



WINTER/GAEAF 2020

The New Illtydian

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

Leading the way in the "New Normal"

As a school, we have had to do things a little differently this year. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Year 6 Open Evening, meaning that we had to find a different way of showcasing our school to prospective pupils and parents. We decided to employ the services of Escape to Design, who we have worked with closely for many years and who produce "The New Illtydian" for us, to capture a virtual tour of our school. The virtual tour allows users to explore the whole school and view snapshots in the daily life of the school.

Pete Surma, director of Escape to Design said: "We felt that offering St Illtyd's the tool that embraces technology to assist prospective pupils - and their parents - to view the school interactively, walk around its spaces and 'connect' with imagery and video at the same time, was an absolute must in order for them to communicate with their audience and promote Year 7 intake to the school in 2021".

"The interactive properties of the virtual tour engage the user far more in that they have more control in what they see and where, so we felt that this method was more likely to encourage and promote repeat visits to the website where it will reside. The tour can also be viewed away from the website platform and promoted independently via social media."



Pete added: "It was an absolute pleasure working with the client on this project. Mrs Luisa May, our direct contact organised everything to make our job as seamless as possible. The school itself is lovely - it oozes warmth and friendliness from both staff and pupils made the project an absolute pleasure to work on."

Our Head Teacher, David Thomas said: "Like everybody else working through this pandemic we have been thinking about how we can do what we normally do under the current restrictions and conditions."

He added: "Open Evenings and Parents Evenings are a particular challenge at the moment and the opportunity to create a virtual tour to allow people to "visit" the school and have a look at our facilities is a real asset. It also allows visitors to meet some of our staff and get a flavour of the school. We are delighted with the results from Pete and the team."

• Our tour can be viewed on our website:

<http://www.stilltyds.org.uk/virtual-tour/>

• Or on the following direct links:

St Illtyd's Catholic High School - Virtual Tour from Reception to Lower Floor Areas

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=AWg833BDABw>

St Illtyd's Catholic High School - Virtual Tour from Reception to Upper Floor Area

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=KwCAkQqSKac>

Pete Surma from Escape to Design can be contacted via email pete@escapetodesign.com or on 02920 891986.

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

HEAD'S MESSAGE NEGES Y PENNAETH

We are living through unprecedented times and each day brings its

challenges to our family and friends and to ourselves as individuals. We have all had to cope, adapt and change the way we do things in our professional and personal lives. It has been a difficult time for us all.



School has been no different and I would like to thank you all for your support, patience and understanding throughout 2020. It has not been the year any of us could have imagined.

What it has brought home is the importance of what really matters to us all. The common values of care, compassion, hope and love. I have witnessed this in abundance during lockdown and since reopening. I have seen it among the staff day in and day out. I have seen it amongst the parents on a daily basis and I have seen it from our amazing children. In a time of fear and worry they have led the way and displayed levels of resilience, confidence, generosity and kindness that have been truly amazing to behold. They are a credit to you all.

This shorter edition of the New Illtydian gives an insight into some of what has been happening in school these past months. From virtual tours and developing online learning to teaching and learning under COVID-19 conditions. It has been about rebuilding and catching up but it is also about moving on and developing the knowledge and skills which our young people need. We cannot afford to stand still. We have to keep pushing and supporting all so that they can achieve all that they can, virus or no virus.

I am sure there will be much to celebrate in 2021 and I know we will all be better equipped to deal with whatever the year ahead brings. Christmas with its message of rebirth and hope reminds us of what we have and what we wish for ourselves, family and friends in the future. It is a time to celebrate and a time to count our blessings.

Thank you again for all your support of the school and I wish you a happy and holy Christmas.

MR D B THOMAS, HEAD TEACHER

A huge well done to our Estates team!

Whilst we were all in lockdown between March and June, our hard-working Estates team tackled the enormous task of giving the school a complete revamp. They painted the entire school, replaced lights and ensured all signage was in place ready for the return of pupils and staff at the end of June. We think they did a great job and you can see the results for yourself on our virtual tour on our school website. The photo shows one of our newly decorated classrooms. A huge well done and thank you to our Estates Manager, Mr Peter Hill and Estates Officer, Mr Mike Fleming.



