



SUMMER/HAF 2024

# The New Illtydian

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

## YEAR 11 LEAVERS DAY AND PROM



It was a bittersweet close to the end of the year for Mrs Jordan and Mrs Kaye; they have said a fond farewell to Year 11, who we all know will go on to do great things. Mrs Jordan compiled a video of favourite moments and Mrs Kaye wrote a poem for Year 11 to reflect upon. Shirts were signed, tears were shed and many embraced as they walked through the school gates for the last time. Prom was a time of real celebration, a classy 1920's theme was chosen by the prom committee, and it did not disappoint! Tables were laid with feather displays and candelabras, the ceiling was filled with twinkling lights and a giant 2024 sign illuminated the dance floor. Our leavers spent the night posing with props in the photo booth, dancing with their friends and cheering for all that won awards. Though Mrs Jordan and Mrs Kaye felt the sadness of parting, they are filled with excitement for Year 11's bright future. They eagerly anticipate reuniting with their accomplished students on GCSE results day, ready to celebrate their continued success.

**VICTORIA JORDAN, HEAD OF YEAR 11 AND REBECCA KAYE, ASSISTANT HEAD OF YEAR 11**

## HEAD'S MESSAGE | NEGES Y PENNAETH

In schools, the Summer term is not only one of exams but one of reflection and planning for the future.

Year 11 have finished their GCSE's and Year 10 have started a few. Year 9 have completed Key Stage 3 and Year 8 and 7 their foundation years. All indicators show we are moving in the right direction, especially in attendance and results.

Not everything though in school is measurable. Alongside those that are sit those that are harder to quantify. The development of our young people in their values and their spirituality is a core activity of the school and ones which are promoted and developed every day. Fathers Brian, Sebastian and Alexander have been essential in achieving this and a great help in growing

and supporting our spiritual life. We cannot thank them enough for all that they do.

We have much to be thankful for. Firstly for our pupils, for the effort and hard work that they have put into everything this year. Secondly to the staff for supporting our pupils in all that they do and for providing them with great experiences - day in and day out.

Finally thank you to our parents for their support of their children, the staff and the school as a whole. Our

progress is down to pupils, parents and staff working together - when we do that then truly:

**"Together in Christ, we make a difference."**

We wish you all a happy, safe and restful Summer.

**DB THOMAS, HEAD TEACHER**



## St Illtyd's Way Ultra Marathon

### THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY SMASHED IT!

In an inspiring display of determination and community spirit, seven of our dedicated staff members (and one from our feeder primary) successfully completed a 50km ultramarathon in May to help raise funds for a much-needed new minibus. All but one had never run a marathon distance, let alone further!

The run started under promising skies, but roughly 40km in, staff were met with a sudden downpour. The rain added an extra layer of difficulty to an already demanding race, but they pushed through, driven by the support of their colleagues, friends, and family members who cheered them on throughout.

Among the standout achievements, Mrs Gwynne Carroll secured the position of 2nd place woman, showcasing not only her exceptional athleticism but also the strength and perseverance of our entire team.

Thanks to the generous contributions from you, our supporters, we are thrilled to announce that we have raised an impressive £5,862. This amount will significantly contribute to the purchase of a new minibus, ensuring we can continue to provide safe and reliable transport to a range of activities for our students.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who donated, cheered, and supported our staff in this endeavour. Your generosity and encouragement helped make this achievement possible.

A huge shout out to our legendary Ultra Runners: Miss Berryman, Miss Bowering, Mrs Gwynne-Carroll, Mrs Hobbs, Mr Jones, Mrs Mumford, Mr Tay and Miss Woods (St Cadocs Primary).

**JO BERRYMAN, SUBJECT LEADER FOR SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE & TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY**

## Reach for the Sky

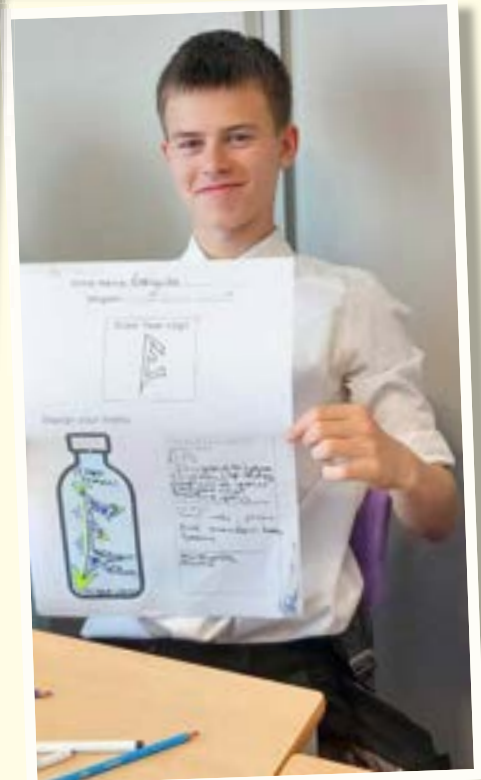
“Reach for the Sky” is a programme designed and led by Welsh Rugby international Ian Gough. Ten lucky Year 11 boys were chosen to be part of this inspirational programme. The boys received three intensive training sessions from Ian, not in rugby, but in revision techniques, answering exam questions and building resilience. The boys set out clear aims as to where they wanted to be in the future, and what grades they needed to get there; I'm sure that they will all have secured bright times ahead.



