

# Insight

Spring 2025 Gwanwyn

The official newsletter of  
St Joseph's RC High School

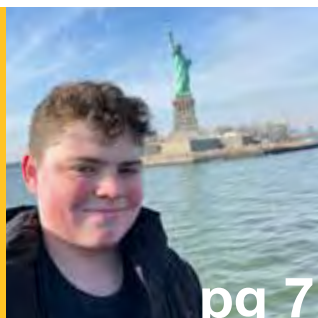
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Ysgol Gyfun Catholig Joseff Sant



SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER

YN GWASANAETHU DUW TRWY DDYSGU GYDA'N GILYDD

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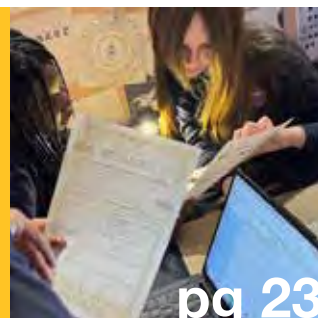
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## Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth

**Mrs J Jarrett** Headteacher

**As we draw the Spring term to a close and look ahead to the joy of Easter, I am once again filled with pride at all that our St Joseph's community has accomplished. This has been a term rich in learning, growth, and service—true to our mission of Serving God Through Learning Together.**

Whether it's the vibrant celebration of diversity through Cynefin Pamoja, the energy and creativity of our stunning Footloose production, or the deep reflection and generosity shown during Lent, our students have shone brightly. Their commitment to their studies, their compassion for others, and their openness to new experiences - whether in the classroom, on stage, or on overseas trips - remind us daily of what makes St Joseph's such a special place.

As we approach Easter, we are reminded of the hope and renewal that comes with the resurrection. It is a time to pause, give thanks, and look forward with faith. I encourage all our families to find time over the break to rest and reconnect, and to reflect on the strength we draw from our shared values.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. May you and your families have a blessed and peaceful Easter.

**With every blessing,  
Mrs J Jarrett**





*“Discover the beauty of diversity  
in belonging together”*

Cynefin Pamoja



# CYNEFIN PAMOJA

**We are delighted to strengthen our anti-racist practice by now working in conjunction with Cynefin Pamoja.**

Cynefin Pamoja (Belonging Together) is a vibrant community group for African and Caribbean people - a hub for cultural exchange, an advocate for environmental sustainability, and a nurturing space for youth development. They also focus on enhancing employability and education, empowering individuals with skills and opportunities to thrive in their personal and professional lives. Nkechi and Billy visited us and led a discussion and presentation with pupils from our Community Ministry.

**We were delighted with their feedback about St Joesph's:**

**The group dynamics:** Very cohesive, diverse and a strong sense of community amongst different year groups.

**Anti-bullying pupil policy ratification:** Proactive ratification. The inclusion of pupils is encouraging and shows that the policy incorporates those it will impact.

**Diversity in the Curriculum pupil review:** Measured implementation of progressive radicalism. The adoption of 365 celebrations instead of one-off awareness celebrations is welcomed.

**Cultural celebration evenings:** Very innovative way to include parents and community members into diversity initiatives.

**Ethos felt:** Primarily a strong sense of belonging and community. Everyone is on board and pupils are aware of why things are in place. It is definitely clear that pupils are retaining what is being taught.



# Easter Message

The resurrection of Jesus is like the quiet dawning of a new day heralding the defeat of the night.

*“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’”*

**John 20:18**

Our Saviour meets us personally and intimately at unexpected times and places. When we meet Him, our grief and doubt are overcome. We are flooded with joy and peace as we move from sight to faith.

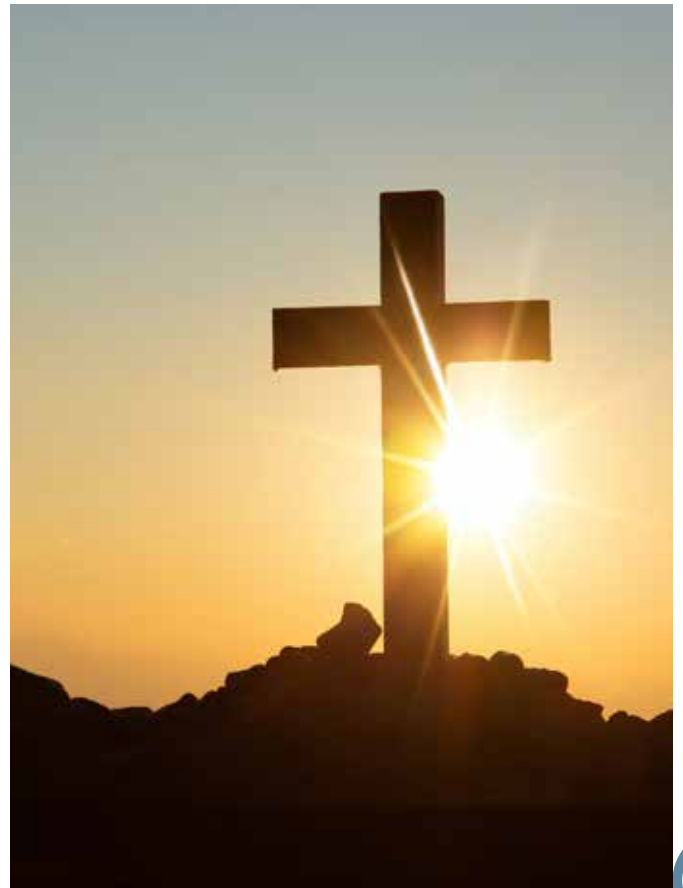
Jesus' resurrection is about God loving us so much that He is willing to go to any length to find us in all the wrong places. We go looking for God in the familiar, in the places where we expect to find God. In Jesus' resurrection God finds us when we are down and out and when we have lost hope. God rolls back the stones that bind and confine us. He stands waiting with a familiar voice that calls us to new life and to “go and tell.”

Jesus opened up a new relationship for us through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Jesus became the final sacrifice for our sins. He has given us free access to God the Father, to whom we can come in times of need.

So how do we get close to God and keep close to Him? First, we do so by prayer. The person who keeps close to God is the one who is always talking to God. Second, we do it by constant study of the Scriptures. God's word is alive with meaning, and when we read it, something will happen to us. Third, we do it by sharing with others. Nothing is ours if we do not share it. When we share, the things go deeper inside us. We have to share what God is doing in our lives

All Jesus wants from us is our hearts. He longs for our lives. In return, He will be with us everywhere and all the time. He will be with us in the good times and in the tough times. He doesn't promise that we will be immune from the problems of this life. He does promise that He will go ahead of us. He meets us along the way of life's journey. Sometimes the harsh realities of life are so overwhelming that we forget Jesus is alive. He has conquered death, and our future is safe in His hands.

