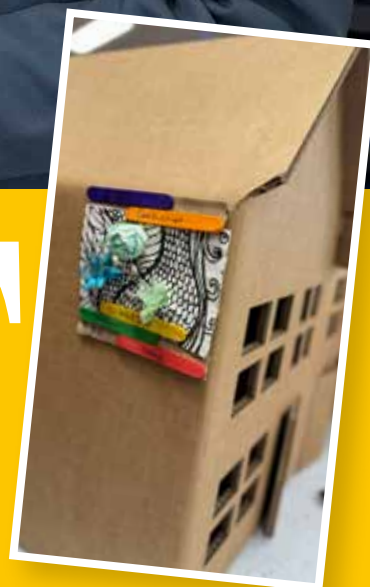


Thank you for all your donations for the Foodbank



WITH THE PRINCIPALITY BUILDING SOCIETY

ART WORKSHOP



“It was great to see all the pupils reusing things we might find around our homes, but also really getting inspired by telling us what ‘home’ meant to them - through collage and creativity. It was also lovely to see some SJHS alumni leading the Principality team too”.

ART CRAFT WORKSHOP

Written by

Macey Wallace, Lily Doyle and Kaycie Williams, 80

The Principality Building Society came to our school with an exiting group project for us to participate in.

We were very thankful for the opportunity to decorate a model house with what school meant to us. We all created our own drawings and collages of what our school represents, including our school virtues.

This was an amazing chance for everyone to get involved together as a community and we can speak for our whole class when saying that it was a fantastic experience to have. The Principality Building Society colleagues were really friendly and helped us achieve our finished project. We used materials from our classroom to create the final piece and in doing so we were able to share what it is like to be part of our wonderful school family.

Our masterpiece will be on show in the Riverfront Theatre over the Christmas period and will be then returned for the school to cherish.



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales



Principality

Building Society
Cymdeithas Adeiladu

“*Many thanks to Principality Newport on becoming School Valued Partners with the school. Lovely to meet with Kate Steele Cluster Manager and Ben Manager of Newport and hear all of the marvellous ideas and events which could assist school*”. Yvonne, Careers Wales





CAREERS INSIGHT DAY



Croeso Principality Building Society!

We are delighted to announce that Principality Building Society has become our School Valued Partner alongside Airbus. This means that they will support our school in a range of Career and work based initiatives that will benefit our pupils. So far, Principality have attended a Year 8, 9 and 12 Careers Days and a Community Art Project which will be exhibited in the Riverfront.

Our next focus is using their expertise to train Year 10 Business Studies pupils in mock interview techniques.

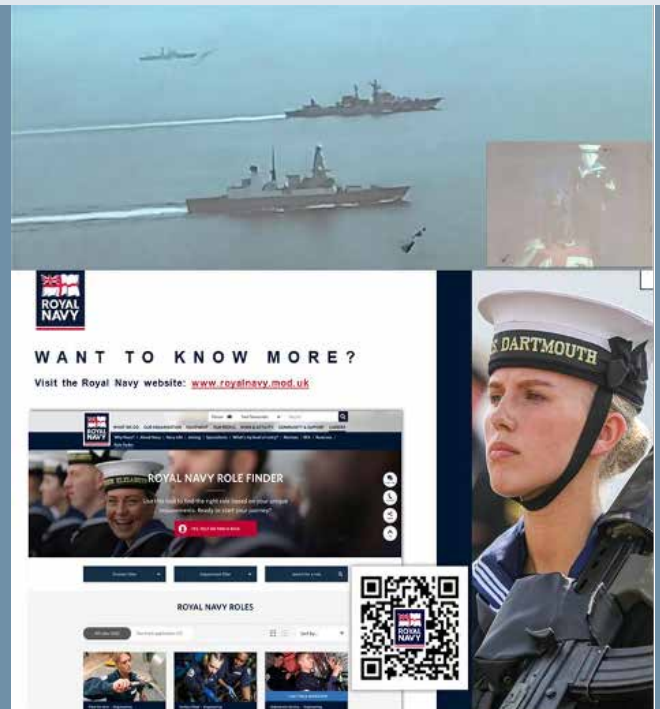
We would like to thank Ben Thomas, Kate Steele, Melissa O'Neill (ex-student) and all Principality staff for their support in leading this partnership.



