



The New Illtydian

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



St Illtyd's

Centenary Mass

St Illtyd's Catholic High School marks its centenary this year and began doing so with a Mass at St Albans Catholic Church in Splott, Cardiff. St Albans was the local church closest to the school's original site and all were made welcome by Father Sebastian and the Oratory.

Archbishop Mark O'Toole was the main celebrant but he was also joined by fellow priests, many of whom were themselves Old Illtydians. It was a wonderful opportunity for all past pupils and staff to share their own memories of the school and suffice to say a lot has changed.

We were also delighted that Brother Michael and Brother Ben, of the De La Salle family of brothers could join us. Brother Ben spoke of his own time and memories of St Illtyd's and this was a theme carried on the next day at the school itself where Mass was celebrated by Archbishop George Stack and Father Brian Gray, Chair of Governors. The Mass took place in the Chapel where we were also joined by Mrs Hart, the Headteacher of St John Lloyd and her pupils and staff. The Chapel was a part of the Brothers' lodgings when they were ever present in the school.

It was great to have Brother Michael and Brother Ben with us. They helped to reinforce our rich history and association with Lasallian

education, and we hope it is the first visit of many as the centenary celebrations continue.

**DAVID THOMAS,
HEAD TEACHER**



HEAD'S MESSAGE NEGES Y PENNAETH

It has been a great year for the school. 2023 saw an excellent set of results for Year 11. This continues the year on year improvement we have seen both pre and post pandemic. It is a credit to those young people, their families and the staff that so much was achieved. We have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for.

This term has started well and has flown by. Many of us can't believe that Christmas is here already!

The build up to Christmas also flies by in a rush of shopping, preparations and planning to meet and go out. Just as you get over it there is New Year to enjoy and then it's all over and you are back to work and school.

If we don't stop to take it all in we can miss out on the important things especially the message of Christmas itself.

The birth of Jesus Christ and the salvation He brings to the world is the most important message of all.

This is what makes this time of year a celebration of life. Life in school, life in work, life at home and life in our communities.

So again, we have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for. With all that is going on in the world perhaps now more than ever.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school and whatever your plans, have a Happy and Holy Christmas with family and friends.

D B THOMAS, HEADTEACHER





Cardiff and Vale College

Aero Challenge

Back in July, two Year 10 teams from St Illtyd's took part in the Cardiff and Vale College Aeronautical Challenge at the International Centre for Aerospace Training. This is the sixth time we have taken part in this event. The event is hugely beneficial to pupils in showing them the different careers available within STEM and in particular, Aeronautical Engineering. The event gives pupils the opportunity to try exciting activities such as using a flight simulator, programming a drone, and jacking an aircraft. No other educational visit provides such amazing opportunities.

Our pupils once again thoroughly enjoyed this year's event and every activity they

took part in. They worked fantastically as a team, communicating with each other and supporting each other at every step of the way. We are delighted to announce that one of our teams won "School of the Day" - hugely deserved after a perfect drone landing!

I would like to thank Jo Tanner, Martin Smith and all of the team at CAVC ICAT (International Centre for Aerospace Training) for a fantastic, very well-organised event and for making us feel so welcome every year. We look forward to seeing you again at next year's competition.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL'S CO-ORDINATOR



Attendance News

Attendance Update

To date, compared to this time last year, attendance is up in every year group and across the whole school. Many thanks to all parents and carers for their continued support. **Special thanks to all the attendance team for all their hard work and efforts.**

Chocolate Attendance Challenge

For the last week before the October half term, pupils were challenged to be in every day and were entered into a prize draw with the reward being a chocolate bar.

PAUL MORIARTY, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Miss Jama – Family Engagement Officer

Miss Jama joined St Illtyd's in September and works alongside Mrs Hadley, our Family Engagement and Attendance Officer and the attendance team. We look forward to Miss Jama developing new initiatives within the school.



Making sure children are back in the classroom is our number one priority. By working together we will ensure that all children and young people are given the best possible start in life and are supported to reach their potential.

