

Insight

Autumn 2024 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

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Acting Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth dros dro

Mrs J Morgan
Acting Headteacher

As the Autumn term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as parents, carers and friends of St Joseph's, for your support of our school community.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Insight, highlighting the fabulous – and varied – talents of our pupils. From sporting achievements and poetry workshops to celebrations of our diversity and international trips, this term has certainly been eventful.

At St Joseph's, our school motto, 'Serving God through Learning Together' encapsulates what drives us as a school: our service to God and to each other is at the heart of all we do. This term, we have been focusing on two pairs of Virtues: being curious and active and being intentional and prophetic.

Certainly, our pupils have displayed curiosity in their pursuits. Through expeditions to the Knepp Estate and nature walks, they are using their curiosity to explore the wildlife around them, and are active in the way they choose to make

a positive difference to our local and national environment. Trips to Cardiff Crown Court, to the BBC, and even to Iceland demonstrate our pupils' enthusiasm to find out more about our wider world and to seek ways to make it better.

Our pupils have also displayed the Virtues of being intentional and prophetic. During our marvellous Celebration of Indian Culture evening, we were privileged to experience the rich culture of India through song, dance, music and food. As always, the staggering talents of our fabulous pupils and their families created a truly unique and memorable experience for all. Our incredibly successful debating teams,

CyberGirls and Cyber First teams have all shown what it is to be intentional in their own values but also prophetic in how they share their ideas with eloquence and determination.

The generosity of our school community has been demonstrated, once again, through our fundraising activities, culminating in the gathering of delicious treats for our annual Christmas hampers. The compassion and love shown through such gifts truly demonstrates that we, as a Catholic school community, are dedicated to 'Serving God through learning together'.

We will be welcoming Mrs Jarrett back to our school community in January, and we would both like to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

“Taking part helps build self-confidence and develop public speaking skills, including how to keep an audience engaged.”

Rotary International



Debate away...

On Thursday 5th December, Newport Rotary Club hosted the local round of the National Youth Speaks Competition at Rougemont School.

St Joseph's took two teams to the competition; one team in each of the categories. The Intermediate team consisting of Chair - Joan 8S, Proposer - Arabella, 8S and Opposer - Marcell, 9E presented the motion *"This house believes that AI is terrible for humanity."* They battled against Llanwern High and swept the board winning all three individual prizes of Best Chair, Best Opposer and Best Proposer as well as Best Team.

The Senior team consisting of Chair - Joe, 10E, Proposer - Genevieve, 10V and Opposer - Alyssa, 10E presented the motion *"This house believes that social constructs are harmful to society."* This team battled against very strong teams from Rougemont and Llanwern High and brought home the trophy winning Best Team, Best Proposer and Best Chair. A huge congratulations to all of the pupils. Both teams will now represent Newport in the next round which will be held in the University of South Wales in January. Also, a big thank you to Mrs Thomas for all her help, support and encouragement to give these wonderful pupils the podium they deserve.

This house believes that AI is terrible for humanity.



Advent24

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” **Luke 1:45**

As we enter the Christmas season, we are given our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to reflect upon. Though our Blessed Mother was perfect, and St. Joseph was a deeply virtuous man, they were both still fully human and would have walked through Mary’s pregnancy and Jesus’ birth with every human emotion and experience.

St Joseph was faced with an extraordinary mystery as he discovered his wife was pregnant. He knew her to be a woman of exceptional virtue and holiness and had to reconcile that with her surprising pregnancy. Even after the angel appeared to him in a dream, he would have had questions arise in his mind as he faced this situation. Our Blessed Mother was also invited by God to face her pregnancy in faith. Her response was perfect, “Let it be done to me according to your word.” She could not explain nor understand what was happening but, nonetheless, she knew deep in her soul that God was in charge leading all to His glory.

Both Mary and Joseph are wonderful models of faith and obedience. They were obedient to the will of God even though the will of God drew them into an incredible and unfathomable mystery. They were first-hand witnesses to the salvation of the world and to the greatest act ever known. And they both embraced this mystery and accepted it in faith.

This Christmas, take the time to reflect upon your own invitations from God to embrace the mysteries of life. God’s ways are often more than we can comprehend and figure out. Mary and Joseph give us the witness of how we are to handle every mystery God invites us to participate in. Say “Yes” to the will of God just as this holy couple did.

Heavenly Father, we seek the joy and peace that Your Son, Jesus Christ, brings. Help us be instruments of joy to those in need. Grant us hearts filled with peace that radiates to others. In this season of light and hope, we humbly seek Your divine presence. May Your peace reign in every heart, and may Your joy fill every soul. Let the spirit of Christmas bring unity, kindness, and love to all corners of the world. May we embrace one another with compassion and spread the warmth of Your love. Grant us serenity and joy that transcends circumstances and let Your light shine brightly in our lives. Amen



CHARITY UPDATE

Harvest Festival

On 6th October St Joseph's celebrated Harvest Festival. The Sixth Form Leadership team organised this brilliant initiative with Riya John and Lucy Hurley at the helm planning and leading a whole school assembly online explaining the importance of harvest. Anita Panasiuk created a beautiful sign promoting Harvest. The girls explained how this season celebrates a time of year when crops have been gathered from the field. People can reflect and show gratitude for the food in which they have. Christians give thanks to God for all the food and good things he provides for his people. Harvest challenges us to be generous towards others which is one of the Catholic virtues we practice at St Joseph's.