Altro Evolve pupils support Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service

A group of eight Altro Evolve pupils from St Illtyd's Catholic High School helped Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service; part of the Ministry of Justice to develop their school engagement sessions recently.

Louise Forman and Zoe Carey from the MOJ approached Careers Wales for advice on how to develop their sessions with High Schools. They were keen to make their sessions on the variety of roles within the industry appealing and relevant to young people. They wanted to get feedback from a group of school pupils on their current presentations and how it may be improved.

There were a number of pupils on the Altro Evolve scheme that the session was relevant to, so the Business Engagement Adviser and Careers Adviser worked to organise the visit to the school to meet the pupils.

The session went really well. The pupils engaged well with the employers and gave them valuable feedback on their workshop. Louise and Zoe have taken the pupil's ideas onboard and are currently developing their school sessions. The pupils fed back that they had learned a lot about careers in the industry.

ADRIAN COLE, BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT ADVISER, CAREERS WALES

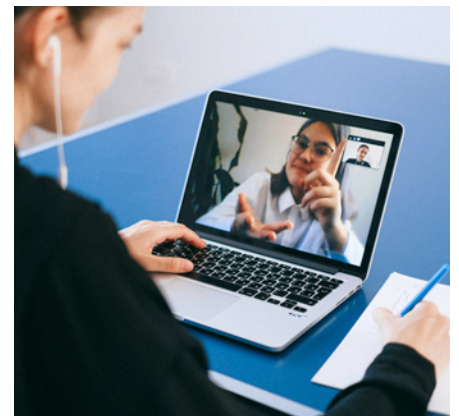


Blended Learning

Since March 2020, we have made great strides with our online learning, moving the school online during lockdown, and since September we have adapted our model following feedback from pupils, parents and staff. We now have a Blended Learning model which brings together face-to-face classroom teaching and online learning. This has to be adaptable to suit learners who are unable to attend school due to self-isolating while the rest of their class are in school, and also for periods of time such as the 'fire-break lockdown' when whole year groups were forced to work from home.

Our online learning uses a blend of Google Classroom online work and Microsoft Teams live learning. Online work within Google classroom now includes a mixture of online quizzes, professional and teacher made videos to support learning alongside online tasks. Many pupils have had the opportunity to participate in online lessons from core subjects and we are now moving towards the model of face-to-face tutorial video sessions for pupils to get individual help whilst unable to attend school.

MR IEUAN PRICE, HEAD OF DIGITAL LEARNING



Spotlight on our Art Department

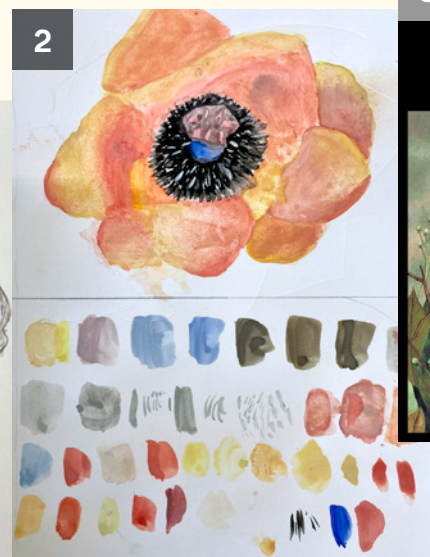
This issue, we would like to highlight some of the fantastic work that our pupils have produced within Art.

Year 7 have been refining their drawing and painting skills with their natural form studies. Our photos show a biro study by Karolina Bielyova (1) and a watercolour painting by Skye Talbot (2).

Year 8 have been learning about how culture can inform Art by delving into the history of Mexican Folk Art. Our photo shows photography work by Ella Ham (3).

Year 9 have been exploring the emotional impact of current social issues and have created mature, thought-provoking artwork that tells a story. Our photos show work by Zak Marlow-Payne (4) and Courtney Barrett (5).

