

The New Illtydian

TOGETHER IN CHRIST WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE • GYDA'N GILYDD YNG NGRIST, FE WNAWN WAHANIAETH



HEAD'S MESSAGE NEGES Y PENNAETH

This term has been another very busy one for the school and the school newsletter, website and



tweets summarises some of the many exciting activities our pupils have been involved in – we should all be very proud of our young people!

I would like to thank parents/carers for your continuing support and help to the school. In particular, your support is appreciated in ensuring pupils have at least 95% attendance and are punctual to school, that your children wear the correct school uniform and that they continue to show respect towards others. Without this support in these – and a multitude of other areas – we wouldn't be where we are now. Thank you!

Our first external GCSE exam on the 9th of May will be soon upon us and I know that our teachers and our Year 11 pupils are working hard to prepare for the forthcoming examination season. As you are no doubt already aware, these exams are critical for our young people in securing a successful pathway into college or the world of work, so please encourage your children to take full advantage of the wide range of revision sessions organised at the school, as well as revising independently from home every day.

It is also a time of significant change with regards to how school performance will be measured. There is now a cap on the number of vocational qualifications that can be counted against key performance measures and pupils will be accredited for their work, following the Welsh Baccalaureate, for the first time this summer. Despite these changes though, the focus of all at the school remains the same: supporting and challenging all pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 to be the best that they can be.

**MRS TRACEY JARVIS,
ACTING HEAD TEACHER**

Apprenticeship Day

Year 10 pupils visited the apprenticeship careers fair held in Cardiff City stadium this month. There were over thirty local companies there offering information on apprenticeship schemes which are available to pupils on leaving school or college. Amongst the companies showcasing their schemes were; engineering firms, caterers, hairdressers, construction, the armed forces and also Cardiff & Vale College who run a variety of apprenticeships.

The pupils were engaged and spoke confidently to the companies and gained valuable information about the qualifications needed before starting on the apprenticeships. A very valuable afternoon for pupils who received good career advice.

MRS R FRY, HEAD OF YEAR 10

Carols in the Community

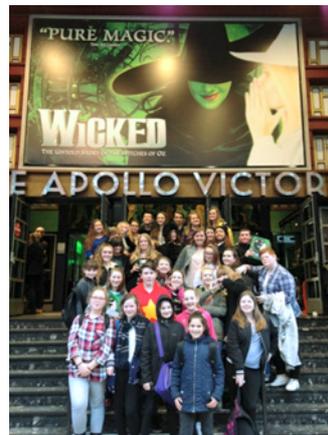
St Illtyd's school choir went to visit three care homes in the local area in the run up to Christmas- Woodcroft in Trowbridge, Willowbrook in St Mellons and Quarry Hall in Rumney. The residents really enjoyed our visit and loved joining in with the carols.



Wicked visit

The music department took 45 fantastic students to London to experience 'Wicked the musical' at the West End. This superbly polished musical extravaganza is the backstory of the much loved 'Wizard of Oz'. Wicked takes us back to the death of the Wicked Witch of the West otherwise known as Elphaba and describes how she became the nasty piece of work portrayed in the film, and provides a history of her relationship with the good witch, Glinda. This was a slick production in every respect, with little expense spared in any of the acting or production departments. The scenery, costumes and lighting are quite simply stunning. The impressively detailed and conceptually innovative costumes are breath taking. All students enjoyed the show and it has given them a first-hand insight into the world of musical theatre.

MRS J SMITH, HEAD OF MUSIC



Aeronautical Challenge

To celebrate National Science and Engineering Week 13-17th March 2017, Cardiff and Vale College organised an exciting competition for budding young Aircraft Engineers. The event took place at CAVC's International Centre for Aerospace Training at Cardiff Airport. Activities included an 'Aircraft Drop' whereby the mental agility, quick thinking, hand skills and ability to solve problems of our students were tested during a practical activity, a chance to demonstrate skills on 'Flight Simulators' and an opportunity to carry out an aircraft task on one of their 'Live Aircraft'. Our students worked well as a team encouraging each other in every task and ended up coming second out of four teams.

