



The New Illtydian

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



CAVC Aero Challenge is back!

After a break of two years, it was fantastic to be invited back to Cardiff and Vale College's Aero Challenge inter-school competition at the International Centre for Aerospace Training at Cardiff Airport Business Park.

Two teams from St Illtyd's attended the event. Pupils took part in a carousel of activities that tested their mental agility, hand skills and problem solving. Challenges included maintenance work on a plane, creating dog tags, programming a drone with

measurements to follow a flight path and landing aircraft in a flight simulator.

Both our teams did really well on the day, but we were no match for the day's worthy winners – St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. Congratulations to the winning team of the day.

Our pupils had a great day and we look forward to returning next year.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR

HEAD'S MESSAGE | NEGES Y PENNAETH

Reflection is a key part of life in a school, for pupils and staff.

It allows us all to take stock of where we are at. What has gone well? How can we improve? What must we do in order to achieve that?

Advent is a natural time to do this; to look back, to reflect and to consider what we wish to achieve in the future.

As the school enters its centenary year there is a lot to look back on and a lot to celebrate. Our current pupils know they are the latest in a long line of Illtydians stretching back to 1923 – it is a rich legacy and one to be justifiably proud of.

That tradition, those values and a sense of service is something that those pupils will carry on into the schools next century and on into the rest of their lives as well.

The school was founded by the De La Salle order for the sake of the pupils and to prepare them to take their place in society. St Illtyd's role was to enable them to live life to the full through a quality human and Christian education.

Those goals are as true today as they were in 1923

especially in our increasingly secular society,

"To touch the hearts of the young, and to inspire them with the Christian spirit, is the greatest miracle you can perform and is the one that God asks of you; it is the purpose of our work with the young."

St John Baptist de La Salle

In schools we tend to focus on exam success

as being one of those achievements, and indeed it is, but in doing so to the detriment of all else is to miss the point in the development of the young people in our care. Acts of kindness, generosity, honesty, compassion and care are extremely common

at St Illtyd's and are a testament to the values that our young people receive at home and when they come through the gates. It makes us the community that we are and enables our young people to grow, flourish and contribute to their wider community, friends and family.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. May I wish you and your families a happy and Holy Christmas. Take care

MR D B THOMAS, HEAD TEACHER



St Illtyd's staff tackle the Cardiff Half Marathon

In 2022 there were two Cardiff Half Marathons, with one being held on 27th March because the Half Marathon in 2021 had been postponed due to Covid. Mrs Sharp completed this half marathon in 2 and a half hours.

On 2nd October three other members of staff completed the Cardiff Half Marathon 2022:

- Mr Evans completed it in 1 hour 55 minutes,
- Mrs Gwynne Carroll completed it in 1 hour 44 minutes
- Mrs James completed it in 3 hours 21 minutes.

Mr Tay and Miss Kelly also completed the Half Marathon with most members of staff raising funds for charities that they believe in. A huge well done to all staff that took part!

DONNA JAMES, TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



“An Inspector Calls” theatre trip

On Wednesday 19th October, a group of Year 10 and 11 pupils visited the New Theatre to watch a performance of “An Inspector Calls”. “An Inspector Calls” is one of the GCSE set texts in the summer exam and so this was a useful opportunity to watch the production ahead of studying the play.

“An Inspector Calls” was written at the end of the Second World War and set before the First. The story begins when Inspector Goole arrives unexpectedly at the prosperous Birling family home. Their peaceful dinner party is shattered by his investigations into the death of a young woman. His startling revelations shake the foundations of their lives and challenge us all to examine our consciences.

The production was excellent and kept us all gripped at every step of the way.

LUIA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



Biomedical Sciences GCSE Year 11 day

During the Autumn term, pupils from our Year 11 triple science class had the opportunity to go to Cardiff Metropolitan University's Llandaff campus and visit their Biomedical Sciences department. Our pupils joined pupils from Corpus Christi Catholic High School and spent the day working in the university labs, carrying out a

series of practicals.

The day provided pupils with a fantastic opportunity to work in a university lab and to work with equipment they have never used before. Pupils took part in practicals involving protein estimation, glucose estimation and “Jumping Genes.”

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt

it was a great experience to visit the university. Our thanks to Alex Nita from First Campus for organising the day, to the Student Ambassadors for looking after us throughout the day and to all the staff at Cardiff Metropolitan University's Biomedical Sciences department for a great day.

LUIA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



Creative Writing Graduation Day

We had the Creative Writing club every Thursday after school, at first it was just a five-week thing to see how many would include themselves. As a result, they made it a full-time club after school that had more than a handful of children enjoying and attending every session. The people that managed the group decided as a thank you for coming and as a grand finale before summer break they invited us to Cardiff Met University for a mini graduation. It was amazing, we got to see how people graduated there, got to meet the teacher there, and even see what the whole place looked like! They even had a fake courtroom! But before we "Graduated," we sat in a hall with five other schools and read our stories aloud to them and got to hear their stories.

After that we all got the same piece of paper and pen, we had to write down how we felt about the club then the main teacher would pick one out at a time and read them aloud.

We took some pictures and photos throwing and wearing our graduation hats and then finally had food.

ISABELLE YEO, 8NJ

We would like to thank our tutor from Cardiff Met University, Anna Symmonds, for running the weekly creative writing sessions and Alex Nita from First Campus for organising this activity.

The Creative Writing club was a fun and entertaining activity. It went on for five weeks, but we loved doing it so much it is now a regular club. We would do activities like creating characters, writing poems and a three-rule story. As it was coming to the end of the year, Cardiff Met University invited us to share our progress with other classes in different schools. We had a mini graduation for our writing course. But of course, before that we had to share some of the things we wrote. We had multiple people read from our school such as:

• Kiera Acton • Isis Owoahene • Keway Gaye • Oreoluwa Kehinde
KIERA ACTON, 8NJ

Skills Cymru 2022

A group of Year 11 pupils visited the Skills Cymru careers event which took place at the Cardiff Motorpoint Arena. Skills Cymru is Cardiff's largest skills, careers and apprenticeship event. Pupils took the opportunity to talk to employers, education providers and apprenticeship providers and gained information to help steer them on their future career pathway. The visit proved both useful and informative for our pupils.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR

skillsCymru



It's the Bees Knees!