JEREMY MILES, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE, OCTOBER 2023

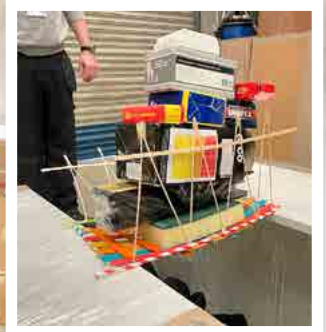
Girls into Construction

Myself and six of our Year 11 girls attended a "Building your Skills" programme run by Wales and West Housing. All six are considering a career in construction or engineering so this was the ideal opportunity to find out more about the industry and why it's important that women should consider this sector as a career.

The two days allowed them to try their hand at plumbing, electrics, tiling, and carpentry and it's fair to say that the skills they demonstrated impressed the tradesmen and women prompting one of them to tell me they are better than his current apprentices!

The afternoon saw us take part in an engineering task and in pairs the group was tasked with building a bridge to exact specifications, costs and a timescale, before they pitched the design to the director who then tested each one for strength.

The two days were summed up perfectly when the girls were told they "All have a future in construction and are a credit to their parents and school".



Great Point Seren Film Studios in Cardiff

The Year 10 Textiles group were invited to Seren Film Studios to get an insight to how important costume and wardrobe are to the making of a film or Netflix programme. After a tour of the studios the group were tasked with transforming a pair of jeans and t-shirt into their own story. They got creative mixing fake blood and ripping holes before using the outside space to distress the clothes. The stories were gruesome ranging from a bear attack to a mysterious fall down a mountain- all reflected in the appearance of the clothes. Our Headteacher Mr Thomas listened to each story and was very impressed at how well the clothes reflected the back story. The visit improved our knowledge of the film and TV industry and of how many opportunities to work in this sector there are on our doorstep.



Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) Transition Visits

Jo Tanner, Student Recruitment Officer at Cardiff and Vale College, has continued to walk and talk us around the city centre campus on Dumballs Road, helping prepare Year 11 pupils for what to expect if they choose CAVC for post 16 learning. The size of the college is always a shock when pupils first visit, however, this quickly wears off and turns into excitement when they realise how different the learning environment is from school. This is the third year of these visits and plays a really important part of the guidance process in school.

NICK SPARROW, CAREERS WALES CAREERS ADVISER





Senedd Cymru Welsh Parliament



Visit to the Senedd

In the last week of the summer term, a small group of pupils were invited by Vaughan Gething, Minister for the Economy of Wales, to visit the Senedd. Pupils enjoyed a tour of the Senedd and had a question-and-answer session with Vaughan. We would like to thank Vaughan Gething for this kind invitation. We would also like to thank Joel for a very informative tour.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



WJEC Design and Technology Innovation Awards

Congratulations to Ellen Ley whose GCSE Product Design work found a place in the final exhibition of the WJEC Innovation Awards. The exhibition that is held in the Swalec Stadium and Bangor University presents GCSE and A Level Design and Technology projects that have proven to display innovative or high quality features. Ellen's GCSE coursework was based upon the design and manufacture of a self-watering plant pot. A collaboration with Cardiff Metropolitan University saw components of Ellen's work manufactured by 3D printing clay. Ellen was also awarded a STEM CREST award for the same project. It is a fantastic achievement, Well done!

LLOYD GRIFFITHS, HEAD OF DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



Skills Cymru 2023

A small group of Year 11 pupils attended the Skills Cymru careers event at the Utilita Arena in October. The event provided them with an opportunity to speak to many colleges, universities and employers and to find out information to help them decide on their future career pathways. Thank you to everyone involved.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR

Space Academy



Two teams of Year 8 pupils took part in Cardiff University's first ever Space Academy. During the five-day event, the two teams of space cadets took part in a range of activities including rocket building, Lego robotics, producing wind turbines and a range of small workshops to develop their knowledge on space exploration. Pupils experienced Cardiff University's campus for the first time and worked in collaboration with other schools. The week, led by Professor Paul Roche, was engaging, inspirational and fueled the curiosity of the young learners. Pupils had the opportunity to hear from scientific experts, including those using drones for scientific research and learnt how robotics are being used to further space exploration. For the first time, pupils heard a Marsquake from NASA seismologist Dr Anna Horleston and saw meteorites from space.

