



BBC Journalist Garry Owen visits St Illtyd's

Following their visit to BBC Wales in April, Year 9 pupils starting GCSE Media Studies in September had the chance to listen to BBC Wales News journalist Garry Owen when he visited our school in June. Garry explained that journalists have to be neutral in their reporting and emphasised that news is all around us.

Garry spoke about the skills that all successful journalists have and that our pupils can develop in everyday life:

- Communication skills – the importance of listening and talking
- Initiative to get what you want
- Adaptability – being able to jump into a situation quickly
- The ability to absorb facts quickly
- The will to work all hours and all days

The talk was very informative, and pupils learnt a lot about careers within the media, particularly journalism. Pupils were able to ask questions at the end of the talk.

We would like to thank Garry Owen for giving his time to come and speak to our pupils. We would also like to thank Careers Wales Business Engagement Adviser Adrian Cole for arranging this session.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



HEAD'S MESSAGE | NEGES Y PENNAETH

The end of a year creates a range of feelings and emotions. Happiness and joy, sorrow and regret, what we have achieved and what we haven't yet. The list can go on and on but in a school, we are fortunate in that none of us are ever far away from a fresh start and a new beginning.

We wish our departing Year 11's all the best for their future lives. They have been an absolute pleasure and credit to their families. The baton is passed to Year 10 to use this last year as best they can to be all that they can. Year 9, options complete, are more than ready to flourish in Key stage 4 and Year 8 continue with the Curriculum for Wales and continue to make progress. We also welcome Year 7 in September as they start their new beginning in a new school.

As a school we have lots to celebrate and lots to be thankful and grateful for. Our pupils continue to impress with their ability in the classroom, on the sports field and upon the stage. Their development as people, generous and compassionate, has also been a strong feature this year and is illustrated by their charity work within these pages.

We are fortunate with the staff that we have at the school. No matter the role, they bring a dedication and commitment to the young people in their care which

is relentless. We are also fortunate with our families and their support of the school and staff. We achieve our best results when we are all working together. No doubt about that.

So, a year of achievement and progress. To quote Michael Josephson,

"Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey."

We wish everybody a happy and safe summer.
DAVID THOMAS, HEAD TEACHER





Visit to BBC Wales



In September St Illtyd's will be introducing a brand-new GCSE subject – Media Studies. The subject will be taught by teacher Miss Leah Dalby. To introduce this new subject, Year 9 pupils who have opted to take GCSE Media Studies in September had the exciting opportunity to visit the new BBC Wales building in Cardiff city centre.

Our group was met by Abi and Sian. We were given a tour of all floors in the BBC building. We visited a radio studio and learnt how it can be adapted for use by different radio stations, we visited a TV studio and watched a programme being filmed and we visited the studio where

Wales Today and S4C News are filmed. We also got to see what happens behind the scenes in the galleries and got an insight into how links between TV programmes are handled. We even got a glimpse of Wynne Evans (the man from the "Go Compare" adverts) before he went to present his radio programme! Throughout the tour, we learnt a lot about the vast array of career opportunities at the BBC.

After a fantastic tour, our group then took part in a speed networking event in which pupils were able to talk to various BBC employees including a journalist, a radio producer and two apprentices. We also got to meet an ex-St Illtyd's pupil who is

now a video journalist for the BBC. The group also got a fantastic insight into the digital world of the BBC website and how employees can monitor which news items are the most popular and by which demographic they are being read by.

We would like to thank Abi and Sian for a fantastic visit. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visit – they learnt a lot about BBC Wales and were able to ask lots of questions. We would also like to thank Adrian Cole, Business Engagement Adviser at Careers Wales for organising the visit for us and for accompanying us on the visit.

LUIISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



Attendance matters!!!

We are proud to announce St Illtyd's have had a 2.4% rise in attendance compared to last year. This is down to all the hard work from the Attendance Team, supportive parents/carers and most importantly pupils who take attendance seriously.

Attendance at school is extremely important. Educational research shows a clear link between good attendance and achievement in schools. 95% attendance is the minimum expectation for all pupils.

Year 11 100% Attendance

The following Year 11 pupils have had 100% attendance this academic year:

- Abdullah Afolabi
- AJ Kelly
- Amy Lee
- Aneena Joshan
- Chantelle Balmont
- Emily Richards
- Erik Mendonca
- Kenneth Mangenza
- Mitchell Chike-Nweze

They have been rewarded by a free ticket to their Prom. Congratulations all!!! Emily Richards has had 100% attendance for all five years in St Illtyd's. Amazingly, she had 100% attendance in Years 4 to 6 in Rumney Primary!!!!

PAUL MORIARTY, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Emily Richards



Abdullah Afolabi



AJ Kelly



Amy Lee



Aneena Joshan



Chantelle Balmont



Erik Mendonca



Kenneth Mangenza



Mitchell Chike-Nweze

Schools are doing excellent work, but they can't do this on their own. Learners need to be attending school, seeing their friends, and learning in the classroom. This is vital for their wellbeing, their education, and their future prospects. Parents and carers should be doing absolutely everything they can to ensure their children are in school. It's the best way to give them the start in life and the future they deserve.

JEREMY MILES, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE,
9TH JUNE 2023

Mrs Hadley – Family Engagement and Attendance Officer

Mrs Hadley joined St Illtyd's in January this year and has already made an impact with pupils and families.

Her role is to work with Assistant Heads of Year monitoring attendance and pupil wellbeing.

Mrs Hadley has impacted across all year groups and has built up a strong relationship with pupils and their parents/carers.

We look forward to Mrs Hadley developing this role in the new academic year.

Mrs Hadley can be contacted on:
HadleyB12@hwbcymru.net



Garden Project update



A HUGE, HUGE thank you to Arcadis!

Regular readers of the New Illtydian will know that we are developing an area of land at the school into a garden area. The school garden at St Illtyd's is very much a work in progress. It is a large area – approximately 860 square metres. The area was overgrown with weeds and brambles and had laid abandoned for years, so much so that it was impossible to even enter the area when we first started the project. We made a good start last year by having the area cleared by Ryan Landscaping, who cleared it free of charge for us, and by planting some trees (donated by Ryan Landscaping) and a wildflower meadow as

part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Superbloom project. We have also planted fruit trees in the orchard area (donated by Coed Caerdydd).

To move the project forward, back in March we were offered the opportunity for a team from Arcadis to come and work on the garden as part of their charity/community day.

On Monday 20th March, a team of nine staff from Arcadis came to St Illtyd's to work on the school garden. Although the conditions were not the best (it rained heavily for most of the day), the team ploughed on and tackled an extensive list of jobs. During the course of the day, the team put together a shed and water storage system, built planters, tidied up and planted in our reflection

garden, cut back trees, put up bee hotels (made by our Eco Club members), sowed wildflower seeds, put together a wheelbarrow, litter picked, levelled off ground and gave the whole area a general tidy.

As you can see from our photos, it was an extremely productive day. We are extremely grateful to Colin Reith and the team from Arcadis for giving up their time to come and work in the garden. We would like to say a HUGE, HUGE thank you to all of them – we really appreciate everything they did on the day. We would also like to say a massive thank you to Arcadis for the generous donation of tools, kneelers, gloves, watering cans, compost, and wildflower seeds that they brought with them on the day.