CAMPWS CYNTAF
YMESTYN YN EHangach
FIRST CAMPUS
REACHING WIDER

Over the summer and autumn terms, pupils from our Eco Club have been following the Bees Knees sustainability project in our weekly Eco Club sessions. All resources and lesson plans for the project have been kindly provided for us by First Campus.

In our sessions, pupils have been learning all about sustainability and biodiversity with particular reference to bees. Pupils have learnt about how important bees are for biodiversity and also about threats to bees.

A highlight of the project was being invited to Cardiff Metropolitan University's Cyncoed campus to visit the beehives there. On the day, after an introduction to the beehives, everyone got kitted out in beekeeper outfits and got the opportunity to get up close to the beehives. It was a wonderful feeling to be so close to so many bees but knowing that we were safe inside our bee suits. The next activity was honey tasting and we found it incredible how different crops can produce different tasting honeys. Our final activity

of the day was building bee houses which will take pride of place in our garden area at the school.

All in all, we all had an amazing day at Cardiff Metropolitan University. We would like to say a huge thank you to Alex Nita from First Campus for inviting us to be part of this project. We would also like to say thank you to Rob, Megan, Anna & Bethan for all their support on the day.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR

Health and Care School Challenge at CAVC

We attended the WorldSkills UK Health and Care finals at Cardiff and Vale College and had the opportunity to watch the competitions live, meet a range of employers to find out more about opportunities in the industry and take part in an exciting practical Schools Challenge on the day. The group participated in a variety of activities, met employers, talked to universities about medical and nursing degrees before taking part in their own competition. We are still waiting to see if we won the £250 prize for school.



Wates visit

A group of Year 11 pupils and I visited the Cardiff Construction Academy at Wates' Eastern construction site. We were told about the variety of jobs available in construction and the high demand for skilled tradespeople and given a brief on the development of the site. The group then sat a Construction Site Safety Card mock test (CSCC) which is required to even set foot on any construction site. The boys all passed the eligibility threshold and will have the opportunity over a two-week period in the summer to achieve the CSCC card and gain work experience.



NICK SPARROW, CAREERS WALES CAREERS ADVISER

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Our new Welsh dragon

At the start of the autumn term, Myfanwy Bowering, Head of Faculty Literacy, Languages and Communication and Head of English, decided that it would be nice to mark the start of the new Curriculum for Wales with a piece of art in the department. Ben Dockrill, one of our Cover Supervisors and a talented artist and art teacher, created some

designs and then one was chosen to create into a piece of art. The finished design features a dragon on a background of daffodils and is on display outside the Head of Welsh's classroom.

The design is a celebration of the Welsh language and highlights the importance of the language. We would like to say a huge well done to Ben Dockrill for creating this piece.



Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri – Snowdonia National Park visit for the Duke of Edinburgh Award

During the first weekend of October 2022, a group of thirteen Year 11 learners undertook a challenging Duke of Edinburgh silver award training weekend in Snowdonia (Eryri) national park. The group had already completed their bronze award and now working towards their silver needed to gain some experience working as small groups in more challenging mountainous terrain.

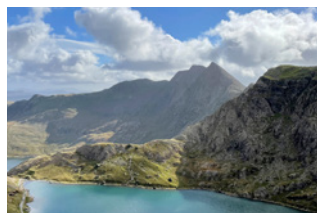
Over the weekend the group had to overcome and deal with the best of Welsh weather that rolled off the mountains and into our camp at the rather exposed Llyn Gwynant Campsite. The group had to set up camp, cook and look after themselves for the whole weekend as well as taking part in a couple of challenging days out walking and navigating in the mountains.

Day one included a walk in the Ogwen Valley where the group enjoyed the epic scenery that Cwm Idwal presented. Cwm Idwal has been attracting climbers, hikers, geologists, biologists, and botanists alike for many years. The most notable of Cwm Idwal's visitors is Charles Darwin, who conducted much of his scientific

work in the area. The group thoroughly enjoyed the short scrambling tasks I set for them on the many small crags and boulders nestled in the glacial cwm. This all proved excellent preparation for the following day.

On day two we attempted to summit Snowdon via the Pyg Track. A large landslip on the main road between the campsite we were staying at and the Pen Y Pass carpark stopped us from accessing the main carpark for Yr Wydffa (Snowdon) meaning we had to walk significantly further to even start our day out on the mountain.

For any aspiring hill walker, Yr Wydffa poses one of the best mountain challenges our country has to offer. Standing over 3000ft tall at 1085 metres and with its summit protected by rocky, exposed and steep ground to all sides, the group had a huge undertaking ahead of them. After a long and challenging climb all members of the group made it to the summit of Yr Wydffa.



"I found the climb up Snowdon horrible and my legs and feet have never felt the same again. However, the views and the feeling of accomplishment outweighed all of the pain" said Sofia Bahrami (Year 11 and member of the group).

We then descended back to camp to cook dinner and enjoy a well-earned hot chocolate and evening spent by the campfire. On day three we got up early, packed up camp and set off back down south before the forecasted rain set in.

The group showed amazing resilience and teamwork in what was a challenging but amazing few days spent in the mountains.

Thank you to the staff that gave up their own time to make this expedition happen and a massive well done to the group on all that they have achieved this year in working towards both their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh awards. **HENRY TAY, TEACHER OF MUSIC AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH CENTRE MANAGER**

News from the Department of Performing Arts



Creative Pathways 2022

At the beginning of October, a group of 35 Year 11 and Year 10 pupils visited the Choose Your Future Creative Pathways careers event at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, organised by Careers Wales. The Creative Pathways careers event is a unique event in that it brings together a whole host of employers, apprenticeship providers and educational providers specifically from the creative industry.

Our pupils were able to meet almost 60 exhibitors and ask questions about the best paths into the industry. Pupils also made the most of the array of workshops and panel discussions on offer- everything from "Careers in Casualty and Pobl y Cwm" with BBC Studios to a dance workshop with Kinetic School of Performing Arts.

Year 10 pupil Lolani Lane said "I want to get into acting but had no idea

where to start. Today has given me a much better idea of what I need to do to get to where I want to be."

We would like to thank Adrian Cole, Business Engagement Adviser at Careers Wales along with all the team at Careers Wales for organising the event.