*Dear God,  
Thank you for the joy that  
Easter brings.  
Help me to live each day with  
a heart full of gratitude and  
happiness, knowing  
that Jesus has overcome  
the world.  
May my life be a reflection  
of Your love and joy, bringing  
glory to Your name. Amen*





# JEWISH COUNCIL VISIT

On Tuesday the 25th May, two volunteers from the Jewish Council visited Year 9 and Year 10 to deliver a workshop on Judaism. During this workshop, students were able to listen to the experiences of Orthodox and Reform Jews and develop their understanding of Judaism. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were engaged throughout. Niamh Holton in 10J said that *"It was really interesting to listen to the life of a Reform Jew and it was interesting to see items such as a menorah in person."*

Ranel Dava said *"I appreciated having the opportunity to ask questions to help my understanding and it was really interesting to hear how they follow their religion."*



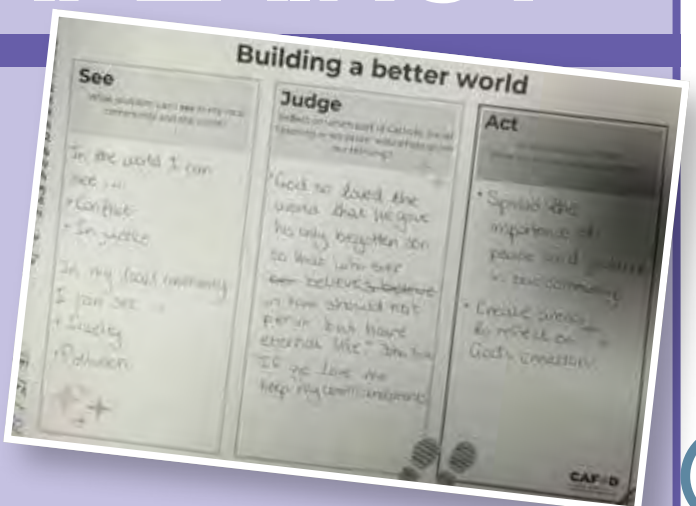
# LENT RETREAT

Throughout the season of Lent, pupils have visited the chapel to learn about the season of Lent and its importance. During their experience, they have had the opportunity to develop virtues such as being curious and active by being able to ask questions and explore how they can participate in the season of Lent.



# YOUTH CHAPLAINCY

This term, Youth Chaplaincy have been focused on celebrating the season of Lent. During Youth Chaplaincy meetings, discussions have revolved around how we can put our faith into action this Lent to mirror Jesus' examples. The pupils have created Lent cubes which included activities that they could participate in this Lent help their spiritual growth. Also, with this Jubilee Year focusing on the theme of hope, they have also discussed ways that we as a community can support others and the Common Good. **CAFOD Café continues to run every Thursday Lunchtime Week 1 where all items are 50P and the money raised will go to CAFOD.**



# HISTORY GOES TO NYC



**YEARS 11-13**



From the awe-inspiring views atop the Empire State Building, to the moving experience of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, the trip offered a powerful blend of education and adventure.







**During February half term, 60 students had the unforgettable opportunity to experience the history, sights and culture of one of the most iconic cities in the world – New York City. Over the course of five action-packed days, pupils immersed themselves in the vibrant energy of the city that never sleeps.**



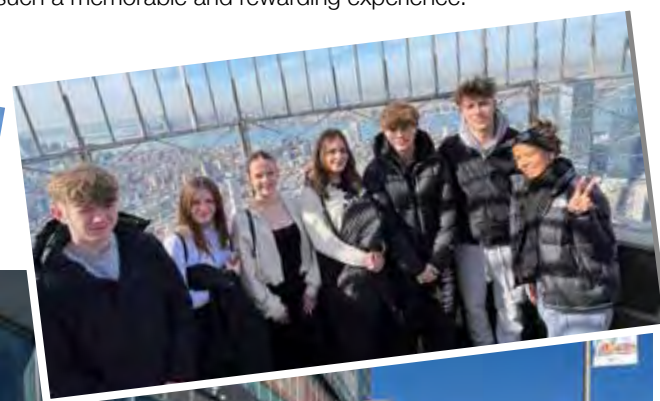
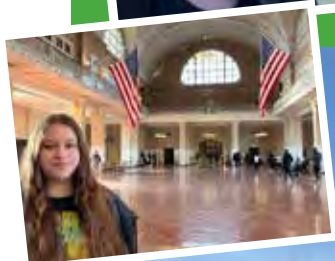
## A word from Mr Doughton

Students explored Times Square, strolled through Central Park, and enjoyed the electric atmosphere of an NBA basketball game as the Brooklyn Nets took on the Oklahoma City Thunder – a definite highlight for many.

A standout moment of the trip was the Harlem Civil Rights Tour, where pupils walked in the footsteps of influential leaders and learned about the pivotal role Harlem played in the fight for equality and justice. This powerful experience brought to life key themes from History offering students a deeper understanding of America's Civil Rights movement.

The itinerary also included visits to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, where pupils explored stories of immigration and identity, linking perfectly with our GCSE and A Level courses. A guided tour of the United Nations Headquarters further broadened students' global awareness and sparked thoughtful conversations about international relations and diplomacy.

Throughout the trip, students represented the school with maturity and enthusiasm. Their behaviour was exemplary, and the staff were immensely proud of how they represented the school. A huge thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to make this trip possible, and to the students for making it such a memorable and rewarding experience.





# Footloose



## I can't believe it's all over!

It has been an absolute privilege to work with such an enthusiastic, talented, and dedicated group of students over the past months. From their first tentative steps learning the choreography to the passionate, full-throttle performances, every moment is a memory I will cherish forever.

