

Insight

Hydref 2025 Autumn

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

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



SI DEUS NOBISCUM



SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER

YN GWASANAETHU DUW TRWY DDYSGU GYDA'N GILYDD

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Mrs J Morgan
Headteacher

As the Autumn term draws to a close, I would like to thank the whole school community for the warm welcome and support I have received as I have taken up the role of Headteacher.

Headteacher's Message negeg y penneth

It has been a real privilege to serve St Joseph's in this new capacity, and I am immensely proud of the experiences and achievements of our young people this term.

The breadth of our pupils' talents — across sport, music, drama, art, computer science, and many other areas of the curriculum — continues to impress and inspire me. One particular highlight of the term was our Mission Week, during which our school community had the opportunity to pause,

pray, and reflect on our faith and the relationship with God that lies at the heart of our school's mission. I would like to thank Mrs Burke, who led our mission, and Father Matthew Roche-Saunders, who led the visiting Mission team and who I am sure will become a regular and valued visitor to St Joseph's.

Another highlight was our Polish cultural celebration evening, which brought our community together to celebrate the richness of Polish culture through food,

dance, and even a quiz. An unforgettable evening which reminds us of the richness and diversity of our wonderful school community.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy Christmas, and I look forward to the new year as we continue to work together in support of our young people.

Cyfuno astudiaeth fanwl o'r Gymraeg - iaith, llenyddiaeth a diwylliant - gyda dealltwriaeth eang o newyddiaduraeth.



Sioe Deithiol Addysg Uwch

Daeth Lowri Thomas o Sioe Deithiol Addysg Uwch Prifysgol Caerdydd i'n hysgol ym mis Rhagfyr i siarad â disgyblion Blwyddyn 10 ac 11 am bwysigrwydd dysgu a defnyddio sgiliau Cymraeg tu fas y dosbarth.

Roedd y gweithdy yn addysgiadol iawn a roedd Lowri yn sôn am fuddion dysgu'r iaith Gymraeg at Safon A a fel gradd, ysgoloriaethau prifysgol ar gael, profiad gwaith a gyrfaoedd posibl o fewn meysydd Cymraeg fel CD Cymru, BBC, GIG Cymru, Llywodraeth Cymru a S4C yn ogystal â chyfleoedd rhwngwladol wrth ddefnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg.

Hoffen ni ddweud diolch yn fawr iawn wrth Lowri am ei hamser i ddod a siarad â'n disgyblion i gyd.

Lowri Thomas, from the Cardiff University Higher Education Roadshow, came to our school in December to speak with Year 10 and 11 pupils about the importance of learning and using Welsh skills outside of the classroom.

The workshop was very informative as Lowri mentioned the benefits of learning Welsh at A Level and as a degree, she also discussed the university scholarships available, work experience and possible careers within Welsh fields such as FAW Wales, BBC, NHS Wales, Welsh Assembly and S4C as well as international opportunities whilst using the Welsh language.

We would like to say a big thank you to Lowri for taking the time to come and speak to all our pupils.

[Astudio Cymraeg ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd](#)

[Studying Welsh at University of Wales](#)



LEST WE FORGET



£108.20 raised. Thank you for your support.

During November, our school once again fell silent at 11am to remember all: Those that have fought and sacrificed their lives in war and conflict. Mrs Burke led a remembrance service for the whole school, Joe Cross (Year 13) read 'In Flanders Fields' and at 11am Yianis (Year 12) played the 'Last Post' before a minute of silence. At 2pm, a smaller service was held around the poppy emblem painted on our school field, Year 7 pupils, along with representatives from the Cadets and St John's Ambulance, laid over 100 crosses in remembrance of all those that have died and suffered in the battle for our freedoms today.





On the 1st November, twenty students from St Joseph's RC High School were honoured to take part in the annual Remembrance Service at the ICC Newport. Representing the school and the History department were Ivy Pinches, Libby Williams, Enrico Di Rienzo, Ethan Dudley, Noah Morgan, Noah Bradshaw, Liam Brustad, Liam Linton, Elliott Champs, May Vincent, Olivia Stepien, Nina Hilton, Sara Bradshaw, Emaan Vaseem, Aleisha Lacorte, Frasier Thomas, Aggie Pouch, Oliver Baran, Tobias Perry and Deona Danie. Each pupil played an important role in the ceremony and embodied the values of dignity and respect throughout.

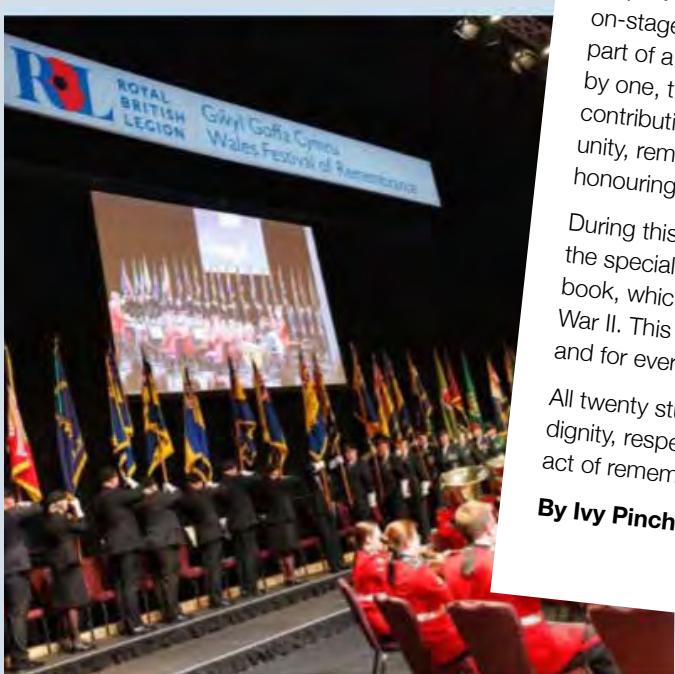
The service brought together schools, community groups, and local representatives to reflect on the sacrifices made by servicemen and women, especially those who lost their lives during World War II. Our students watched the full ceremony, which included readings, music, stories, and moments of quiet reflection.

As part of the proceedings, all twenty students took part in a meaningful on-stage presentation. Each student carried a puzzle piece that formed part of a large poppy - the traditional symbol of remembrance. One by one, they walked across the stage and passed their pieces along, contributing to the completion of the full poppy puzzle. This symbolised unity, remembrance, and the importance of everyone playing their part in honouring those who served.

During this presentation, Enrico Di Rienzo and Libby Williams were given the special responsibility of placing poppies onto the remembrance book, which held the names of individuals who lost their lives in World War II. This was a touching and significant moment for both students and for everyone watching.

All twenty students represented St Joseph's RC High School with dignity, respect, and pride, contributing to a powerful and memorable act of remembrance.

By Ivy Pinches and Libby Williams



Advent 25

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

Isaiah 9:2

The quiet strength of Christian hope.

Advent is the season when the Church invites us to wait, not passively, but with a heart awake and expectant. Hope is the virtue that makes this waiting possible. It is not optimism, nor the wishful thought that things will ‘turn out fine.’ Christian hope is deeper: it is the steady trust that God is already at work, even when His presence seems hidden.