Behind the scenes at St David's Hall



Students from Year 9 were lucky enough to experience a backstage tour at St David's Hall. They learnt about different opportunities available on the stage, sound & lighting, and all about the different careers available including hospitality and sales. Fun was had using the lighting kit and all students learned that there is more involved in a concert than just singing and dancing. Many thanks to Adrian Cole, Business Engagement Adviser at Careers Wales, for organising this visit.

Save the date!

Don't miss our Carol Service on Tuesday 13th December, 7.00pm at St Cadoc's Catholic Church. Stay tuned for more details about our musical production of ANNIE which will be taking place 5th-7th July 2023.





Expressive Arts summer showcase

Back in the summer term, the Faculty of Expressive Arts put on a showcase for parents, carers and visitors. Pupils from music, drama and PE took part to showcase their talents. Thank you to all staff from the faculty for organising this and thank you to everyone that came along to support our pupils. Here is a selection of photos from the evening.



JULIE SMITH, HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS

St Cecilia autumn showcase

Choral singers, orchestral music, and West African Drumming are just a few of the styles of music that filled St. Illtyd's Hall for the feast day of St. Cecilia on 22nd November. A variety of students from Years 7-11 came together to share their talents for a full house of friends, family, staff, and students.

The showcase was bookended with our lovely choir who were singing gospel works under the direction of Mrs Smith. The orchestra performed music from the Royal Fireworks by Handel, allowing students to showcase the instrumental skills they have been developing. Mr Tay led 9RJ in their performance of West African drumming. Throughout the entire evening, Year 10 and 11 students who are working towards their GCSE also shared their solo and duet work that they have been preparing for their examinations. To top it all off the Drama Club performed Alice in Wonderland under the direction of Miss Wheeler. The showcase was a huge success that all students should be proud of! Many thanks to everyone who came to support our students! Feel like you missed something good- have a look at the highlights on Twitter [@StIlltydsMusic](https://twitter.com/StIlltydsMusic)

Spirituality & chaplaincy at St Illtyd's



1. Parable of the Mustard Seed

At the beginning of the year, I invited our Year 7 pupils into our School Chapel for their welcome service. Together we looked at the Parable of the Mustard Seed and what that meant for us as individuals, as a class and as a school. Towards the end of the service, the students were tasked to make their very own mustard seed trees as a class to help them visualize their own importance and growth within our school community. When all the classes had completed their service, the Chapel had its own beautiful display of trees.

2. SVP Engagement Day

At the beginning of the year, our Year 10 Youth Action Group received a wonderful invitation to attend an SVP Community Engagement Day at Cardiff's SVP Centre. The meeting was the first of its kind for the new SVP Centre where Catholic schools across the Diocese were invited to join together. Our group thoroughly enjoyed their day engaging with all the workshops and games led by the SVP members, local concerns were discussed, and plans were made for Advent projects with the students' ideas and goals in mind.

In St Illtyd's fashion our girls brought a brilliant energy with them to the event, ensuring that they included students from the other Catholic high schools in their highly competitive table games. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet, engage and work with the chaplaincy and charity groups from other high schools. The team left the meeting buzzing with ideas and the drive to turn their concerns into action, starting with Advent.

3. Harvest celebration with St John Lloyd

Some of our past St John Lloyd pupils were invited to pop back to their old primary school this term to celebrate their Harvest Festival. It was lovely to see the excitement on their faces to visit their old primary, friends, and teachers. St John Lloyd put on a fantastic Harvest Festival Service full of thanks, colour and song. We allowed our pupils to take part in a lap of honour in the playground with their old friends before we headed back to school.

4. Welcome Mass Year 7

October saw the return of our masses led by Father Brian; we started off the term with a Welcome Mass for all our Year 7 pupils. Our music department did a wonderful job coaching the pupils in the hymn choices in the weeks prior to the mass; they sounded brilliant, and it was lovely to have hymns sung in the hall again. Father Brian concluded the Mass by blessing the Year 7 Form candles; the candles are symbolic of their journey through the school to then be extinguished for the very last time when they leave in Year 11. Our Year 7 volunteers read beautifully in mass.

Advent projects

We have lots of charity projects happening during Advent this term, our Year 10 Youth Action Group has been selling candy canes with a festive message which will then be delivered to friends in form time. The money raised from fundraiser will be used to buy supplies for our homeless bag workshop and for gifts for the residents in Quarry Hall Care Home.

VICTORIA WONNACOTT, SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

5. St Illtyd's food bank

This October the school took part in its very own food bank. The support and generosity from pupils, carers and staff was incredible. We were able to donate two big boxes to the SVP Centre with more boxes waiting to be donated again, eight boxes and three bags worth of food were donated to Rumney Forum. We joined forces with St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School and their food bank collection in November. Some of our Year 7 pupils joined myself, Mrs May and pupils and staff from St Cadoc's to take down their wonderful food bank collection to Rumney Forum. It was a great opportunity for both schools to work together to better help our community and for them to see the incredible work Rumney Forum do with their busy centre.

We were blown away with the amount donated to our food bank; we had so much it meant we could donate not only to the SVP Centre in Ely Bridge and Rumney Forum, but we were also able to deliver four boxes and six bags full of food to The Pantry at Llanrumney Hall. The staff at Llanrumney Hall were so welcoming and allowed the pupils to have a look at the work they do in The Pantry for our local community.

St Illtyd's hosts a meeting

St Illtyd's was invited to host our very first chaplaincy meeting for the chaplains across our Diocese. It was wonderful to have so many representatives from various schools attend, with Father Bernard and Nicky Price leading the meeting. As Chaplains we came together to meet, pray and to share ideas and resources with each other to strengthen our resolve and better help our school community.

Thank you Adrian!

Adrian Cole, our Careers Wales Business Engagement Adviser has been working with the school to arrange employer engagement activities this month. These have included...

- A GCSE Textile pupil session on costume design and costume making led by a costume maker from Bad Wolf (1). This session was organised by Screen Alliance Wales. Pupils gained useful information about the TV and film industry and created some excellent designs in the task.
- A GCSE Product Design pupil visit to Renishaw Engineering (2). Pupils took part in workshops and a tour and learnt about apprenticeships and different job roles at Renishaw. Plans for other trips to other employers are underway.

Adrian has also organised GCSE English Script Writing sessions with a script writer with Screen Alliance Wales at Wolf Studios, a GCSE Drama pupil visit to St David's Hall and a Year 9 GCSE Options Career Carousel where pupils learnt about different careers and what GCSEs would be good to take for different jobs. These three activities are covered in this issue of the Illtydian.