The final session involved an enjoyable tour of the Principality Stadium; this was led by Ian Gough himself. It was wonderful to see all the boys excited to sit in the changing room seats of their idols, have a tour of the royal box and learn what it takes to maintain the pitch, so it is pristine for international matches. Our Head Teacher, Mr Thomas and Mrs Kaye, Assistant Head of Year 11 thoroughly enjoyed their involvement with the programme. A special mention needs to go to Tomas Janicijevic for his unrehearsed mock press interview; Tom, I think a career in sports commentary awaits you!

**REBECCA KAYE, ASSISTANT HEAD OF YEAR 11**



**YEAR 10****St David's Catholic Sixth Form College visit**

In June, Year 10 were invited to St David's Catholic Sixth Form College for a taster day. Pupils started off their day learning about the pastoral support offered and general information about what to expect if they would like to become a student at St David's.

Pupils were then able to choose two subjects from a range of subjects including Sport, Criminology, Business, Maths, Science, Performing Arts and Health & Social. Pupils then experienced a typical

lesson in their chosen subjects, and they were all thoroughly engrossed in their various lessons.

The St David's College staff complimented the pupils on their conduct during the visit and were impressed with how they engaged with the lessons that day. We look forward to having St David's staff visit us to inform the pupils about the application process in Year 11.

**RUTH FRY, HEAD OF YEAR 10 AND TEACHER OF PE**



# We have been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag!!!



It has been a busy Summer term for Eco Club. Eco Club members started the term by preparing for a very important visit- our Eco Schools Green Flag Assessment Visit! Our Year 10 Eco Club members rehearsed a presentation for our visitor- Aimee Hallett- Education Officer with Keep Wales Tidy. On the day, pupils gave an informative presentation detailing all the work Eco Club has been involved in over the past three years. This was followed by a question-and-answer session involving all Eco Club members. Finally, we gave Aimee a tour of the school to show her our Eco Board, recycling bins and our school garden. Aimee was impressed by what she saw, and we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded our first ever Eco Schools Green Flag. I would like to thank all the Eco Club members and the Link pupils (who work in the school garden every Friday with Mr Green) for all their hard work over the past three years.



Eco Club members continued the term by conducting our annual Environmental Review of the school. This review covers various aspects of the school- water, energy, waste minimisation, school grounds, biodiversity, transport, and healthy eating & wellbeing. Based on the findings of the review, Eco Club members decided that we will begin the new academic year by tackling the topic of "Energy."







Eco Club has also been busy out and about on two educational visits. Alongside pupils from the Link, the first visit was to Bute Nurseries in Bute Park. The Nursery produces thousands of bedding plants and supplies plants and trees throughout Cardiff's parks and in the city centre. Our pupils toured the nurseries and learnt about what they do there. Pupils observed some of the machinery used at the nurseries and had a go at potting.

We would like to thank Kevin, Ginny & James for a fantastic insight into the work of the nurseries. We would also like to thank Careers Wales and Adrian Cole, Business Engagement Adviser at Careers Wales for organising this visit for us.

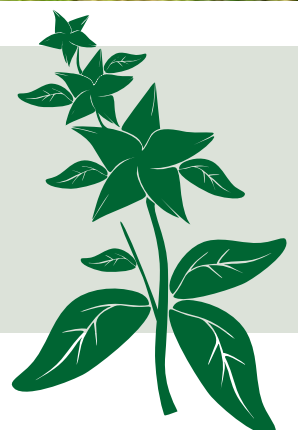
Our second visit was to the Horticulture Department at Bridgend College. Pupils toured the facilities and took part in some hands-on gardening activities.

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



## A HUGE THANK YOU to Cardiff Community Housing Association!!!

**W**e would like to say a HUGE thank you to Cardiff Community Housing Association who have donated £1,500 for us to use towards the school garden project. We plan to use this generous donation to buy seating for the garden so that pupils can spend time out there.







# Garden update

Last year, two of our Eco Club members, Dalia Figueroa Molina and Nicolly Trajano Santos Silva, won first place in the Bridgend College Garden Design competition. In April this year, a team from Bridgend College led by Lecturer in Horticulture Anthony Davies visited the school to plant the winning design alongside Eco Club members and pupils from the LINK.

The design is called a **"Healing Butterfly Garden"** and is shaped like a butterfly. The plants in the design were chosen for either their medicinal properties or because they would attract butterflies and other pollinating insects. Some of the plants used within the design included Buddleia, Lavender, Sedum, Pansies, Mint, Thyme, Chives, Sage and Strawberries. Dalia and Nicolly did an outstanding job with the design.

Eco Club members and LINK pupils worked alongside Anthony and his team to plant the winning design. Pupils also learnt how to care for the plants going forward and how to keep the garden looking its best. As well as planting the design, pupils also planted other crops in our other planting beds- peas, spring onions, salad greens and rosemary to name a few.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the session, and we learnt a lot. We are delighted to say that our school garden is finally looking like a garden! We would like to thank Anthony Davies and the rest of the team - Paul, Josh and Oliver, for coming to lead the session and supplying all the plants.

**LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR & ECO CLUB LEAD AND KEVIN GREEN, LINK TEACHER**

This academic year, a group of St Illtyd's pupils that access the Link provision, have spent time each Friday working in our community garden. Over the year, they have been involved in many activities from weeding, cultivating soil, and filling the four raised beds with soil. These pupils have been developing gardening skills such as pruning and trimming tree branches, sowing seeds, assessing plant health and providing plant care. Taking part in these activities has also helped improve the confidence, and communication and team working skills of these pupils.

Moving forward, now that seasonal plants and vegetables have been planted, these pupils will continue to be responsible for watering, and nurturing the plants and vegetables in the garden until they are ready to be harvested. All pupils involved have done an exceptional job so far and continue to build upon the excellent work that Mr Sparrow and previous pupils had already undertaken to establish the garden. The hope is that, in the next academic year, the garden will become accessible to all pupils to use through science lessons and chaplaincy activities.

Our photos show the winning design and the work done on our gardening day with Bridgend College in April. Up-to-date photos of our garden in the June sunshine can be found on page 5.







## Girls into STEM

On 17th April, a group of 14 Year 10 girls visited the University of South Wales' Glyntaff campus in Pontypridd for a Girls into STEM Day. The day is organised by STEM Cymru and the Engineering Education Scheme Wales and the aim of the day is to encourage female pupils to take an active interest in STEM subjects.

The day involved a variety of hands-on science activities. The first activity was an introduction to forensics and the role of a CSI (Crime Scene Investigator). After learning what the role involves, our pupils "investigated" a crime scene in a house on campus that is used specifically for forensics activities. The next activity was in the science labs. Pupils were tasked with creating an ester (a fragrance) and then using their newfound knowledge to make a fragranced gel air freshener. The final activity of the day was "Mapping and Monitoring Biodiversity Change." Pupils learnt the importance of mapping and monitoring different species in order to understand animal behaviour.

Our pupils had a great day and enjoyed all the activities. One pupil even said on the way home- "Miss- I rate this trip a ten out of ten!" We would like to thank Aimee Thomas from STEM Cymru for organising the day and to all the staff at the University of South Wales for hosting us and delivering such an engaging day of activities.

**LUIA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR**





# Spirituality & chaplaincy at St Illtyd's

## Year 7 & 8 Chaplaincy Teams



The Chaplaincy team's goal last term was to continue to strengthen the link with our Catholic feeder primary schools and some of the ways they wanted to achieve that was through collective worship and collaborative activities. The Year 7 group devised a plan to 'tour' the primaries with a collective worship called 'The Joys of Socks.' The focus of the worship is to explore inclusivity with the premise that even though we are all different

we belong to the same family. Once the students had delivered their message, they would then help the pupils decorate pairs of socks so that we could take them back and hang them in our chapel. So far, they have delivered the collective worship to St John Lloyd and St Cadocs Primary School and will finish with St Alban's before the end of the summer term.

Whilst the Year 7 group delivered collective worship, our Year 8 team invited pupils from St John Lloyd and St Cadocs to the chapel for activities. The first activity started with pupils from St Albans who



came up to decorate stained glass windows so we could brighten up our chapel; they did a fantastic job and their designs have lasted all term. We had the pleasure of both St Albans and St John Lloyd visiting us during the month of May, which is for us as it is to many, the month of Mary. The sun shone beautifully for our Mary Gardening session with St Albans, where members of the Chaplaincy team helped the younger children to plant sunflower seeds in pots for them to take back to school, whilst others planted beautiful summer flowers in the chapel garden. The afternoon ended with Mrs Livingston leading the procession, where pupils placed flowers from the garden at the feet of the

statue of Our Lady of Fatima. St John Lloyd's visit was just as lovely in its devotion to Mary as members of the Chaplaincy team helped the younger pupils create their very own rosary bracelets. Pupils had their choice of beads and crosses and made some beautiful designs, the glow-in-the dark beads were a fan favourite.



## Youth Podcast

The Illtydian Youth Podcast successfully published its first episode in April! After months of planning, recording, editing and promotion, the Year 11 SVP Team has managed to create enough episodes for the entire year, releasing an episode every month. All of the girls worked incredibly hard with Raihan and Stacy from the SVP Centre, bringing energy and ideas week after week despite their busy schedules. Make sure you scan the code and follow the podcast to stay up to date with the episodes, we have interviews coming up with the Head Boy and Girl, Lawrence and Briana, our very own Headteacher Mr Thomas, a live Culture Day recording and so many more guest speakers!



## Weekly Mass

You may recall from the last Illtydian that we held weekly Masses during Lent in the school chapel. Well, we enjoyed the frequency so much and the enrichment that it gave our school community that we decided to continue with it. There is no way we could maintain this without the wonderful support of our

local priests Fr Brian, Fr Alexander and Fr Sebastian who kindly give their time, the students who help set up and assist during Mass and finally the wonderful response from all of our students and staff.







## Virtue Logo Competitions

Congratulations to **Luke and Sophia** who have each won the Virtues Logo Competitions for the last two terms. The Virtue Logo Design is an activity that forms part of morning collective worship where pupils explore what our school virtues mean for us individually and as a school community; it is the pupil's decision to then enter their designs into the competition.

Luke designed '**Compassionate & Loving**' with the idea that the hand and heart symbolised the physical love of people, the cross symbolises the love of the Lord our God, surrounded by a border to tie us all in unity.