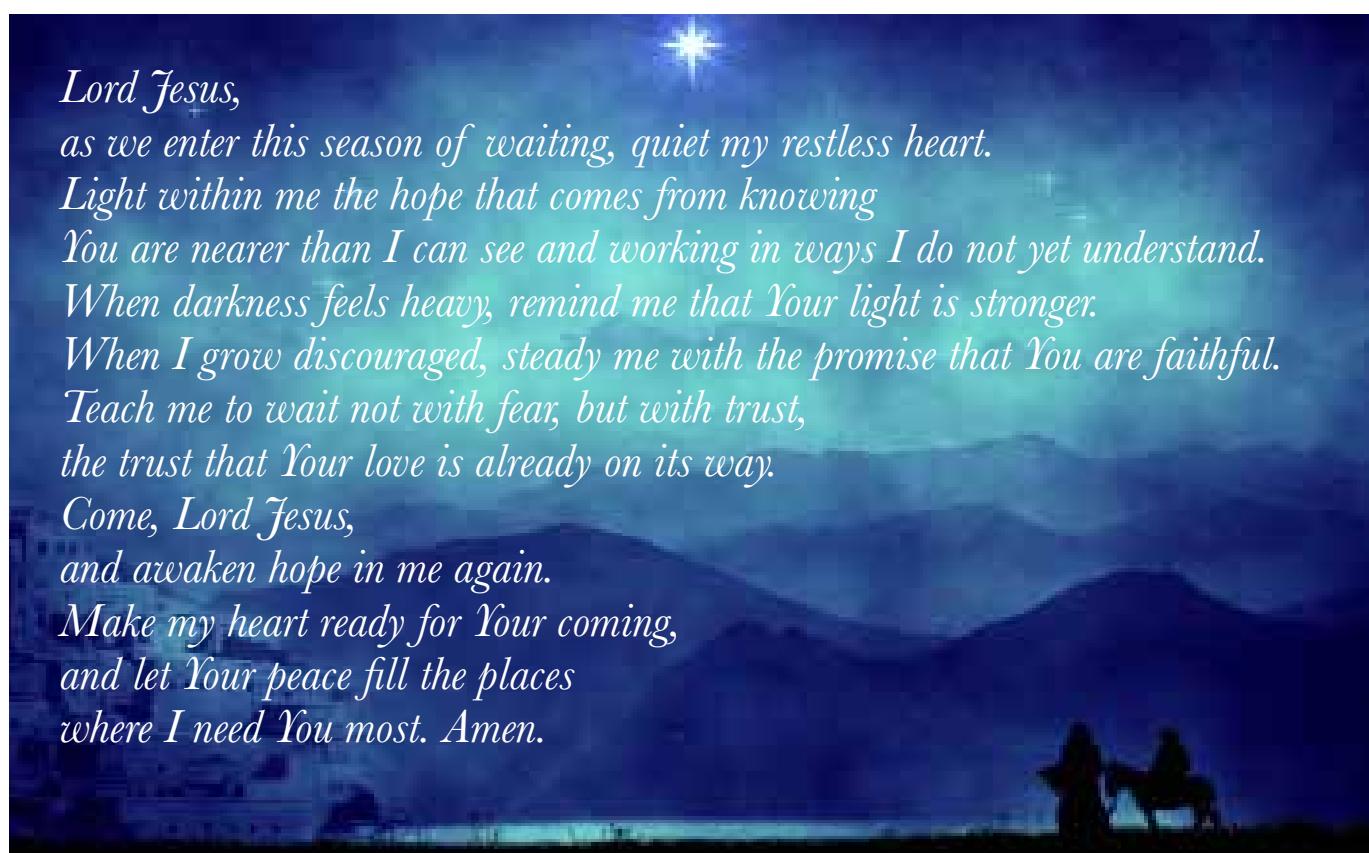
In the stillness of Advent, and in the Jubilee Year of Hope, we remember that God enters human history not with spectacle but with a whisper: a child in a manger, a promise wrapped in vulnerability. Hope is born exactly in places that seem unlikely. This is why Advent hope is courageous. It looks honestly at darkness yet refuses to believe darkness has the final word.

In Isaiah 9:2 the prophet reminds us “*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*” Light didn’t come because

the world suddenly became worthy, peaceful, or ready, it came because God is faithful. Advent asks us to trust that same faithfulness today.

Hope grows when we prepare room for Christ to enter our lives. Each small act of charity, each moment of prayer, each choice to forgive or begin again becomes a candle lit in the night. As we wait for Christ’s coming both in history and in glory, we discover that He is already coming to us now, in quiet ways, through grace that sustains us and love that does not fail.

This Advent, may hope be the anchor of your soul, gentle, steady, and unshakable. May you notice the places where God is already drawing near. May your heart learn again to wait with trust for the One who always keeps His promises.



*Lord Jesus,
as we enter this season of waiting, quiet my restless heart.
Light within me the hope that comes from knowing
You are nearer than I can see and working in ways I do not yet understand.
When darkness feels heavy, remind me that Your light is stronger.
When I grow discouraged, steady me with the promise that You are faithful.
Teach me to wait not with fear, but with trust,
the trust that Your love is already on its way.
Come, Lord Jesus,
and awaken hope in me again.
Make my heart ready for Your coming,
and let Your peace fill the places
where I need You most. Amen.*

ST JOSEPH'S CHAPLAINCY TEAM



News and updates from the Chaplaincy team

This term, CAFOD Cafe has returned on a Thursday lunchtime every week 2. During CAFOD Cafe pupils will be selling hot chocolate, cookies, fruit and soup to raise money for CAFOD. This is led by the Youth Chaplaincy team and all items are 50P.

Pupils have also been making bracelets ready to sell for their chosen charity. The Youth Chaplaincy team have also been celebrating the month of the Rosary and are preparing to celebrate the first season of the Liturgical Year; Advent. If pupils are interested in preparing and celebrating Advent, then please come and see Mrs Massaro in G2.

Shoebox Appeal

For the shoebox appeal, pupils from all year groups were asked to bring in an item for a boy/girl to form a shoe box as a gift. By our pupils showing the virtues of generosity and compassion, this appeal allowed our community to provide items such as toys, hairbrushes, socks and stationary to children around the world. We are incredibly grateful for your donations.

**Cafod
Café**

Ar agor bob
dydd lau WK2
Amser cinio G5

CAFOD
just one world

siocled poeth • cawl a bara • ffrwythau • bisgedi • 50c/£1

Yr holl arian a godwyd ar gyfer CAFOD

MISSION WEEK 25

The week commencing the 8th December to 12th December, we celebrated Mission Week. This year's theme was called "Freedom" which coincided with the Jubilee Year of Hope and is taken from Luke 4 where Jesus explains 'he has come to proclaim freedom'.

Mission week reminded us that we are all called to share God's love through our actions. Throughout the week, pupils participated in a variety of meaningful activities, including prayer services, classroom reflections, mission-focused projects and social justice initiatives. Christian workshops included Iconography led by the Art department. The RE department led in Christian meditation and letters of inspiration and hope. The music department had pupils rapping to the Jubilee hymn and International languages led a workshop called Keys to Freedom.