We would like to say thank you to Adrian Cole for all the fantastic opportunities he arranges for our pupils.



Year 9 Careers Carousel

To help our Year 9 pupils make decisions about their options, a Careers Carousel was held at the school. A variety of employers gave up their time to come and talk to our pupils about their jobs and careers within their industries. The day proved to be very informative and gave our pupils an insight into future career paths. We would like to thank all the employers that gave their time – the Army, Cardiff City Football Club Foundation, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Tarian ROCU Cyber Security, Bouygues Construction and Nick Sparrow, our Careers Wales Careers Adviser. We would also like to thank Adrian Cole, Business Engagement Adviser at Careers Wales and Adam Fleet, Head of Faculty Progress and Wellbeing for organising the day.

Due to a burst water pipe, we were unable to run the second Careers Carousel for the other half of the Year group. We are planning to reschedule this in the New Year.





Sailing residential on-board Adventure Wales

At the start of July, a group of (then) Year 9 pupils went on a sailing residential on-board Adventure Wales, which is part of Challenge Wales. We would like to say a huge thank you to Kerry Rees, Youth Development Officer and all the staff and crew from Challenge Wales for looking after our group. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Reardon Smith Nautical Trust for funding the residential. Final thanks also to Mrs Kaye (Assistant Head of Year 10) and Mr Weekes (Teacher of Geography) for accompanying pupils on this trip. Here, two of the pupils that attended the sailing residential recount their experience.

On the 4th of July, Linda and I went on a sailing residential with a few other pupils from our school. When we arrived at the boat we were introduced to our



skipper, Andy, and other crewmates who taught us about health and safety and key things to know about the boat itself. We learnt about parts of the boat and how to use the toilet as it was different from a toilet at home. Once everyone was settled, we went into Cardiff Bay barrage where we had the opportunity to learn how to drive the boat, it was great fun as we had never done anything like it before. Once we got back, we had to prep food and clean up after it, we also played some great fun games like a treasure hunt where we had to find certain items in Cardiff Bay, it was a challenge! Over the next few days, we went through many adventures. We sailed across the Bristol challenge and close to the Severn bridge and sailed around Flat Holm and Steep Holm. It was an amazing experience, however some of us got a bit seasick as the boat was turning at a 45-degree angle, but we managed. We did fun activities like going on the dingy race and seeing who could do the best circle with the boat. We climbed the mast which was incredible as we had to pull each other up it to do so. Finally, evening activities like picking litter and learning about boats were great. We all learnt a lot from the trip – how to be resilient, how to work as a team and we became new people.

MILLIE GOLD, 10DCB

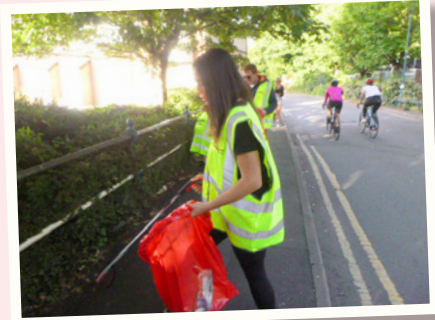




Aliyah Pooley and Millie Gold receive their John Muir Award certificates from Kerry Rees, Youth Development Officer at Challenge Wales



As part of the experience, pupils followed the Agored Cymru module in teamwork and took part in the John Muir Award. Pupil Aliyah Pooley tells us what she learnt as part of the John Muir Award.



My sailing experience on Adventure Wales

During the sailing trip, I learnt many different things about sailing in general and the environment. These things included learning about sea bins, over fertilisation and litter. Over the four days as a group, we learnt about how things are having an impact on the environment. For example, we learnt that sea bins are installed in the water to collect and reduce the amount of litter in the oceans. We also learnt how over fertilisation causes no sunlight to be able to reach the plants at the bottom of the sea causing a lack of oxygen in the water, resulting in the death of many fish species.

ALIAH POOLEY, 10RL



August sailing day

Before we left, we were all given certificates. Millie and I were given special ones. It was a Skipper's Commendation. With this came a letter saying that the Skipper gave us a chance to go on another one day sailing trip. This boat trip would normally be £50; however, we were given this opportunity for free.

On 8th August, Millie and I arrived at the Adventure Wales boat. There were other children there and a new crew who we had never met before. We were introduced to everyone and filled out a sheet about what we were scared of and looking forward to but as Millie and I had already been sailing, we had experience and had overcome most of our fears. After a while, we decided to sail out into the Bristol Channel. We were out for around five minutes when something happened, and we had to go back. It did not ruin our fun though as after we had lunch together and a bit of tea, we got into teams of two and had a race on the dingy. It was very competitive, but everyone was laughing and enjoying themselves. Millie and I did not end up winning, but we all had fun. Along the entire trip we learnt things like how to put up the fenders, dock the boat, how to work as a team and other key terms to know about boats. We also learnt that even if something does not go right, you should not let it ruin your fun.

LINDA AMIN, 10DCB



Spotlight on transition at St Illtyd's

At St Illtyd's, our aim is to ensure that by the time a pupil begins with us in September, we have done everything we can as a school to make them feel less nervous about taking their big step into high school. To achieve this, we have a transition programme in place that begins when pupils are in Year 5.

This year our Year 7 pupils settled in extremely well and this was a result of our newly established programme which is outlined below.

Our Headteacher, Mr D B Thomas says, "Transition is vitally important to the continuity of support and care for the young people who come to us."



SESSION 1: Year 5 Taster Sessions – Summer Term (July 2022)

Our transition programme begins in the summer term when pupils are in Year 5. Pupils from our four Catholic feeder primary schools (St John Lloyd RC Primary School, St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School, St Alban's RC Primary School, and St Peter's RC Primary School) came to St Illtyd's and took part in a science and design technology lesson. In science, pupils experimented with different chemicals and equipment. They used acids and fire to create coded messages and found out how we make different coloured fireworks. In design technology, pupils followed instructions and used hammers and nails to create bee hotels.