MISS T COSSLETT, HEAD OF ART



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Altro Evolve Radio Platform career sessions

Careers Wales have been working in partnership with the Radio Platform team at Wales Millennium Centre (WMC) to deliver career-based sessions to a group of ten Year 10 Altro-Evolve pupils from St Illtyd's Catholic High School. During the sessions pupils will interview employers, create their own radio show, record and edit it. The show will then be played in their school over the speaker system during lunch times.

Radio Platform is a youth-led radio station supporting young people to produce and present their own live radio shows which are also available as podcasts.

A four-session programme was developed by Ed, who works at Radio Platform, the schools Careers Adviser and Business Engagement Adviser. All sessions lasted two hours and were to take place fortnightly.

Session one involved an introduction to the radio station and WMC, a talk about different careers available in the creative sector, WMC and radio. The pupils engaged really well, they were taught how to start creating a radio show and had a go at using the equipment. The pupils also started to think about the music they would like used in the radio programme.

In Session two the pupils worked on planning the content of their show and learnt how to interview each other using the radio equipment. Ed and his colleague delivered workshops on how to structure a show and interview people. The pupils also worked together to choose the types of employers they would like to interview. It was agreed that someone from the sports sector; preferably football would be interviewed, along with a make-up artist and carpenter. A trainer from Cardiff City Training Academy was

sourced and a make-up artist and carpenter from the production showing at the theatre at the time.

Unfortunately, due to Lockdown and the school closing we were unable to deliver sessions three and four so they have been postponed. When we continue with the sessions, they will either be delivered at the WMC or if required; at the school as Radio Platform have portable equipment.

During session three the pupils will interview the employers; having spent time previously with their Careers Adviser deciding what questions they will ask and who will take on each role. Session four will involve the pupils being shown how to edit the show and add music and jingles.

We are sure the pupils will be keen to progress with their planned show and interview employers when we can continue.

ADRIAN COLE, BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT ADVISER, CAREERS WALES

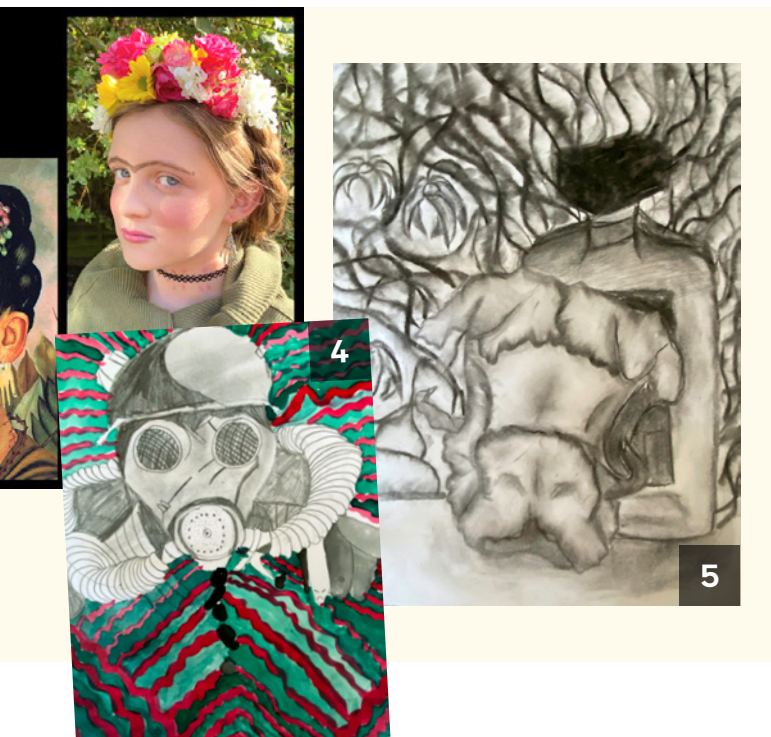
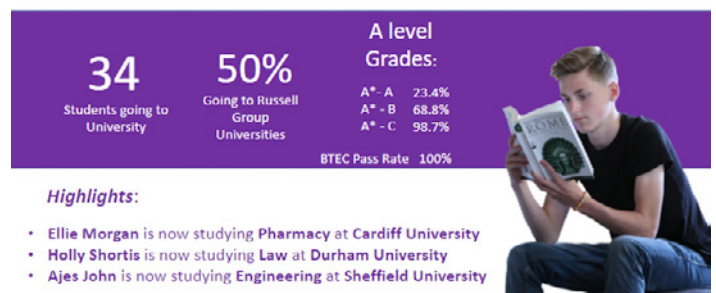