Some facts and statistics about donations include:

- 1 in 5 in the UK live below the poverty line
- 2, 416 three day emergency food supplies were given to people of Newport by the select charity we will be donating to
- In 2023/2024 over 3.1 million people used a food bank in the United kingdom.

The request for food items were donated to our local community and Newport Food Bank stated 'On behalf of Newport Foodbank and the families we serve, we'd like to thank you all at St. Joseph's RC High School for once again collecting 262kg of donations for us at your Harvest Festival. An amazing amount, which almost doubled last year's donations! We have seen an increase of people accessing us due to the cost of living crisis and your donations have already helped many needy people in our area.

Cafod

Pupils have raised a brilliant amount for CAFOD so far this year. £830 has been donated so far. This money was raised through The Chase, The Big Walk and CAFOD Café. A representative from CAFOD Wales visited the school and collected the money.

Youth Chaplaincy

During October, the Youth Chaplaincy team prepared a liturgy of the Rosary. Pupils visited the chapel to celebrate 5 decades of the Rosary.

Nya's Bake Sale

Year 13 pupil Nya organised a Bake Sale in October to raise money for Breast cancer. She is also walking 100 miles to help raise awareness. Lets wish her luck.



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS²⁴

We loved wearing a festive, brightly coloured jumper this year. On **Wednesday 11th of December**, some pupils and staff really brought out their fashion creativity and flair after the challenge by Mr Nunn. There was a strong emphasis on recycled and pre-loved jumpers and existing jumpers too.

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.



Next level Christmas jumpering!



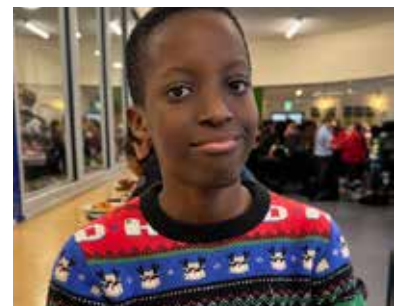
Enjoying Christmas lunch, yummy!



Double thumbs boys



Step into Christmas...



Festive smiles



Loving the antlers



Festive teachers...



Nice one boys...



Big smiles all round



Nice one 7T



Suits you sir...



Christmas red jumpers



Thank you for thinking of the planet and donating...

On the 24th of October 2024, St Joseph's RC High School held an Indian celebration night to celebrate students of Indian culture. It was an amazing night filled with dance, song and traditional Indian food.

	Hindi	Bengali	Marathi	Telugu	Tamil	Gujarati	Urdu	Kannada	Odia	Malayalam	Punjabi	Assamese
Intentional and Prophetic	विद्यया विदुषः	বিদ্যা বিদুশঃ	विद्यया विदुषः	విద్య విదుః	வித்ய வித்யு	વિદ્યા વિદુઃ	ویدیا ویدو	ವಿದ್ಯಾ ವಿದುಃ	ବିଦ୍ୟା ବିଦୁଃ	വിദ്യ വിദുഃ	ਗਿਆਨ ਗਿਆਨੀ	জ্ঞান জ্ঞানী
Learned and Wise	विद्यया विदुषः	বিদ্যা বিদুশঃ	विद्यया विदुषः	విద్య విదుః	வித்ய வித்யு	વિદ્યા વિદુઃ	ویدیا ویدو	ವಿದ್ಯಾ ವಿದುಃ	ବିଦ୍ୟା ବିଦୁଃ	വിദ്യ വിദുഃ	ਗਿਆਨ ਗਿਆਨੀ	জ্ঞান জ্ঞানী
Curious and Active	विद्यया विदुषः	বিদ্যা বিদুশঃ	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः
Eloquent and Truthful	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः
Faith-Filled and Hopeful	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः
Compassionate and Loving	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः
Attentive and Discerning	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः
Grateful and Generous	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः	विद्यया विदुषः

Throughout the week students at school of Indian heritage made short presentations on India's influence within different subjects, such as IT, Medicine and Art. They were presented in the classrooms by our form teachers, to help everyone in the St Joe's community understand the cultural significance India has had on the world and why the culture of India was chosen to celebrate in our series of culture evenings. Our school picked India to be the country we celebrate this term as there are a lot of students in St

Joseph's with Indian heritage and our school wanted to ensure they felt appreciated. During the celebration evening Headboys Jins and Joseph also gave us a presentation on the impact India has had worldwide which was really eye opening.