The eventful week came to an end at the CultVR Labs in Cardiff with an immersive visual experience of the universe and their graduation. Throughout the week pupils developed skills in problem solving, teamwork, engineering, grew in confidence and much more.... all skills necessary for a space exploration to Mars. It was exciting to see pupils grow and develop as we are training the engineers, scientists, medics and possibly astronauts of the future.

OLIVER NEWSON, TEACHER OF SCIENCE



Students Embrace Tech Opportunities

at Wales Tech Week



Year 10 and 11 students recently had the exciting opportunity to explore the world of technology at Wales Tech Week held at the ICC. Themed "Tech Talent meets Opportunity" or Talent4Tech, the event allowed students to gain insights into tech careers and celebrate women in the industry.

Students visited employer stands and attended informative sessions at the employer stage, getting a glimpse of tech

jobs that will shape the future. The event also introduced them to Virtual Reality (VR) technology, demonstrating how it's transforming training for various job roles, making learning engaging and immersive.

Recent university graduates shared their career journeys, emphasizing the diverse paths within the tech industry. This shattered the stereotype that one must be a programmer to work in tech, inspiring students to consider tech careers regardless of their current skill set.

Wales Tech Week @ the ICC wasn't just about technology; it celebrated women in tech, dispelling the notion of a male-dominated field. Female students were encouraged to consider tech careers, knowing the industry is open to all.

In a nutshell, Wales Tech Week was a remarkable success. Year 10 and 11 students had the opportunity to explore future tech jobs, engage with various platforms, and discuss the possibilities ahead. It expanded their horizons and ignited their passion for technology and innovation. We look forward to seeing some of our students become the tech leaders of tomorrow, thanks to the inspiration gained at this event.

MELANIE HOPKIN, SUBJECT LEADER OF ICT & BUSINESS



Year 9 Careers Day



At the end of November, we ran our annual careers day and GCSE options day for Year 9 pupils. This year, the event was run as a speed networking event, enabling pupils to speak to many employers to find out about future careers in these industries. We would like to thank all the employers for being part of the event- Screen Alliance Wales, South Wales Police, Atkins Realis, the Royal College of Nursing, Balfour Beatty, Principality Building Society, and ISA Training from Educ8 Wales. We would also like to extend huge thanks to Adrian Cole, Business Engagement Adviser at Careers Wales, for organising the event. Well done to Adam Fleet, Head of Faculty Progress and Wellbeing and Nick Sparrow, Careers Wales Careers Adviser,



Year 8 visit

the National Museum Cardiff

This term, the whole of Year 8 had the opportunity to spend a day at the National Museum Cardiff on a science trip. The visit's purpose was to introduce biodiversity and classification in biology. We were extremely lucky in that the cost of transport was covered by the Urban Nature Project, making this trip free of charge, and meaning that every pupil was able to attend.

During the visit, pupils took part in a carousel of different activities. In the Urban Nature workshop, the activities included using microscopes, sorting shells, identifying a poisonous plant, and playing a game about pesticides. In the biological drawing workshop, pupils visited the marine galleries to learn why we have specimens and then did biological drawings of specimens. Pupils also got to explore the Natural History galleries and the Evolution of Wales gallery and completed worksheets on classification and ecosystems.

All our pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the National Museum Cardiff. We would like to say a huge thank you to Heather Jackson and all the learning team at the museum for their time. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Urban Nature Project for funding the cost of transport.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



Tree Maths Day at the Museum

This term, 14 of our More Able and Talented in maths Year 7 pupils attended a "Tree Maths Day" run by the National Museum Cardiff in partnership with Central South Consortium. Pupils measured trees and calculated the amount of carbon each tree can store, measured specimens in the Natural Science galleries and solved mathematical problems including how Leonardo da Vinci used maths to draw the perfect trees. The day offered the chance to apply key mathematical skills outside of the classroom in a unique way.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day. We would like to thank Heather Jackson and all the Learning Team at the National Museum Wales, Central South Consortium and the Garfield Weston Foundation, part of the Urban Nature project, for this wonderful opportunity.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



Shwmae Day 2023

On Friday 13th October, our Welsh department celebrated "Shwmae Day" by running activities with our Year 7 pupils. Our Year 7 pupils thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Shwmae Day with the Welsh department this year. They took part in various activities at break times to encourage use of the Welsh language.