St David's Catholic Sixth Form College success

St David's Catholic Sixth Form College is our Catholic feeder college, and it is always wonderful to hear of the success achieved by ex-St Illtyd's pupils. This image shows some of these successes. 83 pupils from St Illtyd's enrolled with St David's in August this year, an increase on previous years. We wish all of them the very best of luck with their studies.

St David's Catholic Sixth Form College's Virtual Open Evening is available at: www.stdavidscollege.ac.uk

SUMMARY OF ST ILLTYD'S STUDENTS IN 2020

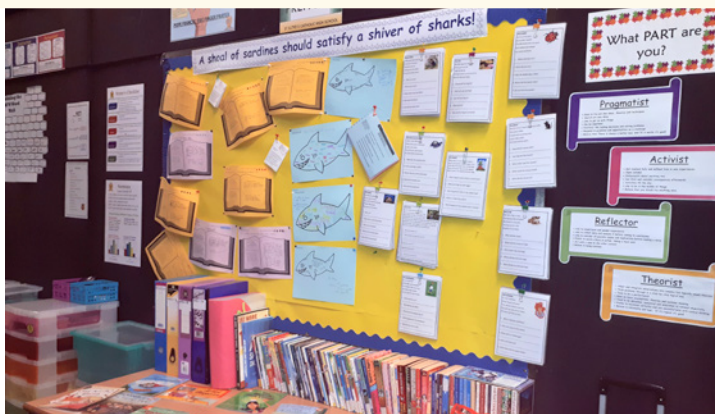


CAVC applications open!

Applications for Cardiff and Vale College are now open. Their Virtual Open Day is available on their website along with other useful information. Here are the direct links:

Key Resources for Pupils and Parents in Year 11

- Year 11 presentation for pupils – <https://youtu.be/AeT14OvTupI>
- Year 11 guide for parents – <https://youtu.be/O-VJfsMcYnw>
- Step by step 'How to Apply' guide – <https://youtu.be/9wAfoloKxi8>
- Link to our Virtual Open Day – <https://cavc.ac.uk/en/virtualopenday>



Raising literacy standards at St Illtyd's

Literacy is the foundation of all learning. As a school, we are consistently seeking new ways to ensure that all pupils have opportunities to develop and refine skills in this key area. This term, we have appointed a specialist literacy teacher, Mrs Tracey Davies, to run a full timetable of interventions covering guided reading, comprehension and spelling. This initiative ensures that pupils who are identified as requiring extra support receive quality time to improve their literacy levels in our dedicated literacy classroom.

A second initiative introduced this term is the purchase of classroom readers for every form class in Years 7, 8 and 9. This has been made possible due to kind donations from Cardiff Community Housing

Association who donated £1,000 and Cansford Laboratories who donated £600. We are extremely grateful to both of our funders for their generous donations and would like to thank them both. We would also like to thank Rob Petersen from Petersen's PR, for his support in making the links with Cansford Laboratories.

As a school, we would not have been able to purchase these books without their kind support. Our pupils will gain a lot of value from reading these books as a group during form times, encouraging a love of reading for pleasure. Our photos show our pupils enjoying their new classroom readers.

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

CCFC Foundation inspires pupils

This term at St Illtyd's, groups of pupils have been taking part in the Transition and Premier Leagues Inspires Projects, delivered by Cardiff City Football Club Foundation.

