GWYN NEWS

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig **ST RICHARD GWYN** Catholic High School

16 December 2016 / Rhagfyr 2016

Mass Times for Christmas

Church Of The Immaculate Conception, Flint
Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December Mass 6.oopm, Carol Service 9.30pm, followed by Midnight Mass 10.00pm
Christmas Day
Sunday 25 December Mass 9.00am

Blessed Sacrament & Blessed Trinity,
Connah's Quay & Queensferry
Christmas Eve Connah's Quay
Children's Mass
Saturday 24 December Mass 5.30pm
Midnight Mass in polish 12pm
Christmas Day Sunday 25 December
9.30am Queensferry
11.00am Connah's Quay

St Winefride's Church, Holywell
Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December
Children Carol Service 5.15pm,
Christmas Vigil Mass (Folk Mass) 6pm
Carol Service 10.30pm
Vigil Mass 11.00pm
Christmas Day
Sunday 25 December Mass 9.30am

Sacred Heart, Hawarden
Monday 19 December Penitential Service and Confessions 6.00pm-7.00pm
Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December
Christmas Vigil Mass, 8.30pm
Christmas Day
Sunday 25 December Mass 11.00am

St David's, Mold
Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December
Christmas Eve Mass, 5.30pm and 9.00pm
Christmas Day
Sunday 25 December Mass 11.00am

Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley
Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December
Children Vigil Mass 5.00pm
Carols 11.00pm followed by Midnight Mass
Christmas Day:
Sunday 25 December Mass 9.00am
Monday 26 December St Stephen's Day
Mass at 10.00am

Christmas Reflection

When we consider the Gospels, it is evident that Jesus often borrowed things. He borrowed a boat to preach in, loaves and fishes to feed the five thousand, a donkey to ride into Jerusalem on, a room for the Last Supper, Simon to help him carry the cross, a plot of land and a tomb to be buried in. At this time of year, we remember, in particular, the fact that a manger was also borrowed for him to be placed in.

As we prepare in many ways for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, Jesus wants to borrow us too, so that his message can be born in us and be taken out into the world.

Glan-llyn 2016

Last weekend 19 year 10s and 11s went to Glan-llyn for 2 nights. Over the weekend we did a range of activities including; bowling, high ropes course, climbing, raft building, canoeing, swimming and archery. We also completed a booklet which will gain us a Welsh qualification over the two evenings and also developed our knowledge of the Welsh language. We were joined over the three days with Ysgol Maelor and had a great time enjoying the activities and making new friends at the same time. My favourite part of the week was when we went orienteering in a canoe on the lake and Caitlin dropped our paper in the water so we rowed out into the middle of the lake and sang Christmas songs with Miss Larkin and her dog Rosy. I also enjoyed the archery because I came second to one Maelor's teachers Mr Rule, and the climbing because we got as many goes at it as we wanted. I really enjoyed the weekend and hope to go again soon.

Rebecca Owen 10Q

SVP Mass and Party ~ Offeren a Parti SVP

Last week we welcomed a large number of guests from our local SVP Conferences to St Richard Gwyn to celebrate our annual SVP Mass and Party. Canon Joe Stewart celebrated an inspiring Mass for us on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. After Mass, our young people and staff entertained their guests with a variety of Christmas songs, hymns and carols, whilst they enjoyed a meal expertly prepared and served by our GCSE Catering students. There was even a visit from Fr Christmas himself! It was a wonderful night of reflection, laughter and friendship.

On behalf of those from Connah's Quay and Queensferry SVP conferences who partook of your generous hospitality on Thursday, may I offer our sincere thanks for a wonderful evening. From the first hello to the last goodbye, all the pupils presented an air of politeness, pleasantness and confidence and were a great credit to both you and all the staff. I am also mindful to say a special thanks to the school orchestra, singers and the back-room staff who all worked very hard in adding to the overall success of the evening.
Kind regards, Peter Field
President of Connah's Quay and Queensferry SVP Conference

The Shakespeare Schools' Festival ~ Gwŷl Shakespeare Ysgolion

After weeks of rehearsals seventeen students performed 'The Merchant of Venice' at Theatre Colwyn, Colwyn Bay.
Students spent the day working with professional actors and technical crew. They developed their stage craft and took part in a workshop to help them project their lines on stage. Despite it being a very tempestuous evening outside the students transported the audience to sunny Venice. The students wore masks throughout the performance and one member of the audience called their use of this piece of costume as, 'Haunting'.

The Welsh co ordonator for The Shakespeare Schools' Festival , Catrin Evans, told the audiences she was,' Very impressed with the professional performance the pupils delivered.' She addressed the cast and suggested they consider a career on the stage. She was very impressed by our students' good manners and the kindness they displayed towards the primary school students who were using the theatre with them all day.