Writing raps inspired by Stormzy

Getting creative in Art

Writing to people that inspire us

Each year group had a dedicated mission day throughout the week. Due to GCSE English oral exams, Year 11 will have their mission experience later in the academic year. These experiences are designed to help them understand how we can live out Jesus' call to love and serve others, both locally and globally.

Take time to breathe, to relax, to be yourselves...



Work individually or in a team...





That's a rap Mr Nunn!



Creative interpretation



Using words as pattern



Who inspires us...family, friends?





Writing a rap is much harder than it looks!



Stunning use of colour, even gold pens came out



Thumbs up!



We are 10E...



A special week of reflection





Thanks to all the teachers



Some beautiful letters



Some real talent was seen too



Mission Week 2025



WORKSHOPS/TALKS



CHEF

Carl talks

by Angelica Winterflood

On Monday, 11th November, from 2:00 to 3:20 p.m., our student leadership team had the pleasure of welcoming Michelin-starred chef Carl Cleghorn for an inspiring Q&A session. Head girl, Angelica Winterflood, took the initiative to contact and liaise with the local Newport chef to arrange a convenient time for his visit.



“An informative and insightful experience I would highly recommend for any student seeking to begin their culinary journey.”

Javier, Head Boy

“It was beneficial to learn practical tips on budgeting and preparing simple dishes, especially as we get ready for the upcoming year and the transition to University.”

Joseph, Head Boy

“It was really well done and I learnt a lot.”

Ruby, Deputy Head Girl

Chef Carl began by introducing himself and sharing valuable advice on budgeting and cooking simple, affordable meals. He highlighted how small swaps can make a big difference. For example, choosing Aldi's ketchup as a great-tasting, budget-friendly alternative to more expensive brands like Heinz.

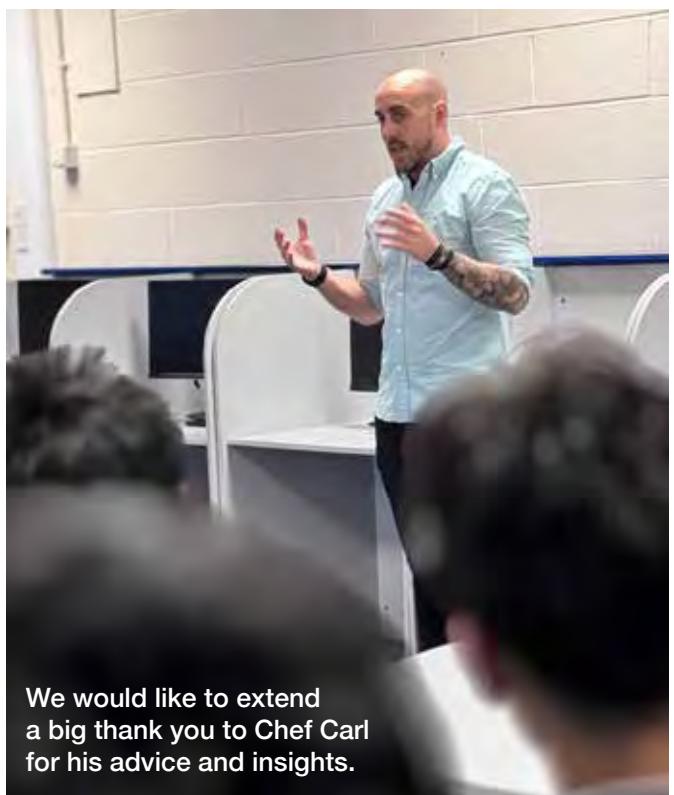
He also encouraged students to buy meat from local butchers rather than supermarkets, explaining that it not only supports local businesses but is also a more affordable and less processed option. In addition to this, he explained the benefits of buying fish, vegetables and fruits from a local market as they are fresher, also mentioning that markets will offer discounted prices if bought during the afternoon because vendors have a company policy to not keep fish overnight.

A final note that stood out was Carl's link to budgeting, time-management and university life. He advised to become close with those living in the same accommodation as this will be beneficial when sharing cooking responsibilities. This advice was advantageous for the students and after the session many were thankful for such an opportunity to hear about these relevant and insightful suggestions.

Students were highly engaged throughout the session, asking thoughtful questions and gaining useful tips for independent living ready for university.

We're now looking forward to welcoming Chef Carl back in January for a hands-on practical cooking session, where he'll demonstrate how to make a dish of our choice, and we'll have the opportunity to recreate it ourselves!

A huge shout out to the Sixth Form Senior Leadership Team, who are actively organising all sorts of workshops and talks for their peers. A great life skill to take forward and we are very proud of your ability to plan, overcome challenges and timetable so many things into your, already busy, academic school life.



We would like to extend a big thank you to Chef Carl for his advice and insights.

Written by William and Adam (Year 13)

ASDA MEAL DEAL TASTE TESTS

It is an essential part of the day...feeding our brains!

As Sixth Form students, we have the privilege of being able to go off site at lunch times, and ASDA is conveniently next door to the school! As you are all aware, ASDA has a wide range of lunch time food, and there is always a good meal deal on offer. One lunch time, Adam and I went out to get our lunch and we both went for the same meal deal.

The idea for the Taste Test came to us, which was to both have the same meal deal, rate each of the items we have bought,

and make a spreadsheet to track our results. Firstly, we would predict what marks out of 10 we would give the deal based on value and variety etc; secondly taste our chosen deal options; and thirdly give our final rating.

This idea has continued since October, and we have continued to buy the meal deals in ASDA and now have a new recruit to our taste test team, Justin from The John Frost School.

So far we have rated a total of 11 meal deals and our goal is to make the best combination meal from everything we have tasted and share our results. So watch this space for the result!



Justin, Adam and Will will be sharing the final spreadsheet and all the test results with all Sixth Form pupils next term.

Sixth Form Workshops

(December to February). For further information see Mrs Davies

Future Tuesdays: 'Life, Study and Beyond' Workshops:

All sessions will take place during PM Reg (2:00-2:30) in the Study Area.

All sessions are open to both Yr 12 and Yr 13 students.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Tues 2nd Dec | VESPA - Effort |
| Tues 9th Dec | Careers Insight 'Business and Management' |
| Tues 6th Jan | VESPA - Systems |
| Tues 20th Jan | Careers Insight 'Art & Design with portfolio advice' |
| Tues 27th Jan | VESPA - Practice |
| Tues 3rd Feb | Careers Insight 'Politics, People and Public Life' (Careers in policing, criminology, social work) |
| Tues 10th Feb | VESPA - Attitude |



Gyrfawr Cymru Careers Wales

Apprenticeships

A Growing Landscape for 16 and 18-Year-Olds.

The greatest variety of apprenticeship opportunities for both school leavers at 16 and those completing A Levels at 18 will be released primarily in February 2026. These roles span sectors such as engineering, healthcare, digital technology, and finance. Students should begin researching now to understand entry requirements and application timelines. Apprenticeships offer a valuable alternative to full-time study, combining paid employment with professional qualifications.

Seasonal Jobs

Gaining Experience and Confidence.