MEGAN GWYNNE CARROLL, HEAD OF WELSH



Everybody's Talking About Jamie Theatre Trip

On 26th October, the GCSE drama classes were lucky enough to go and watch Everybody's Talking About Jamie in the Wales Millennium Centre. The musical was full of uplifting songs, flamboyant dancing and hilarious jokes. There were also some important messages that came out of the play about ensuring you always be yourself, whether that is studying for medical school or performing on stage. It also taught us not to fall for teenage peer pressure. We all left smiling and would definitely see it again. It was a fantastic production, and we would recommend it to anyone who loves a dance, a song and lots of glitter!

LUCY CURTIN, TEACHER OF ENGLISH AND DRAMA



St Illtyd's Way Ultra Marathon Minibus Fundraiser



Lace Up for a Cause!

We're excited to share news about a spirited initiative to secure a new minibus for our beloved school! Our trusty 14-seater has served us well, but it's time to upgrade to a 17-seater to enhance our students' experiences and opportunities. Doing so will ensure we can continue providing enriching experiences for our students, such as career trips, PE fixtures, theatre outings, sailing days, university visits, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and so much more.

Our dedicated staff, 14 strong, have courageously volunteered to tackle the St Illtyd's Way Ultra Marathon—a challenging 50km race set amidst the breath-taking landscapes of West Wales on 5th May 2024. This incredible journey will traverse canals, woodlands, hills and rivers, mirroring the scenic St Illtyd's Way footpath, our school's namesake Saint.

We believe in the power of community, and we're reaching out to you, our school family, for support. Here is how you can help:

DONATE: Every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to our goal. Visit our JustGiving page to donate and make a difference. Please scan the QR code for our fundraising page.

SPREAD THE WORD: If financial support isn't possible, sharing our cause is equally valuable. Spread the word among friends, family, and your social networks. Together, we can reach more people!

ENCOURAGEMENT: A kind word goes a long way. Offer words of encouragement to our running team. Your support means the world to us.

SAVE THE DATE: Keep 5th May 2024, marked on your calendars! Follow our journey as we take on this challenge for the benefit of our school.

We believe that with your support, we can not only meet but exceed our fundraising goals. Let's make this marathon not just a race, but a community event that brings us closer together.

Thank you for being an integral part of St Illtyd's Catholic High School and for helping us create lasting memories for our students!

Many thanks,

THE ST ILLTYD'S ULTRA MARATHON FUNDRAISING TEAM

Keep 5th May 2024,
marked on your
calendars!



Welsh Youth Parliament- My School Day Event

Back in September a small group of Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to attend a Welsh Youth Parliament event at Siambr Hywel in the Ty Hywel building (the location of the old Senedd) in Cardiff Bay alongside other schools from South Wales.

The purpose of the day was for pupils to learn about the work of the Welsh Youth Parliament, in particular the work of the Education and School Curriculum Committee and to give their opinions on the Welsh Government's proposal of extending the school day by five hours to provide more time for wellbeing activities. Our pupils enjoyed working in the focus groups and providing their opinions on this important topic.

In the afternoon, pupils put questions to two Members of the Senedd as part of a panel discussion- Vikki Howells MS and Heledd Fychan MS. The day ended with a tour of the Senedd building.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience, so much so that one of our pupils is considering applying for the Welsh Youth Parliament.

LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR



Food Tech Visit to Miller & Carter

Pupils studying GCSE Food and Nutrition took part in a visit to Miller and Carter Steakhouse to learn about jobs in catering & hospitality this term. During their visit, the learners made fruity mocktails and seasoned and cooked their own steaks. The experience has had a great impact on their learning as they were able to ask and answer questions surrounding demonstrations as well as showcase their knowledge and skills. The learners have a food preparation task coming up in the new year where they will be expected to plan and produce a three-course meal around the topic of 'Eggs' or 'Popular Multicultural Foods' in Wales. Their visit has given the learners an insight into the food Industry and has helped to inspire them with ideas for their practical exams. The host was very complimentary about our pupils and even put the spotlight on those whose skills stood out!