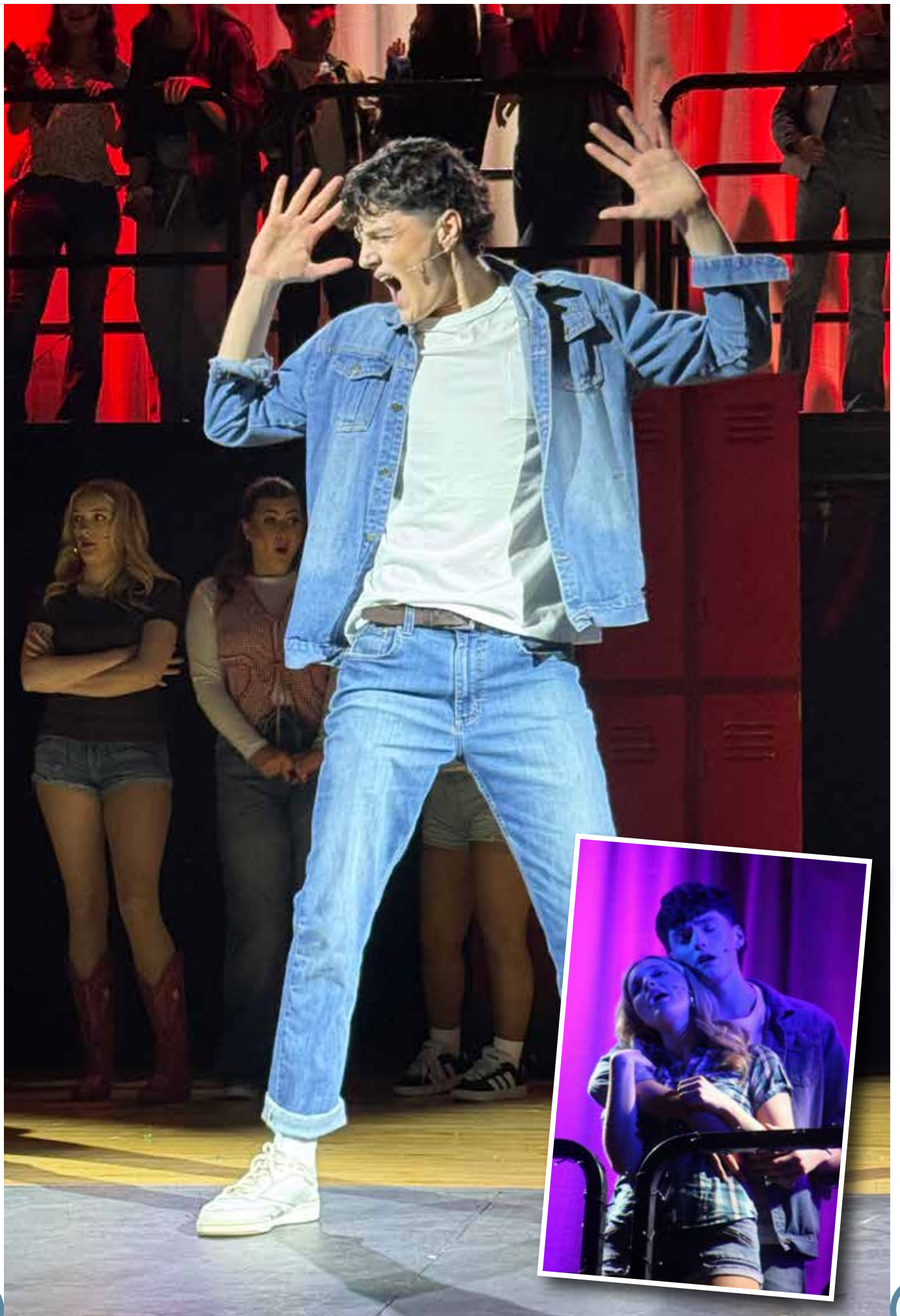
Footloose is more than just a high-energy musical with infectious songs and dazzling dance numbers. At its core, it's a story about community, resilience, and the power of connection. It reminds us that through challenging times, our strength comes from listening to each other, embracing change, and learning to move forward together. These themes feel especially poignant in our ever-changing world, and it was simply inspiring to watch our students bring this message to life with such joy and authenticity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my incredible production team for their unwavering support, our backstage crew for their hard work behind the scenes, and the families of our cast and crew for their patience and encouragement. Most importantly, I want to thank our students for their energy, creativity, and passion - qualities that make St Joseph's RC High School such a special place.

**Miss Bryony Doyle, Head of Performing Arts**











## School Production of 'Footloose' A High-Energy Hit!

by Mr Mark Rowlands

St Joseph's RC High School production of Footloose had the audience on their feet, tapping along and even busting a move or two. From the first note of the opening song to the final, heart-pounding dance number, this young cast demonstrated not only their talents but their undeniable passion for bringing the 1980's classic to life.

Directed by Miss Doyle, the production was a high-energy spectacle that balanced humour, heart, and plenty of impressive choreography. The set, though simple, perfectly captured the small-town charm and oppressive mood of Bomont, while the colorful lighting design added an electric atmosphere, matching the show's vibrant energy.



*"The St Joseph's show is absolutely my favourite event of the school calendar, every time I am blown away by the talent and passion from the cast and production team. Footloose was an exciting, vibrant expression of freedom and friendship with and infectious energy - great music, sensational singing and dynamic dancing. Fabulous."* **Mrs Laetitia Kent**

everybody cut loose







*“Footloose was the best experience in school so far for me! From the rehearsal process to show week, everyone supported each other and helped one another develop their performance. I had the most amazing time, I learnt so much and will remember it forever!”* **Poppy Slavin, Year 12**



# Gweinidogaeth dros y Gymraeg



Gweinidogaeth  
dros y Gymraeg

**In a recent pupil voice survey, the student body agreed that we should aim to achieve the Bronze Campus Award. So in response we have begun to investigate and implement the necessary changes to achieve this award.**

For example, we have increased Welsh signage around school including our digital signage around the campus. This means Welsh translations are more prevalent around the school encouraging students and staff to use Welsh more frequently.

The Welsh Ministry is also planning an assembly in school about the benefits of learning Welsh, highlighting how it can help job applications because it demonstrates students can interact and communicate successfully with a wider audience.

Finally, we have also discussed and made posters about different Welsh heroes to be put up in each classroom. For instance, in Music, we might do Tom Jones and a little segment about who he is and what he has done as a singer in hopes to further educate pupils about different Welsh figures.

**We are always open to more ideas and suggestions concerning how to promote Wales and the Welsh language in school.**

# SCHOOL COUNCIL YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE

## Ministry for Curriculum



Ministry for  
Curriculum

**Over the course of the last term the Ministry of Curriculum has been acting on our priorities.**

We have fed back to Heads of Year, to ask that when pupils are consulted on issues for school life through pupil voice, the questions allow us to give anonymous responses on a google form. We also asked that they avoid using a 1–10 scale option, as no-one realistically gives a 1 or a 10 in these answers.