The cast will now perform their play at school on 9th February 2017.
Tickets will be available at school over the coming weeks.

Year 10 Health Day ~ Diwrnod Iechyd Blwyddyn 10

Year 10 had their Health day on Tuesday with the focus being the promotion of a 'Healthy Body and mind'. We welcomed back to our school The Cat's Paw Theatre Company, Choose Life team and Darren Richardson – Tae Kwon-Do Master from Deeside Tae Kwon-Do. The students watched a powerful and thought provoking drama presentation on sexual consent where they became the detectives and jurors in a fictional story. They also listened to the hard hitting real life stories from the Choose Life Team about their past addictions and where their choices led them. The pupils received a presentation from PC Gail Sinclair entitled 'Vanity Insanity' where they discussed the dangers associated with some of the choices that they make. The students literally threw themselves into their self defence session and now have the knowledge and skills to help get them out of danger. I hope that they never have to use them! Our visitors had a great day and had nothing but praise for all of our students. Thank you Year 10 for your mature, sensitive and inquisitive attitudes during the serious sessions and great sense of fun and enthusiasm during the others. Da iawn pawb. If there is any student who has further questions or concerns after any of the sessions they can speak to any member of teaching staff, support workers, our school nurse or Dawn Ashton, our drugs and alcohol support worker. Mrs Lane

Year 11 & 12 Drugs awareness presentation – Flintshire Sorted ~ Codi Ymwybyddiaeth Cyffuriau Blwyddyn 11 a 12

Year 11 and 12 were given a presentation on alcohol and drugs by Dawn Ashton who works for Flintshire Sorted and is our Drugs and alcohol liaison worker. Dawn spoke to the students about the dangers of alcohol and a variety of drugs and where to get more information, help and support. Dawn also spoke to the students about the importance of looking after friends and what to do in an emergency situation, should one arise. Our PSHE Health and Wellbeing lessons integrate this important subject and Dawn has input into these units with Year 7 & 9. Please visit the Flintshire Sorted facebook page and the following websites for further information and support if needed:

www.talktofrank.com www.drinkaware.co.uk

Students can also arrange to speak to Dawn if they have any further questions or concerns.

Operation Christmas Child

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Operation Christmas Child Appeal. This morning well over 100 shoeboxes full of goodies were collected to be distributed to some of the world's poorest children over the Christmas season. On behalf of all those children who will have Christmas this year because of your generosity THANK YOU!

Warm Clothes Donation ~ Rhoddion Dillad Cynnes

I'm sure that we are all wrapping up warm in this wintery season. Whilst it is a time of hot chocolate and festive fun for us, for those who are homeless the coming months are filled with difficulty and even more hardship as the cold temperatures and frost arrive.

A few weeks ago we put out a request for donations of warm clothes for the homeless in our local area. We have been overwhelmed by your support and generosity. In total we received over 20 coats, 50 jumpers and numerous other items… 18 bin bags of clothes to be precise. Mrs King could barely fit it all into her car!!! What a difference your kindness will make; indeed you could have literally saved someone's life!!!

Christmas Hampers ~ Hamperi Nadolig

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual hamper appeal. On Friday, our Sixth form elves busily put together over 40 hampers full of goodies. The hampers will be collected by our local SVP and distributed to families in our local area. What a wonderful way to reach out to others over this Christmas period and share the real meaning of Christ; Christ's love in action!

Year 9 Art Projects – The Problem of Evil ~ Prosiectau Celf Blwyddyn 9

In Religious Studies, Year 9 have been studying the Problem of Evil. They have been learning about different types of evil and suffering and how we, as Christians respond during times of need. Pupils were invited to take part in an art competition to create a piece of art work to represent their thoughts and feelings during this topic. The work that our young people produced was outstanding. We had a great variety of art work including Lego scenes, painting, charcoal and models to name but a few! The RE department would like to thank all our gifted pupils who took part and a special thank you to Mrs Rimmer and some of our governors who kindly carried out the difficult task of selecting 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All 12 finalists will receive commendation certificate.

1st Place – Charlotte Thomas **2nd Place** – Keeley McGilloway **3rd Place** – Hermione Davies

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Our Sixth Form Leadership team represented our school last week at the Church of the Immaculate Conception patronal feast in Flint. It was a beautiful celebration shared with the whole of St Mary's Primary School!