Visit from the Royal Navy

We enjoyed a visit from a past pupil on Wednesday. Thank you Sharon Jones for an informative Career Insight into the Royal Navy and returning to school to share your personal career journey.

Sharon is also pictured with her beloved dog (see right). Students were surprised to learn about the wide variety of different career paths which exist within the Royal Navy.



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

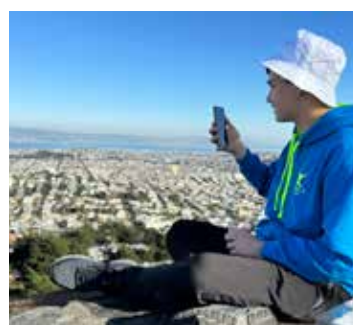
Ten reasons to celebrate our Careers Insight Day:

- 1** We hosted 16 national and local companies including our Valued Business Partners, Principality and Airbus.
- 2** Over 30 adults were present in school to share their company and wider knowledge with many of our pupils.
- 3** The context and success of our school was explained to all employers within an introductory session, this helped strengthen their understanding of our school and what they needed to present. Employers were very pleased to see the focus on our Catholic virtues and the development of the whole person.
- 4** Year 9 pupils had three presentations and lessons from three different companies which taught them about company structure and expectations. Employers were very impressed with the conduct of Year 9 and the questions they asked.
- 5** Some Year 8 forms were also involved in a pilot project with small group meetings in the hall. Their behaviour was exemplary and the employers commented on how much they enjoyed these conversations.
- 6** Employers emphasised the importance of school behaviour and attendance for future references which was a very valuable insight for our pupils.
- 7** Employers and pupils really focussed on the importance of the skills and knowledge taught in the Curriculum for Wales to support future employment.
- 8** Sixth Formers were treated to bespoke individual and small group sessions at lunch and in the afternoon. Several pupils have linked up to gain work experience and future support.
- 9** Year 10 pupils in the Employability Skills class met with employers in small groups to discuss skills and qualities required for employment.

Employers really valued this time with these pupils.
- 10** A final big THANK YOU to: Airbus, KLA, National Star, Languages in the Workplace, ONS, Passport Office, Principality, Royal Geographical Society, Target Group, Tarian, School of Automation, Care First Wales, Screen Alliance, We Care Wales, and Wilmot Dixon.



SAN FRANCISCO



COMPUTER SCIENCE





What a trip for Years 9-12
Computers Science pupils...

SAN FRANCISCO

By Mr Willis

As a computer scientist, San Francisco is near the top of the list for places to visit and immerse yourself in our subject's history and its present day champions.

When I was offered the chance to experience this trip, a lifetime opportunity, it was all too easy to say yes.