Sophia designed '**Eloquent & Truthful**' with the idea that the megaphone symbolises voicing out God's wisdom and affirmations. It also symbolises God's truthfulness and that his knowledge and words are the final standard of truth.



Winning designs are framed and displayed on our virtue corridor, the designs are proudly shown on our school website, and they become the official logos of St Illtyd's.



## Youth Action Group

The Youth Action Group regrouped this term after a short break and what a comeback they had! As a group they decided that they wanted to focus on fundraising for a charity that was personal to them and to many students and staff within the school; they agreed upon the Alzheimer's Society. The charity was kind enough to send banners, balloons and charity pots and with those the idea and organisation of a bake sale began. The YAG ended up hosting two bake sales as they sold out in the first break on the first day. Thanks to the generosity of our students, their families and staff they managed to raise a whopping £160 for the Alzheimer's Society!





# Spirituality & chaplaincy at St Illtyd's

## Year 6 Enrichment Collective Worship



June was a busy month for our Chaplaincy teams as they worked together to deliver the Year 6 Enrichment Collective Worship sessions. As a team we all agreed on a lively collective worship called 'The Choice Is Yours,' which helped them explore the impact and importance of choices for themselves, others and their future. St John Lloyd, St Cadocs, St Peters, St Albans and Bryn Hafod Primary

School thoroughly enjoyed their session in the Chapel where one of the reflection activities was to pick from three blank envelopes. The envelopes contained three words: PRIZE, NOTHING and PIE. If 'Prize' was chosen then the pupil would receive a small bag of chocolates, 'Nothing' is as it states and 'Pie' meant that the pupil who made that choice would receive a 'whipped cream pie' in their face! It was a wonderful way of showing the pupils that the problem with making choices is we don't often know what the impact of our choices will bring.

We followed up the worship with a puzzle activity where pupils were tasked to cut out and decorate jigsaw pieces, sticking them on to a large sheet of paper. Every Year 6 pupil visiting us over the enrichment period had the opportunity to take part in this activity resulting in a puzzle board full of colourful designs ready for us to display for their first day in September.

**VICTORIA WONNACOTT, SCHOOL CHAPLAIN**



## School uniform appeal

Thank you to all those who have donated so far to our school uniform appeal, your donations will make a big difference to families and carers in our school community who may be struggling. Please continue to send in pre-loved uniforms to our school reception, we are grateful for all your support.





# Year 9 Sailing Programme

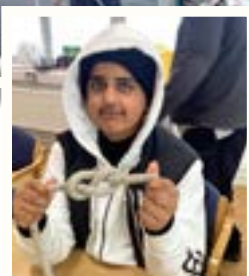
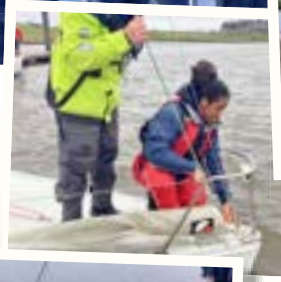
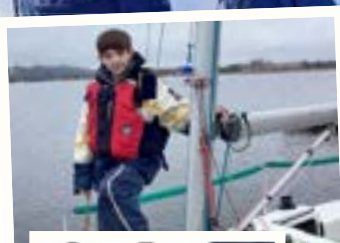
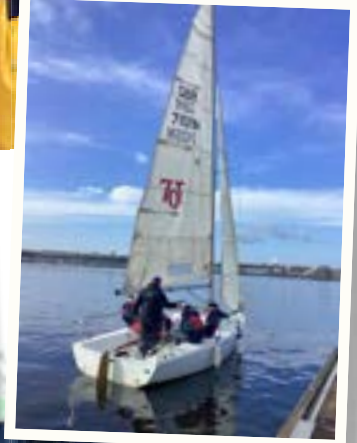
During March 2024, 24 Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to try sailing by embarking on a two day "Keelboat Level 1- Start Sailing" course with Cardiff Sailing Centre. For some pupils, they had taken part in Dinghy Sailing when they were in Year 7, but for most of our pupils it was a chance to try something completely new.

Pupils were divided into groups of eight for each course and then into two groups of four to sail on two keelboats. Pupils learnt the theory behind sailing before embarking on two days of sailing around Cardiff Bay. As well as learning to sail, pupils also learnt important skills like how to work as a team and communication skills.

At the end of the course, pupils were awarded the "Royal Yachting Association Keelboat Level 1- Start Sailing Award". Chief Sailing Officer from Cardiff Sailing Centre, Anthony Chappin, presented pupils with their certificates in assembly.

We would like to say a big thank you to Anthony Chappin and the instructors at Cardiff Sailing Centre for teaching our pupils to sail. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Reardon Smith Nautical Trust for funding this wonderful opportunity for our pupils. Their continuous support of the school over the years has meant that our pupils have been able to learn to sail, try something new and widen their horizons.

**LUISA MAY, COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR**





# Thorpe Park end of year trip



On Friday 14th June, 234 pupils from Years 7 to 10 enjoyed a day out at Thorpe Park for the end of year trip. Our photos show our pupils (and staff!) enjoying themselves at Thorpe Park. Here is what two of our Year 8 pupils had to say on the trip.

"Thorpe Park was a super fun trip. I enjoyed going there as we had lots of free time to hang out with our friends and go on all the rides. All the rides were super thrilling, especially the Walking Dead ride. The Tidal Wave was also one of my favourites as we got soaked! It was a great day and I hope to go on more of these trips in the future."