SESSION 2: Year 6 PE/Q&A Taster Sessions – Autumn Term (October 2022)

During the autumn term, Year 10 ex-pupils from our four feeder Catholic schools made a return visit to their schools to lead a PE session with pupils who are now in Year 6. All the pupils selected are pupils who are studying GCSE PE as an option subject, so this initiative also helped develop their coaching skills. After a fun PE session, Year 10 pupils then held a question-and-answer session with the Year 6 pupils. This was a fantastic opportunity for Year 6 pupils to ask anything they wanted to know about St Illtyd's and high school in general. As an alternative activity in St Peter's Catholic Primary School, our Year 10 pupils were given a tour of the school by members of the school's Senedd, before going into Year 6 classes to answer questions. It was great to see all the changes that have taken place at St Peter's during our visit.





SESSION 3: Open Evening (Thursday 20th October 2022)

On Thursday 20th October, the doors of St Illtyd's were opened to prospective pupils and their families in our Open Evening. Our departments worked hard behind the scenes to create engaging activities for our visitors. The English department offered Word Wizardry in the Harry Potter room and sharing stories of myths and legends in another. The Maths department challenged pupils on their times tables and got them to solve problems on the giant floor calculator. Our science labs were buzzing with different activities on each table and delighted visitors with a demonstration of methane fire bubbles!

Elsewhere there were music and drama demonstrations in our Performing Arts department, "Dw i'n hoffi Cymraeg" hats to make in Welsh, word activities in Spanish, food tastings & sewing machines to try in Design Technology, badminton to join in with in the Sports Barn, a huge collage

to add your mark to in Art as well as a display of work, a crime scene investigation in History, flag matching, grid reference & Kahoot activities in Geography and decorating our Jesse tree in RE with prayers and wishes for the world.

In addition to this our beautiful Chapel was open to visitors and displayed food that had been collected by pupils in our Harvest Food Bank appeal. And finally, our canteen offered tasters of food and displayed typical meals that can be purchased there.

The open evening was a huge success with 203 pupils and their families attending. Our visitors were extremely complimentary about our staff, our pupils, and the school building. Many current pupils supported departments and offered tours – they were all amazing and fantastic ambassadors for our school.



SESSION 4: Year 6 Taster Session – Spring Term 2023

In spring term 2023, we will invite Year 6 pupils from our feeder Catholic primary schools to a taster session to give them another insight into a lesson at St Illtyd's. These sessions will take place in our Music, Art and RE departments.

SESSION 5: Year 6 Enrichment Days – Summer Term 2023

In summer term 2023, all pupils who have chosen St Illtyd's as their school are invited to an "Enrichment Day". They spend the day with their Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year and take part in a variety of activities to

familiarize themselves with the school.

Finally, on the 5th of July 2023, all pupils will be invited to St Illtyd's for the day for an enrichment day in which they will have a tour of the school and experience a full day of lessons. These days give pupils the opportunity to really understand what a day in St Illtyd's involves.

Coupled with this, our Wellbeing Team will liaise with primary schools to gather information on our future pupils and will organise bespoke enhanced transition visits when necessary.

And then the cycle will begin all over again with Year 5 pupils.

PAUL MORIARTY, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Visiting the Queen lying in state

Back on the 8th September, along with millions of people across the world, the St Illtyd's community were saddened to hear of the passing of HRH Her Majesty the Queen. Here, one of our staff, Donna James, Teacher of Religious Education, recounts her personal pilgrimage to London to see the Queen lying in state.

Following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, I decided to travel to London to pay my respects, it was something I wanted to do since I believe that Queen Elizabeth was an inspirational, female role model and leader. I travelled on the 6.00pm coach on Friday 16th September, I was alone and not at all worried about making this journey. It was something I wanted to do- to pay my respects. Family and friends did think I was a bit mad, but it was important to me. To give others the opportunity to feel like they were making the journey with me I created a "WhatsApp" group and added friends and family.



I arrived in London at 10.30pm as there had been delays on the M4 and I caught the tube to Bermondsey where I followed a line of people walking to Southwark Park, to join the Elizabeth Line although it is now simply known as the Queue. It was 11.45pm. The sign at the entrance to the park said I would be in this Queue for 14 and a half hours; it was at this point



I started the stopwatch on my mobile to see just how long I would queue for. After slowly zig zagging, I started talking to a man called Chris, who was documenting every stage for his Tik Tok channel that reports on news and important events (*dailyrundownwithchris*). I received a Green wristband. It was 2.30am, I was on my way and I was not turning back now.

You could use portable toilets along the way and many people were outside their homes offering tea or coffee. The atmosphere was incredible with everyone sharing stories about the late Queen although there was no shouting or singing, it was so respectful.

We walked for miles, there were so many people, even young children because this was a historic moment, you

The queue had been moving slowly when it stopped along the Thames embankment, it was now 3.45am and it was freezing. The queue did not move again until 5.00am, there were so many people and none of us sat on the floor, we all remained standing. The Tower of London was opposite me and it stood majestic in the dawn, this time made me really reflect on why I was there and how glad I was to be a part of history. I must be honest; it was freezing, and I was glad I had layers of clothes on, in the line before me was a child in t shirt and shorts and security came along to give him a blanket. Security and the Police kept walking the line talking to us and keeping us informed, we had no idea why the line stopped but were then told that the armed forces were practising for the funeral, none of us complained as we were aware that it would be a long wait when we had joined.



The queue began moving slowly again and I took in so many sights, passing every bridge was a milestone, many bridges were lit up in red, white and blue, building had flags at half-mast with many images of the late queen in the windows, we passed the Shard, where a café offered us free tea and coffee and a bacon sandwich, the London Eye and Shakespeare's Globe theatre. I passed through an alley called The Queen's Walk which was very poignant, and The Tate Modern had created banners of Queen Elizabeth with a large screen replaying key moments of her life. It was very surreal and the small group of us that had formed a friendship began to take it all in. It was now 7.00am, I didn't feel tired even though



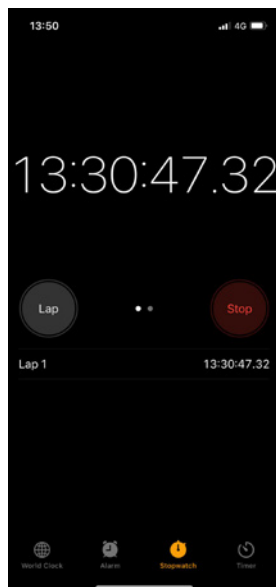
I had not slept all night, nor did I feel cold and I certainly did not feel like giving up. I received messages from friends and family, and I had to reply that I wasn't even halfway.