MRS L MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL'S CO-ORDINATOR



Debate Day

In December, a group of Year 10 students attended First Campus' long running and popular partnership event with National Museum Wales- Debate Day- looking at the issue of antibiotic resistance, particularly topical with the emergence of a bacteria resistant to the antibiotic of last resort. Students listened to speakers both for and against the topic, and were then able to ask questions and provide input into the debate. The Debate Day supported work in the Welsh Bacallaureate, as students had to consider the political, economic, social, technological, legal, environmental (PESTLE) aspects of the topic. In the afternoon, students took part in activities in the Museum and visited the galleries.

MRS L MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL'S CO-ORDINATOR

Family Cookery

During the autumn term, eight of our families learnt to "Cook with Vegetables" during a ten week after school club. Through this course, our families learnt how to cook healthy family meals and gained confidence in their cooking abilities. One of our parents, Annette Smith and her son Jaydan said "We have really enjoyed this course and we are looking forward to starting the next one in January." As always, we are grateful to Adult Community Learning for providing us with a tutor and ingredients to enable us to offer this popular family learning club. If you would like to join us on our next course which starts after Easter, please call Mrs May on 02920 778174.

MRS L MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL'S CO-ORDINATOR



Welsh Bacallaureate – ‘Dragons’ Den’

Our students have been very busy in their Welsh Bacc lessons this term supporting an incredible local charity ‘Velindre,’ as part of their Enterprise and Employability Challenge. The students have worked in small teams to create a new product or service. As part of the challenge they presented their business proposal in our ‘Dragons’ Den’ and to an invited guest panel. This has been a very engaging experience for our students and they have developed a wide range of skills such as creativity and innovation, personal effectiveness and planning and organisation. I am sure these skills will prove very worthwhile in the years that lie ahead.

MR L ROWE, HEAD OF WELSH BACCALAUREATE



Fun clubs that improve skills

The Spring Term has seen the launch of three new clubs at St Illtyd's. We welcomed back our popular Wordshark Club – our fun on-line spelling club and our Handwriting Club – providing engaging activities to improve handwriting. We also launched Debate Club which has been steadily increasing in numbers. Debate Club provides an opportunity to experience the free and lively exchange of ideas whilst developing an individual's critical thinking, communication and public speaking skills. If you would like to join any of these clubs, details are below:

Handwriting Club	Mondays, 1.25-1.55pm	Zone
Wordshark Club	Wednesdays week 2 and Thursdays week 1 at both break times	Zone
Debate Club	Thursdays, 3.00-4.00pm	Pod



MRS L MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL'S CO-ORDINATOR

After a well-deserved break, St Illtyd's Musical Productions are back in full swing rehearsing for this year's show **13!** Look forward to being entertained by our hugely talented cast.

Meet Evan as he prepares to turn 13, navigating the complicated social circles of a new school. Get to know his new school mates Patrice, Brett, Kendra, Archie Lucy and the rest of the crew as they face the worries, expectations (and excitement!) of becoming teenagers.



Venue: School Hall

Performances: Every evening from Tuesday 11th July to Friday 14th July 2017

Doors open: 6.30pm

Performance begins at 7.30pm sharp

Tickets: £7 adults £5 concessions

Tickets available from June 5th at the school office t: 02920 778174

Unreserved seating at candlelit tables

Bar and refreshments available

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT BY FOLLOWING THEM ON TWITTER – @STILTYDMUSIC

Spirituality at St Illtyd's

There have been many developments and new initiatives in St Illtyd's regarding the Catholic and spiritual development of our pupils and staff. I hope you enjoy the updates to our report this term.

Cornerstone Opening

I had the privilege of attending the opening of the Cornerstone building in Charles Street.

I was accompanied by Joe Chivers, Lewis Carwardine, Laura Viggers and Ffion Morris (school council members) who thoroughly enjoyed the day and were delighted to meet and talk with HRH Prince Charles.

The members of the school council are pictured with HRH, Prince of Wales and Canon Collins.

Further information regarding the work of the school council and our members of the Cardiff Youth Council will be in the next newsletter.