BETH PASK-WILLIAMS, TEACHER OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY



Rights Fest Event



In October, 13 students and I went on a Rights Fest trip to the Cardiff City stadium. While we were there, we were welcomed by a lady called Jeslin, who then introduced us to a number of different organisations and charity groups. They talked about what they do as an organisation, what they are trying to achieve and the work they have already accomplished. These groups included Milk Honey Bees, Plan International UK and Office of the Children's Commissioner. After learning about each one, our group of girls went to a workshop with Milk Honey Bees where we made mind maps about what we as women wanted to say, and then powerfully spoke about our mind maps to everyone in our group. It was really nice to feel like our voices were being heard for once, and to let all our opinions, feelings and thoughts out to everyone in our group. Us girls loved the workshop as it really made us realise what it was like to be a woman. We then went

upstairs to the Premium Lounge where there were a number of different women's rights organisations. A campaign that we all were specifically interested in was "Love your period campaign" where we were informed about period poverty and the effects of it. It was really interesting. Most of the girls, including me, got period products from the campaign for free, including reusable ones. Finally, the day ended in a fun way with us girls engaging in many different activities. Overall, the day was filled with lots of new things for us girls to learn and we were grateful to have the massive opportunity to be part of such a great organisation.

MILLIE GOLD - YEAR 11 SENIOR PREFECT



Spirituality & chaplaincy at St Illtyd's

Harvest Foodbank

The Chaplaincy Team at St Illtyd's meet weekly in the Chapel with our chaplain, Mrs Wonnacott. Their focus this year is to continue to strengthen our wonderful relationship with our feeder primary schools and the charities within our community. They worked closely with our Youth Action Groups to promote the Harvest Foodbank within our school. Thanks to the generosity of our students and their families we were able to donate a number of food parcels to our local community food banks, Rumney Forum and Llanrumney Hall as well as a food parcel for the SVP Centre in Ely Bridge.



Retreats

For the first time since 2019, students are starting to experience retreats again. The size and availability of the Chapel has enabled us to enjoy a number of Masses this year, as well as facilitating retreats. We have been able to invite Mary Immaculate High School up for The Feast of All Saints and Souls where students enjoyed leading the collective worship and taking part in a variety of activities dedicated to saints. Two of the activities saw students competing; one activity was to build a column tower out of cardboard tubes to replicate where Saint Simeon of Stylite lived. The other was to answer bible trivia correctly to win an envelope of keys- they needed to find one specific key to unlock the padlock that kept St Wulfric of Haslebury in his cell. All the students had such a wonderful time they didn't want to leave!

Year 7 had their Welcome Mass at the beginning of the autumn term and are now enjoying their first experience of a retreat where they are focusing on 'community'. They have been exploring what their responsibilities are as stewards of the school to our local, global and spiritual communities.



CAFOD Family Fast Day

During October, the Year 11 SVP group organised, promoted and led the CAFOD Family Fast Day. They raised money and awareness for the campaign by making and serving soup to students and staff during their Wednesday break times. Their homemade soup was so delicious that they sold out completely!



Collective Worship

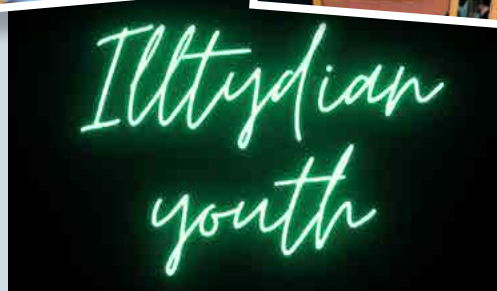
This term has seen the start of form assemblies, where pupils from every form class create and lead a collective worship for their year group. The focus of each assembly is chosen by the students and their form tutor, their collective worship could focus on a celebration, a concern and raising awareness or following the liturgical calendar. The form groups so far have done an outstanding job and set a standard across the school.



Illtydian Youth Podcast

The St Illtyd's Year 11 Youth Action Group are taking part in an exciting new project this term. They have been working closely with SVP Ely Bridge to learn all about how to set up, record, edit and produce a podcast. The group was invited to be guest speakers on the SVP Centre's own public podcast, which they thoroughly enjoyed and will be released shortly. Since that initial recording they have come up with their podcast name, logo, a list of content and have recorded their very own "Illtydian Youth" podcast. It is a wonderful opportunity for students!