During the day of our celebration, all pupils were allowed to come in to school wearing their own personal cultures' clothing, it was lovely to see so many

CELEBRATION EVENING OF

INDIAN CULTURE



different cultures being celebrated within the school, some pupils even wore an item of white, green or orange to represent India's flag.

It was a wonderful night that helped the Indian students of St Joseph's feel appreciated and supported in their culture, and pupils of all cultures encouraged to feel proud of their heritage - whatever that may be. The whole weeks' activities gave us all an amazing insight into India's culture, religion, languages etc. Newport Kerala Community helped to organise the evening and people from the community of all ages put much effort to make the evening memorable.

This was done by the whole community through dancing, singing and presenting. Mr Nunn was a wonderful support as the whole night was his idea. We love that he always tries his best to ensure the culture's of St Joe's students is implemented into school life and makes all students feel included and supported.

Written by Erin Thomas



“It was such an incredible experience to see the integration of two families that I am so proud to be part of”. **Joseph Pauly, Year 13**





CAREERS INSIGHT DAY



This week, Year 9 pupils attended Careers insight sessions, with the help of **Aneurin Bevan UHB, Principality BS, Whiteheads Building, Big Idea's Wales - Tin Can Kitchen, Little Trees Nursery, Bouygues and GD Environmental.**

A crucial takeaway was the emphasis on the importance of the learned skills and knowledge that our school curriculum develops. We have six areas of learning in the new curriculum for Wales and employers explained perfectly how each subject has real relevance in the workplace of 2024.

A tick list of success!

All Year 9 pupils were privileged to be involved in three or four interactive sessions with employers and businesses, such as:

- Pupils worked round a carousel in groups of 10.
- Employers definitely opened our pupil eyes to the world of work.
- Year 9 had the chance to ask enquire and ask questions of interest.
- Year 9 really impressed employers with their intelligence, smart appearance and good manners.
- Employers answered questions linked to option choices at GCSE and A Level.
- Employers emphasised the importance of manners, punctuality, attendance, cooperation, respect and hard work.

A huge thank you again to all the businesses that attended!

A big thank you again to all these companies for supporting our Year 9 pupils:



**Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales**

Careers Wales Update: All about SpringPod

SpringPod offer a wide range of FREE, virtual work experience programmes that can be completed at each student's own pace and around their school timetable.

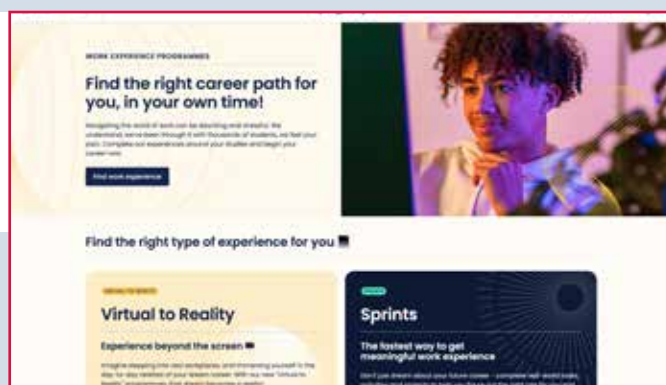
The programmes are interactive, work-based learning experiences that give students valuable introductions into the world of work. From Airbus and Amazon to the NHS, Transport for Wales and Wagamama there is something for everyone!

Don't forget about the wide range of resources on the **Careers Wales** website for:

- Help with UCAS Application
- Finding a holiday/weekend job
- Parents - get information resources and tips to support your child through their decisions.
- Year 8 and Year 9 subject option tips, get help and support with information to help make choices now, that might help your career later on.

or contact

The St Joseph's Careers Adviser, Ms Lindsay Todd
Email: lindsay.todd@careerswales.gov.wales



Careers Wales Website

www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience

Click the link about to find out 'What is Virtual Work Experience with Springpod' - it might just inspire you.

ICELAND



GEOGRAPHY GETS COLD





What an amazing trip for
35 Geography pupils...

INCREDIBLE ICELAND

By Mr Frost

The Geography department took a group of 35 pupils to Iceland for the first time in over 16 years! We all had the most amazing time and saw the best Iceland had to offer.

Despite enduring temperatures as low as -16 degrees Celsius on our first day, we saw a humpback whale surface for air on multiple occasions during our whale watching tour.

The pupils showed great perseverance during the cold weather during the next two days and were rewarded with a showing of the Aurora Borealis when staying in log cabins in the countryside. It was incredible to see in real life and looked even better on camera.

We experienced all weather types from freezing temperatures to clear skies before a snowstorm that threatened to close a key road we needed access to in order get us home that evening! The trip finished with a relaxing trip to the Secret Lagoon which is naturally heated to 40 degrees by a geothermal spring.



“I loved the trip sooo much...”