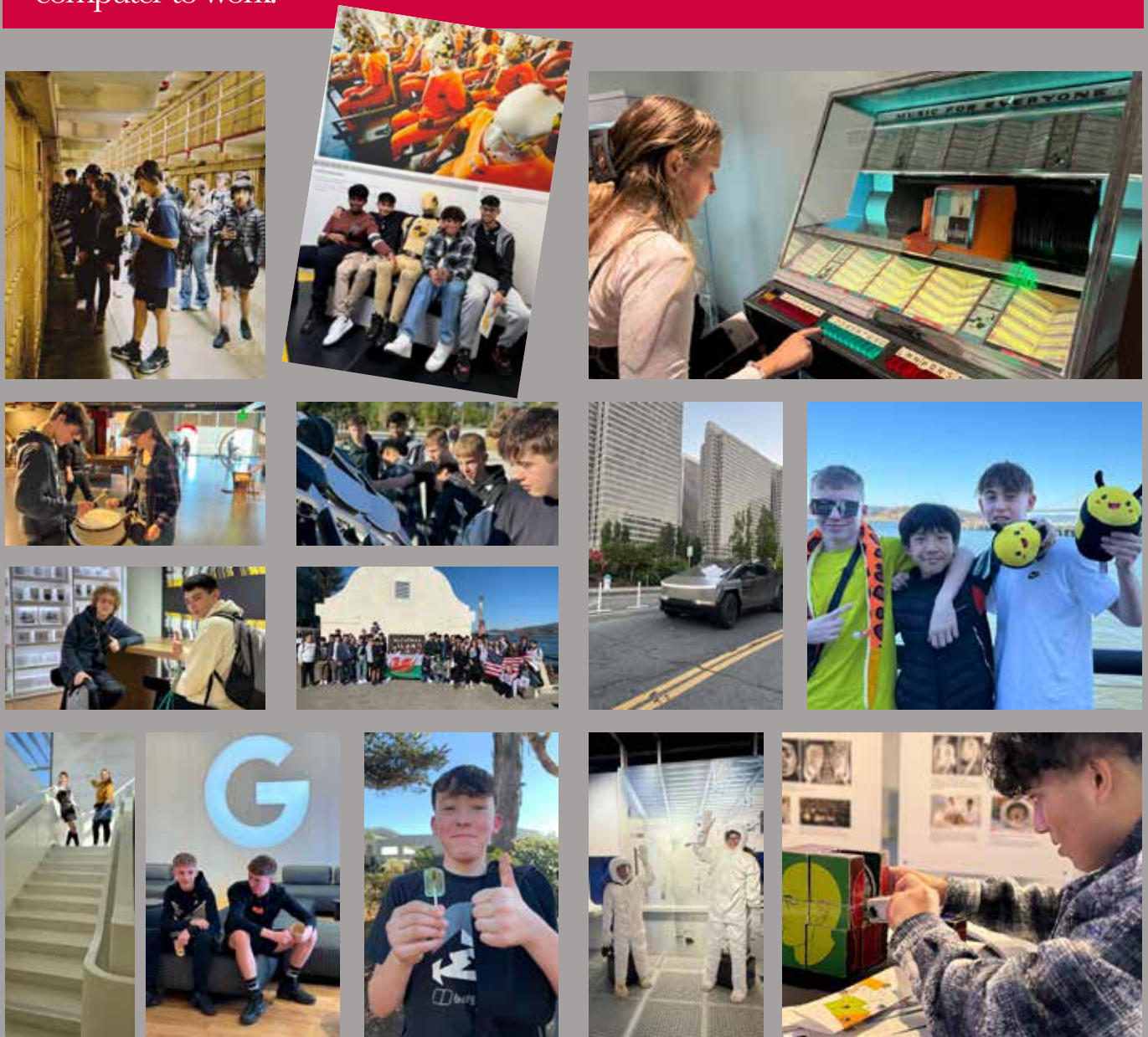
Our first day started at three in the morning, where upon arriving at school it was all about bag weighing and saying goodbye for a week! Our flight lasted all of ten hours, on which we were fortunate to be on a fairly quiet flight. This was a good sign for the rest of the week – and what a week it was. We started with a trip to Silicon Valley, where we visited Google and Apple. The students were able to view the latest tech that both of the giants had to offer, and gave us all a prime opportunity for gift shopping.

We visited the Computer History Museum - amazing for both teachers and students. It was incredible to see the development of things such as games and technology we now take for granted. Some of the teachers (remaining nameless) were a little perturbed by the fact that toys of their childhood were also featured in a museum already!!!



SJHS IN SAN FRANCISCO!

Harry said “My favourite visit was the Computer History Museum. We learned so much about how computers have been developed over time. These museums worked hand in hand, we learned what makes up the processors that allow the computer to work.”



Which leads us to the Intel Museum, which was a fascinating look into the full process behind designing the small chips that are the powerhouses within computers, from the earliest models Intel had to offer to what Moore's Law points to in the future. As a practitioner, it was amazing to see real world examples that can now be applied in lessons and related to by learners following subject lessons!

When in San Francisco, it is a crime not to visit the Museum of Modern Art. In this part of the trip, learners were able to engage in a workshop that allowed them to explore the more artistic side of the city, demonstrating awareness and observations they have picked up from their Art lessons across the years. There were many different tasks on offer, some which were individual and let their learners focus on their own thoughts and some which were group based, allowing the learners to bounce

ideas off of each other and discuss modern art in its' purest form.

We also did our fair share of sightseeing – Alcatraz and The Golden Gate Bridge are some of the most interesting landmarks on the east coast of America, allowing for many awesome photo opportunities and a chance for learners to discover some of the crazy history that San Francisco had to offer. Alcatraz was a favourite for many of us, the audio tour was fantastic.

This was a trip that our students will never forget – what an experience it was, the food, the culture, the tech and the ideas that it showed us all, made for an amazing experience of a lifetime. Thank you to Mrs Neale for taking over the reigns and organising such an amazing fun packed, sunny week in San Francisco - including of course the visit to Target!