Christmas brings a surge in seasonal employment across South

East Wales, with opportunities in retail, hospitality, and logistics for students aged 16 and above. These roles provide not only extra income but also transferable skills such as teamwork and customer service. To find vacancies, we recommend using the Careers Wales website, which lists local employers and offers guidance on CV writing and interview preparation. Early applications are advised as demand is high.

Advice for Yr11 Parents

For parents supporting Year 11 students, now is the time to help your child develop both a Plan A and a Plan B for post-16 pathways. Whether aiming for sixth form, college, or apprenticeships, plans should account for both high and lower GCSE outcomes. Having these options in place

As we approach the festive season, it's an ideal time to look ahead to the exciting opportunities awaiting our students in the new year. At St Joseph's RC High School, we remain committed to ensuring every young person is well-informed and prepared for their next steps.

before results day in August reduces stress and ensures a smooth transition. Discuss interests, strengths, and career goals with your child, and explore open days and virtual resources together.

Advice for Yr13 Parents

Year 13 students considering university should be finalising applications through UCAS, ensuring personal statements and references are complete. For those exploring alternatives, higher apprenticeships, vocational courses, and direct employment are excellent options. Parents can support by encouraging research into entry requirements and deadlines, and by discussing financial considerations and long-term career prospects.

Hub for AI Innovation

Exciting news for our region: South Wales has been designated the UK's second 'AI Growth Zone', stretching along the M4 corridor from Newport to Bridgend. This initiative is expected to create approximately 5,000 jobs in artificial intelligence and related technologies. For St Joseph's students, this means future opportunities in cutting-edge fields such as data science, robotics, and cybersecurity - areas that will shape the world of work for decades to come.

A Christmas Blessing

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts this Christmas. May His peace fill your homes, His love guide your families, and His hope inspire your plans for the year ahead. Wishing you a joyful and blessed Christmas from all at St Joseph's RC High School and Careers Wales.

TALKING TO

Porsche

Schools Love Reading

by Angelica Winterflood, Year 13

On 5th December, St Joseph's RC High School had the pleasure of welcoming Emma Newton, a Marketing Executive from the Newport Porsche Centre, to deliver an inspiring session for our Year 13 Business students.

Organised by our Head Girl, Angelica Winterflood, the talk aimed to provide students with deeper insights into marketing and offer them practical knowledge that could enhance their personal statements for university applications.

During the session, students explored how Porsche markets its cars, including models such as the 911 Carrera, which proved particularly fascinating for many. Emma shared insights into event marketing, including test-drive events and visits to the Porsche Centre, as well as email marketing and professional photography techniques used to showcase cars effectively. The talk also covered market segmentation, helping students understand how Porsche targets different

customer groups, and included a look at the company's background and strategic decisions, such as relocating from Cardiff to Newport to accommodate larger events and enhance customer experiences.

Emma also provided valuable career advice, sharing her own journey from a psychology degree to a marketing career, highlighting that ambition and transferable skills are often more important than your degree alone. Students learnt about different marketing roles, the hierarchy within the department, and opportunities such as marketing apprenticeships at Porsche Centre.

The session was highly engaging, with many students commenting on how much they enjoyed learning about Porsche's marketing strategies and gaining real-world insights into the industry. Overall, it was an inspiring experience that provided Year 13 students with valuable practical knowledge and motivation as they consider their future careers. We look forward to visiting their showroom in 2026! Thank you Emma!

WORKSHOPS/TALKS



SAFEGUARDING AT SJHS



Using TikTok safely is important because it protects your privacy, your mental health, and your overall well-being.

Keeping your account safe prevents people you don't know from getting personal details about you. It also reduces the risk of bullying or harassment. It is important to use TikTok safely as it can avoid exposure to inappropriate or harmful content as some videos may include dangerous challenges, adult content, violence and misinformation. It is important that you manage screen time. TikTok is social, which means people can leave rude comments and users can spread negativity and videos can be taken out of context.

Please see the guidance below in order that you stay safe when using the TikTok social media platform.

Adjust Your Privacy Settings

TikTok's default settings are more public than many users realise. To stay safe:

- Set your account to Private: (Profile/Menu/Settings/Privacy/Private account)
- Turn off "Suggest your account to others" if you want to stay low-profile.
- Limit who can comment, duet, stitch, or message you.
- Disable location services for TikTok in your phone settings.

Be Careful With Personal Information

Never ever share:

- Your real-time location.
- Your school, workplace, or address.
- Private life details (documents, travel plans or ID).

Remember: Anything posted online can be saved or shared by others.

- Use strong security on your account.
- Enable 2-factor authentication (2FA).
- Use a strong, unique password.
- Don't share your login with anyone.
- Be cautious of suspicious links or 'fan pages' asking for information.



UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge Autumn 2025

A 90 minute, 25 multiple choice question Challenge aimed at students in Years 12 and 13. The problems on the Senior Maths Challenge are designed to make students think. Stimulating problems are included for both beginners and experienced problem-solvers.

MATHS

Congratulations to the following Year 12 and 13 students:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Celine Bestel | Noel Sebastian | Zahrah Magallanes |
| Conor McDonnell | Sean Gurney | Joseph Bailey |
| Aaron Byju | Zara Jones | Kian Harvey |
| Ashwin Chacko | Sayanora John | Yoel Kelati |
| Joshua Chacko | Yianis Muscat | Marc Sana |
| Justin Chacko | Adlin Joby | Noah Grijaldo |
| Emmanuel Suayan | Aryam Sium | Diyon Shaji |
| Jack Chenery | Triumph Mekwunye | Carter Greenaway |
| Marcus Wang | Jennifer Pastuszak | |
| Adam Chua | Leon | |
| | Hannah Joseph | |

“No Boundaries Training & Consultancy has been working with St Joseph’s RC High School and we feel privileged to have had the opportunity to support the pupils at the school. The knowledge and enthusiasm of the young people was exceptional throughout the day and it has been a pleasure to work with the school that places equality and inclusion at the heart of the values of the school”. **Sunil Patel**

Racism Training

Written by Sunil Patel
Director of No Boundaries Training & Consultancy Ltd

Each class received anti-racism education. We explored what the term ‘racism’ meant to include a discussion around the four areas of racism (Skin Colour, Religion, Nationality and Culture). The young people had the opportunity to critically think about their world of experiences and how we are influenced day to day and the impact this has on our behaviour and decision making. In a few of the classes, some pupils shared their experiences that were all from Primary school and in the community, it was very noticeable the empathy from

other pupils who were disappointed to hear experiences of their fellow pupils. Discussions were held on the benefits of celebrating differences through cultures and how this looks in society through the food we eat, the music we listen to and the sports stars we have as role models who are from outside the UK. The pupils were also taught about the impact of racism through inappropriate language with the history provided of the most common words used in acts of racism. Finally, the groups were made aware of the implications of racism including the negative impact on education and career prospects.

“Just wanted to say how impressed I was with 7P in the Racism workshop. Sean was absolutely brilliant and inspiring. He was so welcoming, supportive and informative and all pupils therefore felt confident to share experiences and ask very very important and interesting questions. The pupils were all focused, respectful and I was proud of how mature they were in conversations, questions, and responses. I also really enjoyed it and found it very useful”. **Miss N Adams**

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

The Community Ministry have continued their pioneering work this term to help us progress as a school that aspires to be fully anti-racist and anti-discriminatory. Pupils are consistently and actively engaged in leading ideas and actions to counter racial prejudice, and to promote racial equity and justice.