**EVAN WILLIAMS, YEAR 8**

"The Thorpe Park trip was worth every penny. There were a lot of rides and a lot of places to get food. The loops on Colossus were amazing! It was a really fun day and a great way to spend time with your friends with the freedom to go anywhere you wanted in the park."

**LOGAN ALLEN, YEAR 8**







2024

On Friday 24th May, two coaches of enthusiastic pupils and staff made their way to Hay-on-Wye for the spectacular and infamous annual Hay Festival. Joined by schools from across the country, our pupils were immersed in the world of literature and the celebration of the written word, stories and reading.

As the day began, students filled an auditorium to hear the inspiring words of authors and were fortunate enough to hear them read from their own books; this experience was invaluable.

Firstly, the brilliant author Alex Wheatle discussed the inspiration behind the world of the South Crongton estate! Rumoured to be closely based on his own hometown and childhood, he told us how he created this fantastic Young Adult series that tackles teenage life growing up on the outskirts of society. Drawing on his own past experiences and the area he grew up in, our pupils were given an insight into the mind of a young Alex Wheatle who overcame adversity. Treated to an excerpt of his latest book, we were able to meet a key group of friends who come together to face their biggest challenge yet! Some of our pupils asked questions and were given top tips to becoming the next budding writers of the future.

Secondly, our pupils heard the astonishing Ashley Hickson-Lovence reciting his Young Adult novel-in-verse 'Wild East.' A ground-breaking piece, he delivered this emotional story of a teenage boy isolated after moving originally... all through the medium of rap; our pupils were enthralled!

After this, the pupils enjoyed free time to explore the grounds and the bustling food court where an array of ice creams and foods from around the world were consumed. Students browsed the book shops and were even able to meet the authors themselves to have their copies signed before the last talk of the day; all had a fantastic time.

Finally, Anthony Horowitz, famous spy fiction author and creator of



Alex Rider, took to the stage and revealed some of the secrets behind this incredibly popular series. Revealing (much to the teachers' horror) that his villains were based on his horrible teachers at boarding school, he encouraged our students to write about their experience. He spoke encouragingly about how to turn every negative word or experience into a chance to show people what you are made of. I am pretty sure a few of our students were taking notes and plotting their revenge!

A fantastic day had by students and staff alike, Hay Festival blew us away once again. Many thanks to Mrs May for organising such a wonderful opportunity for us.

We would like to thank the Arts Council of Wales for providing funding that allowed us to cover the majority of the transport costs. We are extremely grateful for their support.

**BEVERLEY SHARP, SECOND IN DEPT. ENGLISH, AND TRIP LEADER**

"The stories the authors talked about were interesting. The authors encouraged us to read more."

*Rebecca, Year 7*

"I liked the opportunity to ask authors questions."

*Jess, Year 7*

"It was really fun, and I learnt more about books."

*Jacob, Year 7*

"I liked listening to the authors talking about their books."

*Chloe, Year 7*

"The authors got the audience involved and that was fun."

*Elfriede, Year 9*

"I found the day to be educational and inspiring. There were a lot of fun activities. It was good to hear the back stories of how authors got into writing. The event was in a lovely setting."

*Harmony, Year 8*

"I enjoyed listening to the authors and the opportunity to buy books."

*Chimamanda, Year 8*

"I've been trying to read more but just haven't had the time or motivation. Going to the Hay Festival has motivated me to get back into reading."

*Elijah, Year 9*

"Going to the Hay Festival has made me want to read more in the future."

*David, Year 9*

"I enjoyed the day and listening to the authors. It has inspired me to read more."

*Joseph, Year 9*

"Hay was a fantastic experience for our students. Not only did they get to see fantastic authors such as the infamous Anthony Horowitz, but they were able to jump into their minds firsthand! Immersed in the day, the pupils were privileged to hear the authors answer probing questions and even read their stories to the live audience. As well as this, they were given invaluable advice about becoming the next budding writers of the future. A brilliant day, the staff were welcoming and added to what was an unforgettable day!"

*Beverley Sharp, Second in Department English, and Trip Leader*



# World War One Battlefields Tour



On the 26th June, the History department took 38 students to Ypres in Belgium for a tour of the World War One Battlefields. The group went for three days and had a fantastic time visiting many of the important sites associated with World War One. On the first day after traveling over on the ferry we visited Vimy Ridge and paid our respect to all the Canadian soldiers who participated in the war. The second day we visited museums, cemeteries and existing trenches around Ypres. We also visited the Welsh memorial near Langemark and attended the last post in Ypres. On the final day we travelled down to the Somme where we visited Thiepval, the largest British war memorial in the world. The pupils found the experience very moving and a great way to bring what they had been learning in the classroom to life. Overall it was a fantastic trip which the students will always remember.

**DAN HILLS, HEAD OF HUMANITIES FACULTY**





## World Book Day 2024

On the 7th March 2024, St Illtyd's celebrated World Book Day. To celebrate, many members of staff participated in dressing up as a book character. A competition was held for the best dressed. Mrs Macintosh was Mary Poppins, Mr Taylor was Elsa and Miss Dennis came as Miss Bow Peep; all were awarded for their wonderful efforts.