VICTORIA WONNACOTT, CHAPLAIN



Transition at St Illtyd's

YEAR 5 ENRICHMENT DAYS

In July, we were delighted to welcome Year 5 pupils from our four feeder Catholic Primary Schools to St Illtyd's for an Enrichment Day. During their visit, pupils took part in a Design Technology lesson with Head of DT, Mr Griffiths, in which they made a bee hotel which they were able to take home. In their second lesson, pupils took part in a science lesson led by the Head of Faculty Science and Technology and Head of Science, Mr Halliday. Pupils wrote secret messages using lemon juice and then used heat to decode the messages. All pupils enjoyed their visit to St Illtyd's, and we looked forward to seeing them again in October.



YEAR 6 PE TRANSITION SESSIONS

Over three days in October, a small group of Year 10 pupils visited each of our feeder Catholic primary schools to deliver a PE session to Year 6 pupils. Following each session, Year 6 pupils could ask questions about anything they wanted to know about high school.





British Interactive Media Association (BIMA)

Digital Day

St. Illtyd's Catholic High School took part in the annual digital event - BIMA Digital Day 2023. This event took place in school on Wednesday the 8th of November and was an exciting opportunity for learners to experience and learn about digital careers and expand their digital skills.

The event is an opportunity for schools to work alongside digital companies to complete digital challenges set by the British Interactive Media Association (BIMA). This year St. Illtyd's Catholic High School was partnered with Spin Dogs – a Cardiff based marketing company that currently works with companies like Sony, Triumph, and Harley Davidson. Spin Dogs and BIMA provided information about careers in the ever-expanding digital sector. Learners submitted an entry, competing against other schools, to a digital challenge set by Vue Cinemas.

LLOYD GRIFFITHS, HEAD OF DESIGN TECHNOLOGY AND DCF CO-ORDINATOR



OPEN EVENING 2023

On 19th October, we opened the doors of St Illtyd's on our Open Evening and invited Year 6 pupils and parents/carers to visit our school. Visitors were able to enjoy tours of the school with our Year 11 Senior Prefects and Year 10 Emerald Greens representatives. Visitors were able to visit all the subject departments around the school and take part in a variety of fun and engaging activities. Activities included spooky story time in our English department, naming the equipment in our Science department and drawing skulls in our Art department. Our beautiful Chapel was also open for our families to write and hang prayers onto our prayer tree.

PAUL MORIARTY, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Welcome to the

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Faculty

It has been another busy term
in the Faculty of Expressive Arts!



St Cecilia Music Showcase

Family and friends joined us to celebrate the Feast of St Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music. The music department presented a wonderful showcase starting with the 60 strong choir singing I See Stars from 'Mean Girls', led by soloist Olivia Mangenga. The evening was packed with stars from all year groups with numbers from the orchestra, rock band, guitar ensemble and school choir. Alongside the group performances were wonderful solos from Sara Balangoda Mudiyanse on violin, guitar solos from Darren, Ke Yi Chen, David Skiba, Alona Sunson, Ioan Crowley, Oskar Kubieniec and vocal solo performances from Giselle Aghedo, Becky Cassinelli, Bethabara Opare and Summer Yacoob. The choir ended with a rendition of The Rhythm of Life from 'Sweet Charity'. All the students dedicated their time and effort towards rehearsing in order to deliver a wonderful display of music to a full audience. It was a lovely evening and a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their talent and

hard work throughout the term – we are so proud of them all! If you missed the showcase some highlights have been posted on the X account (formerly Twitter) @stilltydsMusic.



Welsh National Opera

The music GCSE students enjoyed a visit to the Wales Millennium Centre to watch a compacted version of Verdi's opera 'La Traviata' performed by the WNO. La Traviata is an opera about the most elegant courtesan in all of Paris. Violetta is the belle of every ball and has her choice of wealthy admirers. But, when she falls in love with the penniless poet Alfredo, can she be accepted as a woman in love, or will she remain a 'fallen woman' whose love has no future? This was a fantastic experience to broaden our students' musical experiences.