As a boost about an hour later, as my friend Chris was presenting an update on his Tik Tok channel, I heard my name called and on the road alongside the barrier separating us from other Londoners going about normal, Saturday lives, was a friendly, welcome face. Miss Wheeler had arrived in London to place flowers at Buckingham Palace and had tracked me down via all the updates from the "WhatsApp" group. I have never been so grateful for a hug and she motivated me. The queue was now moving at a slow but regular pace, and as we passed the Covid bridge, (named because

I bowed my head, made the sign of the cross and said a quiet "thank you", for the years of loyal service

it is where red love hearts have been attached to the wall of the bridge with the names of those who have died from Covid), I was approached by a reporter and interviewed live for an Australian news channel. It was at this point I saw the Welsh Police, recognising Heddlu on their uniforms and I spent time explaining to my new friends what Heddlu meant, at this point there was a small group of us, and our nationalities were English, Irish and Welsh. It was now 11.30am and as we crossed the bridge to join the line at Westminster, King Charles III passed by the crowd and we stopped as he waved at us. We later heard he had met many members of the public who were part of the queue to thank them for what they were doing.

We then joined the Zig Zag heading to the Great Hall in Westminster where the Queen was lying in state. It was at this point my legs really hurt, I felt drained of energy and like I couldn't go on. I had used all my water and any food or sweets I had brought with me had been eaten, it was here that security appeared offering everyone chocolate and after eating I knew I would be fine. I kept telling myself it wouldn't be much longer, but I was wrong. This was the hardest part of the journey since we were



zig zagging on plastic tiles with grips on that dug into my poor, battered feet and it ached. All we could do was keep going! I looked at my stopwatch and it said 12hrs 10 minutes – I had been standing in a queue for all that time and I was not near the end. The live feed of the lying in state had been playing 24 hours a day and I knew people wanted to see if they could spot me and finally at 13.50pm, after being in the queue for what seemed forever but was really 13 and a half hours I reached security. Every single bag had to be searched, many people had bottles of perfume or lip gloss that had to be thrown in large bins next to security. You were searched and your bags put through the same equipment you find at an airport. Once cleared, we filed towards the entrance of the Great Hall. I spoke to the speaker of the House of Commons who thanked us all, and before I knew it, I was on the steps leading into the Great Hall. As I walked up the stairs leading to where the Queen lay in state, we were divided into four lines, that's how many people wanted to pay their respects. I have been inside the Great Hall on previous occasions and marvelled at its splendour, but this moment took my breath away.



After 14 hours, at 2.00pm I entered the Great Hall and saw Her Majesty lying in state, it was a surreal moment and all I focused on was her coffin, the coffin that had the Royal Standard draped over it, with the emblems of Her Majesty lying on top. It did not seem real and the sight was momentous. There were four members of the Sovereign's bodyguard and officers from the Household Division keeping guard. I followed the line very slowly and when it was my turn to stop, I bowed my head, made the sign of the cross and said a quiet "thank you", for the years of loyal service. I then walked outside into the London sunshine where thousands of people were lining the streets and I had a cry. Two military men who had stood behind me in their suits with their medals on show stood silently. It had hit us all; our Queen was dead.

I arrived back in Cardiff at 8.00pm on Saturday night, I really didn't feel tired even though I had had no sleep since Thursday night. I had witnessed history and was now part of an event called simply The Queue. I have kept my wristband and am still in contact with my friend Chris, I feel honoured to have been a part of history.

DONNA JAMES, TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Script writing workshop with Screen Alliance Wales



Earlier this term, a group of five Year 10 pupils attended a three-day script writing workshop at Screen Alliance Wales' training centre based at Wolf Studios. Pupils joined pupils from Willows High School and Cardiff West Community High School on this project.

Pupils began by learning about different types of plot. They were then challenged to re-write a

popular fairytale, changing the plot of the tale. To complete the workshop, pupils learnt about the journey of a TV show/film from pre-production to post-production.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience, gained new skills, and learnt a lot about the TV and film industry.

We would like to thank Zina Wegrzynski, a

freelance writer who delivered the three days of the script writing workshop. We would also like to thank Sarah O'Keefe from Screen Alliance Wales for organising the day and doing a brilliant job of looking after us over the three days. And finally, we would like to thank Adrian Cole, Business Engagement Adviser at Careers Wales for arranging this opportunity.



Shwmae Day 2022



Pupils at St Illtyd's enjoyed celebrating Shwmae Day this year. Year 7 took part in a quiz, pinned the tail on the dragon, ate Welsh cakes and of course, spoke lots of Welsh! Pupils throughout the school took part in a quiz in registration and were encouraged to speak Welsh. A great day was had by all! Thank you to Dafydd Tomos, Megan Gwynne Carroll and Amber Forsey in the Welsh department for organising the day.

Spotlight on poetry

Buthsarani Balangoda Mudiyansele has written a powerful poem that she wanted to share with our readers.

Ophelia

The nature she grew with,
The same daisies and greens.
A cloudy sky she gazes longingly at,
And the coldness of the water, stinging.

She floats, with a company of flowers,
Her dress like the feathers of a swan,
Soiled by algae.

A poppy beside her, a burnt sienna,
And the rose, pale-pink in her hair.

Her hands sat above the water's surface,
Like blossomed lotuses in spring.
Her auburn hair, spread out like roots,
Fading into the blackness of the water.

She didn't mean it - to trip and fall in.
But warmth doesn't always feel good -
Or so she thinks at this moment
The time stopped for a bit,
Between Spring and Summer.

Her skin numbed by the cold dampness,
Her clothing weighing her down.
Open arms and upward gaze,
Like that of a saint.

Her thoughts are scattered,
She feels nothing after a while.
The skeleton branches above her head,
Of the cursed willow tree.

She's gone to the other side;
Her eyes are dull and lifeless.

She floats, with a company of flowers,
Her dress like the feathers of a swan,
Soiled by algae.
A poppy beside her, a burnt sienna,
And the rose, pale-pink in her hair.



Free books!