There was another competition for staff and pupils to get involved; the challenge was to decorate their classroom door based on a book. Mr Reynolds, Miss Mills and Miss Cosslett's doors stood out from the amazing creations and were awarded prizes for their wonderful effort.

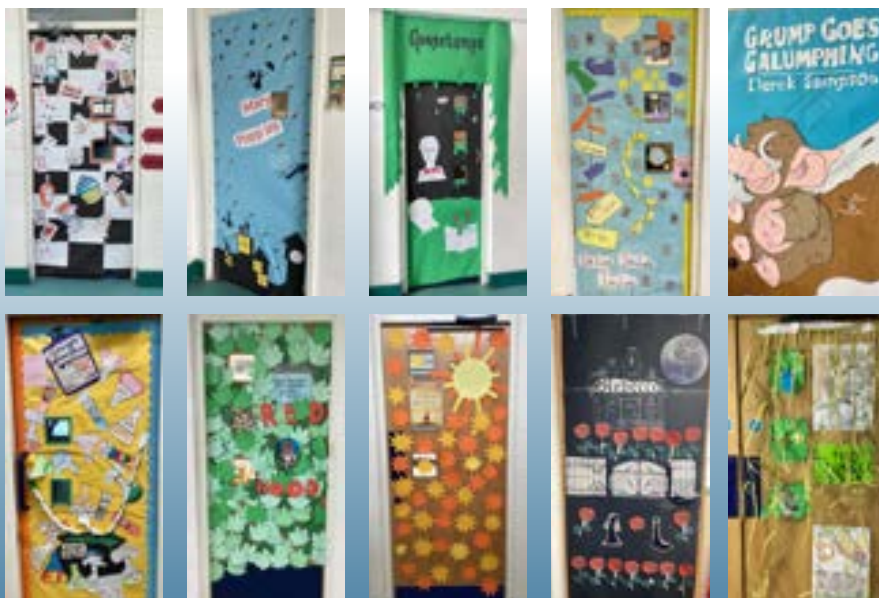
All KS3 pupils were treated to an author visit that took place in the hall. This fantastic opportunity was organised by Miss Cooper, and Mrs Davies supervised every year group. The pupils were visited by Bones

who performed his rap poetry and spoke words of wisdom about never giving up, even if times are challenging. He shared his past with the pupils; this was a humbling and inspiring experience. In addition, a lucky few KS3 pupils got an opportunity to have a writing workshop with Bones himself.

Mrs Mumford, Miss Cooper and Mrs Davies would like to thank all the staff for their excellent efforts promoting World Book Day and to the pupils for their wonderful behaviour whilst listening to the author talk.

Another thank you to the fabulous Mrs May who captured the whole day!

**LEAH MUMFORD, TEACHER OF ENGLISH & MEDIA STUDIES AND LITERACY CO-ORDINATOR**





# Ymweliad Blwyddyn 7 A Llangrannog



On 15th March, 34 Year 7 students embarked on a residential trip to the Urdd Centre in Llangrannog. Organised by the Welsh department, the trip aimed to provide students with opportunities to acquire new skills, learn some Welsh, and meet new people. The students fully participated in a variety of activities, consistently demonstrating the school's values of resilience, respect, and responsibility throughout the trip. A highlight of Friday night was the Welsh folk dancing session, where students enthusiastically learned some new dancing techniques! Saturday and Sunday were spent doing outdoor activities such as high ropes, dry slope skiing, and go karting. A fun time was had by all. Da iawn Blwyddyn 7!

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Henry Smith Charity for part-funding this trip. We are extremely grateful for their support.  
**MEGAN GWYNNE-CARROLL, HEAD OF WELSH**





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

# Sports/Chwaraeon

## Basketball Wales National Schools Championship

This year, St Illtyd's entered three teams into Basketball Wales' National Schools Championship. This included boys' teams in the combined Year 7 & 8 and Year 9 & 10 age group, and for the first time, a girls' team in the Year 7 & 8 category.

### Year 7 & 8

The Year 7 & 8 boys, many of whom were playing their first organised games of basketball, made an excellent start winning their group, winning three games out of three. They eventually lost in the semi-final to the national champions, Ysgol Glantaff.

**MVP: CALLUM RUSSELL**

### Year 9 & 10

The Year 9 & 10 boys featured a team consisting of predominantly Year 9 players who had narrowly missed out (by one basket) on the national finals the previous year, were placed in a very difficult group, that included the national champions of that age group, Cathays High School. Despite struggling in their group games and being physically outmatched in most games, the boys won their final placement game with a convincing victory over St Teilos.

**MVP: ASHTON LLEWELYN**

### Year 7 & 8

The Year 7 & 8 girls played with excellent spirit and intensity in their first ever tournament. Despite their relative inexperience in comparison to their counterparts, they grew in confidence as the tournament progressed, scoring plenty of baskets.

**MVP: OGHO EBOIGBE**

**KEVIN GREEN, LINK TEACHER**



Year 7 & 8



Year 9 & 10



Year 7 & 8





## Boys sports update



Year 7 Boys Athletics

### Year 7 Boys Athletics

The Year 7 athletics team performed exceptionally well at the annual Cardiff and Vale competition in June. All boys performed well in their heats and respective finals, however there were outstanding performances by **Theo Willis** (third in shot put), **Dylan Wenger** (third in the C final of the 100m sprint) and **Jelani Placide** (joint first in the A final, of the 75m hurdles). Our **4x100m relay team**, consisting of **Drew Melksham, Jelani Placide, Theo Willis and Dylan Wenger** (finished fourth in the A final). A great achievement by all involved!