Creative Pathways Careers Event

Students from Year 10 music, drama and art attended the creative pathways careers fair in October at Cardiff City Hall. The event was a vibrant and insightful exploration of the countless career avenues in the creative sector. The event was not just a career fair, it was also a celebration of artistic expression with performances from different college students all working on different courses. At the heart of the event were engaging workshops led by industry experts and further education providers. The workshops offered valuable insights, skills development and hands-on experiences in various creative fields, from graphic design, film making and performing arts. All students that attended collected lots of information on their future career pathways.



Quarry Hall Care Home

It was a pleasure to visit Quarry Hall Care home in July and entertain the residents. Our music students performed a range of showstoppers which were enjoyed by all.

JULIE SMITH, HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS





Annie takes centre stage in July 2023



St Illtyd's came alive with the sound of music and the magic of theatre when we presented the timeless classic "Annie". It was a heart-warming and unforgettable experience that left the audience singing and dancing. "Annie" is a musical that has captured the hearts of generations with its rags-to-riches story and unforgettable characters. Set during the Great Depression, it tells the story of a cheeky and optimistic orphan named Annie, who embarks on a journey filled with hope, love, and adventure. The audience fell in love with

Annie, her fellow orphans, the grumpy but lovable Daddy Warbucks and of course the adorable and mischievous dog, Sandy or should I say Bryn! The school production would not have been possible without the dedication of cast and crew who worked for months, rehearsing, and perfecting the performances to ensure that Annie was the showstopper. Audiences were amazed by the incredible talent our students brought to the stage. Annie was a production to remember.

JULIE SMITH, HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS



News from the Art Department

KS3 ARTISTS OF THE TERM

Miss Cosslett and Miss Dennis have had the pleasure of receiving lots of beautiful artworks this term. Here are some excellent examples:

ANNA PETROVA 7MR

Anna has been working on an impressive mixed media orange drawing showing her skills in both tonal pencil and biro marking making.

Outstanding effort!



ALLYSON ROJAS 8AFO

Allyson has developed a celebrity print inspired by Catholic iconography. Her portrait of Marilyn Monroe highlights her influences within the media industry.

Keep it up Allyson!



TRACY MANZENZA 9NJ

Whilst exploring social issues Tracy has superbly detailed an emotive war inspired image. Tracy has chosen her materials and colour scheme independently to develop impact in her work.

Wonderful work Tracy!



TAMARA COSSLETT, HEAD OF ART

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss next years spectacular show! This is going to be "We Will Rock You" on the 10th, 11th and 12th July 2024. Keep an eye out on our X account for a sneak peek at the talented actors and actresses who will bring these characters and iconic tunes to life.

**10th - 12th
July 2024**



Sports/Chwaraeon

Rugby News

Year 7

The Year 7 rugby team have made excellent progress since joining St Illtyd's. Experienced and new players have gelled well to earn impressive victories over both Corpus Christi High School and Mary Immaculate High School. Both games that were played away from home were played in great spirit and demonstrated the team's determination and resilience. They now look forward to the next round of the Cardiff Schools' Plate Competition.

Year 8

The team has played some tough fixtures in recent months. The first game against Whitchurch was a difficult fixture and resulted in a loss. All players kept playing until the final whistle and scored some memorable tries, which set up another challenging fixture against Bro Edern. St Illtyd's started exceptionally well and applied constant pressure on Bro Edern, ensuring they were in front at half time. Bro Edern started strongly in the second half and came back at St Illtyd's.

With the game coming to a close and Bro Edern in-front, St Illtyd's threw everything at them and came close to taking the lead, only for Bro Edern to hold out and take the win. In their latest game, St Illtyd's headed to Radyr. Radyr tried to play an expansive game, negating St Illtyd's strong forward play and defence around the tackle area. However, St Illtyd's proved too strong. With strong interplay and offloading between the forwards and backs, St Illtyd's scored some well-earned tries. They look forward to the next round of the Cardiff Schools Cup.

Year 9 rugby team



Year 9

The Year 9 rugby team has really developed this year. The team have settled into their positions and are looking confident to take on the best teams in the city. They started the season with a dynamic and well-earned victory away to Whitchurch. The team showed great spirit when defending on their try line, before turning over possession and going the length of the field to score a try that will long last in the memory. Frustratingly, they have since had games post-poned. However, they look forward to the next round of the competition and building on their previous success.

NATHAN WALSH, TEACHER OF PE



Football News

Year 7 had a tough start to the cup run with a defeat against a strong Llanishen side. They fought till the end and showed great resilience. They play Cantonian next in the plate.

Year 8 had a great start to the cup beating St Richard Gwyn 3-2. They play Plasmawr in the next round.

Year 9 lost to a very strong Bro Morgannwg side at the start of the year. They look forward to playing Cathays in the next round of the plate.

Year 10 narrowly lost in a great first round game against St Cyres. They will play Whitmore in the next round of the plate.



Year 11 football team

Year 11 put on a great display in the first round against Cantonian winning 4-1 and looking very comfortable. They then played Cardiff West in the next round winning 3-2. All players put in a great effort, with a few Year 10's coming up to add to the already great quality in the squad. They look forward to seeing who they get in the next round which will be played after Christmas.

MORGAN JONES, TEACHER OF SCIENCE

Karate News

Ethan and Callum Russell

competed in the World Karate Championships in Dundee. Ethan fought from 8.00am until 9.30pm. After a long day of fighting, he won plenty of rounds and was unfortunate not to get on the podium, just missing out by one fight in his three-man team and by two fights in his individual heats. He did amazingly throughout. He is pictured at the opening ceremony with his brother Callum.



Ethan and Callum Russell

Netball News

We have had a number of fixtures this term in Netball with the Year 7 and 8s having played against St. Teilo's, Eastern, Llanishen, Cathays and Mary Immaculate. The girls have been training excellently on Wednesday evenings and others have been committed to break times to further improve their skills. The Year 8 team in particular has made huge improvements over the season.

Year 7 player of the term = Jennifer Byba

Year 8 player of the term = Grace Miteleji

The senior school of Years 9, 10 and 11 have also been training well with Mrs Fry in the first half of the term and played extremely well against St. Teilo's, Eastern, Llanishen, Cathays and Mary Immaculate. We are hoping to play St. John's College in the new year.

Huge improvements have been made by many - **Aliyah Pooley** - Year 11 had a fantastic game against Llanishen and **Meiline Lopes** was awarded Player of the Match for the Year 10s.

On a huge positive note for Netball - **SHYLA BARRETT** - Year 11 has been selected for the U17 Celtic Dragons squad (there will be a bigger write up about this in our next edition of the Illtydian). We are hoping to run a school trip in the spring term to watch Shyla in action.

STEPH MACLENNAN, HEAD OF FACULTY FOR EXPRESSIVE ARTS & HEAD OF PE



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2023/4

Please note the following dates for the academic year:

TERM DATES**AUTUMN TERM 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**

Friday 22/12/23

Friday 03/05/24

Monday 22/07/24

May Day – Monday

06/05/24

Introducing the Emerald Greens and the LIT Team

Emerald Greens

The Emerald Green Programme launched in September 2023 - this is St. Illtyd's new Student Leadership Programme. Many students applied to be part of the group and after an application and interview process a team was chosen. The students have already been helping with Open Evening - touring new potential students and parents around the school and also assisted with Parents Evening and Options Evening. The students will also be taking part in training and will be attending a university inspiration day on the last week of this term. We hope to continue to build the programme over the next two years and hopefully will have a range of other learners applying to be part of the team in the years to come.

The successful candidates for 2023/2024 are:

- Summer Yacooob
- Kathryn Egembaukwu
- Daniel Ulanmo
- Isabelle Haines
- Mason Hill
- Logan Collis
- Paschal Chike-Nweze
- Giovanni Makubuli
- Max Rutter
- Meiline Lopes
- Gana Agyeman
- Honeytta Roy
- Sophia Bautista-Paget
- Shalid Rosario
- Cybil Usialele
- Helin Ibrahim
- Susan Madamidola
- Evan Vaisey

LIT Team

This year has also seen the introduction of our **LIT Team (Learner Impact Team)**. This consists of learners from Year 7, 8 and 9. They will meet fortnightly to discuss matters that impact on our school and see how we can make even more improvements to our community. The learners have already made a great start to this with their contributions. We will let you know about the ideas and impact our learners have had and what they have been doing in more detail in the next edition of the Illtydian.

STEPH MACLENNAN, HEAD OF FACULTY FOR EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND HEAD OF PE



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