Targeted Year 7 pupils have been taking part in the Transition Project. The programme aims to reduce anxiety about change associated with the transition into secondary school. After Christmas, the project will begin in our four feeder Catholic primary schools and will continue when they start at St Illtyd's. The project looks to develop or maintain pupil's motivation and positive attitudes during a significant period in the lives of young people, equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to be confident and competent to fully access post-transition opportunities, develop the tools and skills to deal with the emotional challenges of transition and increase the amount of physical activity

undertaken each week.

Alongside the Transition Project, targeted pupils in all year groups have embarked on the Premier League Inspires Project. This is an initiative that supports children in secondary education who are at risk of not achieving their full potential. The programme sets out to inspire children and young people to develop personal skills and positive attitudes to succeed in life. "Inspires" supports participants' engagement using the theme of football and supports secondary schools to keep pupils present and committed whilst encouraging others to re-engage with school life. In the sessions, pupils learn about healthier lifestyles, resilience and well-being.



Pupils are challenged to take part in a community-based project to create a social action idea that will significantly benefit and make a positive difference to Cardiff City Football Club and the surrounding community. Year groups will compete against each other, and the winning team will go on to compete against other Cardiff schools. We will update you on the progress of this project throughout the year.

Nearpod – a new initiative within Digital Skills & Business

COVID-19 has presented several teaching and learning obstacles in relation to government guidelines. For me, as an NQT, developing some of the pedagogy practised last year was going to be a challenge with regard to pupil motivation, lesson pace and work assessments.

Researching the myriad of learning and teaching platforms available, I came across a platform that can facilitate and enhance motivation, pace and assessment in my lessons which can be assessed remotely at a time when teachers are forced to be distanced from learners.

The platform is called Nearpod and it is gathering popularity, especially because of COVID-19 and remote learning across the education spectrum.

The learning platform includes two basic

components: content and activities.

The content consists of slides, access to web content, VR field trip, educational videos, slideshows, a pdf viewer and a facility to add videos with embedded questions.

The activities include open-ended questions, matching pairs, quizzes, whiteboards, polls, memory tests, and gamified plenaries.

Another function the software provides is Microsoft's Immersive reader- a facility to support reading and comprehension aiding pupils with dyslexia, and a translation tool which is of considerable help to our EAL learners.

We, in Digital Skills and Business Studies, have found during our first term in school that the learners are positively engaged with the activities.

Through the use of the variety of learning

tasks, learners are motivated and keen to improve and develop their knowledge.

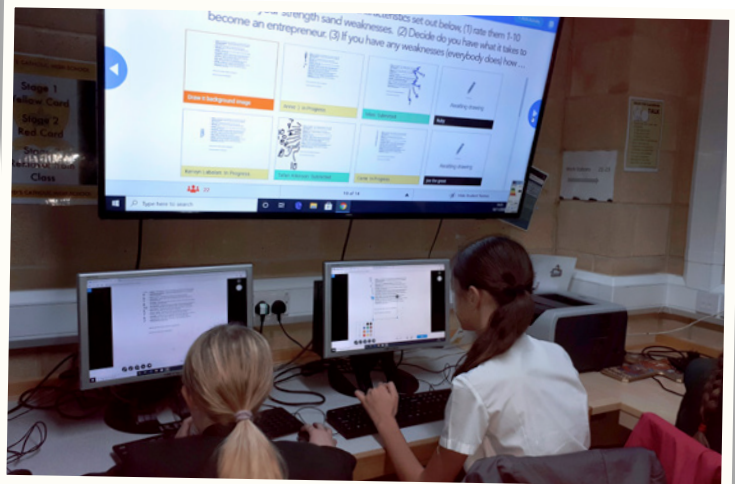
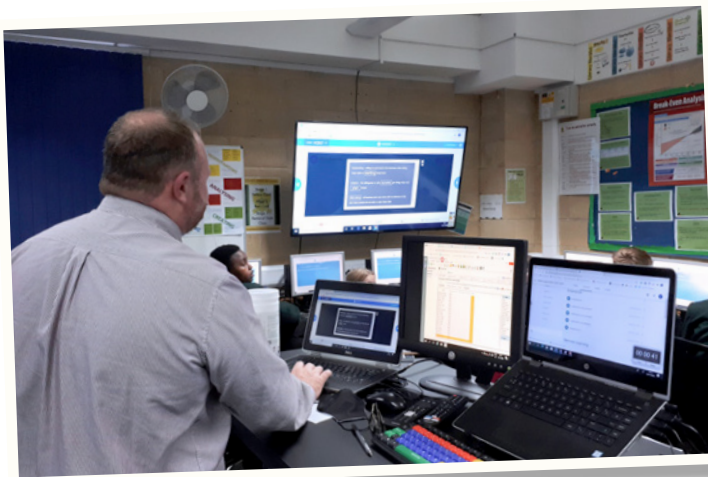
The pace of the activities is managed, so each pupil has the opportunity to complete each learning objective within a flexible time window and they can then carry on with the rest of the class, leaving no pupil behind.