A HUGE, HUGE thank you to all our supporters!

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the other companies and organisations that have supported us in this project so far:

- **Ryan Landscaping** – not only for clearing the area for us back in February 2022 and donating 35 trees, but also for returning in March 2023 to cultivate the area for us.
- **Gary Talbot, Project Manager-Development & Regeneration, Cardiff County Council** for delivering two large water cubs which we are now using as water storage in the garden along with donations of timber.
- **Lee James & Mike Rutter of Calibre Contracting** – for the donation of slabs for our pathways.
- **Catherine Pargeter, Community Engagement Manager at Llanrumney Hall** – for the donation of a polytunnel frame which we plan to erect in our garden.
- **Alexandra Nita, First Campus Officer at Reaching Wider South East Wales** – for organising a fantastic sustainability project – “It’s the Bees Knees” in which our Eco Club members learnt about the importance of bees and visited Cardiff Metropolitan University to visit the beehives and make bee hotels – which are now proudly located in our garden.
- **Paul Benson from Greens Recycling/Caerphilly Skip Hire/M Jones Road Haulage Ltd** – for a donation of 8 tons of sharp sand to use in the base of the slabs in our pathways
- **Cardiff St Davids Rotary Club** – for a donation of £300 that will be used to purchase cement for our pathways
- **South Wales Turf and Topsoil** – for a donation of topsoil for our planters



A HUGE, HUGE thank you to Bridgend College!

On a sunny day in May, a team from Bridgend College led by Horticultural Lecturer Anthony Davies came to the garden to give it a much needed tidy up. Large areas were strimmed and sand was laid for the footpaths. Anthony and the team did an amazing job in tidying up the garden and have promised to come back and help us out again in the Autumn by putting up a polytunnel and digging a trench that will help with drainage. Then in the Spring, they will come and plant our winning design from the Bridgend College Garden Design competition. A huge thank you to Anthony, Barbara, Paul, and Josh for their time.

Ryan Landscaping

Phil Ryan – phil@ryanlandscaping.co.uk | t: 02920 758761
www.ryanlandscaping.co.uk
www.linkedin.com/company/74793811/admin/
www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-coombes-5668a9201/

Greens Recycling/Caerphilly Skip Hire M Jones Road Haulage Ltd

www.greensrecycling.co.uk | t: 02920 862328
www.caerphillyskips.co.uk | t: 02920 862328
www.mjoneshaulage.co.uk | m: 07966 269604

Calibre Contracting

www.calibrecontracting.co.uk | t: 01443 791210

South Wales Turf and Topsoil

www.southwalesturfandtopsoil.co.uk
 t: 01633 689233 | m: 07765 572655

Can YOU help us?

As you can see, a lot of work has been done to create the garden area but there is still much to do! If any local businesses would like to donate any materials for the garden such as granite chippings or bark chippings, we would be extremely grateful.

If any local businesses would be interested in laying the pathways in our garden as part of their community or charity day, we would also love to hear from you.

If you would like to discuss any of the above, please contact Luisa May on 02920 778174 or email MayL23@hwbcymru.net
LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



Eco Club update



Eco Club visit to Wates

In May, Eco Club members had the opportunity to visit Wates housing development next door to our school – Aspen Grove – to learn about the different environmental initiatives that have been incorporated into the building of the new houses.

All the new houses have solar panels on their roofs so solar energy can be harvested from the sun and converted into electricity. This electricity

is then stored in a battery within the house for the household to use. In addition, heat (for hot water and central heating) is generated via a ground source heat pump connected to deep underground boreholes.

What this means is that the carbon footprint of a new-build house in Aspen Grove is vastly lower than a typical secondhand home and a household's energy bills are only around £90 per

month!

Eco Club members enjoyed learning about how the houses were built and enjoyed looking around one of the show homes. Everything that members learnt tied in with our Eco Schools topics of energy, water, and waste minimisation.

We would like to thank Nicole Barnes, Social Value Manager at Wates, for looking after us on our visit.

Community litter pick with Wates and Nanny Biscuit

As part of our continuing work on litter, Eco Club members took part in a community litter pick with our business partners – Wates, and the charity Nanny Biscuit. It was a very unusual litter pick in that a dragon came along to join us! Pupils collected litter in the gully area between the school and the new Wates housing development. Pupils collected 11 bags of litter and had lots of fun at the same time! As part of our collaboration with Nanny Biscuit, Eco Club members also spent time writing letters which will be shared with residents of nursing homes in North Wales as part of an inter-generational project. Our photo shows some of these letters.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR AND ECO CLUB LEAD





Eco Club update

Eco Club achieve the Eco-Schools Bronze and Silver Awards!

Eco Club has fantastic news to share – at the end of the Spring term we achieved the Bronze Award of the Eco Schools programme and we are finishing the Summer term by achieving the Silver Award! This is all thanks to the hard work of our loyal and committed Eco Club members, some of which have been members for three years! Our focus next year is to work towards our Eco Schools Green Flag Award.



Eco Code!
St. Illtyds

- Switch off the lights when you leave the room.
- Turn off taps to save water.
- It's important to look after wildlife.
- Look after our school environment.
- Let's eat healthily and look after ourselves.
- Try to reduce, reuse, recycle wherever possible.
- You can reduce your carbon footprint by walking to school.
- Don't litter, use the bins.
- Save our planet by following our Eco Code!

St Illtyd's Eco Code

As part of our work towards achieving the Silver Award, Eco Club members worked together to create an Eco Code – a summary of everything we are trying to achieve at St Illtyd's. You can see our Eco Code here.



Spirituality & chaplaincy at St Illtyd's

Spring Term round up



We started our Spring term off with a collaboration with the St Vincent De Paul Centre and our Year 10 Youth Action Group.

Together they came up with the idea of an Easter Hamper fundraiser raising money for vulnerable families across Cardiff during school holidays. Stacy and Janine from the centre very kindly donated everything that was needed to make a hamper full of Easter treats. Thanks to the dedication of our Year 10 group and the generosity of pupils and staff we managed to raise £93 for SVP, Ely Bridge.



March saw the launch of CAFOD's Big Walk for Lent to help fight global poverty which coincided with its ongoing appeal for the Turkey-Syria Crisis. Both our Year 7 and Year 10 YAG wanted to do everything they could to help with both appeals and set to work to spread the word and raise as much money as possible. Year 10 took on the responsibility for the Hunger Lunch, they worked closely with Food Tech to make a beautiful homemade soup which they prepared both in and outside of lesson time. It was wonderful to see both staff and pupils get involved to raise awareness and money with soup sales.

As Year 10's focus was on the Hunger Lunch it enabled the many members of our Year 7 group to put their effort into The Big Walk for Lent. Schools across England and Wales are challenged to walk 200km over 40 days and raise £200 for CAFOD, and thanks to members of our Year 7 YAG who walked during their meetings and the hard work of our PE department it meant as a school we walked well over 400km and raised £357 for CAFOD! A huge thank you to St Cadoc's Parish who sponsored our pupils on their walk.