Genni

The pupils were amazing throughout the trip and a big thank you to Miss K Davies and Miss L Morgan for coming to Iceland and being so helpful throughout!



Iceland was definitely the best trip I've been gone on. I had so many amazing opportunities to do new things like whale watching, touring the Golden Circle, and having a snowball fight on the black sand beach, which was so fun.

On the trip I made new friends, memories, and a new dream to live in Iceland. I would take any opportunity to go again, it was incredible.

Please may we go back again Mr Frost?

Written by Genni Dinham

Mr Frost said "It was a truly fantastic trip, the pupils enjoyed so many different life experiences from visiting the spectacular Golden Circle, a snow storm, a secret volcanic lagoon, dancing lights in the sky with the Aurora Borealis and of course an epic snowball fight!!!"

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 Cymraeg ar Hydref 15fed gydag athrawon a disgyblion. 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! Da iawn i Louin Haywood-Woffenden and Ameliah-Rose Ngwenya o 7E a oedd mor ddewr gan iddyn nhw wybod yn gywir y mwyaf o fwydydd y cyflymafl!

At ei gilydd, siaradwyd llawer o Gymraeg a mwynheudd pawb y gweithgareddau.

The Welsh department and members of the Welsh Council celebrated another successful Diwrnod Shwmae on October 15th by staff and 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! Well done to Louin Haywood-Woffenden and Ameliah-Rose Ngwenya from 7E who were so brave and correctly identified the most foods the quickest!

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!



I'm Not a Year 7 Celebrity

Bushtucker Trials...!



“It was brilliant - but I couldn't watch sometimes! The contestants were very cool”



STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL COUNCIL

Your School Council has four Ministries:

Teaching & Learning, Community, Equality and Health & Wellbeing

Ministry for Curriculum

My name is Maja and I am the Secretary for the Ministry of Curriculum. I'm pleased to inform you about the next steps we will be taking to improve the Curriculum at St Joseph's RC High School:



24-25 Ministry for Curriculum

- ★ We will be focusing on the new GCSE curriculum and how it impacts the current Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils. We'll begin by completing pupil voice to see if they think the new GCSE curriculum is good or should be changed.
- ★ We will also be focusing on the impact routines have on learning and teaching. For example, ensuring that teachers follow certain routines in their class to keep everyone focused on learning and teaching.
- ★ We will be investigating more ways to make lessons more productive and the curriculum more engaging.

Ministry for Wellbeing

Hi everyone, I am Diya and I am the secretary of the Ministry of Wellbeing and I am pleased to let you know about some changes we as a wellbeing team will be making, these are:



24-25 Ministry for Wellbeing

- ★ Increasing the number of clubs and groups focusing on helping students feel a sense of belonging.
- ★ Utilising the outdoor space and facilities to promote good mental health.
- ★ Investigating ways to ensure everyone feels happy, safe and involved within our community.

Ministry for Community

As representatives of the Ministry of Community, we are happy to inform you that we will be working towards achieving the following priorities this academic year, as voted by the student body:



24-25 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

As representatives of the Gweinidogaeth dros y Gymraeg, we are happy to inform you that we will be working towards achieving the following priorities this academic year, as voted by the student body:



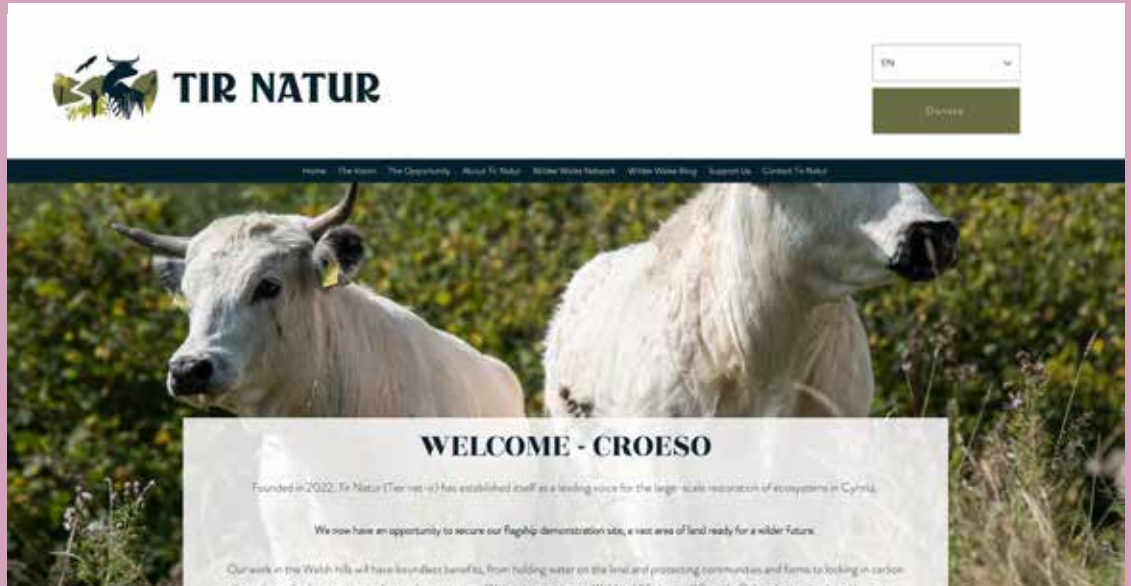
24-25 Gweinidogaeth dros y Gymraeg Focus

- ★ Helping us to achieve the Bronze Campus Cymraeg 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 Welsh is a presence and is seen around the school, e.g. signs, displays, etc.