The Ministry also asked that more detail was provided to pupils in Year 9 who were making their option choices. This resulted in greater emphasis on assessment methods for the new GCSEs in the prospectus, and during subject presentations on the pathways evening. Teachers also recorded new loom videos for all subjects so that even if Year 9 pupils missed a presentation, they were able to find out about a subject online, rather than missing out on the information.

**Next term, we plan to compile a list of potential experiences pupils should have before they leave school, and to explore how careers education is covered in learning plans of some departments.**

Written by Maja Kuczynska Year 9



# Ministry for Community



## Community Priority 1:

- Two new banners have been designed to explicitly show our anti-racist and anti-discrimination stance.
- 750 pupils across 3 year groups have had assemblies explaining the approach we take.
- Pupil leaders have ratified the anti-bullying policy and are now creating a version accessible to everyone.

## Community Priority 2:

- Pupils leaders are reviewing the SJHS curriculum with HODS and staff.
- This will ensure diversity is explicit in the curriculum whilst also de-colonising our approach.
- We have also had held an Indian and Filipino Cultural Celebration weeks which

have been a great success. Pupils have shared ppt resources to teach the context of each subject from through their lens and perspective.

## Community Priority 3:

- Several staff are involved in anti-racism training with DARPL.
- Cyenfin Pamoja of Newport are also actively involved with us as a school and will visit again this term.
- 'No Boundaries' have trained all Year 7 pupils in an anti-racist approach and Andrew Ogun will work with Year 11 and Vi Form pupils in April.

**We are always open to more suggestions concerning the school and our community environment. Please chat to your council representative with any ideas you have.**

# CYNGOR YSGOL EICH LLAIS CHI, EICH DEWIS CHI

# Ministry for Wellbeing



## For most of this term we have been working on starting a wellbeing club.

Hi I'm Diya and I am the secretary for the Wellbeing Ministry. We have decided to call our new Wellbeing Club 'Creative Minds'. We have established this club in order to support pupils with their wellbeing and to make them feel a sense of belonging in our school community.

The Wellbeing Ministry are also working on a display board with wellbeing helplines and support groups and wellbeing strategies for your daily life - so watch out in the corridors and on the digital screens for updates.

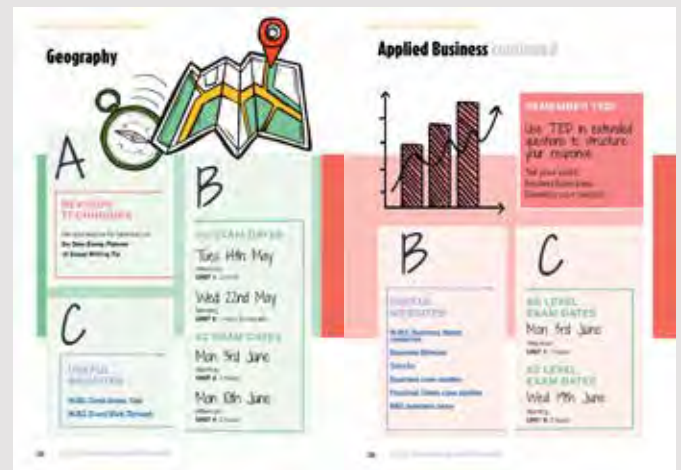
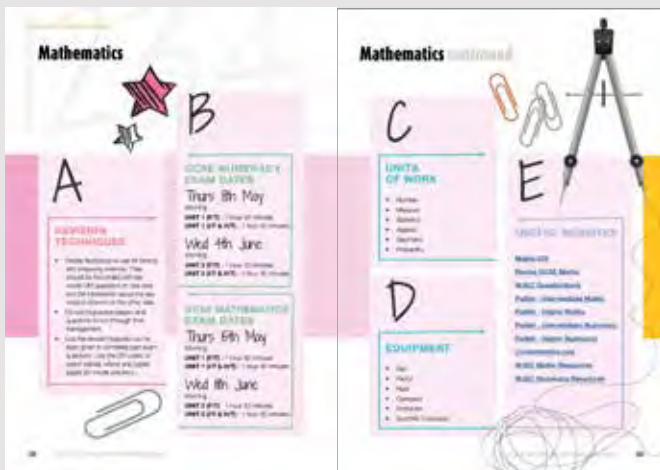
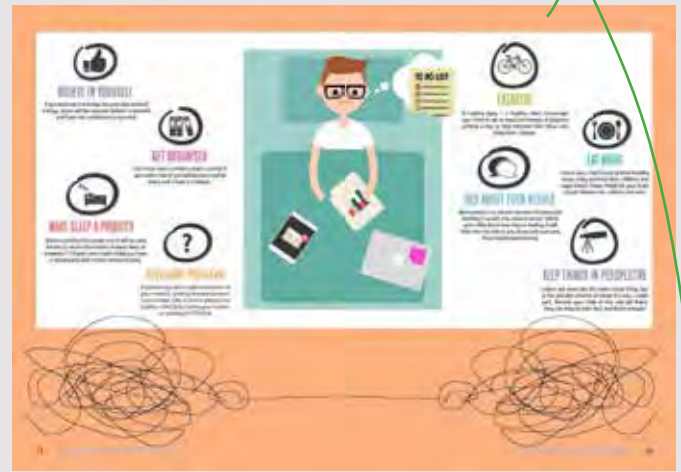
The main aim of the ministry is to ensure that no one is struggling and that there is always someone to talk to. We as a wellbeing team will continue to make changes to help our school community making sure everyone feels welcome and included.

**We are always open to more suggestions concerning our community's wellbeing and mental health. Please chat to your council representative with any ideas you have for the future, or if you would like to visit the new Wellbeing Club 'Creative Minds'.**

# Revision Books

Year 11 [www.sjhs.org.uk/revision](http://www.sjhs.org.uk/revision)

Year 12/13 [www.sjhs.org.uk/6threvision](http://www.sjhs.org.uk/6threvision)



*SJHS Revision Booklets include GCSE, AS and 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*







St Joseph's School library hosted a visit by pupils from St David's and St Michael's primary schools. They were accompanied by their teachers and Mr Watts who, since retiring from St Joseph's, runs reading groups in Newport primary schools.

## A big welcome to St David's Primary and St Michael's Primary pupils: Celebrating the Carnegie Medal.

Year 5 and 6 pupils paired up with some of our Year 7 book group members to discuss books previously shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal prize for writing. We read the opening pages of six books from across the decades, then they looked at some reviews, judged the covers and decided which ones they thought they would like to read the most. After taking a vote with our Strictly Come dancing style paddles, three books came out on top.