So far this term, a fab team of five pupils have had ‘Red Card’ training - they are now tasked with completing in-depth, action research into key issues that they feel need to be addressed.

A large number of pupils have also created educational posters to support pupils and teachers understand the contributions made in all subject areas by people of Polish heritage. Next term a dedicated team of pupils will also create resources to

celebrate Welsh successes and then in the summer the eagerly awaited focus will be on some of African nations represented by our pupils. The Nigerian pupils have already started planning their celebration, six months in advance!

We continue to train pupils in anti-racist thinking with the support of the organisation, ‘No Boundaries’. Sean and Sunil led workshops for all Year 7 pupils to continue their work from last year (see the article provided above for more details).

It was great to receive their feedback, they said, *“Thank you for inviting us into the school, we had a lovely day and credit to yourselves, the pupils were great and had very good knowledge around the topics we discussed”.*

Blwyddyn 8

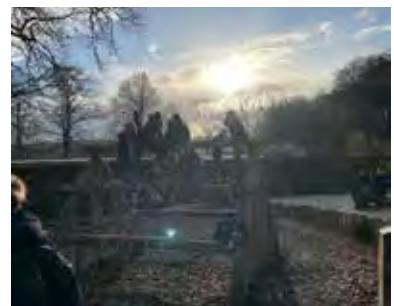
YN YMWELD A SAIN FFAGAN



Edrych am drysor
Looking for treasure



Protestio yng Nghymru
Protesting in Wales



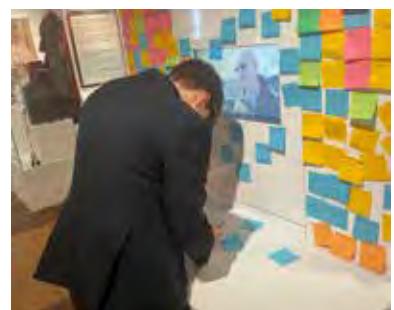
Mwynhaur haul / Enjoying the sun



Ynchwil / Research



Ffeindio syniadau / Finding ideas



Ychwanegu at hanes / Adding to history

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 mynd i Sain Ffagan Amgueddfa Werin Cymru yng Nghaerdydd.

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

Wedyn, ymwelon ni â'r hen ysgol o'r enw Maestir a chawson ni ein dysgu gan athrawes lem 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!



Paid & symud! / No squirming!



Hwyl yn y parc / Fun in the park



Barod an Ymarfer Corff! Ready for PE!

IDIWRNOD SHWMAE

Y wobr gyntaf oedd 2 bâr o docyn rygbi i weld Cymru yn erbyn Siapan a enillwyd gan Amelia Bidhendy 8H a Dennis Febin 9H.

Yr ail wobr oedd siocledi a enillwyd gan Evie Greensill 8O, Asa Abdie-Waite 10H ac Esha Hussain 8S

Y drydedd wobr oedd tocyn neidio dros y ciw cinio am wythnos a enillwyd gan Sophia Bellia 11P, Jack Freeta 9T a Harvey Velasco 10P

Dathlywyd Diwrnod Shwmae llwyddiannus 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 lwcus gan iddyn nhw gymryd rhan mewn Arbrawf Bushtucker gyda blas Cymreig a cheisio nhw ddanteithion Cymreig fel cocos a baw dafad a oedd yn edrych fel rhesins! Da iawn! Gumama Mohammed ac Iris Meddins o 7S a oedd mor ddewr gan iddyn nhw wybod yn gywir y mwyaf o fwydydd y cyflymaf!

Cymerodd gweddill yr ysgol ran mewn cwis thema Gymreig yn ystod amser cofrestru ac enillodd Tyler Gregory daleb anrhed o £20!

Llongyfarchiadau enfawr i'r disgyblion canlynol a gwblhaodd eu cerdyn Bingo Shwmae drwy ofyn i gymaint o staff y gallent sut oedd nhw'n teimlo yn Gymraeg a dyma'r enillwyr (*see above*)

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 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 Gumama Mohammed and Iris Meddins from 7S who were so brave and correctly identified the most foods the quickest!

The rest of the school took part in a Welsh themed quiz during form time, with Tyler Gregory in 8H winning the £20 gift voucher!

Huge congratulations to the following pupils who completed their Shwmae bingo card by asking as many staff as they could how they were feeling in Welsh and were successfully drawn out of a hat for a Shwmae Day prize:

1st prize was 2 pairs of rugby tickets to see Wales v Japan won by Amelia Bidhendy 8H and Dennis Febin 9H

2nd prize was a box of chocolates won by Evie Greensill 8O, Asa Abdie-Waite 10H and Esha Hussain 8S

3rd prize was skip the lunch queue for a week won by Sophia Bellia 11P, Jack Freeta 9T and Harvey Velasco 10P

All in all lots of Welsh was spoken and enjoyed by all.



Gwent Is Coed... Dyna rap!

Cafodd disgyblion Blwyddyn 10 ac 11 eu gwahodd i'r Ysgol Uwchradd Gwent Is Coed ym mis Tachwedd ar gyfer gweithdy cerddoriaeth gyda rapwyr Cymraeg Dom a Lloyd.



Yn 2027, bydd Eisteddfod yr Urdd yn dod i Gasnewydd a roedd y disgyblion yn helpu creu rap y bydd yn gân Croeso yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd a gynhelir yn Nhŷ Tredegar.

Roedd y disgyblion yn rhannu syniadau am beth sy'n bwysig iddyn nhw a beth hoffen nhw gael ei gynnwys yn y gân sy'n berthnasol i Gasnewydd.

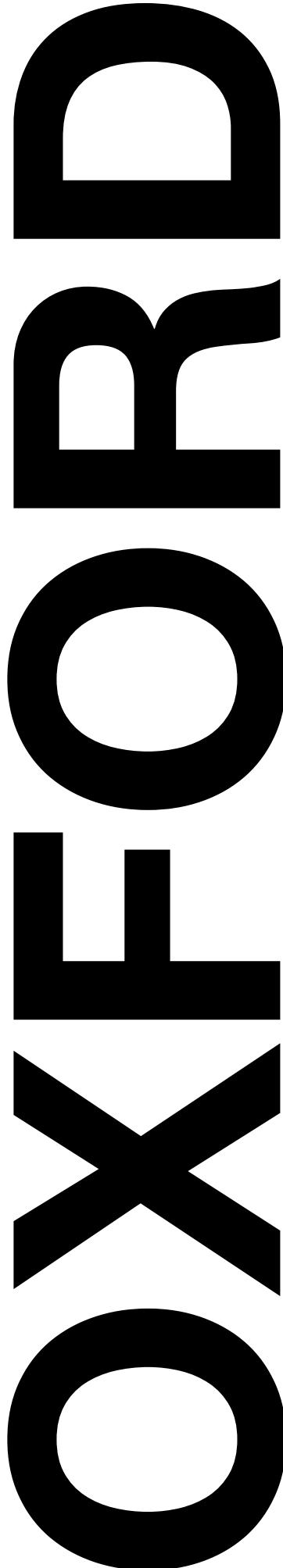
Roedd llawer o syniadau gwych a bydd swydd anodd gyda Dom a Lloyd i ddewis y gorau. Bydd y gân yn cael ei lawnsio ar Ddiwrnod Coch, Gwyn a Gwyrrd ar ionawr 23ain 2026 a bydd e'n cael ei dangos ar gyfrifon cymdeithasol Eisteddfod yr Urdd ac fel rhan o ddarllediad S4C o Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2026 a 2027. Am gyffrous!