MR P MORIARTY

Update: Christmas Hampers – where did they go?

We began collecting the hampers in late November with every class being given a cardboard box to fill with goods that would benefit those in our communities in need. Items included

were tea bags, coffee, pasta and biscuits. Many forms also decided to place Christmas cakes and cards to make the hampers more personal.

The hampers were donated to the parishes of St John Lloyd, Blessed Sacrament, St Albans, St Cadocs and St Peters. St Illtyd's also donated £50 and boxes of deodorant, body wash and socks to the St. Peter's homeless project.

MRS D JAMES

Chaplaincy Team

The chaplaincy team meet in RS1 on the first Thursday of the month to discuss charity events that St Illtyd's can organise to help those less fortunate in the community. The chaplaincy team consists of pupil representation from each form, the chaplaincy prefects and staff representation. The staff are Miss Lynne Macintosh and Miss Jane Price. If you have an idea for an event please speak to your chaplaincy representative in your form.



Operation Hatch

This is the new charity event that the Chaplaincy Team have organised. Throughout this term (February – April) pupils and staff have been asked to donate an Easter egg or a toy (such as jigsaw puzzle or colouring books) so that the chaplaincy team can deliver these items to Ty Hafan. There are already numerous boxes of cuddly toys, colouring books, colouring pencils, books and Easter eggs.

Prayer Resources

Every morning at the beginning of registration prayer resources are used. These are five minute prayers that have a quote from the Bible and relate to an event that happened on that day in history.

Art and RE

Recently Mr Dockrill and Phoenix Wallis (year 10) created a stunning piece of art that is based around the Catholic faith of St Illtyd's. Phoenix explains why she did this,

'I really enjoy art. I decided to create the sign of the cross out of clay but to also include within the cross the star logo of the school and other signs such as the fish and the white dove. I then decided to place the crown of thorns around the cross in clay and after it was baked in a kiln we painted it with special white gloss paint. I wanted it to represent our school and what our school community believes in.'



Mass and Year 7

Fortnightly Mass has returned. Every other Wednesday, year 7 have been to Mass in the chapel in the Pastoral Resource Centre. Father Brian, parish priest at St Cadoc's, has commented on the reverence and excellent behaviour of our pupils during Mass.

Finally....

Lent began with Ash Wednesday services for years 7 and 8. There was a voluntary service for years 9 – 11 at lunchtime. Many pupils took this opportunity to receive ashes and to make their Lenten promises.

Easter is a time for reflection and joy since it is the time we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We give chocolate eggs at Easter to represent new life since by rising again Jesus gave us a chance to start a new relationship with each other and God. For our pupils Easter is a time to reflect on what they have done so far in the school year and to think about new ways they can use their gifts and talents positively.



The RE department wish you a happy and holy Easter.

**MR P MORIARTY, DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER (SPIRITUALITY/CATHOLICITY)
RE DEPARTMENT: MRS POCKNELL, MRS JAMES, MR GREEN, MR PRICE,
MRS WILLIAMS, MISS YELLEN AND MISS HINSLEY**

Proud of our young people



Reproduced in full thanks to Sister Mary Hurley.

A huge well done to **Nicole Mitchell** 9DJA, **Tyler O'Shea** 10DH and **Joshua Jones** 8EL who demonstrated so well the Catholic values we instil at St Illtyd's

Year 9 First Aid Awareness Course

A part of the school vision at St Illtyd's Catholic High School is to ensure that by the time our students leave us, they will be equipped with basic life skills. In addition, the issue "First Aid Education for All Young People" was voted the second most important issue to our students when they all took part in the "Make Your Mark" vote in September 2016. With this in mind, a "First Aid Awareness Course" was organised at the school in November for the whole of Year 9.



The course, kindly provided by St John Cymru, covered primary survey, calling for an ambulance, recovery position, choking and CPR. Students learnt many new skills and all those who attended received a certificate. Sessions for Year 8 followed on in March and Year 7 sessions will take place in June.