**The most enthusiastically received books were:**

**'When The Sky Falls' by Phil Earle**

**'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by J.K. Rowling**

**'Small Change for Stuart' by Lissa Evans**

It was wonderful to meet with keen readers who will be joining us at St Joseph's later this year. As always, our year 7 pupils were so welcoming, kind and encouraging.

Our year 7 book group attempted to guess which books would make it onto the Carnegie Medal Shortlist this year. The winners were Agnes and Albie, who both correctly guessed 5 of the 8 titles. Mrs McCarthy's top tip for the final winner in June is Matt Goodfellow's 'The Final Year' and she is eagerly awaiting the release of the sequel, 'The First Year' in April.

# SJHS LIBRARY



## World Book Day

**This world book day, pupils tried to work out which teacher was behind their favourite book.**

*Can you guess who these teachers are?*

Mrs McCarthy still has plenty of copies of the free world book day books in the library so if you can't find them in the shops, please do come up and ask for a copy.

Congratulations to Gabby who won the poster design competition, and Albie, Riley and Theo who won the competition to create a video to promote the library. They can collect their prize from the library.



## Valentines Day

In February, pupils were encouraged to read something they might not usually pick by selecting a mystery book from the library. Thank you to the Y7 book group who helped prepare these gifts and to all the borrowers for their enthusiastic support.

# Yr Urdd Eisteddfod

DIOLCH YN FAWR IAWN am eich cyfraniadau hael a'ch cefnogaeth wrth godi arian ar gyfer Eisteddfod yr Urdd y bydd yn cael ei chynnal yng Nghasnewydd yn 2027. Ar Ddydd Gwener y 24ain o Ionawr, sef diwrnod Cariad@Urdd, gofynnwyd i disgyblion a staff wisgo eitem o goch, gwyn neu wyrdd i'r ysgol i helpu codi arian ar gyfer yr ŵyl ieuencid fwyaf sy'n cael ei chynnal yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn a llwyddon ni godi £346! Roedd Mistar Urdd yn falch iawn o'n hymdrechion!

A great big THANK YOU for your generous contributions and support in fund raising for the Urdd Eisteddfod which is being held in Newport in 2027. On Friday 24th January, which is the Cariad@Urdd day, pupils and staff were asked to wear an item of red, white or green to school to help to fundraise for the biggest youth festival held in Wales every year and we managed to raise £346! Mr Urdd was very pleased with our efforts!



**Diolch**  
**Thank you**  
**£346**



**Urdd**

## SANTES DWYNWEN

Roedd disgyblion Blynyddoedd 7-9 yn dysgu am Santes Dwynwen ym mis Ionawr a pham mae hi'n santes bwysig yn niwylliant Cymru. Nawddsant cariad a chyfeillgarwch yng Nghymru ydy Santes Dwynwen a gofynnwyd i disgyblion Blynyddoedd 7-9 ysgrifennu neges o garedigrwydd at eu ffrindiau ac athrawon.

Dosbarthwyd y negeseuon hyn ar Ddydd Santes Dwynwen y 25ain o Ionawr gan aelodau Cyngor Cymraeg. Roedd yn hyfryd gweld llawer o negeseuon Cymraeg meddylgar a charedig yn cael eu dosbarthu i ddisgyblion a staff.

Pupils in Years 7-9 were learning about Santes Dwynwen in January and why she is an important saint in Welsh culture. Saint Dwynwen is the patron saint of love and friendship in Wales and pupils in Years 7-9 were asked to write a message of kindness to their friends and teachers.

These messages were given out on St Dwynwen's Day the 25th of January by members of the Cyngor Cymraeg. It was lovely to see lots of thoughtful and kind Welsh messages being distributed to pupils and staff.

**Da iawn pawb!**





# PAM CYMRAEG? WHY WELSH?

Cafodd 14 o ddisgyblion Blwyddyn 11 y cyfle i gwrdd â a sgwrsio gydag amrywiaeth o bersonoliaethau Cymraeg i drafod pwysigrwydd a manteision siarad Cymraeg yn ystod mis Rhagfyr 2024 yn Ysgol Uwchradd Casnewydd. Cymerodd Blwyddyn 11 ran mewn nifer o weithdai gydag lolo Cheung, newyddiadurwr newyddion sy'n darlledu ar y BBC yn Saesneg ac yn Gymraeg, cyflwynwraig radio Molly Palmer sydd hefyd â'i sioe radio ei hun ar Radio Cymru, Brett Johns sy'n athletwr MMA proffesiynol a Nick Yeo sy'n podledwr a bardd.

Roedd Blwyddyn 11 yn gallu gwrandao ar bob un o stori'r personoliaethau Cymraeg am sut mae'r iaith Gymraeg wedi cael effaith ar eu bywyd yn ogystal â defnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg i gymysgu cerddoriaeth yn Gymraeg a chyflwyno eu cyswllt radio eu hunain i sgiliau newyddiaduraeth a phwysigrwydd defnyddio iaith effeithiol a dal llygaid fel pennawd.

**Roedd y bore yn llwyddiannus iawn a roedd llawer o Gymraeg yn cael ei chlywed a'i siarad gan y disgyblion.**

14 Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to meet and chat with a variety of Welsh speaking personalities to discuss the importance and benefits of speaking Welsh during December 2024 at Newport High School. Year 11 took part in a number of workshops with lolo Cheung, a BBC news journalist who broadcasts for both BBC Wales and BBC Cymru, Molly Palmer a radio presenter who also has her own radio show on Radio Cymru, Brett Johns a world champion MMA fighter and Nick Yeo, a podcaster and poet.

Year 11 were able to listen to each of the Welsh personalities story of how the Welsh language has had an impact on their life as well as using the Welsh language to mix music in Welsh and introduce their own radio link to journalism skills and the importance of using effective and eye-catching language as a headline.

**The morning was very successful and lots of Welsh was heard and spoken by the students.**



# Staff behind the Daff

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

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

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

Roedd llawer o waith ditectif a oedd yn mynd ymlaen a llawer o gyffro a rhagweld cyn iddo gael ei ddatgelu mai Mr Frost oedd y staff tu ôl i’r daff! Diolch i Mr Frost am fod yn gyfranogwr gwych a llongyfarchiadau i’r canlynol a ddyfalodd mai Mr Frost oedd tu ôl i’r daff.

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

There was lots of detective work going on and lots of excitement and anticipation before it was revealed that Mr Frost was the staff behind the daff! Diolch to Mr Frost for being such a great sport and well done to the following who guessed that it was Mr Frost behind the daff.