This term, every pupil in the school was lucky enough to receive a free reading book. They could choose from a huge selection of modern literature, with popular titles such as 'We Were Liars' and 'Shadow & Bone,' and even authors such as Marcus Rashford and David Walliams. Pupils in Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) were also given the opportunity to get a free copy of an exam text for English (Of Mice

and Men, Heroes or An Inspector Calls) to help them with their revision. All of these marvellous books were brought to us by Caban Bookshop in Pontcanna. This has been a wonderful opportunity for our pupils and one that they have really enjoyed: some pupils are half-way through their new books already! We would like to thank Caban Bookshop for bringing the books to us and to Welsh Government for funding this initiative.

MEL COOPER, LITERACY CO-ORDINATOR AND TEACHER OF ENGLISH



Netball, rugby & football news... and more!

Sports/Chwaraeon



Sports Day

Our Sports Day back in July was a day full of fun, sunshine, healthy competition, supportive peers, and fantastic sporting results. The results were:

- **First place – JP • Second place – TGT • Third place – OR**
 - **Fourth place – MC • Fifth place – MLK • Sixth place – SMT**
- We have included a selection of images from the day.

RUGBY NEWS

Year 7 rugby team

The Year 7 rugby team have played some excellent rugby this term. The first game was a convincing win over local rivals Eastern High. The boys started strongly and kept pushing hard until the final whistle, scoring good tries through both the forwards and backs. Next up were Corpus Christi High. After a nervous start



the team began to gel and some well-worked tries were scored through strong running and off-loading in the tackle. Again, St Illtyd's ran out comfortable winners.

Finally, the next step up was against Whitchurch High. Two teams were selected to play and both teams put in huge performances. Whitchurch had over 40 players in their squads, which made the efforts of the St Illtyd's players all the more courageous. The Saints lost 5 tries to 4 and the Illtyd's lost 6 tries to 3. A real gutsy effort against probably the strongest Year 7 teams in Cardiff. We look forward to welcoming Whitchurch to St Illtyd's in the New Year! In their most recent match, the Year 7 team put on a terrific display against a well drilled Bro Edern team. The game was played in challenging conditions with both teams playing some wide and expansive rugby. In the end, St Illtyd's were too quick and strong. They ran out 43-21 winners. Well done all!

Year 8 rugby team

The Year 8 rugby team played a resilient St Teilo's team earlier in the year. Some excellent inter-play between forwards and backs combined with a dogged and organised defence meant that St Illtyd's ran out comfortable winners. They have since had games cancelled and are looking forward to getting a chance to showcase their skills again soon!

Year 9 rugby team

The Year 9 rugby team have really developed their game management this term. They played a big and well-drilled Corpus Christi team earlier in the year and were unlucky not to win, losing 5 tries to 4 in what was an exciting and entertaining game played at St Illtyd's. Next up



they played Eastern High. St Illtyd's started with some direct running and controlled pressure in defence from the forwards. This resulted in some well-earned tries for the back three. St Illtyd's

continued to dominate into the second half and were able to kick and chase to great effect resulting in further tries for both forwards and backs. Well done to all involved!

Year rugby team

The Year 10 rugby team have played several games earlier in the term against some really tough opponents. They started with a strong win against Mary Immaculate, before losing a thrilling encounter with Corpus Christi. Next up were Whitchurch, who in the end were able to edge the game with some skill demonstrated by their backline. Further physical tests have come in the form of a 10-a-side tournament against the best teams in Cardiff and a really physical encounter with Bro Edern. Bro Edern were too strong in the end and ran out convincing winners. Well done for the determination and resilience shown by all the players!

Notable mentions

Well done to the following pupils who have all been selected and have gone on to represent Cardiff Schools this year in regional games across Wales (l-r):

- **Noah Hamid • Jack Bennett • Rhys Elliott**
- **Milo Fowler • Connor Atta. *Top effort boys!***



FOOTBALL NEWS

Year 7 football

The Year 7 football team have played some brilliant football this term. The first game against Whitchurch High School showed how resilient



the group of boys are. They gave Whitchurch a competitive game but unfortunately didn't come away with the win. Next up was Eastern High. This back-and-forth game showed a lot of positives for the boys who pushed hard till the final whistle, the boys showed great teamwork with quick counter attacks and great combination play in midfield. They unfortunately ended up losing the game but showed great team spirit. Finally, the boys played against Willows High School in a plate match. The boys put on a great performance and scored lots of great goals to come away with the win. Overall, the group of boys have shown great commitment to football, and they have come a long way since the start of term and look forward to continuing their great progress into the New Year.

Year 8 football

The Year 8 football team played a well organised Bro Edern earlier in the year. Some brilliant play all around the park especially within the midfield who controlled the game excellently at times. The boys and girls showed great determination and team spirit but unfortunately the visitors came out on top. Next up they have Willows High School; the group cannot wait to show their progress and hopefully continue their great success into next term.

Year 9 football

Year 9 football played a cup match away against St Richard Gwyn earlier in the term. It was a great battle against a well-organised team. Unfortunately, the home team were victorious. They look forward to playing Pencoedtre in a plate match away from home in the coming weeks.

Year 10 football

The Year 10 football team has displayed some great football over recent months. They played Plasmawr in the cup recently. A great display from the boys who showed excellent teamwork and determination to come away with a 2-1 victory. They progress into the next round of the cup to play Bishop of Llandaff away from home.

Year 11 football

Year 11 kicked off their excellent start to the season away from home in a cup match against

St Teilos. The match was a brilliant contest with two strong teams battling hard. Illtyd's went 1-0 up through a quick counter finished off brilliantly by Abel Mwenera. The home team clawed a goal back to make it a nail biting 1-1 heading into the last 20 minutes. With the home team gaining confidence, the boys fought hard to put us back into the lead to make it 2-1 with ten minutes left. The home side threw everything at the boys to make it level, but they stayed strong and ended up winning the game 3-1, progressing into the next round. Next up, a home game against Cathays High School. The harsh conditions made this game a battle from the first whistle. The boys went 1-0 up from a brilliantly worked corner with Zwela Mlambo putting the boys ahead. Illtyd's then took full advantage of the early lead by going 2-0 up soon after. Another corner crossed in superbly by Callum Deacon and finished off by Cairan Davies from close range. As the boys looked to control the game, the away team scored a brilliant free kick just before the half to make it 2-1. Half-time sub-Zak Marlow-Payne made a quick impact, meeting an inviting cross by Harrison Shanahan with a brilliant header into the top corner to make it 3-1. Heading into the final minutes the boys kept pushing for a fourth. Abel Mwenera rose highest from another corner to put the boys 4-1 up to seal the victory. The boys are on a great run of form and are eager to find out who they are next to face in the cup heading into the New Year.