MRS L MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL'S CO-ORDINATOR



Grand Council Event – Making Rights Reality

The theme for the latest Grand Council Event was 'Making Rights Reality'. The aim of the day was to enable young people to develop a detailed vision of how a child rights approach can be developed in Cardiff. This work will directly influence a corporate action plan that will shape work between UNICEF and Cardiff Council over the next three years to make Cardiff a Child Friendly City. Isobel Baldwin, Lewis Carwardine, Joe Chivers, Ffion Morris, Exauce Mpadi and Laura Viggers from our School Council attended the day. They worked alongside pupils from schools across Cardiff to help develop this vision. Ffion Morris ended the day with chairing a debate in the Council Chambers! The pupils represented our school outstandingly with staff from other schools commending them on their behaviour. Well done all of you!

MRS L MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL'S CO-ORDINATOR





REPORTING DAY 2016

Following on from our first highly successful Reporting Day in 2015, Reporting Day 2016 was even bigger and better! The school was open from 8.00am through to 5.00pm for parent/form tutor meetings. Alongside these appointments, an array of other services were available for pupils and parents/carers to access. A large number of partner organisations came along to offer information and advice and we are very grateful to them all for giving up their time to support our day. New for this year was a Careers Fayre that filled the school hall. Our canteen offered breakfast and a buffet lunch for all visitors, a pop up crèche offered childcare for younger siblings, our governors, Mr John Grimes, Mrs Maureen Greening and Mrs Willacott answered questions at the "Ask a Governor"

desk and our choir performed at regular intervals. His Grace, the Archbishop visited the Reporting Day and was overwhelmed to see what we do as a school to engage families. His Grace enjoyed breakfast with the School Council and had a look around the school. We have been asked to share our approach with Reporting Day with other Catholic schools both in the Archdiocese and beyond.

Once again the day was a huge success and feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive with a 90% attendance which is a 2% increase on last year's attendance and a huge improvement on our average parents' evening attendance, which has typically stood around 50%.

Some of the comments from our parents/carers:

"Fantastic organisation and such a joy to have a look around the school and meet the friendly staff"

"Wonderful and informative. Da lawn St Illtyd's Staff."

"I was made to feel welcome, comfortable and relaxed. A very welcoming school."