**Blwyddyn 7 / Year 7**  
**Winner : Amanda Sroka**

**Blwyddyn 8 / Year 8**  
**Winner : Stefano Arhin**

**Runners up:** Molly Morgan, Oliwia Dunaj, George Sibi, Holly Payne, Lily Hodge, Izzie Trangmar, Ava Ramos, Dara Souza, Louie McKenna, Annie Lau, Shianna Davies, Summer Dudley, Lucia Carretero Casas, Brianna Ngwenya, Larol Liska and Gabriella Winterflood.

**Staff**  
**Winner : Mrs S Parry**







# CYMR AEG

## Year 7 Llangrannog

Ar ddiwedd mis Ionawr 2025, aeth Blwyddyn 7 i Wersyll yr Urdd Llangrannog ar gyfer penwythnos o hwyl a gweithgareddau tu allan. Ar Ddydd Gwener 31ain Ionawr, teithiodd 50 o ddisgyblion mewn bws gyda Mrs R Davies, Miss K Read, Miss T Berry a Mr A Pavey ar ddaith dwy awr i Orllewin Cymru. Roedd y tywydd yn oer iawn ond roedd y daith yn ardderchog ac roedd cyfle i bawb i fwynhau mynd sgïo, beicio cwad, cyrsiau rhaffau uchel, gwibgartio, waliau dringo, nofio a llawer mwy! Yn y nos, roedd llawer o hwyl fel chwarae gemau yn y canolfan hamdden, mynd i'r siop a chwarae pêl-droed ar yr astro! Ar ôl mwy o weithgareddau bore dydd Sul gan gynnwys y ceir gwyllt a saethyddiaeth, mwynheuodd pawb ginio rhost Sul blasus cyn i ni deithio adref.

At the end of January 2025, Year 7 went to The Urdd Activity Centre in Llangrannog for a weekend of fun and outdoor activities. On Friday 31st January, 50 students travelled by bus with Mrs R Davies, Miss K Read, Miss T Berry and Mr A Pavey on a two hour journey to West Wales. The weather was very cold but the trip was fantastic and everyone had the chance to enjoy skiing, quad biking, high ropes course, tobogganing, climbing walls, swimming and much more! In the evening there was lots of fun such as playing games in the leisure centre, going to the shop and playing football on the astro! After more activities on Sunday morning, including go-karting and archery, everyone enjoyed a tasty Sunday roast dinner before travelling home.





# A WONDERFUL NIGHT OF CELEBRATION

# FILIPINO

# HERTITAGE

*Puno ng Pananampalataya  
at may Pag-asa  
Faith-filled and Hopeful*

**A wonderful £1,150.16 raised  
for Hospicio de San Jose**



A spectacular evening! Wonderful people, a welcoming community, captivating performances and delicious food. It was enjoyed by all who came and brought to life by wonderful hosts, talented performers, engaging guest speakers, generous sponsors and the incredible event organizers of course. Thanks to their collective efforts, the celebration came to fruition and enabled the Filipino community of Newport and St Joseph's to come together in a beautiful appreciation of our culture and heritage.

Moreover, the compassionate nature of the Filipino students conducted a supportive environment for performing and learning with valuable insight into our heritage, traditions and culture being provided through their engaging, informative presentations and virtuosic performances.

The surprise guest appearance of the beloved Filipino national icon and treasure, Jollibee, spread joy throughout the hearts of many in the audience. As a childhood favourite and a familiar taste from home, its presence evoked nostalgia and excitement. And, thanks to their generosity many were able to enjoy and savour their coveted peach mango pies.

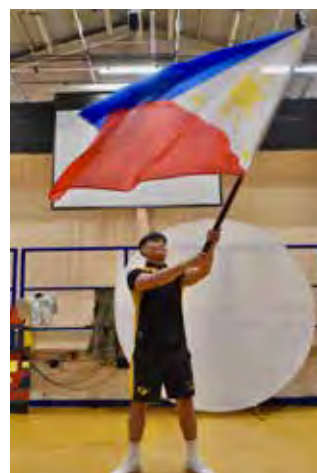
The event was only made possible by the wonderful Filipino community, Filipino students of St Joseph's and wise guidance of teachers such as Mr Nunn who was a great support throughout the entirety of the planning and organising process.

**Written by Javier Gonzalez**





Thank you to Mr J Cruz for sharing his wonderful photos







**This week marked St Joseph's inaugural Celebration of Filipino Culture. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on the Philippines' contributions to society through subject presentations crafted and delivered by students of Filipino heritage.**



Students and guest performers took to the stage clad in traditional Barongs and Filipinianas to perform classic Filipino hits, folk dances, and insightful talks on the customs, history, and art of the Philippines. Whether by graceful movements in the Carinosa dance or soulful musicality in renditions of Nosi Ba Lasi, Harana, and Ako Ay Pilipino.

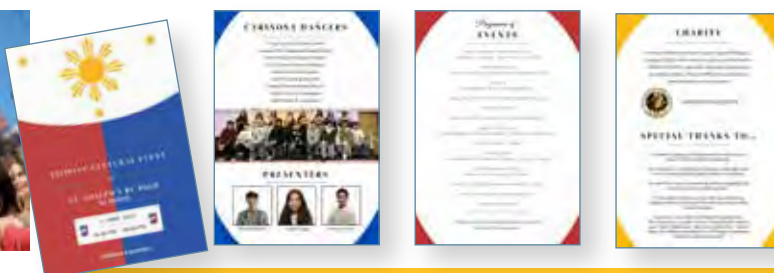


Guests had the opportunity to experience a taste of the Philippines through popular Filipino pastries and snacks offered during the interval, including sweet crackers and chiffon-based mamón. However, a spirited entrance from Jollibee, the largest and most famous fast food chain in the Philippines, surprised guests and quickly became a highlight of the evening. Their peach mango pies and iconic Jollibee mascot brought out the child in everyone, with even the mayor and head teacher revelling. We sincerely appreciate Jollibee Cardiff for their generous support for our school event.

Co-presenting the first Filipino Cultural Night alongside Steven and Keisha has definitely been one of the highlights whilst at St Joseph's. As a second generation Filipino immigrant, it was empowering to see the school and Filipino communities collaborate to provide a platform for young, British-born Filipinos to honour their heritage.

Whilst the night provided a stunning display of our traditions, the true culture lay in the unmistakable Filipino camaraderie - our 'Bayanihan spirit' - in overcoming the challenges of preparing the event. It is this spirit of unity and shared determination that we must embrace to truly honour our school ethos of respect, responsibility and relationships. May we all continue to demonstrate the Bayanihan spirit in our St Joseph's community.