If you have any ideas or thoughts you would like to see discussed at school, or if you would like to help out at an event, please see one of the SJHS Ministry reps for your year group - they will be happy to listen.

Remember your voice, your choice.



<https://www.tirnatur.cymru>

OPERATION WALLACEA

Expedition to the Knepp Estate

First of all, I would like to thank all those who have supported me in receiving a £1,000 bursary to go on an Operation Wallacea 1-week Expedition to the Knepp Estate in August 2024, especially Mr Nunn. I'm confident that without his support in writing a fantastic letter of recommendation to support my application, I may not have been successful. I would absolutely encourage looking out for bursaries and applying for them for any expedition you want to do. You never know what the outcome of that will be. To those who have never heard of the Knepp Estate before, it is the UK's premiere rewilding site for nature, and is a 3,500-acre estate in West Sussex in England that was previously intensively farmed for pasture and crops. It is owned by Charlie Burrell and Isabella Tree.

Why was there a need to rewild the estate?

- Charlie Burrell and Isabella Tree both decided to abandon the site for agriculture,

as this site of mostly Low-Weald Clay was very marginal to farm, leaving them in heavy debt by 2001.

- They soon were inspired by a Dutch ecologist called Dr. Frans Vera, where they were inspired by the concept of 'rewilding', where nature is allowed to 'take the wheel' and re-colonise without much human intervention.

- This inspired them to try to rewild Knepp gradually, by receiving EU subsidies and funding support to provide land for biodiversity gain, by finishing up harvests gradually from 2001-2009 and letting nature take over.

What needed to be done for this rewilding to happen?

- In order for nature to re-colonise without creating a monoculture of species, herbivore engineers were needed, namely the 'Knepp Big 5'.



- These herbivores (Tamworth pigs, fallow deer, red deer, Exmoor ponies & English longhorn cows) are proxies for their ancestors who once roamed and browsed ancient Britain, creating a mosaic of habitats in the process.
- This mosaic of habitats was achieved by the herbivores browsing dominant plant species to keep their spread controlled to allow recessive plants, such as the scarlet pimpernel (key for turtle doves!) to survive.

What does the Knepp Estate look like today?

- 23 years later, the Knepp Estate is a revolutionary key haven for British wildlife. Many rare bird species like the turtle dove are present in much larger numbers than anywhere else, and reptile, invertebrate, bat and plant species have become incredibly biodiverse in such a short timeline.
- Not only has nature been able to recover, but there is an entire team of staff that work regularly on the Knepp Estate as tour guides, ecologists, etc, all supported by the Knepp Estate's successful, low-impact eco-tourism and field courses.

What impact has this expedition had on me?

- I was able to learn all about the Knepp Estate, but also truly experience what it feels like to have no barrier from nature in our campsite; we had wildflower meadows in walking distance and could hear a wealth of birdsong every night and morning. I felt the most happy and least anxious I had ever been!
- I learnt how to survey for a wide range of taxa, including reptiles, birds, invertebrates, large mammals, bats, etc, and about the philosophy of rewilding & its many benefits for nature.

- I now feel that I have broadened my passion for wildlife through the expedition, by developing more of a curiosity in deciphering what birds I can recognise and what I can't in my garden's birdsong, for example.
- I am absolutely certain now that a career in conservation is what's right for me, as I enjoyed every activity of our expedition, and working in a team of like-minded individuals is refreshing and enables even better results & efforts.

Where can I read more and what are your next steps?

I hope you have enjoyed reading about my trip to the Knepp Estate. I would absolutely recommend visiting and supporting nature local to you, whether that's visiting nature reserves or estates like Knepp, or even just appreciating the nature in your local park or garden!

If you'd like to learn more about my trip to Knepp, scan the QR code on the left! Or if you'd like to learn a little more about Tir Natur scan the code on the right to visit the website.

So far, I'd like to achieve four things this school year:

- 1 Continuing Eco Rep bioblitz and survey meetings.
- 2 Continuing our once-per-term litter picks
- 3 Kickstarting a wildflower strip on the school field to increase on-site biodiversity.
- 4 Raising awareness about key environmental charities in the SJHS family, such as Tir Natur, a new Welsh charity looking to wild a 1,500 acre estate in the Welsh Highlands! They need support to buy their flagship site in 2025.