Assessment of every activity takes place in real-time, therefore interventions can be focussed on the specific learners, as required.

Each learner has the opportunity at the end of the lesson to self-evaluate their success and critique their performance.

Nearpod has changed the way we teach within our department. It has provided remote assessments, engagement, fun and the progressive attainment of all our learners' abilities.

MR S ELLIS, TEACHER OF ICT & BUSINESS



CYS Get Active Competition

During lockdown, Cardiff Youth Service ran a competition called "Get Active". Young people were asked to complete a five week activity journal produced by Street Games Wales which covered the activities they had taken part in, what they were proud of, how they had slept and if their family had taken part in exercise with them. We are delighted to announce that then Year 8 pupil, Abdullah Afolabi, was announced one of the winners! Congratulations Abdullah – you are a role model for us all on the benefits of keeping active! If you would like to watch Abdullah's winning entry: <https://youtu.be/2VBrTEmgDPA>



Virtual Carol Service

Christmas would not be Christmas without St Illtyd's annual Carol Service, an evening of traditional readings and carols. This year, to cope with the current climate, our Music Department decided to do things differently and hold a "Virtual" Carol Service instead.

Videos were all pre-recorded and edited and the Carol Service will be launched "live" at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th December. Information on how to access the service will follow via our social media and mail alert service.



St Illtyd's Catholic High School warmly invites you to a virtual evening of traditional readings and carols

Wednesday 16th December at 7.00pm

More information about accessing the service will follow via our social media and mail alert service



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020/21

Please note the following dates for the academic year:

TERM DATES**AUTUMN TERM 2020**

Ends: Friday 18/12/20

SPRING TERM 2021

Starts: Monday 04/01/21

Half term: Monday
15/02/21 - Friday 19/02/21

Ends: Friday 26/03/21

SUMMER TERM 2021

Starts: Monday 12/04/21

Half term: Monday
31/05/21 - Friday 04/06/21

Ends: Tuesday 20/07/21

INSET DAYS – Friday
11/12/20, Friday 29/01/21,
Friday 25/06/21, Monday
19/07/21 and Tuesday
20/7/21

The school will be closed for
the May Day Bank Holiday
on Monday 03/05/21

Transition 2020

As with all things, our transition programme was handled differently this year. Instead of pupils visiting St Illtyd's, this year transition was handled through a series of emails, phone calls and virtual meetings with our feeder primary schools.

A transition website was created, especially for our new intake, and it now resides within our main website. This website is packed with information on who's who in the school, uniform, expectations and much more.

When schools re-opened at the end of June, parents and carers were offered the opportunity to have a face to face meeting with our Deputy Head, Mr Paul Moriarty, and Assistant Head of Year 7, Reanne Chapman. The majority of Year 6 parents and carers took advantage of this.

When we returned to school in September, we felt it was very important that our new Year 7 pupils had a whole day to themselves to get to know the school, without the other year groups.

As a result of all this, we are pleased to report that our Year 7 pupils have been able to fully settle into St Illtyd's.

With our new transition systems in place and with our brand new "Virtual Tour" on our website (see article "Leading the way in the New Normal"), we are all set to face every eventuality 2021 brings.

MR P MORIARTY, DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER