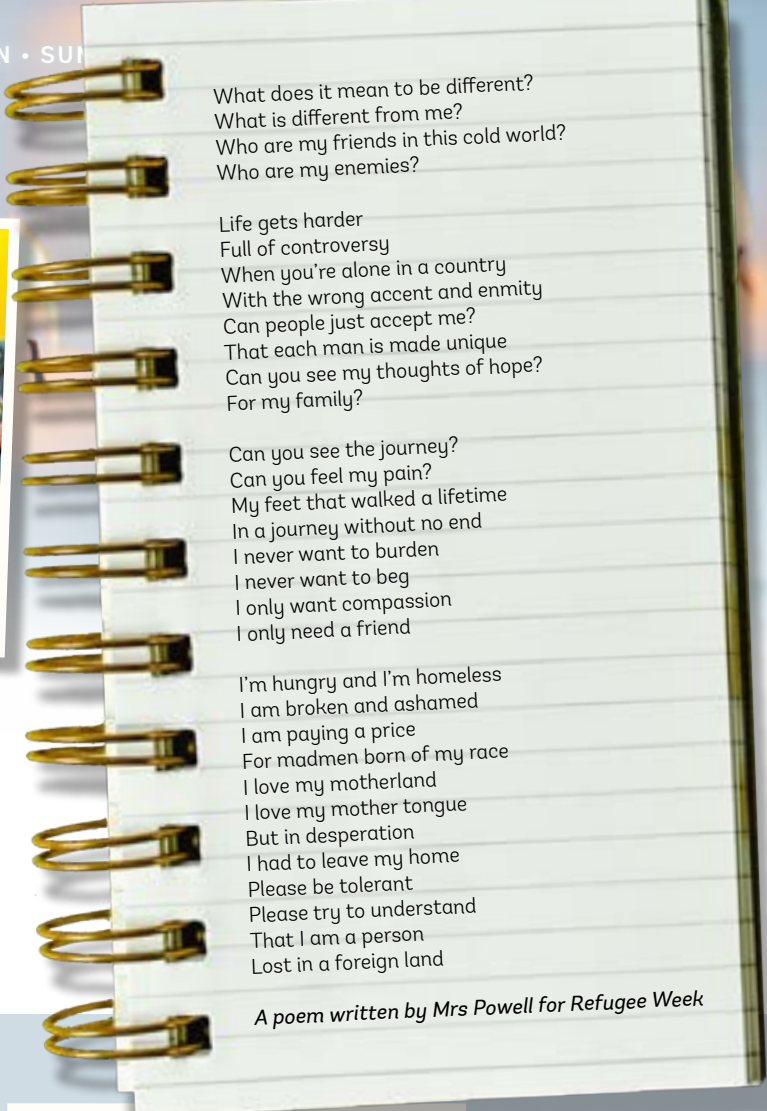


Our Year 7 pupils have been incredibly busy this term fundraising and working with our Catholic feeder primary schools. St Albans RC Primary School was the first to visit us in our School Chapel, taking part in a Collective Worship for Lent. Year 7 worked brilliantly with the primary pupils to help them create mosaic crosses that they could then take home with them. Our next primary school activity would see members of our Year 7 YAG (Youth Action Group) host St John Lloyd Mini Vinnies in the first collaborative SVP conference. The session saw both schools brainstorming ideas on how they could work together for the rest of the school year, and it was decided that we as a conference would focus on collective worship and fundraising for Guide Dogs Cymru.





While members of our Year 7 YAG were working with our Catholic primary schools, other members took part in their very own collective worship. Two groups from Year 7, the Guardian Angels and the Glorious Halos, were tasked to lead their own collective worship by taking on the responsibility of reading the scripture, Gospel and responsorial psalm. After reading brilliantly they then had the mission to make a dwelling reflecting on the time Peter had offered dwellings to Jesus, Moses and Elijah when they had appeared to him in the mountain. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activity.



What does it mean to be different?
 What is different from me?
 Who are my friends in this cold world?
 Who are my enemies?

Life gets harder
 Full of controversy
 When you're alone in a country
 With the wrong accent and enmity
 Can people just accept me?
 That each man is made unique
 Can you see my thoughts of hope?
 For my family?

Can you see the journey?
 Can you feel my pain?
 My feet that walked a lifetime
 In a journey without no end
 I never want to burden
 I never want to beg
 I only want compassion
 I only need a friend

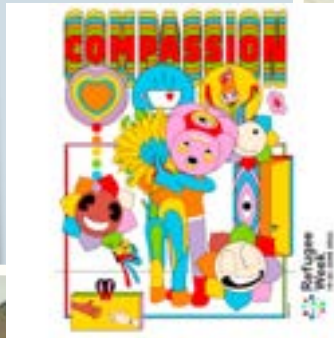
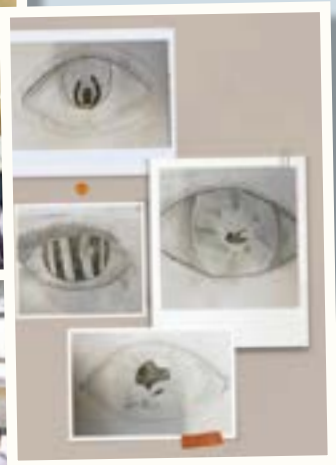
I'm hungry and I'm homeless
 I am broken and ashamed
 I am paying a price
 For madmen born of my race
 I love my motherland
 I love my mother tongue
 But in desperation
 I had to leave my home
 Please be tolerant
 Please try to understand
 That I am a person
 Lost in a foreign land

A poem written by Mrs Powell for Refugee Week

Refugee Week

19th June marked the start of Refugee Week, and as part of the collective worship during form time pupils across the school explored what it meant to be a refugee and the challenges they face in their day to day lives. The theme of Refugee Week this year was compassion: "Where we look to show compassion to not just those in our immediate circle but to all our human neighbours and our one shared home, planet Earth."

During Art, Miss Cosslett's class created reflective tonal eyes; they developed emotive pupils which illustrated their interpretation of how it feels to flee your home. Year 9 pupils explored multiculturalism in English and discussed their own sense of identity. They learnt about Alem, the main character in "Refuge Boy," and his experiences of having to move to another country to be safe. Year 7 took part in a CAFOD workshop in their RE lessons which simulated the journey of a refugee family in their search for safety. It was a thought-provoking activity that truly highlighted the compassion and empathy of our students.



About this year's theme:

Compassion

For Refugee Week's 25th anniversary we invite you to celebrate what compassion looks like in action. Together we can create a shared understanding of compassion to ensure we are extending it widely to all.

"Our task must be to free ourselves - by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." - Albert Einstein

Spirituality & chaplaincy at St Illtyd's



Celebrating Pentecost

St Alban's Church and Primary School kindly invited us to attend a Cluster Mass to celebrate the Holy Spirit. St Alban's organised a lovely activity after Mass, dedicated to Pentecost, where the pupils designed flames out of icing and placed them on to biscuits.

While one team dedicated their time to working with our primary schools, the other group of Year 7 pupils headed over to Mary Immaculate High School to help lead a collective worship exploring the Power of Pentecost. Our pupils led the worship with scripture and prayer along with Year 8 pupils from Mary Immaculate, followed by a moment of reflection

and activity. The pupils were split into smaller groups and tasked to read through various newspapers to explore the power of voice and how it was used in the media. After they had analysed articles in their groups, they then had to display their discoveries on their boards and explain what they thought the person writing was trying to achieve and if they were using their voice for good or not.

Who let the dogs out?

Year 7 dedicated their time to raising money and awareness for Guide Dogs Cymru, which was also the Lord Mayor of Cardiff's Charity of the year. Year 7 were very lucky to receive two visits from Guide Dogs Cymru, the first being an assembly to raise awareness thanks to Jane and her dog Ruby and the second was a visit from Sian and her dog Jason alongside The Honourable Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Cardiff, Graham and Anne Hinchey. The Lord Mayor of Cardiff visited our school to meet all our Youth Action Group members who took the lead with fundraising for the charity alongside St John Lloyd, St Peters and St Albans Primary Schools. It was a fantastic opportunity to host the event at St Illtyd's and bring everyone together as a cluster to raise awareness and money for such a great cause.

Thanks to the hard work of Year 7 and the generosity of staff and pupils, St Illtyd's was recognised and invited by the Lord Mayor to attend a celebration of thanks at Mansion House.





Month of Mary

We were very lucky to be able to honour Mary in May with collective worships with both St Albans and St John Lloyd. St Albans very kindly invited members of our Year 7 YAG down to their school to take part in their May Procession, with two of our pupils leading the procession around the playground while carrying the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The pupils read brilliantly during the service and thoroughly enjoyed making the flowers with Foundation Phase which were used to adorn Mary.

St John Lloyd visited our School Chapel bringing with them everything needed to carry out a fantastic collective worship. Their devotion to Mary was beautiful and it was lovely for their pupils to lead the collective worship with readings, reflection and wonderful music.



St David's Cathedral

Five of our Year 9 pupils had the honour of representing our school at The Solemn Mass with the Imposition of the Pallium in St David's Metropolitan Cathedral in June. Pupils were invited not only to attend the Mass but also take part in welcoming attendees. His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia presented the vestment to Archbishop Mark O'Toole in a memorable and celebratory service. It was wonderful for our pupils to witness such a prestigious event and to see so many clergy and schools in attendance from all over the diocese.

Our Head Boy, Head Girl and two Prefects had the privilege of attending the Year 6 Leavers Mass at St David's Cathedral. It was a great opportunity for our pupils to see



the Archbishop again and to see all the excited faces of our soon to be Year 7 pupils.

VICTORIA WONNACOTT, SCHOOL CHAPLAIN





HAY FESTIVAL HAY-ON-WYE

2023

The Hay Festival Secondary Schools Day has become a permanent fixture on the St Illtyd's calendar. We were incredibly lucky to receive funding from the Arts Council of Wales Go and See Fund this year that allowed us to cover most of the cost of coach hire of two coaches.



At the event pupils listened to performance poet and playwright Joseph Coelho, who became Waterstones Children's Laureate in 2022. Joseph spoke about his recent book, "The Girl Who Became a Tree" – a story about grief, magic, loss, new strength, and healing. Pupils also listened to the poet Nicola Davies who made them think about how they would feel if they were forced to leave their home. She discussed the experiences of real-life refugees who inspired the poems in her collection "Choose Love."

Later in the day pupils got to listen to award-winning author Patrice Lawrence talk about the real-life inspiration behind her books. In the

final session of the day, Young Adult Book Prize shortlisted author and Brit School Performing Arts graduate Laura Dockrill delivered a superb masterclass on how to become a creative writing superstar. The pupils were extremely excited to bump into Laura after her talk and have photos taken with her.

Overall, this was an amazing day, and all pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day. We are extremely grateful to the Arts Council of Wales for funding this trip – we would not have been able to run this trip without their support.

Here are some of the comments from staff and pupils on the day:

"The speakers really engaged and connected with our pupils. Our pupils had an amazing time and bought many books in the bookshop."

Myfanwy Bowering, Head of Faculty: Literacy, Language and Communications, Head of English, and Trip Leader

"It has been an honour for me to be able to organise this trip and to encourage pupils to read and write more. Our pupils would not ordinarily get the opportunity to attend an event such as this, so I am extremely grateful to the Arts Council of Wales for giving us the financial means to do this."

Luisa May, Community Focused Schools Co-ordinator and Trip Organiser

"We had really good seats. Laura Dockrill was very funny."

Rocco Gentile, Year 7 pupil

"It's the best trip I have ever been on!"

Levi Woodward, Year 7 pupil

"The Hay Festival trip inspired me to start reading. I wasn't interested in reading before, but I am now."

Keisha Tapia, Year 8 pupil

"I enjoyed the opportunity to ask a question during one of the author talks."

Quineesha Malunga, Year 8 pupil

"I really enjoyed it – being with my friends. Listening to the authors was interesting. I bought a book and have started reading it."

Mya Davies, Year 8 pupil

"I wasn't really interested in reading but following the trip, I am inspired to read more."

Riley Gauci, Year 8 pupil

"The trip inspired me to see that books are not boring and that there is always a meaning behind them."

Elda Daniel, Year 8 pupil

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



STEM Roadshow

This March we were delighted to welcome back the STEM Roadshow – a collaboration between BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Navy. The theme of this year’s presentation was “From the Depths of the Oceans to Outer Space” and the innovative engineering solutions that enable us to get to these places. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and took part in activities covering communication challenges and putting planets in the right order. The highlight of the show was a large inflatable sun that demonstrated how small the Earth is compared to the sun. We would like to thank all the Roadshow Team along with BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Navy for another great production.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



No More Knives

On Wednesday 28th June we had the No More Knives Tour visit us at St Illtyd’s. They brought one of their bands, Social Beings, into school to help raise awareness about Knife Crime.

Mr Jones, one of our Teaching Assistants, got the amazing privilege to go to the No More Knives Concert on the Friday evening which 350 young people from schools across East Cardiff attended, over 100 of these being from St Illtyd’s. It was such a great evening with amazing music where they featured a song that had been purposely written for the tour called “No More Knives Down.”

At the end of the night one of the band members of Social Beings gave a great talk to the young people who attended which resulted in 118 young people responding and being prayed for by the response team and being gifted a Bible.

At the end of the night, they played the song “No More Knives” and when it got to the chorus, you could hear all the young people singing at the top of their voices – “Lay Your Knives Down”. A serious topic was promoted in such a professional way and at such a great event.

All the pupils from our school absolutely loved it.
JORDAN JONES, TEACHING ASSISTANT



Construction experience days

This term a small group of pupils from Year 9 were invited by Wales and West Housing Association and Cambria Maintenance Services to two construction experience days. Pupils had the opportunity to try several different disciplines which included construction, tiling, electrical, plumbing and carpentry. The days proved to be extremely valuable and gave our pupils a fantastic insight into these different careers. We would like to thank all the staff at Wales and West Housing Association and Cambria Maintenance Services for giving us this opportunity. We would also like to thank Adrian Cole, Business Engagement Adviser at Careers Wales for arranging this for us.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



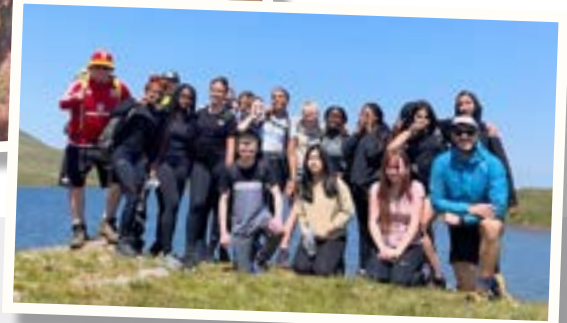
Year 10 visit St David's Catholic Sixth Form College

At the end of June, the whole of the Year 10 cohort was invited to visit St David's Catholic Sixth Form College. St David's is our feeder college, and the visit gave pupils a fantastic opportunity to get a feel for the college and to find out more about some of the subjects that they can study there. In an update to previous year's visits, this year pupils were able to choose two subjects from a range on offer and were then able to experience a session in each. Pupils were able to choose from Performing Arts, Sport, Criminology, Maths and English amongst many others.

We would like to thank Alwyn Lloyd and all the staff at St David's Catholic Sixth Form College for such a warm welcome and for a well-organised visit. St David's will hold an open evening in November and all pupils are invited to visit.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR

Duke of Edinburgh Fan Brycheiniog



Early in June a group of 20 Year 10

pupils completed their first practice walk in the western part of the Brecon Beacons National Park now known as 'Bannau Brycheiniog', in anticipation of their bronze expedition in July.

The group enjoyed some amazing weather and views as they summited Fan Brycheiniog (802 Metres). This was a challenging route, but the views were worth all the effort and all pupils worked well as a group to look after each other and navigate some challenging terrain. **Well done all!**

HENRY TAY, TEACHER OF MUSIC AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD LEADER

Martin Moran Foundation

After being nominated and then applying to the Martin Moran Foundation, Calice Powell in Year 11 has been awarded a place on the Foundation's seven-day mountain training and skills programme in the Cairngorms National Park in October 2023.

Martin Moran dedicated his life to adventure in the mountains. It was the breadth of his achievements that made him one of the most influential mountaineers in Britain. However, it was his passion for sharing the spirit of adventure with others that left its mark on so many. Martin relished exploring the mountains with people of all abilities, ages and walks of life.

Martin found his passion for mountains as a young boy living in North Shields, born into a family who had no particular interest in adventure. His dreams of exploring wild places were realised during trips with his local Scout group, mentorship from his geography teacher and reading the tales of great explorers. Martin found deep meaning and purpose in his life through these transformative experiences as a young man and he dedicated his life to offering those same opportunities to others.

"I never especially wanted to be a mountain guide, but it was the hills that opened my soul to the wonders of existence. By the age of eight, they had become a major part of my dreams and imaginings." – Martin Moran

A simple Munro on a rainy day in Scotland or

an unclimbed peak in the Himalaya, to Martin, a day in the great outdoors was always a day well-spent. He lived his life to the fullest in every way, and for that he will remain an inspiration to us all.

Martin's legacy will live on in all those who step out into the natural world and enjoy the simple pleasures it has to offer.

The Foundation's mission is to inspire young people through the power of mountain adventure, climbing and community in wild places.

It is their vision to elevate the lives of young people through purpose, passion and powerful experiences in the mountains. They aim to remove barriers for young people who want to explore the beauty, freedom and value of our natural world.

Not everyone has the opportunity to access mountain adventure, therefore their commitment to inclusion, diversity and equality is at the very heart of their mission. The Foundation aims to teach young people that shared experiences in nature can inspire a kinder and more inclusive world.

Calice has proven throughout her time undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award at St Illtyd's that she is a committed, passionate and incredibly resilient young person. She has developed a love of adventure and the UK's upland regions in the last two years.

The mountain training programme that Calice will be attending will give her seven days



of expert instruction in climbing, mountain adventure and skill building in the Highlands of Scotland. They provide leadership from highly qualified British Mountain Guides and Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructors. The expert guides will teach the skills, knowledge and self-reliance required to build confidence in participants so that they can achieve their goals.

Well done Calice for all your hard work in the last two years and for gaining a place on the programme!

HENRY TAY, TEACHER OF MUSIC AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD LEADER

Transition at St Illtyd's

During June, all pupils who are due to start with us in September came up to St Illtyd's for enrichment days. The day gave them the opportunity to have a tour of the school, learn about the school day and to meet their new Head of Year, Mrs Hobbs, and their Assistant Head of Year, Mrs Shanahan. These enrichment days were followed by a transition day on Wednesday 5th July in which pupils followed a typical school day with a timetable of different lessons.

We hope that these days have given pupils a great insight into life at St Illtyd's and that any nerves have been minimised. We look forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 pupils to St Illtyd's on their first day on Wednesday 6th September.
PAUL MORIARTY, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Craft Club

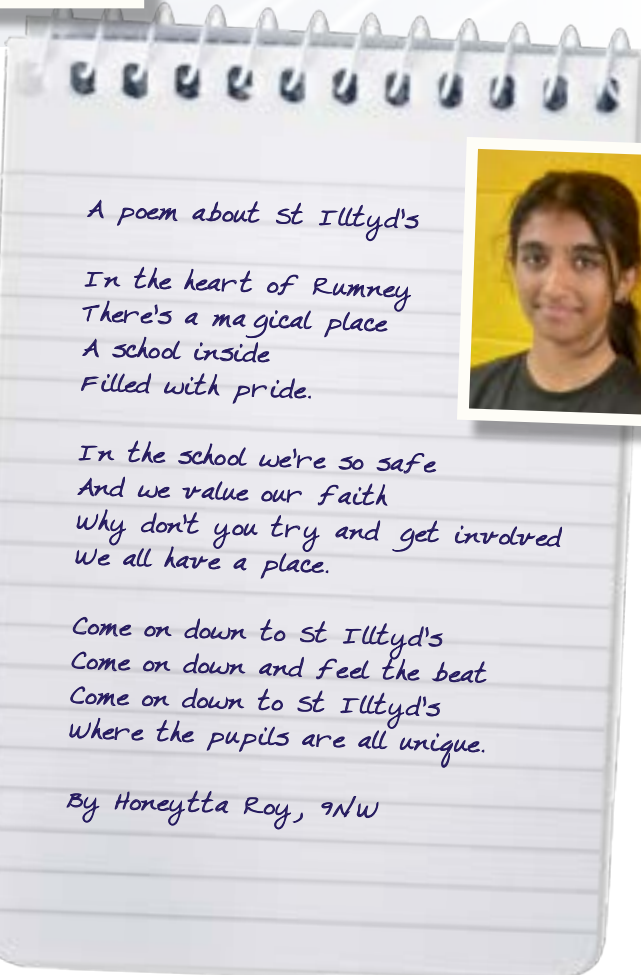
Mrs Powell has continued to run Craft Club this term every Tuesday after school. It has been open to all pupils in Years 7 and 8. Here are a few photos of some of this term's creations.