MFL/GCHQ

In November, Year 9 students took part in a nationwide competition run by GCHQ. GCHQ is one of the three UK Intelligence and Security Agencies, along with MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6).

It was an online event with students working in groups of up to 4 in break times, lunchtimes and after school. This is the 3rd year that the competition has run and we are hoping to build on our success from last year when we were the winning team for Wales! Results to be announced shortly!

This competition requires students to solve problems and decipher codes in different languages from around the world, including rare and artificial languages. With the competition, GCHQ hopes to promote language learning in schools and encourage uptake of languages at GCSE, as well as highlighting the many transferable skills language learning can develop both in education and the world of work.

Year 8 - look out for this fantastic opportunity next year!



YEAR 13 CRIMINOLOGY AT CARDIFF CROWN COURT

Year 13 students spent the day visiting Cardiff Crown Court and Cardiff Magistrates Court.

During the morning, they had the opportunity to speak to Barristers in the Crown and had a talk by a Judge. They then viewed cases from the public gallery and talked to Court personnel. Students gained a valuable insight into the criminal justice system.



ART & MEDIA VISIT BBC CYMRU WALES & WORKSHOPS AT USW

Our Art and Media pupils were treated with a double-header day trip! One half was spend at the BBC Studios in Cardiff on an official tour. We saw behind the scenes at all the recording studios, sat on the bench where Crimewatch is filmed and visited BBC Wales Radio booths. The second half of the day was spent at USW in workshops with Mr Lee Thomas, Advertising Course Leader, where our pupils were given opportunities to brainstorm in teams and present their ideas.



<https://www.southwales.ac.uk>

CREATIVE CAREERS EXPO AT USW

Our Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils attended bespoke creative Master Classes at USW last month. They enjoyed some fantastic Masterclasses in subjects such as Photography, Journalism and Media and Drama and Performance; they also listened to workshops talks on Visual Effects and Motion Graphics, Game Art and Design with amazing companies such as Screen Alliance Wales.

It was a fantastic day and really helped some of our older pupils in making decisions on further education and career journey's in Creative Arts.



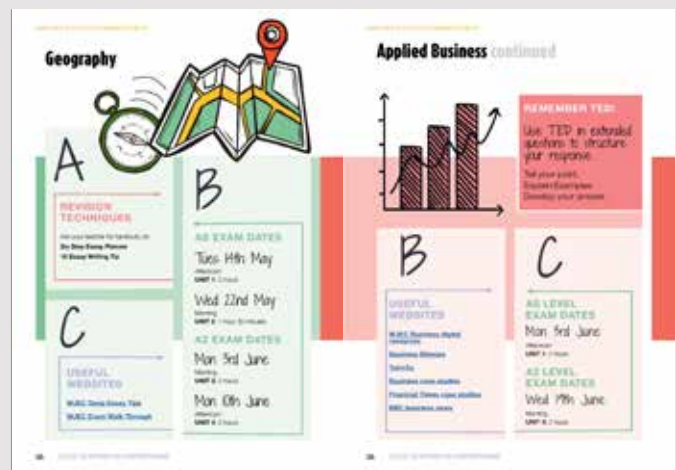
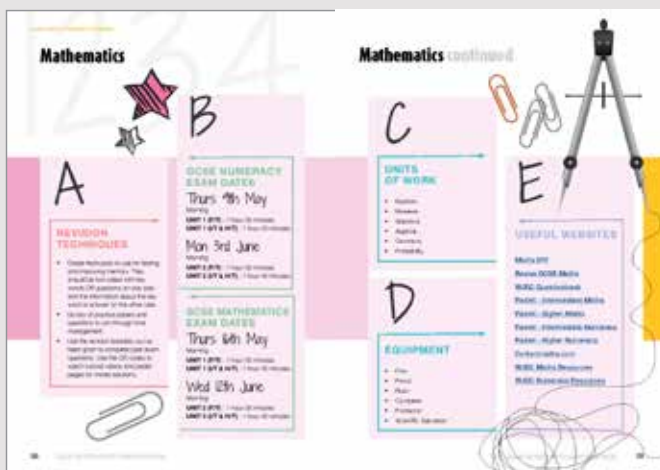
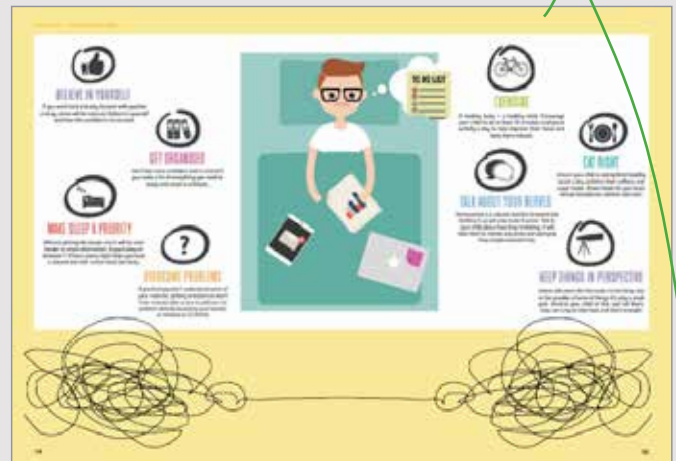
Revision Books