AMs visit to St Richard Gwyn ~
Ymweliad ASau â St Richard Gwyn

On Thursday 8 December, a group of pupils took part in a session for the Welsh Assembly Government about the teaching of Welsh as a second language. We were asked questions about our opinion on the language and the people from the Welsh Assembly were very interested in our answers. We all discussed different views on how Welsh has changed and evolved over time. We also got to meet our local AM, Hannah Blythyn, who was very happy to see us all present our ideas on promoting learning Welsh. It was a very interesting morning and we have all learnt that the Welsh Assembly makes a lot of decisions for our daily lives and that they do make a difference to try and make our lives better. We were all very forward with our opinions and it was good to be able to have input into our education.

Emily Williams, Charlotte Roberts and Charlie Thomas

TERM DATES & SCHOOL DAY

SPRING 2017		
Tuesday	3 January 2017 – School Closed to Pupils	Staff Training Day
Wednesday	4 January 2017 – Start of Term	School Opens 8.50am
Friday	17 February 2017 – Half Term	School Closes 3.30pm
Monday	27 February 2017 – Start of Term	School Opens 8.50am
Friday	7 April 2017 – End of Term (Easter)	School Closes 3.30pm
SUMMER 2017		
Monday	24 April 2017 – School Closed to Pupils	Staff Training Day
Tuesday	25 April 2017 – Start of Term	School Opens 8.50am
Monday	1 May 2017 – May Day Bank Holiday	School Closed
Friday	26 May 2017 – Half Term	School Closes 3.30pm
Monday	5 June 2017 – Start of Term	School Opens 8.50am
Thursday	20 July 2017 – End of Term (Summer)	School Closes 2.00pm
Friday	21 July 2017 – School closed to Pupils	Staff Training Day (Twilights)

Diary Dyddiadur

Governors' Standards and Performance
Monday 23 January
5.30pm

Governors' Personnel
Tuesday 24 January
5.30pm

SRG Achievement Evening
Thursday 19 January 2017
6.00pm

Year 11
Parents Evening
Thursday 26 January
4.00pm 7.00pm

New QR Code
Scan to go to our school website

WELSH PHRASE
Nadolig Llawen oddi wrth bawb yn SRG!

Merry Christmas from all at SRG!

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Tel: 01352 736900
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@srgchaplaincy
Facebook
www.facebook.com/strichardgwynhsflintofficial

Poppy Paintings Auction ~ Ocsiwn Peintiadau Pabïau

We were delighted and grateful to receive several paintings recently, created and donated by Phil Hughes, the Grandfather of two of their Year 7 students, Isobel & Dylan Percy. The beautiful paintings depict the poppies that symbolise Remembrance Day for all the service men & women who lost their lives in war.

Phil Hughes is a three times award winning artist with work in private collections around the world. Phil is a figurative painter, sketching and painting in front of the subject, using a variety of mediums.

The school held an on line silent auction for the paintings and raised around **£190** for The Royal British Legion & Help the Heroes.

Detailed images of the paintings can be found on St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School Web site.

Photo shows Year 7 students Isobel and Dylan Percy with the paintings.

Christmas Reflection ~ Myfyrdod Nadolig

Our traditional Carol Service and Reflection took place last night This is our annual exploration of the Christmas story in prayer, drama, music and song. Christmas is a time of giving, like Jesus who gave himself as a gift for us. Our service was a reminder that we need give and share of what we have, especially to those who have less than we do. Or deepest thanks go to the students and staff who have helped in organising and leading the service. This Christmas remember that "Christmas is the season but Jesus is the reason!"

Fr Luigi Morrone, SDV

Headteacher's Message Neges y Pennaeth

Christ is at the centre of all we do here, and also at the forefront of the word 'Christmas'. During Advent, we have reflected daily on the coming of the Christ child and our responsibilities as Christians to witness to the Gospel. This is not always an easy obligation to fulfil!
We thank parents and carers warmly for the partnership we share with you and with the parishes of our Deanery, in nurturing and supporting the wonderful young people at the heart of our St Richard Gwyn community.
Wishing all our friends and supporters a happy and holy Christmas.

Attendance Matters!
These are the attendance figures for this term. Well done to our Star performers 10H, who at 97% are above our target. Year 7 and Year 9 are leading the way at the moment.
Attendance for this term 94%

Year	H	Q	M	S	F	B	Year Group
7	92%		96% ☺	95%	95%	96% ☺	95%
8		96% ☺	95%	88%	95%	96% ☺	94%
9	94%	96% ☺			96% ☺	95%	95% ☺
10	97% ☺	96% ☺		86%	93%	95%	94%
11	88%	96% ☺	96% ☺	92%	**96%** ☺	94%	94% ☺

Note to self…. New Years Resolution is to attend school every day!

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Students are invited to return this slip that must be signed by a parent or carer to Mrs Batt in reprographics by Thursday 5 January 2017. There will be a raffle of the returned signed slips and a prize for the winner!!

My child_____Year_____ delivered this Gwyn News to me.

Signed_____(parent/carer)