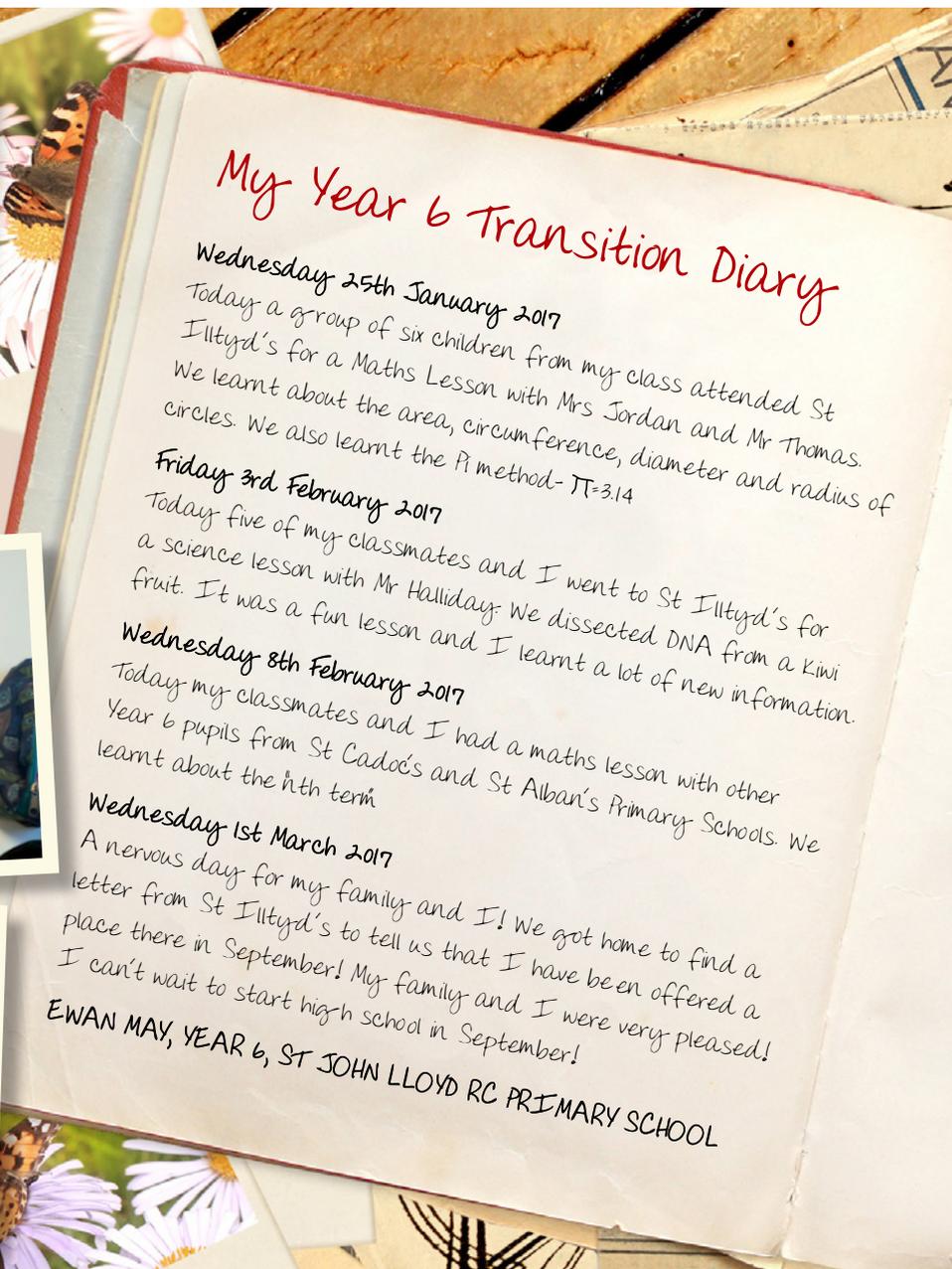
Chemistry – The Perfect Gift for Christmas

Just before Christmas, six Year 10 students were very lucky to go on a trip entitled "Chemistry-The Perfect Gift for Christmas". The event took place at the University of South Wales' Glyntaff Campus and it gave our students an insight into the chemistry involved in making

Christmas gifts. Amongst the experiments, students learnt how acids and bases can be used to make bath bombs and how salts can be used to make magic flame candles. Organised by the School of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences and using their state-of-the-art

laboratories, the event was designed to illustrate the relevance of chemistry in everyday life as well as inspire students to study chemistry at A-level and beyond.

MRS L MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL'S CO-ORDINATOR



2017

Please note the following dates for the academic year:

TERM DATES

Spring Term ends:

Friday 07/04/17

Summer Term starts:

Monday 24/04/17

Summer Half Term:

Monday 29/5/17 -

Friday 02/06/17

Summer Term ends:

Friday 21/07/17

INSET Day:

Monday 5/6/17

The school will be closed on Monday 1/5/17 for the May Day bank holiday

Did you know we're on Twitter?

Follow us on Twitter for all the latest match results, news, fixtures and 5x60 activities.
@StilltydsPEDept

Sports/Chwaraeon

Rugby

The Year 9 rugby team put in a determined and physical performance against a gritty Fitzgalian team in the Cardiff Schools plate competition to win 47-7. A fantastic team performance that puts them into the semi-finals against Western Federation. Well done to all involved!



Football

The Year 10 football team are eagerly waiting to play in the semi-final of the Cardiff and Vale Schools cup against Cardiff High. The fixture should be confirmed shortly!



Athletics

Joel Hexter represented Cardiff Schools at the Indoor Athletics Championships. Joel competed at Cwmbran Stadium against regions from across South Wales. He performed exceptionally well, coming second in two events and third in another. Well done Joel!



Excellent facilities

We are very lucky at St Illtyd's to have fantastic learning spaces for our students. Our Pod is used for small group work. Pictured are a group of Year 11s with Mr Nelson working on a research project as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate work.