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



NATURE WALKS



In October Mrs Silver, Mrs Neale, Mrs Reese and Mrs Kent took a blustery autumn walk to Tredegar House in search of blackberries. Armed with bags and boxes all the pupils scoured the hedgerows for berries - we were a little late and had been beaten by wind and rain and squirrels but we managed to find enough to make some jam. With the promised of tea and scones one day next term, the berries were washed and stored in the freezer ready for some jam making.

It was lovely to get out into the fresh air for a lunchtime stroll and we hit the afternoon of lessons with positive wellbeing, enthusiasm and a few stories of muddy puddles and conkers!

See Mrs Neale for the date of the next walk if you wish to join us.



LIBRARY

News and Events

with Mrs McCarthy and guests

During the Autumn term, the library has been open as an inclusive space for all pupils. It has been lovely to meet the many year 7 pupils, who have visited the library regularly, after their induction in September.

Mrs McCarthy is so impressed with their enthusiasm that she has recruited several new pupil librarians from year 7, who have been learning how to issue books to their classmates and how to add new stock to our catalogue. Book borrowing remains high for this year group; encouragement from parents will help to keep reading for pleasure going for every year group at St Joseph's.

There are many eager Chess players, book group members and revision groups using the library during break and lunch and it has been heartening to see friendships developing through mutual interests.

Please encourage your children to come and have a look at the books and activities on offer.

Dahl's Golden Tickets

To celebrate 60 years since the publication of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and to raise money for Cafod, pupils were able to buy one of Mrs McCarthy's SJHS 'Wonka' bars from the Cafod Café. Anyone lucky enough to find a Golden Ticket in their wrapper, could exchange it for a book of their very own.

Cafod Café is open during Thursday lunch break, during week one of the timetable, and the library is open every break and lunch for pupils to borrow books, complete homework and take part in activities.

Here are two of our winners Evan and Jakob, both in Year 7, with the books they chose.



Connor Allen Workshop

The library happily hosted a visit from local poet Connor Allen, who delivered an engaging and thought-provoking activity for some members of the Book Group and the Community Ministry.

Connor is a welcome guest to the library named in his honour, and pupils used the time to think about their own unique abilities, personalities and values. As always Connor was able to pass on his message of acceptance and inclusion to a captivated group of pupils who had many fascinating questions about his journey as a poet, playwright and Welsh poet laureate. Many thanks to Mr Nunn for arranging the visit.



Thank you

Read
for Good



After applying for their Brilliant Box of Books scheme, we are delighted to receive a large box of books from www.readforgood.org. The delivery included a mix of award-winning books, graphic novels and non-fiction and caused a buzz when they were unpacked by the Year 7 & 8 Book group. The Read for Good vision is that all children develop a life-changing love of reading through having access to books in schools and hospitals.

Check their reading recommendations on the following link:

Read For Good

KEY LIBRARY DATES FOR NEXT TERM:

Wednesday 1st January

Reading Resolutions: Encourage your child to set a reading goal. Just 20 minutes of reading each day can help reduce stress, improve schoolwork and help to develop empathy.

Monday 27th January

Holocaust Memorial Day - there are many books in the library to help pupils empathise with those in conflict across the world.

Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th February

Children's Mental Health Week

Thursday 6th March World book day. Pupils will receive a world book day token which can be exchanged in most bookshops and large supermarkets. We will also have some of the World Book Day books in the library.

Tuesday 11th March

The Carnegie Medal Shortlist is released. Pupils in the book groups will begin reading the shortlist.

CYBER

Cybergirls & Cyberfirst

Year 8 Cybergirls

A school record of 72 girls competed in this years Cybergirls competition, making a total of 22 teams! It was fantastic to see so many girls sign up to this years competition, and special thanks to Mr Geeves who signed up the most students out of the whole of year 8.

The 10-day competition saw our Year 8 girls competing with teams across UK. The competition is split into regions, with our teams competing with over 40 different schools across Wales. The format of the competition means that the top placed school team goes on to represent the school against all other competing schools within the region. As such, our winning team, BE AI, came 4th overall in Wales! This is a fantastic achievement with the team consisting of Isabelle, Arabella, Emme and Bella scoring over 1000 points more than our top team last year!

The girls have been invited to a celebration dinner awards night next year at the Celtic Manor as a result of their achievements

Our top 3 teams:

1st BE AI: Isabelle, Arabella, Emme and Bella.

2nd Hackstreet Girls: Anjelina, Nimmy, Eesha and Eira.

3rd Ctrl+Alt+Defeat: Isabella, Caitlin, Seren and Olivia.