### Year 8 and 9 Boys Athletics (U15's)

The Year 8 and 9 boys' athletics team executed some superb individual and team performances at Leckwith at the start of this half term. The stand-out results of the meeting were **Elijah Bediako** (second in the A final of the 100m and fourth in the A final of the 80m hurdles), **Josh Mayer** (qualifying for the B final of the 300m) and **Theo Gough** (fifth in shot put). The 4x100m team qualified for the B final and won the final, only to be disqualified later for 'crossing a lane' on one of the handovers. All boys involved in the events performed well and were a credit to themselves. Well done all involved!

### Year 9 and 10 Middle Championship Athletics

**Simmy Mwenera and Oscar Dwyer** both qualified for the 100m. Simmy finished fourth in the final. Oscar was unfortunately injured in one



Year 8 &amp; 9 (U15's) Boys Athletics

of his events and was unable to take part in the final. **Jude Hill and Dylan Davies** also put in solid performances within the high jump and 1500m respectively. Well done to all boys involved!

### Year 7 Baseball

The Year 7 baseball team are due to play Bishop of Llandaff as we go to print. We wish the boys well in their first ever fixture in secondary school.

### Year 8 Baseball

The Year 8 baseball team has really gelled this term and is a knowledgeable and confident group of baseball players. The Year 8 team had a very skillful win against a well-drilled Llanishen team, in a friendly fixture. Some outstanding catches were made by **Walat Mustafa** in the outfield. With the bat, **Evan Gibson, Lucas Morgan and Rocco Gentile** executed some fantastic shots, scoring well across all areas of the field. A great team performance by all involved. Next up was the Year 8 tournament held at Trelai Park. The boys were very narrowly edged out by a sharp Glantaf team in the opening game. However, they bounced back with good wins against Cardiff West and Llanishen. Their final game was against Plasmawr. The boys batted well but were outdone by some excellent Plasmawr batting. Well done to all involved.

### Year 9 Baseball

The Year 9 team played Bishop of Llandaff in a friendly early in the term. The game was a close affair and finished one game each after some tense fielding to secure the second game.



Year 8 Boys Baseball

Next up was the Year 9 tournament held at Heath Park. The first game was against Glantaf, who very narrowly edged us by a single point. The second game was against Bro Edern. The boys batted extremely well, hitting runs in all areas of the field. There were some excellent catches when fielding, with Ashton Llewellyn taking several high catches. The final game was against Plasmawr. The boys held out to take a convincing win, scoring and fielding well to finish second overall in the 5-team tournament.

### Year 10 Baseball

The Year 10 baseball team are due to play Corpus Christi as we go to print. We wish the boys well in this fixture.

### Cardiff Schools Rugby – Dewar Shield Players

Congratulations to the following players who have been selected to represent Cardiff Schools Rugby in the Dewar Shield competitions next season. **Central Team – Oscar Coomansingh and Ethan Linton. East Team – Harvey Carpenter-Becher, Rhys Donovan, Joseph Sims, Dylan Busuttill, Jude Hill and Tyler Atta.** We wish you all the best for the upcoming season!

### Cardiff and the Vale Schools Football

Congratulations to **Dylan Davies (Year 10)** who was selected to play regional football this year. Dylan has represented Cardiff and the Vale Schools football U15's this year in several league and cup competitions. Well done to Dylan on all your hard work this year!

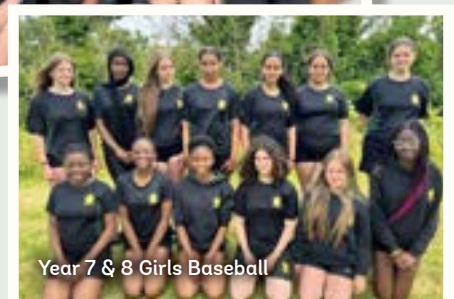
## Girls sports update



(U15's) Girls Athletics Cup Team



(U16's) Girls Athletics Cup Team



Year 7 &amp; 8 Girls Baseball



## Congratulations!!!

### Congratulations Ava & Aliyah!

Following their success in the indoor athletics season, **Ava Placide** and **Aliyah Afolabi** have recently enjoyed success outdoors. Both girls competed in the Welsh Athletics Championships.

**Day 1** saw **Ava and Aliyah** go head-to-head in the 100m Welsh final. Aliyah became Welsh U15 Champion with a time of... and Ava came away with a silver medal.

**Day 2** saw Ava going one better in the hurdles with an amazing technical performance and being rewarded by becoming Welsh U15 Champion. Meanwhile, in the 200m, Aliyah set a Welsh Age Group Record and Championship Best Performance!

**Aliyah** won the U15 Girls 200m final in 24.06, surpassing the previous record of 24.54 set back in 2012 to become a double Welsh Champion. This puts her firmly as the top ranked UK athlete in her age group. Aliyah's time also met the standard for European qualifying. Unfortunately, Aliyah isn't old enough to compete for GB this year.



Ava Placide



Aliyah Afolabi

Keep working hard girls, we are all incredibly proud of your performances this summer.