10 Year 10 and 11 pupils were invited to Gwent Is Coed High School in November for a music workshop with Welsh rappers Dom and Lloyd.

In 2027, the Urdd Eisteddfod will be coming to Newport and the pupils were helping to create a rap which is going to be the Welcome song at the Urdd Eisteddfod which is taking place in Tredegar House.

The pupils were sharing ideas about what is important to them and what they would like to be included in the song relevant to Newport as a city.

There were lots of great ideas and Dom and Lloyd will have a difficult job of choosing the best. The song will be launched on Red, White and Green Day on January 23rd 2026 and it will be shown on the social accounts of the Urdd Eisteddfod and as part of the S4C broadcast of the 2026 and 2027 Urdd Eisteddfod. How exciting!



To inspire the new Year 10 'Collections' project, we visited Oxford for a day crammed full of art inspiration.

First up, was the visit to Pitt Rivers museums: A weird and wonderfully curated gallery stuffed full of cabinets of curiosities. Here, the students went on a hunt to find historical artefacts, helped by a spokesperson for the museum, who filled us in on some really interesting facts related to each of the items.

Then we moved on to the Natural History Museum, where students got up close and personal with the giant T-Rex skeleton and were challenged to a drawing competition of all the natural antiquities. After lunch, we walked over to the Ashmolean Museum. The museum

houses a vast collection of art and artefacts spanning 500,000 years of human history, with famous items including Egyptian mummies, Greek and Roman sculptures, and works by artists like Raphael and Michelangelo!

On the way home, the students finished off their drawings and submitted them to be judged! Prizes from the gift shops were awarded for the most successful! A fantastic opportunity for Year 10 to fuel the next stage of their Collections project.

Da iwan bawb, Mrs Stevens.

"The Pitt Rivers collections are so cool, the way they are organised in subjects rather than chronologically makes total sense - it helped me to build a real picture of how various cultures find different solutions to the same problem".





THE PITT RIVERS COLLECTIONS & THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM



Workshops and visits



Trips to ignite future creative pathways

AS and A Level pupils visited Bristol for a BANKSY street art tour and a spray painting workshop. Our tour guide, John, took us for a walking tour around the iconic Stokes Croft area of Bristol. Here we got the opportunity to learn all about the street artists who come from all over the world to paint in the area. We visited Banksy's old house and worked next to one of his infamous pieces. In the afternoon, students completed their own tags and created spray painted pieces using stencils.

We also visited Swansea Art University this term for a sandblasting workshop. Students made their own glass pieces inspired by their current personal themes. In the afternoon, we visited the photography campus and completed a pin hole camera workshop. We learnt about the science behind this ancient style of photography. After making tiny cameras and

taking photos outside, we developed our photography in a dark room using specific chemicals and watched our images appear before our eyes!

Also this term, we were fortunate to attend the Creative Careers Expo 2025 at the University of South Wales, Cardiff Campus. A brilliant and varied day of information, advice and guidance through a series of timetabled talks, seminars and workshops.



**Swansea
College of Art**
Founded 1853

BEBRAS

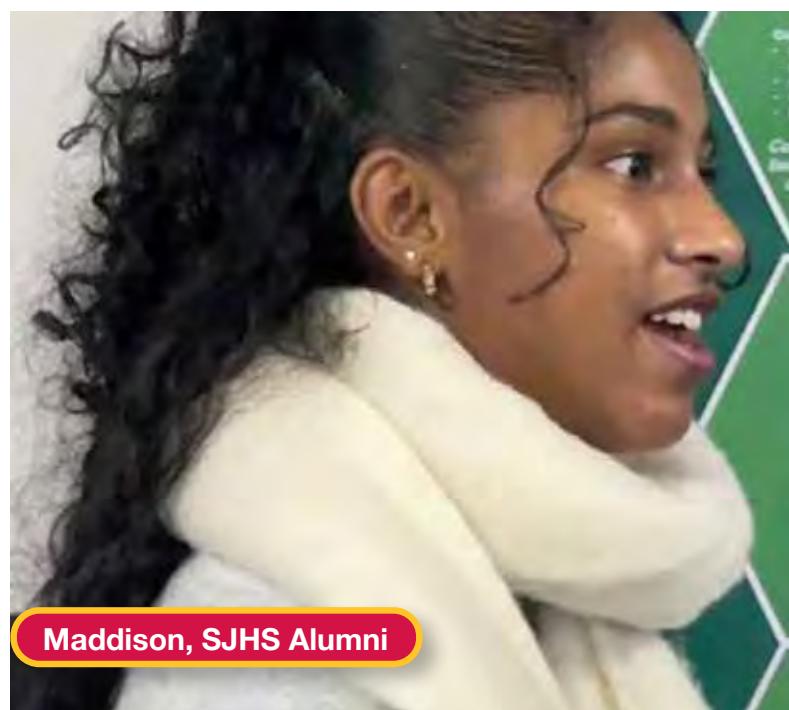
Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

The annual Bebras challenge took place in November. This is an international competition running in approximately 30 countries.

This is our first year entering the competition, which was open to all KS3 students. 60 students took part in the event which required students to answer as many computational thinking problem solving questions as possible within a 45 minute window. While the competition emphasises participation, awards are available with prizes awarded for top achievers nationally and for "Best In School" in each age category. Results are due to be announced in December, so watch this space for an update!



AIRBUS



Maddison, SJHS Alumni



Alumni Talk

The Computer Science department welcomed back one of its top students, Maddison Paul who is currently studying Computing and Cyber Security at Cardiff University. Maddison kindly came in to visit our keen Year 11 Computing students and discuss with them her journey into Cyber Security.

Maddison explained how she got into computer science and the A Levels she did which led her to University. Maddison offered some great insight into her university course and gave the students lots of hints and tips to prepare them for the rigours of university life.

Maddison was absolutely brilliantly and we hope she can return soon to do further talks with our P16 classes!

CYBER Gybergirls & Cyberfirst

CyberGirls

This year's Cyber Girls competition is well under way with another huge uptake of participants!

Open to Year 8 girls, this year we have 80 participants competing across all tutor groups. The event was launched with a taster session back in October for all Year 8 girls, hosted by CyberFirst and our industry partners Airbus.

The competition is run over 10 days, with students competing in teams of four, completing a range of problem-solving challenges in topics such as cryptography, cyber security, logic & coding and networking. The top scoring team from each school will go on to represent the school, with the top 10 schools in Wales being invited to the finals. Having placed in the top 10 for the last four years, we are hoping to continue this success with the bright minds of Year 8!