NETBALL NEWS

Year 7 netball

The Year 7 netball team have been training hard all year and are excited to play their first competitive game against Eastern High School this week. They will then have the opportunity to play against Cathays and St Teilos before Christmas in order to develop their individual and team skills further. They have shown great passion and commitment in training and have even mixed with Year 8 to improve their skills.

Year 8 netball

The Year 8 netball team has shown great commitment to training and games so far this year. They played Cathays High School recently; some brilliant individual and team play from all the girls. They showed brilliant determination against well-organised Cathays High. The game was a nail-biting end-to-end battle but unfortunately the girls did not come away with



the win. They look forward to playing more games against St Teilos and Eastern High School

over the coming weeks building up to Christmas and are excited to progress in the New Year.

Year 9 netball

An outstanding performance from the Year 9 netball team against Cathays High School saw them coming away with a 15-3 win at home. All players dominated each third of the court and both attacking and defensive players contributed to an excellent all-round performance. Meiline's



shooting was outstanding in this game, and she was deservedly voted player of the match by Cathays. The girls look to build on this performance when they face Eastern and St John's College before the Christmas break.

Year 10 netball

The Year 10 netball team played a very competitive game away to Eastern High. There were some excellent skills and performances on display that afternoon, and St Illtyd's came away with the win 6-2 and player of the match was awarded to Isata with her dominant attacking performance. Their second match

was against St Teilos, which saw another strong performance from all the players and a 8-3 win. Ava



and Alyiah showed some excellent attacking play in the shooting circle and secured the goals for St Illtyd's. However, the player of the match went to a defender, Olivia, who had an outstanding game in defence. Their next games are against Cathays and St John's College.

Year 11 netball

The netball squads have been training well this term and developing their individual and team skills.

Year 11 kicked off the season with a strong performance against Eastern High, winning the game 6-1. A good performance from all players in both attack and defence, with Amelia and Lindsay scoring the points for the team. Amelia was voted player of the match.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
2022/3

Please note the following dates for the academic year:

TERM DATES

Term Ends: Friday
23/12/2022 (INSET DAY)

SPRING TERM 2023

Starts: Monday 09/01/23

Half term: Monday 20/02/23
- Friday 24/02/23

Ends: Friday 31/03/23

SUMMER TERM 2023

Starts: Monday 17/04/23

Half term: Monday 29/5/23 -
Friday 02/06/23

Ends: Monday 24/07/23

May Day: Monday 01/05/23

Extra bank holiday for the King's Coronation: Monday
08/05/23

FURTHER INSET DAYS

Friday 17/02/23

Monday 24/07/23

Sports/Chwaraeon

Congratulations to...

Millie Gold

After a successful track season in the summer, Millie Gold has continued with her running prowess in this autumn's cross-country events. Millie started the season off competing in the London Mini Marathon and came 5th place, with only seconds between her and first place. Millie represented St Illtyd's in the Cardiff & Vale School cross country events and came 1st place in both races.

Millie took part in the British Cross-Country challenge in Cardiff and placed 4th in this event and achieved a 1st place in the Milton Keynes Cross-Country challenge. A busy winter season for Millie, who is enjoying the longer distance races and achieving great success in all events she has competed in. An amazing set of results and we wish Millie every success in the remainder of the cross-country season.

Soraya Makubuli

Congratulations to Soraya Makubuli (Year 10) who recently became Welsh Champion following her performance in the National Judo Championships, which were held in Cardiff this month. This is the third time Soraya has achieved this accolade and has regained her title again in 2022. Well done Soraya!

Ava Placide

Ava had a successful summer in track and field athletics, which saw her compete in the Welsh Junior Athletics Championships representing her club Cardiff Athletics. Ava came first in the U13 70m hurdles,

becoming Welsh Champion for this event.

Ava is also a talented gymnast and is competing next weekend in the British Championships, representing Welsh Gymnastics in Guildford. Ava will compete on apparatus for beam, floor and bars and her favourite discipline, floor. We wish Ava all the best for this competition.

Abdullah Afolabi

Abdullah is a multi-event athlete for Cardiff Archers and had a good summer in track and field competitions. He has recorded several personal bests in competitions this year across his events. Abdullah competed in the U17 men's Welsh Athletics Championships in August and won a bronze medal in the triple jump. Abdullah is about to start his indoor season and we wish him the very best in his competitions.

Aliyah Afolabi

It has been a hugely successful summer for Aliyah on the track. Aliyah dominated the event and became Welsh Champion in the 100m, 200m and Long Jump. Aliyah now has an indoor season over the winter, and we wish her all the very best for the season.

Shyla Barrett

Congratulations to Shyla Barrett who has been selected for the U16 Cardiff & Vale Schools netball squad. This is a fantastic achievement as she is in Year 10, and most of the squad are made up of Year 11 pupils. Shyla has been training hard and representing the team in fixtures this autumn. Shyla has also been selected for Welsh Regional U21 and has been training and playing for them this season. Well done Shyla!

RUTH FRY, HEAD OF YEAR 9 AND TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, NATHAN WALSH, TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MORGAN JONES, TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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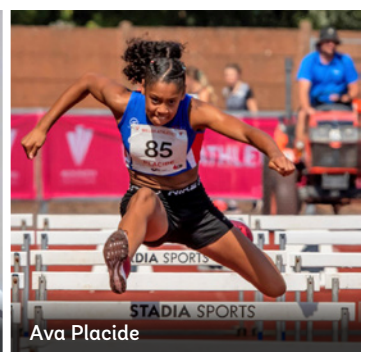
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Millie Gold



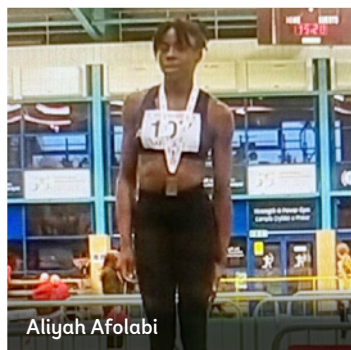
Soraya Makubuli



Ava Placide



Abdullah Afolabi



Aliyah Afolabi



Shyla Barrett