Bowling/LaserQuest reward trips

In March, the school ran two reward trips at Superbowl UK in Cardiff – one for Years 7 & 8 and one for Years 9 & 10. When we have a reward trip, pupils use their points to buy raffle tickets in the Class Charts Reward Shop. A draw is then held, and each pupil drawn can pick a friend to take with them. On each trip, pupils enjoyed bowling, a game of LaserQuest, a hot meal, and lots of free time to enjoy with their friends. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trips. We would like to say a big thank you to the staff at Superbowl UK for looking after us.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



A poem about St Illtyd's

*In the heart of Rumney
 There's a magical place
 A school inside
 Filled with pride.*

*In the school we're so safe
 And we value our faith
 Why don't you try and get involved
 We all have a place.*

*Come on down to St Illtyd's
 Come on down and feel the beat
 Come on down to St Illtyd's
 Where the pupils are all unique.*

By Honeytta Roy, 9NW





CITB

Women into Construction event



At the start of July, 16 pupils from Years 7 and 8 attended the CITB Women into Construction event at the Cardiff and Vale College Business Centre. At the event, pupils met 14 construction companies and learned about the exciting career prospects in this industry. Pupils listened to talks from inspirational female speakers within the industry

and were able to take part in interactive construction-based activities. Thank you to Nick Sparrow, our Careers Wales Careers Adviser for accompanying the pupils on this visit and thank you to St John Lloyd RC Primary School for lending us their minibus.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



Year 9 Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Medicine Insight Day

In April, a group of Year 9 pupils were invited to a Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine Insight Day at St David's Catholic Sixth Form College. Pupils attended based on their interest in these career paths. Pupils learnt about the Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine Preparation Programme at St David's and about the subject choices and routes into these careers. We would like to thank Olivia McLaren and all the staff at St David's for this invitation.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome to the

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Faculty

Here at St Illtyd's the Expressive Arts Faculty is divided into six areas: Music, Art, Drama, Photography, Skills Challenge and PE. It is an exciting area where learners are taken away from traditional textbooks and provided with a range of experiences where we develop key skills such as communication, team building, public speaking confidence, decision making, problem solving and building relationships.

The vision of the faculty is for all learners to become CREEDER's. For this, learners are provided opportunities to explore and experience a range of disciplines within the faculty, to allow

learners time to reflect and respond on the work they do and for them to be creative and express themselves through the topics being taught.

The aims of our faculty are:

- To engage, motivate and encourage learners to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills to the full.
- To encourage the development of knowledge, skills and values that can help learners grasp the opportunities and meet the challenges that arise in their lives.
- To engage learners physically, socially and emotionally, nurturing their well-being, self-esteem and resilience.

- For learners to become more confident, which can contribute directly to enriching the quality of their lives
- To be accessible to all learners and can expand the horizons of every learner.

We provide our learners with several extra-curricular opportunities such as instrumental lessons, choir, orchestra, band, art club, whole school production and several sports clubs including rugby, football, gymnastics, netball, athletics and baseball.

If you would like any further information regarding our faculty, please do not hesitate to contact us.

STEPH MACLENNAN, HEAD OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS FACULTY | E: MACLENNANS8@HWBCYMRU.NET



Easter Assemblies

Easter was a great opportunity for St Illtyd's Catholic High School to celebrate the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. We wanted to show the importance and significance of Jesus' life to us as a Catholic school, to remember all that Jesus has done for us at the cross and to remind us that Jesus is alive today.

We dramatized a short play with three songs and managed to show the life of Jesus in just 20 minutes during Easter week assemblies. Mrs Smith taught the songs and Ms Powell directed the action. It was a challenge, but the students approached the play with great respect and maturity, and they developed their characters well. With a great cast of dedicated students and enthusiastic teachers, we rose to the challenge, and it was a meaningful Easter assembly.

Pupils involved in the Easter assemblies were – Jadon Libon – Year 7, Ellie Anderson – Year 7, Crystal Tamleu – Year 7, Joseph Bailey – Year 8, Isis Owoahene – Year 8, Hollie Burke – Year 8, Kiera Acton – Year 8, Jessica Joseph-Chinemerem – Year 8, Elijah Bediako – Year 8, Jacob Cowling-Loyns – Year 8, Isabelle Haines – Year 9, Bethabara Opare – Year 9 and Linda Amin – Year 10.

MAGGIE POWELL, EAL TEACHER



First Give 2023

This year our Year 9 learners again took part in the First Give Programme where learners gain an understanding of Social Issues within the community and then complete a social action project to raise awareness and funds for their chosen charity – who try to combat or assist people affected by their chosen Social Issue.

There were seven entries to this year’s First Give Final and each group had a different charity that they contacted and chose to represent in their in-school social action projects.

The Grand Finale took place on Friday 26th May where the charities were invited into school and a range of judges listened to the seven groups pitch and present their social issue and what they had done to represent their respective charities.

The winning team would be given £1,000 to donate to their chosen charity (donated by the First Give programme).

This year’s winning team was: 9AW1.

The team consisted of: Aaron Hughes, Logan Collis, Sophia Bautista-Paget, Bethabara Opore, Cybil Usialele and Danny Ulanmo. They chose to represent the charity ‘Noah’s Ark Charity’. A representative from the charity was there to accept the £1,000 donation. Our photos show 9AW1 on the day of the presentation with both the Head Teacher David Thomas and a representative from Noah’s Ark (some learners were missing due to a school trip). Isabelle Haines was also presented with a special commendation award.

STEPH MACLENNAN, HEAD OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS FACULTY



News from the Department of Performing Arts

Our school production – Annie

When this issue went to print, rehearsals for our school production of Annie were in full swing. By the time you read this, Annie will have taken place and to those of you that attended, you will know what an amazing production this was. We would like to say a HUGE thank you to all our sponsors and to all who donated towards the production. Our next issue will include a full write-up of the production along with official photos.

JULIE SMITH – HEAD OF MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS



St David's Hall concert visit



Back in May, Music GCSE pupils had an enjoyable time attending a concert at St David's Hall to listen to BBC NOW performing Tchaikovsky piano concerto No1 performed by Daniel Ciobanu and

Rachmaninov Symphonic Dances conducted by James Feddeck in his debut with BBC NOW. It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to listen to live music.

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

Sports/Chwaraeon



Rugby news

Cardiff Arms Park finals day

For the first time in decades, three different year groups made the annual rugby finals at Cardiff Arms Park. This is an outstanding achievement for a relatively small school and is testament to all the hard work and effort shown by these pupils.

The Year 8 rugby team started the day off, playing Corpus Christi in their final. St Illtyd's started extremely well. Some quick thinking and powerful running resulted in some cracking tries scored by Elijah Bediako. St Illtyd's built a good



Year 8 rugby team

early lead, going 14-0 up. However, Corpus fought their way back into the game and managed to level the scores. Going into the second half, tries were scored by both teams in a real back and forth encounter. Going into the final minutes, with

the game on knife edge, Corpus managed to kick the ball into touch and end the game, edging us 38-36. A thrilling game to watch. Well done to all involved! I know you will be keen to go one better next year.

The Year 9 rugby team played Cathedral School. Determined running, combined with speed and power resulted in some great tries for Simmy Mwenera. As the first half was closing out some poor discipline cost St Illtyd's several penalties



Year 9 rugby team

and this resulted in tries for Cathedral who were trying to play a more expansive game. The second half, similar to the previous Year 8 game, was a tight and edgy affair. Further tries were scored by both teams. With a minute left to play, Cathedral

scored right in the corner to take a 31-27 lead. This being the final score before the referee blew for full time. Well done to all involved! Again, I am sure with concerted effort, you will go one better next year.

The Year 11 rugby team played a big and powerful Radyr team in their final. The Year 11 team was supported by a large group of Year 10 pupils who played up a year. The difference in size was noticeable. However, the St Illtyd's team matched the physicality of Radyr and worked hard at the break down, securing good ball for our backs to launch several attacks at the Radyr defence. This resulted in a hard-earned try and gave us an early lead. Radyr fought back and came back with a try of their own. Into the second half, Radyr were leading 7-5. Into the final minutes, St Illtyd's were camped on their own try line trying to run from deep to get the decisive score they required. Unfortunately, Radyr made an intercept try and scored under the posts to win the match 14-5. An outstanding achievement by all in the team, especially those pupils in Year 10 were giving away a clear weight and height difference. The Year 10 players will aim to go one better next year.

Football news

Year 11 Cardiff and the Vale Schools Cup football final

The Year 11 football team put in several brilliant performances this year, beating local rivals and teams from further across the city to make the cup final. Teams that they beat along the way were St Teilo's, Cathays, Cardiff High and Plasmawr. They met Bro Morgannwg from Barry in the final down at

the University grounds in Llanrumney. Both teams started brightly but it was Bro Morgannwg who scored first and then backed up their first goal with a second shortly after. St Illtyd's kept their focus and managed to create some chances through some well executed passes to the strikers. It felt like

a goal was coming as more and more pressure mounted onto Bro Morgannwg. Eventually, Callum Deacon scored a wonderful goal that got St Illtyd's back into the game. However, Bro Morgannwg rode their luck and managed two goals later into the second half that ended the game, making the final score 4-1. Well done on a great journey to the finals this year. A fantastic effort by all involved!



Year 11 football team

Netball news

The Year 9 netball team have had a great season, unbeaten in all but one of their matches this year. They have all trained hard and have developed their game individually and as a team. They recently entered a tournament and again won all of their matches to be crowned tournament winners!

Results were:

- 7-1 against Cathays B
- 6-1 against Cathays A
- 7-1 against Cardiff West
- 12-0 against Pencoedtre

A very dominant performance in all matches from all of the girls. A special mention to Susan, Meiline and Wiktorina who all received Player of the Match votes during the tournament.



Year 9 netball team

Athletics news



Abdullah Afolabi



Aliyah Afolabi



Susan Madamidola



Ava Placide



Millie Gold



Oscar Dwyer

Cardiff and Vale Schools and Athletics Honours

Five pupils achieved the honour of receiving a Cardiff & Vale Schools vest following their success in county athletic competitions this summer when representing the school. They represented Cardiff & Vale in the Welsh Schools Championships on 1st July at Leckwith. They were:

- **Aliyah Afolabi** – U15 100m, 200m and 4x100m Relay
- **Ava Placide** – U15 75m Hurdles
- **Susan Madamidola** – U15 Shot Putt
- **Oscar Dwyer** – U15 4x100m Relay
- **Abdullah Afolabi** – U17 Shot Putt

Welsh Schools Athletics

All pupils had an outstanding day at the Welsh School Championships representing Cardiff & Vale. We are incredibly proud to have four Welsh Schools Champions after winning Gold medals in their events and our other athletes winning Bronze medals! Results were:

- **Aliyah Afolabi** – U15 Gold in 100m, 200m and 4x100m Relay
- **Ava Placide** – U15 Gold in 75m Hurdles and 4x100m Relay
- **Susan Madamidola** – U15 Bronze in Shot Putt
- **Oscar Dwyer** – U15 Gold in 4x100m Relay
- **Millie Gold** – U17 Gold in 3000m
- **Abdullah Afolabi** – U17 Bronze in Triple Jump and Shot Putt

U15 Cardiff & Vale Schools Championships

Pupils entered individual events to compete against pupils from all of the schools in Cardiff and the Vale. There were many outstanding performances on the day and several pupils became County Champions for 2023 after they won their finals:

- **Susan Madamidola** – 1st in Shot Putt
- **Ava Placide** – 1st in 75m Hurdles and 2nd 100m Final
- **Aliyah Afolabi** – 1st in 100m and 200m

In the boy's competition there were outstanding performances from:

- **Oscar Dwyer** – 3rd in the A final for 100m
- **Simmy Mwenera** – 1st in B final for 200m
- **Elijah Bediako** – 5th in A final for 100m and 5th in 80m Hurdles A Final
- **Dylan Davies** – 3rd in 1500m Time Trial
- **Riley Davies** – 2nd in 800m Heat
- **Relay Team** – 1st in Heat
- **Jude Hill** – 3rd in Shot Putt, Pool 1

A special mention for Aliyah Afolabi, who already holds the Year 7 Cardiff Schools 200m record from 2022 (26.40s), set a new 200m record of 25.24s in her heat to beat the record that has stood in 1988. She followed that up in the 100m with new records in her heat and in the final. Aliyah went even quicker in the final to record a new record of 12.26s. Aliyah also became U15 Welsh Champion in the 100m and 200m and is currently ranked 1st in the UK. Ava Placide also became U15 Welsh Champion in the hurdles and is currently ranked 5th in the UK. We wish all of the athletes the very best in their summer competitions.

U17 Cardiff & Vale Schools Championships

A selection of pupils competed in the county championships in May, and we had three County Champions at the event, who will go on to compete at the Welsh Schools finals on 1st July. The successful pupils were:

- **Millie Gold** – 1st in 3400m
- **Abdullah Afolabi** – 1st in Shot Putt
- **Isata Kamara** – 1st in Triple Jump

U16 Cardiff Schools Plate Final

The U16 team consisted of girls from Year 9 and Year 10 who represented the school in the Cardiff Schools qualifiers. All pupils scored points depending on their place in their individual events. We had great success in the qualifiers with all pupils scoring well in their events and notable performances from:

- **Millie Gold** – 1st in 1500m

- **Susan Madamidola** – 1st in Shot Putt
- **Isata Kamara** – 1st in Triple Jump
- **Shyla Barrett** – 2nd in 200m and High Jump

The team qualified for the Cardiff Schools Plate final; however, they were unsuccessful in winning this despite another strong team performance on the day. Congratulations to all the girls who competed in both events.

U14 Athletics Team Cup

The U14 girls team also competed, which saw some strong individual performances across the team from all the girls.

- **Ava Placide** – 1st Hurdles and Long Jump
- **Aliyah Afolabi** – 1st 200m and High Jump
- **Team** – 1st 4 x 100m Relay

The team missed out on qualification to the finals, but all should be proud of their achievements and next year looks very promising for the team!

Year 7 County Championships

The boys entered a team into the U13 Cardiff and Vale athletics championships. All the boys performed really well, and some outstanding performances from the following boys:

- **Theo Gough** – County Champion in Shot Putt and 3rd in hurdles A final.
- **Jason Folland** – County Champion in the 1000m walk.

Good luck Lily!

Good luck to Lily Fenton in Year 8 who is competing in the Tae Kwon Do World Championship in July. It is being held in Coventry this year with competitors from all over the world taking part. We will update you on Lily's story in the next issue.



Under 14s Athletics Team Cup



Under 15s Athletic Championships



Under 16s Athletics Team Cup



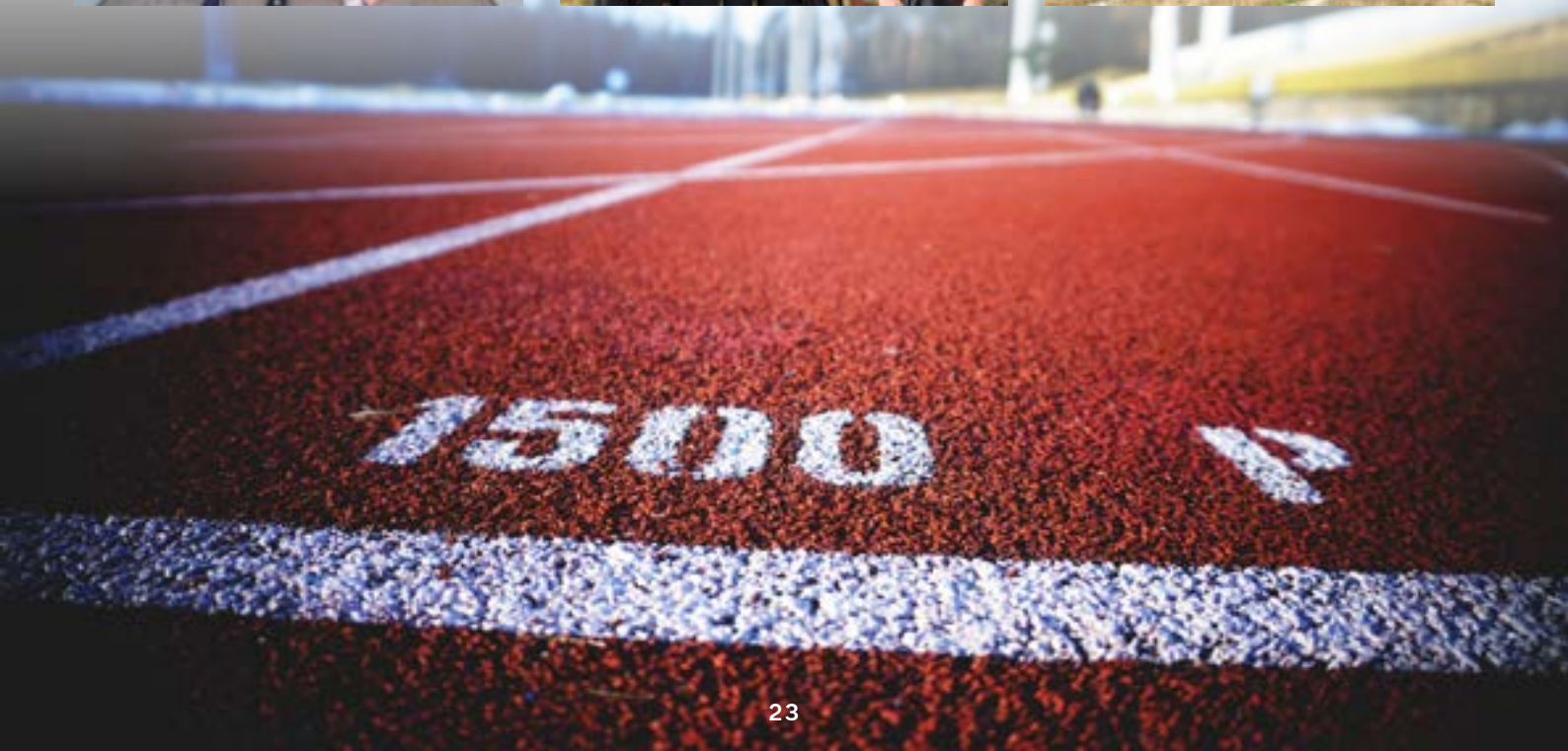
Under 16s Netball Plate Final



Year 7 Boys Athletics



Year 9 Boys Relay



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
2023/4

Please note the following dates for the academic year:

TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Starts: Monday 04/09/2023

Half term: Monday 30/10/2023 – Friday 3/11/2023

Ends: Friday 22/12/2023

SPRING TERM 2024

Starts: Monday 08/01/2024

Half term: Monday 12/2/24 – Friday 16/02/2024

Ends: Friday 22/03/24

SUMMER TERM 2024

Starts: Monday 08/04/2024

Half term: Monday 27/5/2024 – Friday 31/05/2024

Ends: Monday 22/07/2024

INSET DAYS

Monday 04/09/23

Tuesday 05/09/23

Friday 27/10/23

Friday 22/12/23

Friday 03/05/24

Monday 22/07/24

May Day – Monday 06/05/24

Sports/Chwaraeon

Sports Day 2023

There was another amazing Sports Day held this year on Thursday 29th June. On this day learners compete for their houses in the hope of coming away with the Sports Day House Cup.

A lot of records were broken again this year:

From the track there was:

- **Millie Gold** (JP2) in the Year 10 Girls 1500m
- **Ogho Eboigbe** (SMT) in the Year 7 Girls 300m
- **Aimee Deacon** (SMT) in the Year 10 Girls 300m
- **Noah Hamid** (TGT) in the Year 10 Boys 300m
- **Elijah Bediako** (SMT) in the Year 8 Boys 200m

- **Shyla Barrett** (JP2) in the Year 10 Girls 200m
- **Noah Hamid** (TGT) in the Year 10 Boys 200m
- **Oscar Dwyer** (SMT) in the Year 9 Boys 100m
- **Isata Kamara** (JP2) in the Year 10 Girls 100m
- **JP2** in the Year 10 Girls Relay

JP2 were reigning champions from 2022. There was a lot of back and forth and it was a very close event with just 23 points separating 1st and 2nd places.

THE WINNING TEAM WERE:
Saint Mother Teresa (SMT)

From the field there was:

- **Susan Madamidola** (MLK) in the Year 9 Girls Shot Putt
- **Theo Gough** (MC) in the Year 7 Boys Shot Putt



Millie Gold



Noah Hamid

Congratulations to Millie Gold!

Huge congratulations go to Millie Gold on claiming a silver medal and second place at the British Junior Road Championships at the London Mini Marathon, whilst representing Team Wales. Well done Millie! What another amazing achievement! We are all very proud of you!



Karate news

Congratulations to brothers Ethan and Callum Russell who competed in the British Open Karate Championships in Birmingham. Ethan won a Bronze and a Gold medal in his categories. Callum won a Gold and a Silver medal in his categories. Well done boys!



Basketball news

Congratulations to Gabriel Navarro who played in the Tri-Nations Basketball held in Scotland. Gabriel is Team Captain for Basketball Wales Boys U14's Team. Gabriel had an exemplary performance and was on the Leaders Scoreboard every game!



STEPH MACLENNAN (HEAD OF DEPARTMENT),
RUTH FRY AND NATHAN WALSH –
ST ILLTYD'S PE DEPARTMENT

Did you know we're on Twitter?



Follow us on Twitter for all the latest news from the school @StilltydsCHS