### Congratulations Lily!

Congratulations to **Lily Deacon** who continues to enjoy success in football. Lily has been selected to train and play for the U16 FAW South Wales Academy. Lily is also representing U15 Cardiff Schools. Keep working hard Lily, we are all very proud of your achievements!



Lily Deacon

### Congratulations Ryan!

Congratulations to **Ryan Miller** in Year 8 who took part in the Taekwondo English Championships in April. Competitors from across Great Britain took part. Ryan won a gold medal in the Special Technique heat (Flying High Kick) and came third place in Sparring. Well done Ryan on a fantastic result! We wish you all the best for the future.



Ryan Miller

### Congratulations Lali!

Congratulations to **Lali Robakidze** who has been enjoying success in gymnastics again this year. Lali is part of the Welsh regional squad and regularly trains with them in addition to her club training. Lali was part of the Welsh team to come first in a recent competition and also came third place in her individual competition. On the bars apparatus, Lali recently became British Champion with an outstanding routine. A fantastic achievement, keep working hard Lali! We are all very proud of you!



Lali Robakidze

### Middle and Senior Champs

St Illtyd's took a team to the **Cardiff and Vale Championships** where we saw some exceptional performances again.

**Millie Gold** won another Gold in her event with a dominating performance. Millie has represented our school excellently in the five years she has been at St. Illtyd's and will be a huge miss to our Athletics team, but we wish Millie every success in all her future endeavours.

### U15 Girls Championships

St Illtyd's took a full team to the U15 championships, and it was great to see girls compete for the school for the first time. Excellence was seen from **Aliyah Afolabi** who came home as triple county champion in the 100m, 200m and the 4x100m relay. **Ava Placide** also had an excellent day returning as a double county champion in her Hurdles and 4x100m relay

and earned a silver in the 100m behind Aliyah. **Ogho Eboigbe and Devyn Mayne** had exceptional runs in the 4x100m winning relay.

### U16 Girls Cup

We also took a team to the U16 Girls cup this year. The girls competed very well. Excellent performances were seen from **Aliyah Afolabi, Ava Placide, Susan Madamidola and Kaitlin Barbosa**. Unfortunately we did not make it through to the County Finals this year but will return again next year.

### Year 7 and 8 Baseball Tournament

The Year 7 and 8 Girls represented the school in a baseball tournament hosted by St. Teilo's. The girls played well winning two and losing two. A lovely day with a great bunch of students.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**2024/5**

Please note the following dates for the academic year:

**AUTUMN TERM 2024****Starts:** Monday 02/09/2024**Inset Day:** Monday 2nd September 2024**Inset Day:** Tuesday 3rd September 2024**Year 7 and Year 11 start:**  
Wednesday 4th September 2024**Year 8, 9 and 10 start:**  
Thursday 5th September 2024**Half term:** Monday 28/10/2024 – Friday 1/11/2024**Ends:** Friday 20/12/2024**SPRING TERM 2025****Starts:** Monday 06/01/2025**Half term:** Monday 24/02/2025 – Friday 28/02/2025**Ends:** Friday 11/04/2025**SUMMER TERM 2025****Starts:** Monday 28/04/2025**Half term:** Monday 26/5/2025 – Friday 30/05/2025**Ends:** Monday 21/07/2025**May Day:** Monday 5th May 2025**Further Inset Days:**

Friday 25th October 2024

Friday 31st January 2025

Monday 10th March 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

# Sports/Chwaraeon

## Year 8 Athletics Session at Cardiff Met

A group of Year 8 students visited Cardiff Metropolitan University to take part in athletics coaching sessions overseen by former commonwealth athlete **James Thie**. The learners took part in a range of events such as the long jump, hurdles, shot putt, discus, high jump and steeplechase. The learners had a fabulous time. Thank you to everyone at Cardiff Metropolitan University for this opportunity.



## Sports Day 2024

2024 Sports Day saw the sun shining and a surprise guest appearance from former student and current silver medallist in the World Cup bobsleigh – **Kya Placide**. Kya handed out medals to our winners and had photos with our record breakers. Three records were broken this year. **Aishafode Sano** in the Year 7 girls 300m with a winning time of 56.89s, **Ogho Eboigbe** in the Year 8 girls 300m with a winning time of 51.67s and **Jahmai Spettie-Owusu** winning a very close contested race in the Year 10 boys 100m in the time of 12.25s. The highly contested staff race was also very close this year with **Mr Tay** and **Mr Jones** taking the win! We look forward to welcoming Mr Jones back to our PE department full time in September.

All competitors competed well and gave everything they had for their houses.

### The 2024 Sports Day winners were: SMT



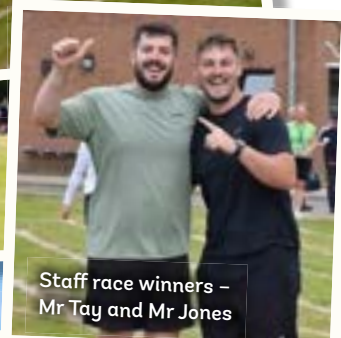
Aishafode Sano



Ogho Eboigbe



Jahmai Spettie-Owusu



Staff race winners – Mr Tay and Mr Jones



PE DEPARTMENT – STEPH MACLENNAN (HEAD OF DEPARTMENT & HEAD OF FACULTY EXPRESSIVE ARTS), RUTH FRY AND NATHAN WALSH