Year 8 Welsh visit

St Fagan's



Mae Blwyddyn 8 wedi bod yn astudio am y Welsh Not a Brad y Llyfrau Gleision yn ystod yr hanner tymor yma felly am ffordd well i ddysgu mwy am hanes y Welsh Not na fynd i Sain Ffagan Amgueddfa Werin Cymru yng Nghaerdydd.

Treulion ni'r diwrnod dysgu am bopeth Cymraeg a chafodd disgyblion y cyfle i wneud ymchwil ar sut mae'r iaith Gymraeg wedi cael ei defnyddio am brotestio, dathliadau a thrasiediaid.

Wedyn, ymwelwn ni â'r hen ysgol o'r enw Maestir a chawson ni ein dysgu gan athrawes lym o'r oes Fictoria a oedd yn dweud wrthym ni am y cosbau a gafodd y plant am siarad Cymraeg yn yr ysgol neu fethu eistedd yn llonydd yn y dosbarth!

Diolch byth bod pethau wedi newid heddiw!

Year 8 have been studying about the Welsh Not and the Treachery of the Blue Books in Welsh this half term so what better way to learn more about the history of the Welsh Not by going to St Fagan's museum of Welsh life in Cardiff.

We spent the day learning about all things Welsh and pupils had the opportunity to research how the Welsh language has been used for protesting, celebrations and tragedies.

We then visited the old Maestir school and were taught by a strict Victorian teacher who told us all about the punishments children received for speaking Welsh in school or not being able to sit still in class!

Very different from today thankfully!



Shwmae Day is a day to celebrate and promote the Welsh language in Wales.

DIWRNOD SHWMAE

How're you doing...?



Dathliwyd Diwrnod Shwmae llwyddianus gan yr Adran Gymraeg ac aelodau o'r Cyngor Cymreig ar Hydref 12fed gydag athrawon a disgyblion Blwyddyn 7. Cafodd athrawon Joseff Sant amheuthunion melys a blasus fel pice ar y maen, teisennau bach a bara brith.

Doedd Blwyddyn 7, sut bynnag, ddim mor lwcas gan iddyn nhw gymryd rhan mewn Arbrawf Bushtucker gyda blas Cymreig a cheision nhw ddanteithion Cymreig fel cocos a baw dafad a oedd yn edrych fel rhesins!

At ei gilydd, siaradwyd llawer o Gymraeg a mwynheuodd pawb y gweithgareddau. Da iawn Ysgol Gyfun Joseff Sant!

The Welsh department and members of the Welsh Council celebrated another successful Diwrnod Shwmae on October 12th by staff and Year 7 pupils. St Joseph's teaching staff were treated to delicious sweet treats such as Welsh cakes, cupcakes and bara brith.

Year 7, however, were not so lucky as they endured a Welsh themed Bushtucker trial and tried Welsh delicacies such as cockles and sheep poo looking raisins!!

All in all lots of Welsh was spoken and enjoyed by all. Da iawn Ysgol Gyfun Joseff Sant!

Dydy e wir ddim yn baw dafaid!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL COUNCIL

Your School Council has four Ministries:

Teaching & Learning, Community, Equality and Health & Wellbeing

Ministry for Curriculum Priorities - Survey Results

Please check the box of each priority you would like the school council to focus on:
252 responses



Ministry for Curriculum

23-24 Ministry for Curriculum Focus

- ★ Developing the role of student voice in the school.
- ★ Exploring ways a curriculum is designed.
- ★ Analysing approaches to questioning and modelling in the classroom.

Ministry for Wellbeing Priorities - Survey Results

Please check the box of each priority you would like the school council to focus on:
252 responses



Ministry for Wellbeing

23-24 Ministry for Wellbeing Focus

- ★ Promoting good mental health for both staff and pupils.
- ★ Ensuring that pupils feel physically safe around the school.
- ★ Promoting good physical health by utilising the outdoor space and facilities.

Ministry for Community Priorities - Survey Results

Please check the box of each priority you would like the school council to focus on:
252 responses



Ministry for Community

23-24 Ministry for Community Focus

- ★ Ensuring all staff and pupils know how to tackle bullying, racism, sexism and all forms of discrimination.
- ★ Celebrating our local, national and international and multi-cultural context.
- ★ Collaborating with outside agencies to make a difference in school and outside of it.

Gweinidogaeth dros y Gymraeg Priorities - Survey Results

252 responses



Gweinidogaeth dros y Gymraeg

23-24 Gweinidogaeth dros y Gymraeg Focus

- ★ Helping us to achieve the Bronze Campus Cymraeg Award for the Welsh language at St. Joseph's RC High School.
- ★ Help pupils and staff to see the benefit of learning Welsh and the opportunities available.
- ★ Ensuring that pupils have the opportunity to learn about Wales, our culture, heritage and language across the Curriculum.





COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Priority One..!

By Aidan Dempsey 12B, SJHS Community Ministry Environment Leader

What are the Gwent Levels?

The Gwent Levels are an iconic, wetland landscape of international significance. It is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife of national importance which is as important to Wales for biodiversity as the Amazon rainforest is for the entire Earth. Isn't that amazing? The Gwent Levels are particularly rich in a stunning abundance of fascinating and rare aquatic invertebrates (watery bugs) and the Levels also support a wide variety of birds, particularly waders and waterfowl. A number of European and UK protected species have also been confirmed including some bat species, grass snake and of course the adorable water voles.

What threats are facing the Gwent Levels?

The Gwent Levels are unfortunately currently threatened by new solar developments as despite many sites being Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The Welsh planning system currently doesn't give enough special protections to protect this status. Solar developments are most definitely part of the solution to climate change but our Gwent Levels are incredibly important as both a carbon sink and a natural buffer to climate change's effects but also as a vital habitat for 10 key 'umbrella' species which help preserve and protect our natural ecosystems. We MUST remember that the Welsh Government jointly-declared both a climate and nature emergency in 2021 as 17% of 3,902 species are at risk of extinction in Wales, with many others in decline. Therefore, we must stop these solar

COMMUNITY MINISTRY PETITION:



SAVE THE GWENT LEVELS AGAIN!



developments from progressing and destroying these vital natural habitats for these 10 species:

1. Grayling Butterfly
2. Barn Owl
3. Dipper
4. Pine Marten
5. Pink Waxcap
6. Nightjar
7. Hedgehog
8. Adder
9. Shrill Carder Bee (Rarest Bumblebee in Britain)
10. Water Vole (think 'Ratty' from 'Wind in the Willows')

How are we involved in this campaign as a school community?

We are neighbours to the Gwent Levels and some parts of the Gwent Levels do enter Newport. As the parents and supporters of the next generation, we could have a powerful, positive influence on the Senedd if we make our voices clear and informed on this issue. Ultimately, the more support the

petition gets, the higher the chance of the Senedd considering this petition for a debate which could potentially lead to special planning protection on the Gwent Levels' SSSI sites as it deserves. For decades, Gwent Wildlife Trust has been working to restore, enhance and protect this important landscape for wildlife and people. The Gwent Levels need us all now.

How can YOU help?

As I'm sure you'll be relieved to see, we do not require you to make donations to Gwent Wildlife Trust but of course thank you very much for your generosity if you decide to do so. But at a minimum, please take just 5 minutes of your time to sign both the Senedd petition and the GWT website petition as linked in these QR codes (above) OR search up 'Save The Gwent Levels Petition' into a search engine.

Please note that for the Senedd petition, you will need to confirm your email to confirm your signature.

Thank you for playing your part to protect the Gwent Levels for future generations.

theCHASE WITH YEAR 9

and the teacher Chasers...game on!

Over the past few months, an inspiring group of students have undertaken the tremendous effort to create an interactive, challenging and fundraising event for Year 9. They have created - 'The Chase!' (SJHS Style).



Quizmasters Frazier and Jenni



The Chase Team...! Spectacular job.



Thanks to all of Year 9 for taking part or supporting



Quick questioning by Jenni and Flo



The winning Year 9 form - 9F

The total funds raised: £194.10

With the help of various members of staff to become SJHS' very own 'Chasers', Year 9 have come head-to-head in a number of quiz competitions vs brainy staff, and (sometimes) even brainier students!

Through collaborative, heart-racing and brain-teasing quiz sessions, the Year 9 forms have battled to get through each round of questions that have tested their general knowledge and expertise on a variety of subjects studied in school. This has been, not only an impressive demonstration of the year group's knowledge, but also a fantastic show of team-work and quick thinking.

Bring on, The Final Chase...!

On Friday 8th December, the whole of Year 9 were the studio audience in The Chase Final. The top two forms, 9P and 9J, who have come top in the quiz heats, were up against The Chasers. 9P won and the best player was Maelie Daniels, who answered some many difficult questions it was impressive to watch. Congratulations to all the pupils that took part.

The Chase Team did an amazing job and the total funds raising were a fantatsic £194.10. Donations will go to chosen charities of Year 9 - thank you for all your support.



“The Chase has been an amazing fundraiser for charity, the support and participation of the year group has been absolutely phenomenal, and all of us have really enjoyed it. A massive thank you to all the staff and students who helped especially Mrs Jarett, Miss Doyle and Mr Rowland.”

Frasier, organiser and quizmaster.

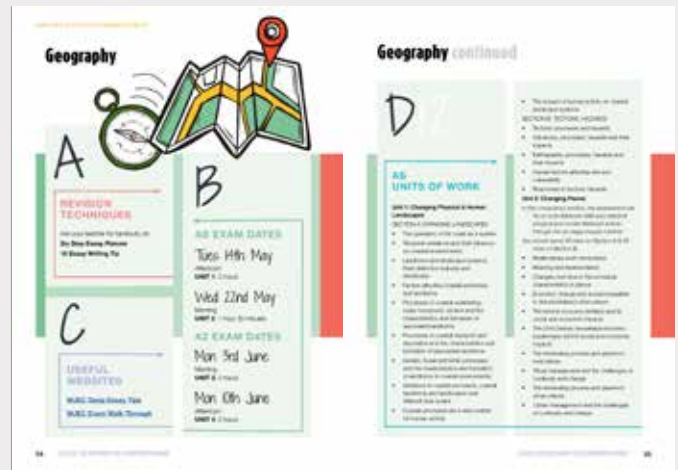
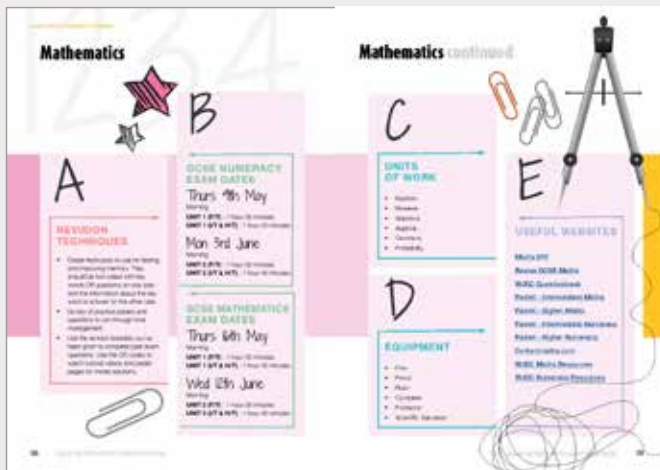
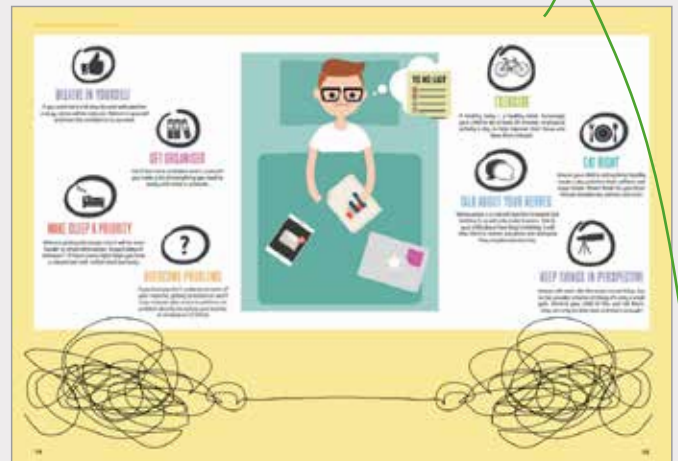
Revision Books

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



YOUR LOCAL FOODBANK

Helping local people in need today...

Some of our cluster primary schools run food banks for members of their community who may be in need. If you wish to access these they are available at the following times:

St Patrick's Primary School
Monday afternoons

St Gabriel's Primary School
Fridays

St David's Primary School
Wednesdays



Hogwarts comes to St Joseph's

The St Joseph's Library was transformed into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for an event attended by 20 Witches and Wizards from Year 7.

After being sorted into their houses, pupils were assisted by Year 9 House Prefects to complete a number of tasks, including guessing the effects of several potions, remembering magical objects hidden by an invisibility cloak and guessing which character in the books said memorable lines such as 'You're a Wizard Harry'. Pupils also had an opportunity to try out table-top Quidditch, Shove Ha'penny and Bertie Botts every flavour beans.

Excitement reached peak levels as the houses took part in a closely run interactive quiz, where the possible winning team changed after almost every question. The quiz was eventually won by Slytherin with Ravenclaw coming a close second. Hufflepuffs and Gryffindors were not amused but held on to hope that once the points gained from all the activities were combined, they might still be declared the victor.

Thanks Mrs McCarthy





Hogwarts Winners

The winning team was decided with the judging of their house Haiku, which again was won by the Slytherin house as they remembered to include a reference to nature. The final results were:

1st Slytherin

2nd Ravenclaw

3rd Hufflepuff

4th Gryffindor

Every pupil received a book of their own to take home and the members of Slytherin also received a silver-plated Harry Potter Bookmark. I have received many thanks from pupils who enjoyed this exciting and magical event as well as requests to form a regular Harry Potter group. Watch this space...

KEY LIBRARY DATES FOR NEXT TERM:

The We Wonder: Journey into Space STEM reading challenge. (launched in January by National Literacy Trust)

27th January

Holocaust Memorial Day

29th January (National Literacy Trust)

Wicked Writers competition launched

5th - 11th February

Children's Mental Health Week

6th February

Safer Internet Day

13th February

Carnegie Medal Longlist announced

March 7th

World Book Day

8th March

International Women's Day

CYBER

Cybergirls & Cyberfirst

Visit from Professor Dame Angela McLean

Professor Dame Angela McLean, Chief Scientific Advisor for the Government, came to visit St Joseph's as part of her visit to South Wales. She was met by a welcoming committee which included Headteacher Mrs Jackie Jarrett, Year 12 and 13 computing students and the 2022/23 CyberGirls Wales competition Champions.

After giving a speech on the importance of upskilling and promoting STEM subjects to a capacity full hall of female students, Dame Angela was invited to a 'skills showcase', where students from year 9-13 demonstrated a range of computing skills from ethics in machine learning to writing programming projects and the creation of augmented reality apps. Students were also privileged to take part in a presentation by the Welsh Chief Scientific Adviser Professor Jas Pal Badyal on the influence of nature on modern engineering solutions.



"The visit from Dame Angela was empowering. Hearing her story and experiences from a woman in the STEM industry was inspiring".

Maddison, Year 13





Reboot Rebels: Alisha 8P, Emaan 8P, Ceinwen 8V, Maja 8E
Ctrl Alt Defeat, 8H: Mary, Sophie, Ianah, Erin
Code She Wrote, 8T: Madison, Halle-Mae, Eva-May, Ingrid

Cybergirls Tournament

The annual CyberGirls competition took place in November, and St Joseph's was well represented! The CyberFirst Girls Competition is an annual event that aims to inspire Year 8 girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security. This year saw 12,500 competitors, 3,600 teams and 750 schools from across the UK take part, St Joseph's competed against teams all across Wales. The top 10 teams from each region make it through to a regional finals competition.

In total, 58 girls from Year 8 signed up to compete in the competition, split across 16 teams and competition was fierce! Teams gain points from completing a range of problem solving challenges, ranging from completing Sudoku puzzles to decrypting hidden messages and editing backend website code! The lead changed hands on several occasions (often in a single day!), and it was impossible to call a winner until the very last day! Finally, it was the Reboot Rebels who came out as the top team in the school.

The team not only won the school competition, but came 6th in Wales and have qualified for the Welsh finals to be held in February. Alongside this achievement, the Reboot Rebels were ranked in the top 100 teams from across the whole of the UK, placing 69th overall!



Cyber security with Airbus

The purpose of the presentation was to welcome the new Year 7 student cohort to St Joseph's as a CyberFirst school and to the concept of cyber security. CyberFirst Wales team members Holly-Marie Lidbury and Kate Lloyd led the presentation alongside guest speaker Paddy Francis, the CTO for Airbus CyberSecurity, our industry partner. We would like to thank all the speakers for giving their time and helping to inspire the next generation of computer scientists here at St Joseph's!



So much talent...

Already this term we have had some fantastic individual sporting achievements by our pupils. We are very proud of them and full of admiration for the commitment they have demonstrated to achieve their successes.

PENYGENWS



Julia, Year 8

Julia won first place in her gymnastic competition in Wrexham this term representing Newport Acrobatic Gymnastic Club. She was representing Grade 3. Huge congrats to her for such a fantastic achievement.



Ashleigh, Year 10

Ashleigh competed in the Welsh Gymnastics Championships in October, becoming the Junior All-around Champion. She's currently working on new skills and upgrades getting ready for Welsh Championships in February and English Championships in March.



Fletcher Year 10

Fletcher travelled to Munich, Germany last term to compete in the ISKA World Championships for kickboxing. He did incredibly well to win a silver medal in the 55kg 12-14 category, only losing the final to the reigning champion in a closely fought contest. Fletcher is setting his sights on going one better at the World Championships in Austria next year.



Ashton, Year 10

As well as being part of the Bristol City Academy Ashton was selected to represent Wales U15 football, travelling with the squad to Poland to play against Poland, Spain and Iceland, starting two of the three matches.

This week Ashton has been notified of his selection for the upcoming training camp with the hope of making the squad for an international match against Ireland in February.



Year 8 Football Team

Amongst the worst of the November rain our year 8 boys football team travelled to Newport High to take on the reigning champions of the Newport Cup. The team played some excellent football, especially considering the conditions, but, despite having 3 glorious chances and hitting the crossbar, found themselves 2-0 down at half time. However, they didn't let their heads dropped and managed to find two goals in the final 10 minutes to take the tie to penalties. Asa pulled off two excellent saves, while both teams missed the target with one penalty, for St Joseph's to win the shootout 3-1 and progress to the next round.



Scarlett, Year 10

Scarlett is one of the latest pupils to represent Wales having been selected for the Wales U15 team last term. She trained with the squad in Wrexham and played in games against England, Greece and Norway as part of the UEFA Development Tournament.



SJHS Basketball

On 17th November, we took three squads (Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and Year 12/13) to Chepstow to compete in the regional basketball play offs.

The day consisted of a round robin tournament against other schools including Caerleon and Chepstow, who both had some very good basketballers to give our boys a real tough test. We did fantastically overall, with 4 wins and just one loss - which came during a brilliant showdown between the Year 9/10 boys against Caerleon.

Throughout the day there were brilliant moments of teamwork, flare and talent on show and I genuinely lost count of the number of 3 pointers that were sunk by our boys.

A superb show of the talent and skill level was amazing to witness and we are looking forward to representing the regions against other winning area champions in the new year.

Attendance

Golden Ticket Winners



Gold! 'always believing'...

Attendance and Punctuality Everyday' (APE) is a very important message here at St Joseph's.

Everyone knows that our pupils can only make the correct levels of personal and academic progress if their attendance and punctuality is of a very high standard.

Central to this message is the understanding that attendance below 97% becomes a concern as this can lead to 30 hours of lessons lost by July.

To keep a focus on attendance we celebrate every month the highest performing forms and every term we congratulate the pupils with 100% attendance. These pupils in our gold bracket are treated to gold themed chocolate, gold vouchers to skip lunch and bus queues and wait for it...gold tickets to attend a film event in the hall!

The theme music we use to celebrate is of course the Spandau Ballet classic song 'Gold'! Hit the link below to enjoy!

[GOLD! Spandau Ballet](#)

Parents/Carers, to help ensure your child fulfills their potential, please continue to demand excellent attendance and punctuality everyday.

**Diolch
Reggie Star (SJHS mascot)**



Dates for your diary 2024

Winter Term TYMOR Y GWANWYN

Jan	
8	Term begins
18	Year 11 Parents' Evening
25	Year 11 Pathways' Evening
Feb	
12-16	HALF TERM
20	Yr10-13 Performing Arts Trip, Blake Theatre

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

March	
1-3	Yr7 Welsh Trip, Llangrannog
7-10	Yrs10-13 Music Trip, Eurodisney Paris
11	INSET DAY
14	Year 9 Parents' Evening
15	Yr7 Welsh Trip, St Fagans
21	Year 9 Pathways' Evening
22-23	Yrs 9-13 Art & Media Trip, London
22-31	Yr7-8 Skiing Trip, Italy
23-26	Yrs 8-10 MFL Trip, Barcelona
25 Mar-5 Apr	EASTER HOLIDAYS
April	
8	TERM BEGINS
18	Year 10 Parents' Evening

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

www.sjhs.org.uk

twitter.com/sjhsnewport

www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport



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