**Written by Tennessee Cruz, 13A**



## Our huge thanks go to:

- \* The compere's, Steven, Tennessee and Keisha.
- \* All the musicians, singers and dancers.
- \* The pupils that taught us about culture, art, history and music.
- \* The Parents and Carers and their enthusiastic support.
- \* Mrs Flores for helping so much with the overall organisation.
- \* The Parent committee that decorated the hall.
- \* Pam's Mixes for the delicious breads provided.
- \* Jolibees restaurant and the much loved mascot!
- \* John our caretaker for all his help and patience.
- \* Our pupils for creating educational resources for all lessons.
- \* Teachers for using these Filipino resources in lessons.
- \* All charitable donations made supporting San Jose hospice in the Philippines and our school.
- \* Salamat! St Joseph's Community Ministry.







# BIG BIRDWATCH

## *You said...we did!*

By Aidan Dempsey 13B, SJHS Community Ministry Environment Leader

The Big School Birdwatch run Sixth Formers Tadhg, Maksym, Ruda, Zenith and Aidan was completed between 13:30 to 14:30 on the school playing fields today. A big thank you to Mrs Burke and Mr Driscoll for their help in organising this event.

50 Starlings  
70 Jackdaws  
70 Rooks  
2 Magpies  
2 Woodpigeons  
1 House Sparrow  
10 Pied Wagtails  
10 Lesser Black-backed Gulls  
20 Black-headed Gulls  
10 Herring Gulls

A special thanks to Tadhg for his help in making this School Birdwatch feasible as well as sharing his cool bird knowledge and expertise with us on the day.

The quantities of birds we saw listed below are estimated, as exact counting and many species weren't possible to spot accurately due to the large crowds of Rooks and Jackdaws.



# ART CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

This term, our Sixth Form Art students have been attending lots of workshops organised by Mrs Stephens. They have experienced studio life, fabulous facilities and inspirational workshops with professional artists. They have all created some amazing sketchbook pages, glass pieces, fabric paintings and much more. *“Learning about what a creative pathway could look like at university is exciting”.*



## Cardiff MET Art Campus

We were treated to a talk from some student ambassadors about life as an art student. We then split into groups and had the opportunity to try out pottery, animation, abstract acrylic painting and textile screen printing. We all took our lovely creations home!



## CAVC Workshop

Year 11 and 12 Cardiff and the Vale Art Foundation Course. After a tour and a talk from the course leader Lou and chatting to some foundation students about their work we got to participate in a bookbinding workshop and created our own using collage and stamps. After lunch, we got messy making terracotta figure forms and learned how to monoprint directly onto wet clay with coloured slip! We took our pieces home to fire back in school.







## Cardiff Museum and Craft in the Bay

We visited Cardiff Museum to check out their recent exhibit which looks at the 'selfie' as an art form. We even got a chance to see an original Van Gogh self portrait which was on loan to the gallery. In the afternoon we hopped on the minibus to Cardiff Bay and had a walking photography tour as well as a visit to Craft in the Bay gallery.



## Swansea University and Glynn Vivian Gallery

Glass Making Degree Course : students were treated to a tour around the art campus and got a chance to experience what a day in the life of an art student might feel like. Students then created some fantastic enamel pieces which were fired in a special chamber very cool! After lunch, we visited the Glynn Vivian Gallery showing an exhibition of the work of artist Skin Phillips, a photographer who has been at the heart of the skateboarding scene as it evolved from an underground movement to a multi-billion dollar industry



# Cyber Security & CyberFirst

## SJHS CyberGirls @ ICC

Written by Isabelle and Arabella.

On February 12th, we visited the ICC for a CyberGirls competition celebration event. We were invited to this event along with Mr Wyatt for our achievement in winning the inter school competition and coming 4th in Wales overall. At this event, we had the honour of meeting the highest ranking women in the cyber industry! We also were able to play a game of capture the flag (a series of computer related questions where for each correct answer you could earn points) against the other top 10 teams in Wales (we came 4th again!) and hear from a panel of guests from the Cyber industry who shared tips and insights into how to make it in Cyber.

When we arrived we were shown up the stairs to sign in and receive our lanyards before heading into a room which was full of stalls from all the cyber companies that sponsor CyberFirst. We were able to head around and speak to representatives of each company and receive a few free souvenirs! After this we were able to get some lunch and wait for our next activity!

Finally, for the moment you all have been waiting for, capture the flag. We had questions to do with phishing attacks, coding and some reading comprehensions to do with everything cyber. It might have been rather difficult at times, however it was a great experience and made a fun bonding experience for the team. This also helped our teamwork, communication and creativity.

After this, we headed down to the conference room to listen from a panel of inspirational speakers from the cyber industry about networking. They explained how they got to where they are now through meeting with others and how we can go about doing that as well.



We heard from Felicity Oswald OBE, Chief Operating Officer for NCSC, about how the amount of women in cyber has decreased from 75% to 17% since wartime.

We then were able to get changed into our outfits for the evening before heading back out to meet Mr Wyatt and wait for the dinner. At the dinner we were at a table with representatives from our school's industry partner Airbus and members of the NCSC. The dinner was delicious and other girls were receiving awards in between courses. We were also able to speak to the women on our table and find out about their experiences and get advice for getting into cyber.

In summary, we have created lifelong memories and have been able to find out all about going into the cyber industry. We have all enjoyed being able to have such an incredible experience and are all so grateful for being able to go. We are also very excited to take part in the next competition later this year, The Cyber Explorers Cup, along with another friend!

Congratulations to the  
SJHS Cyber Girls finalists:  
Isabelle, Arabella,  
Emme and Bella





## Cyber Adventurers with Cyberfirst

Earlier this March, 50 of our Year 9 students took part in the exciting Cyber Adventurers Course, delivered by CyberFirst. The event was supported by interns from our industry partner, Airbus, who worked alongside students as they tackled a series of real-world challenges designed to test and develop their problem-solving skills and critical thinking. The day kicked off with a unique data analysis task, where students had to build their ultimate Quidditch 'Dream Team' – combining logic and statistics with a touch of wizardry! Next, students faced a multi-layered challenge involving data mining, cyber security, language analysis, and cryptography. Working in teams, they raced to uncover hidden clues and crack codes to gain access to a mysterious final safe.

The day concluded with an ethical twist – a lively discussion about the rise of fake news and the increasing impact of Artificial Intelligence on how we consume information. Students then had a chance to get creative, crafting their own humorous fake news headlines and learning how to identify misleading or altered content through careful analysis.