BE AI



Hackstreet Girls



Ctrl+Alt+Defeat





Anonymous R Us: Labaayka, Sophie, Bella and Babar
Code Monkeys: Nandor, Nicolas, Deedee and Hannah
404 Not Found: Oliver, Edwin, Joel and Jorge

KS4/5 USW Cybersecurity Competition

The USW Cyber Competition, is aimed at KS4 and 5 students across the whole of Wales and the South West of England. This is it's first year of running and SJHS entered a strong contingent of 34 teams made up from a mixture of year 10 and 11 GCSE computer scientists, Year 12 & 13 A level computing students and Year 12 & 13 Cam Tec IT students. The competition organisers contacted us to say we had the most entries out of every school!

Over the week long competition, students needed to complete a series of problem-solving challenges, winning points in order to progress to the competition final. 12 teams from England and 20 from Wales will progress to the finals. After all the results had been counted, we had three teams that have made it through.

Its great to see so many Year 10's make it through to the finals, having competed against Year 12 and 13 Computing students! Our top team came 4th in Wales, while our second placed team, Code Monkeys who are made entirely of Year 10's, placed 10th in the whole of Wales! The three teams will now compete in the regional finals at USW, Newport along with seven other teams from the area later next year. We wish them all good luck for the finals!



MINECRAFT CLUB



This term the Digital Leaders have run Minecraft Monday for all KS3 students. This term, we have focused on digital citizenship, in particular collaboration, developing cooperation and teamwork to build different structures in the Minecraft world. So far, the computing room has been full to capacity! The digital leaders will continue to build on themes of digital citizenship throughout the year. If you want to get involved, pop into O1 Monday lunchtime!

**Congrats to these
Year 11 pupils who
have joined the
Newport Schools
Rugby U16 District
Squad:**

**Koby Howells
Callum Brustad
Jaziah George
Nye Cain-Culverwell
Fletcher Cain-Smith
Oscar Watkins**



Ashleigh, 11V - Gymnastics

Ashleigh has been selected to represent Wales for the British Teams Championships. She was also selected as part of the Junior/Senior Mix Wales team in the Rushmoor Rose Bowl but sadly was unable to attend but is now working on new skills for the Welsh Championships in February 2025 where she will compete her first year at senior level. Congratulations Ashleigh.



Mollie, 8H - Rugby

Mollie has been signed to South West Rugby 7's Academy (@StashEgg) after some intensive trials, alongside some of her @RugbyKnights teammates. Keep smashing it Mollie!



Kalem, 8O - Speedway

Kalem races in Newport Cycle Speedway and competed in the South West and Wales Junior League this season, comprising of six rounds.

In the final round Kalem raced undefeated for a maximum of 20 points over five races and finally racing and winning the A final. Kalem's results mean that for the 2024 Speedway Season he came 2nd overall.

He also competed in the Welsh Championships and won 2nd place for the Under 12's, and 3rd place Under 14's. Next season he will compete in the South West Junior League, the British Championships, the Welsh Championships and the World Championships 2025. Incredible achievements Kaelm - well done.



Isla, 10T - Hwa Rang Tang Soo Do

Isla performed at an invitational tournament in Worksop alongside many National athletes, her results were fantastic:

Open Hand Hyungs: Isla performed Bassei Dei, and narrowly missed a medal place.

Weapons Hyungs: Isla won Bronze also performed Dan Gum Hyung (Single Dagger).

Individual Fighting: Isla was placed in a 1st Dan (Black Belt category), Isla won Gold beating two very experienced and talented Black Belt fighters two ranks above her.



Aggelos, 10J - Football

Aggelos represented Newport and District Schools FA playing against Cardiff schools this month. Well done Aggelos, we think there is a bright future head!



SJHS Basketball teams



Boys Rugby, Year 8

PERFECT





Girls Netball, Years 7 and 8



Boys Football, Year 10



Boys Rugby, Year 10



Boys Football, Years 7 and 8

* A P E *



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 fulfils 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	
6	Term begins
16	Year 11 Parents' Evening
21-7 Feb	Year 7 Welsh Trip to Llangrannog
30	Year 11 Pathways' Evening
Feb	
06	Year 12 Progression Evening
17	Footloose Matinee for Primaries
18-20	SJHS presents Footloose
19	Year 10 English Trip to Wales Millennium Centre
21-1 Mar	Year 8 Skiing in Austria
21-24	Year 13 MFL Trip to Spain
23-28	Year 11-13 History Trip to New York
24-28	HALF TERM

March	
6	Year 9 Parents' Evening
6	World Book Day
7	INSET DAY
13	Year 9 Pathways' Evening
April	
3	Yr9 Vaccinations
10	Year 10 Parents Evening
11	TERM ENDS
11-13	Year 10 Welsh Trip to Urdd
12-15	Year 8-10 MFL Trip to Paris
18-23	Year 7-9 Art/Media Trip to LA

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

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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