CyberGirls

CyberFirst Bursary Talk

We welcomed Adam Williams from CyberFirst Wales to the Computing department in October to discuss the exciting CyberFirst bursary opportunity to our sixth form students.

The bursary is worth up to £24,000 to support University studies and also provides work experience opportunities within the National Cyber Security Centre. The presentation was well attended, with a range of Year 12 and 13 students keen to apply. One of the most exciting aspects of the bursary is if candidates are successful in their application, they are not allowed to tell anyone they have been accepted... so we may never know who was successful!



ACE Competition

The ACE Cyber Security Competition, hosted by USW, is back for its second year. Aimed at students within KS4 and KS5, the competition challenges students to work in teams to solve a range of cyber related problems. The competition spans November and December, with the top achieving teams being invited to the competition finals. This year the number of competing schools has increased, spanning South Wales and the South West England.



An evening to celebrate **POLISH** **HERITAGE**



Written by Aleksandra Zyniewicz



The Polish Cultural Evening was a vibrant celebration of heritage and community at St Joseph's. The event opened with a traditional Polonez dance, setting a strong cultural context for the night. Pupils demonstrated their commitment through engaging presentations on Polish literature, sports, and science, including a powerful reading of *Inwokacja* from *Pan Tadeusz* – the iconic opening of Adam Mickiewicz's epic poem, widely regarded as Poland's national literary treasure and performed by Antonina and Adrianna.

The program continued with an outstanding dance performance by Olivia, a world dance champion who also supported the A-Sisterhood charity by raising funds through the sale of traditional Polish cakes and 'chalkas'. Guests tested their knowledge of Polish culture, language, and traditions in a lively quiz before Maja brought the evening to a close with a clarinet performance of the beautiful Polish Christmas carol *Dzisiaj w Betlejem*. The entire audience joined in singing, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. The celebration concluded with a tasting of authentic Polish dishes, giving everyone a true flavour of Poland and leaving a lasting impression of cultural pride and community spirit.

A special thank you goes to PDN Delikatesy in Newport for kindly donating sweets for the quiz prizes. Their generous support added an extra touch of authenticity and enjoyment to the evening.





*“The celebration on the 27th was the ‘icing on the cake’ as our key focus is in asking all class teachers to reference Polish success in their subject area. To support this initiative across a whole school term, pupils have produced supporting posters to be used as teacher reference points across lessons in Years 7-13. We urge teachers to please use these so that pupils of Polish heritage feel recognised in our curriculum and to ensure that all pupils widen their European and global understanding”. **Mr T Nunn***





During the October half term, 60 GCSE and A Level History students from St Joseph's RC High School had the incredible opportunity to visit Berlin, one of Europe's most historically rich and culturally vibrant cities. The four-day trip formed an important part of our commitment to providing meaningful wider learning experiences that deepen students' understanding of the past and broaden their horizons beyond the classroom.

Throughout the visit, students explored sites central to their GCSE and A Level studies. A highlight of the trip was the visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, where students learned about the experiences of those imprisoned under the Nazi regime. The visit encouraged reflection, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the human impact of totalitarianism, persecution, and injustice.

Students also spent time at the Berlin Wall Memorial, tracing the history of Cold War division, escape attempts, and reunification. An underground tour of Berlin offered a unique insight into the hidden bunkers and tunnels used during wartime and the Cold War, helping students connect their classroom learning to the physical remains of history beneath the city.

The group explored many of Berlin's major landmarks, including the Reichstag, where students viewed the German Parliament

building and its famous glass dome; the Brandenburg Gate, a symbol of unity and resilience; and the moving Holocaust Memorial, where students reflected quietly on the lives of the 6 million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust.

A guided tour of the city provided further context around Weimar Germany, Nazi Germany, and the Cold War - key areas of the GCSE and A Level courses. Students also visited the historic Olympic Stadium, learning about its 1936 origins and its significance both then and now.

Alongside these powerful historical visits, students enjoyed a range of cultural and social experiences, including an afternoon at Berlin Zoo, a night of bowling, and a visit to the Hard Rock Café for an evening meal.

Throughout the trip, our pupils represented the school and the History Department with maturity, curiosity, and respect. Their engagement with challenging historical content and their exemplary conduct at every venue made them outstanding ambassadors for St Joseph's RC High School. This visit was a memorable and invaluable experience for all involved.

Thank you to all the staff who gave their time and the pupils for being such a great team and making St Joseph's proud. Mr Doughton



HISTORY'S TRIP TO BERLIN



LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ

St Joseph's students take part in National Holocaust Education Programme.

Two students from St Joseph's RC High School, Maya Odhiambo and Chiara Ruggiero, were honoured to represent both the school and the History Department as part of the Holocaust Education Trust's prestigious "Lessons from Auschwitz" programme.



This nationally recognised initiative gives young people across the UK the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Holocaust through a combination of seminars, testimony, and a one-day visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum in Poland.

Maya and Chiara took part in the full programme, beginning with an orientation seminar led by Holocaust educators and historians. They listened to the testimony of a Holocaust survivor, ensuring that these vital stories continue to be heard by the next generation. The students then travelled to Poland, where they visited both Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau, learning about the people who lived, suffered, and were murdered there.

Throughout the visit, Maya and Chiara demonstrated the dignity, maturity, and compassion that reflect the values of St Joseph's. They spent time in areas such as the barracks, the ramp, and the memorial at Birkenau, engaging thoughtfully with the historical and human impact of the Holocaust. The experience encouraged both students to reflect deeply on themes of remembrance, tolerance, and the responsibilities we hold in challenging prejudice and discrimination today.

As part of the programme, the students will now complete a Next Steps project, sharing what they have learned with others in the school community through assemblies and contributions to lessons ensuring the message of the programme extends far beyond the visit itself.

Maya and Chiara represented the school and the History Department with great pride. Their participation in "Lessons from Auschwitz" forms an important part of our ongoing commitment to Holocaust education, remembrance, and the promotion of compassion, understanding, and justice within our community.



GEOGRAPHY

TRIP TO NAPLES

The Geography department took 40 pupils to the Bay of Naples over half-term.

The pupils arrived early on the Friday morning and took part in a pizza making class before much enjoyment when they got the eat them after they were cooked. They then settled into their accommodation with beautiful views across Sorrento and the Bay of Naples. On Saturday, we went into Naples city centre for a tour of an underground aqueduct before exploring the city centre on an informative guided walking tour. We stopped for some local gelato over lunch which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed!

On Sunday we had a slow start, exploring a nearby town before visiting Pompeii for a guided tour. On Monday, we packed up and made our way to Mount Vesuvius and trekked the final journey to the top of the volcano. Steam and sulphur were being released from the volcano at the time which was exciting to see. We then visited Herculaneum to see how the eruption in 79AD destroyed this small village and gave the pupils an insight into what life was like nearly 2000 years ago and how it compared to Pompeii the day before.

The trip was excellent, and the weather was kind to us reaching 22 degrees throughout the day with bright sun. Thank you to Mrs Rees, Miss Adams and Miss Davies for their hard work during the trip and giving up part of their half-term to make it happen. Thank you also to the parents for paying for the trip and allowing their children to experience a different culture and wonderful geography.