All students threw themselves into the experience with enthusiasm and we were incredibly proud of their teamwork, creativity, and resilience throughout the day. We hope this inspiring event has sparked a lasting interest in the world of Computing – and we look forward to seeing many of them continue their digital journey next year!

## USW Cyber Security Finals

**Earlier this year, three teams, made up of students ranging from years 10-13, from St Joseph's qualified for the USW Cyber Security Competition finals!**

The finals, which were held on the 14th March saw 10 teams at USW Newport, 10 teams at Cardiff University and 10 in UWE, Bristol battle it out in a mass online capture the flag competition!

The competition was fierce, and there were reports that on some occasions our team made entirely of year 10 students (Nicolas, Nandor, Deedee and Hannah aka the Code Monkeys) had taken an early lead! By the end of the competition, our brother sister team of Simon, Sophie, Zohaib and Labaakya (Anonymous R Us), clinched a fantastic third place overall while 404 Not Found (Oliver, Edwin Joel and Jorge) achieved the most competitive award for their hard work and determination within the finals despite being one team member down for the finals.



## The Enigma Experience

Last week, we were thrilled to welcome back the CyberFirst team to St Joseph's for the much-anticipated Enigma Experience! This exciting event was designed to introduce our Year 7 students to life in a CyberFirst school—and what better way than through an immersive code-breaking challenge?

Each tutor group had just one hour to decipher encrypted messages and assist the Allied forces in cracking the infamous Enigma code. The challenge room's immersive design and atmospheric sound effects brought the experience to life, making students feel as though they were truly at the heart of a wartime intelligence mission.

A huge congratulations to the fastest team of the day - Lucy, Summer, and Esha from 7S - who cracked the code in record time! All winning tutor teams were rewarded with this spring's must-have accessory: a pair of exclusive CyberFirst sunglasses! We'd also like to say a big thank you to our brilliant Digital Leaders, who supported every session with enthusiasm and expertise. As a reward for their hard work, they were treated to their own high-level code-breaking challenge. Congratulations to Genevieve and Chloe, who completed it in the fastest time, while Nicolas and Nandor secured a strong second place. Well done to everyone involved.

**It was a fantastic two days of teamwork, problem-solving, and cryptology!**





# NEWPORT RFC

A huge thank you to Friends  
of Newport Rugby for their  
sponsorship of the tournament.



# RUGBY 7s

**We were delighted to host the Newport Schools Year 11 Rugby 7's tournament on Tuesday 18th March. The tournament was inaugurated by Newport RFC to celebrate their 150th season and the contribution school rugby has made in developing young players who have gone on to wear the famous black and amber jersey over the years.**

Click below to watch the video on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/EwOet4bzEyo>

Seven schools attended for a round robin format across a full day of rugby with WRU affiliated referees giving up their day to oversee proceedings. Members of the Newport RFC committee were in attendance, including club Chairman Mark Workman and club President Brian Jones, as well as current players and volunteers from the Friends of Newport Rugby Trust.

The rugby on display was excellent and every game was played in good spirits. However there was one dominant team who were particularly clinical with ball in hand and resolute in defence, Bassaleg, managing to win each of their matches to lift the trophy and become the first name on the trophy, which was made by Miss Griffiths in the DT department. There was also a Player of the Tournament award, named in memory of the former Newport RFC, Wales and British & Irish Lions player Dai Watkins, which was received by Bassaleg pupil Ethan Bosworth.

We look forward to next years event and seeing which school and pupil will have their name etched onto the trophies.







*“Rugby 7’s is fast paced and exciting - it was honour to host such an amazing day”* Mr G O’Driscoll







# WELCOME



**Isabella** has done exceptionally well across the Welsh Cross Country season. Brilliant and congratulations.



**Jay** congratulations to @JayPriceGK who was named on the first team bench for the first time against @tnsfc.



**Giuseppe** A massive well done to Giuseppe who won on an unanimous decision in his fight in January.



**Julia** Winning the Gold Medal this term has given Julia the opportunity to go and represent Wales at the British Gymnastics Championships.



**Olivia** won international gold and the Championship ProAm Title (Professional&Amateur) 12-15 yrs.



**Asa Jr** congratulating Asa-Jr on his selection for the upcoming @bballengland Aspire Talent Programs Super Region Tournament.



**Harrison** Congratulations to Harrison in Year 7 who, with and his team - Caerleon U12s - won the Newport cup yesterday against Corries.



**Mollie** congratulations on your signing with @StashEgg South West Rugby 7's Academy after the challenging trials.



**Aisling** What an amazing achievement! WUMA British Champion...we are very proud of you Aisling.



**Year 8 Netball** Great fun this afternoon with boys v girls Netball matches. Thank you to Mrs Parry for organising!







**SJHS Year 11 Rugby 7s Team**



**Newport Corinthians U14's** It is brilliant to see our five students succeeding in and outside of school!



**Year 8 Basketball Team**



**Year 7 Netball Team**



**KS3 Girls Football Teams**



**Year 9 Football Team**



**Year 9/10 Basketball Team**



**Senior Basketball Team**



**Year 10 Rugby Team**



# NEW KIT

A huge thank you to Miss Bignall and the PE team for helping our Girls KS3 Football Team to fundraise for their new kit. They played their first tournament looking the part last week at John Frost School. Smashing!

# Dates for your diary 2025

## Summer Term TYMOR YR HAF

April	
9	Basketball Finals, Bangor
11-13	Year 10 Urdd Welsh Trip
12-15	Years 8-10 Paris MFL Trip
18-23	Years 7-9 Los Angeles Art & Media Trip
28	First Day of Summer Term
May	
5	May Day BANK HOLIDAY
8 May - 24 June	GCSE & A Level Written Exams
26-30	HALF TERM
June	
8 May - 24 June	GCSE & A Level Written Exams
6	Year 12 UCAS/Apprenticeship Day
11	KS3 Celebration Evening
17	Year 7 Parents' Evening
26	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
27	INSET DAY

July	
1	Years 7 and 8 Sports Day
2	Years 9 and 10 Sports Day
2	Years 7 and 8 Eisteddfod
2	Year 6 Transition Evening
3 & 4	Year 6 Transition Days
4-6	Year 9 Glan-Llyn Welsh Trip
7-11	Year 12 Porthcawl Beaches Science Trip
8 & 9	Year 12 Cardiff Criminology Trip
8	Year 7 Cardiff MFL Trip
11	WBQ Summer Fayre
14	Year 12 Work Experience Week
16	Year 8 Cardiff MFL Trip
TBC	Summer Concert
18	LAST DAY OF TERM

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



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