We hope our next trip will be to Iceland in October 2027 so please keep an eye out for any communications on how to sign up to this in the new year.

Diolch, Mr Frost





“Fare la pizza in Italia..!”



DFC NEWS



Olivia

She took part in The Welsh Masters 2025 and she was crowned Champion in Latin and Ballroom U16. She won all five events entered.



Aisling

I just wanted to let you know, last weekend Aisling achieved a bronze medal, after coming 3rd place in her category for kickboxing at the Wuma National Championships.



Go Girls...Lily, Isabella and Fern

All three St Joseph's girls do are doing amazing thing in Athletics:

Isabella - U15 3rd East Wales, Fingers crossed for her qualification for the British Regionals.

Fern - U13 placed 9th for East Wales and finished 28th overall. The race was Welsh Regionals championships.

Lily - U15 East Wales :1st in 300m, 2nd in 200m, and 2nd in Long Jump.

Congratulations to all girls.



Evie

Is currently a brown tag and in the last tournament she had a bronze medal. Evie also helps out with the younger children's lessons when they hold bootcamps during school holidays.



Daisy

I wanted to share the news that Daisy DeCruz 9T has been selected for the U15s Wales Regional Netball Academy (Coleg Gwent) for this year. Congratulations Daisy.



Lilly and Aaron

Lilly returned to boxing after a break due to a broken elbow. She has trained really hard and is now a carded fighter and will hopefully be having her 1st bout very soon.

Aaron fought in the NABGC championships and took Silver, he fought in the Welsh Box Cup Championships and took Silver AND he fought on two club shows this month - winning both. Aaron is also the only boy in Europe to of beaten the current European Champion. Amazing achievements, well done both.



Yr9 Boys Football



Yr10 Boys Rugby



U13 Girls Football



Yr10 Football



U15 Girls Football



Yr7 Girls Football

ST JOSEPH'S LIBRARY NEWS : TOP BORROWERS 2025

The top book borrowers for Years 7-11 this year so far.

The library has been very well attended this year, and pupils have borrowed almost 900 books. The most popular book are old favourites like the 'Dork Diaries' by Rachel Renee Russell and 'The Dog Man Series' by Dav Pilkey. One new series has stood out as a new treasured choice: 'Sad Ghost Club' by Lize Meddings which is a beautiful and empathetic look at friendship, loneliness and finding your tribe.

Other well received books this year are:

'On the Wall' by Anne Fine

'The Zombie Project' by Alice Nuttall

The Lottie Brooks Series by Katie Kirby

'The Wings of Fire' Graphic Novels by Tui T. Sutherland

In the new year, the library will be celebrating World Book Day on March 6th and Empathy Day on June 12th. Reading books remains one brilliant way to improve empathy and understanding in children and young adults and Mrs McCarthy will be promoting some of the best books from old and new empathy lists as well as a few of her own choices.

Please encourage your child(ren) to read as often as possible; they may borrow two books at a time from the library completely free of charge.

Year 7: Top Borrowers

Dalna B (7S), Liliana O (7S) and Abigail J (7P).

Borrowed more than 10 books

Thomas J (7O), Macauley E (7P), Evana S (7P), Adon A (7O), Courtney C (7S), Jacob S (7S), Semilore B (7H), Jianna P (7P), Nathan L (7O), Alfie W (7O), David G-E (7T).

Also highly commended for their reading

Josh S (7O), Sarah L (7P), Archie L (7S), Cory T (7J), Amelia K (7S), George T (7S), Nina K (7J), Muhammad C (7S), Harry D (7S), Ethan B (7J), Eve W (7S), Elizabeth E (7S), Gurnana M (7S), Liya J (7P), Ivy D (7), Keely-Louise V (7T), Lacie P-R (7V), Maya S (7S), Luca Di G (7S) and Chloe C (7S).

Year 8: Top Borrowers

Maks L (8S), Zenith S (8E) and Amelia B (8H).

Also highly commended for their reading

Karol L (8O), Alice B - (8H), Nola L (8E), Rion J (8J), Esther S (8V), Miroslava G (8J), Gabrielle E (8T), Sam W (8H),

Year 9: Top Borrowers

Chantelle U (9P), Ese S (9J) and Olivia B (9T)

Also Highly commended for their borrowing

Shane K (9J), Sydney-Rose B (9E), Kalem M (9O), Aston N (9O)

Year 10 Top Borrowers

Natalie P (10E), Alana D (10T) and Marcel R (10E)

Year 11 Top Borrowers

Labaayka B (11O) - Borrowed 14 Books

Goodbye & Goodluck

It is with sadness that we say farewell to a number of our staff at the end of this term.

Mr Tim Seghiri has been a valued member of the St Joseph's community for over eight years. Throughout this time, he has consistently demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism and has built strong, positive relationships with staff, students, and parents and carers alike. He now leaves us to join Cwmbran High School as Deputy Headteacher. We are confident that he will continue to inspire young people and remain deeply committed to making a meaningful difference to their life chances. We wish him every success and happiness as he begins the next chapter of his journey.



We are also saying farewell to Ms Nyree Miles, a well-established and highly valued member of our History department who has, in recent years, led the department to continued success. She is moving on to take up the role of Head of History at Corpus Christi RC High School in Cardiff, and they are very fortunate to have secured such an excellent teacher. During her time at St Joseph's, Ms Miles has shown outstanding commitment to her pupils, forged strong relationships with parents and carers, and made a significant contribution to school life. She will be greatly missed by the whole St Joseph's community.

Finally, we are saying farewell to Mrs Nighat Quereshi, a valued member of our cover supervisory team. During her time at St Joseph's, she has shown great commitment to our pupils and to the quality of their learning. Her quiet, calm, and purposeful presence around the school will be greatly missed by the whole school community. We wish her every success and happiness in her future endeavours

Dates for your diary 2026

Spring Term TYMOR Y GWANWYN

| January | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 5 | Spring Term Begins |
| 13 | Year 11 Parents Evening |
| 29 | Year 11 Pathways Evening |
| February | |
| 5 | Year 12 Progression Evening |
| 16-20 | HALF TERM |
| 26 | Year 9 Pathways Evening |
| 27 | Lent Fast Day |

Catch the St Joseph's RC High School

news as it happens on:

www.sjhs.org.uk

twitter.com/sjhsnewport

www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport



| March | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | INSET DAY |
| 3 | Year 9 Parents Evening |
| 5 | World Book Day |
| 5-8 | Expressive Arts Trip to Eurodisney |
| 6-8 | Welsh Trip to Llangrannog |
| 12 | Newport RFC Schools 7s Tournament |
| 17 | Year 7 Parents Evening |
| 19 | Feast of St Joseph |
| 27 | Passiontide Services |
| 27 - 3 April | Skiing Trip to Austria |
| 30 -10 April | EASTER HOLIDAYS |
| April | |
| 13 | Summer Term Begins |
| 13 | Science ~Trip to Swansea University |
| 16-17 | Vaccinations |
| 10-12 | PE Trip to Liverpool v Everton Match |
| 21 | Year 10 Parents Evening |

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

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