



Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School

THIS IS AN OUTSTANDING CATHOLIC SCHOOL

19 December/ Rhagfyr 2014

NADOLIG LLAWEN

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT

LINKSMŪ KALĒDŪ

On today's News one of the stories which has made me have a bit of a think is the statistic which says that in a survey of 2,000 people in the UK, one quarter had been alone at least once on Christmas Day in the last five years. 'Why is this important?' you might ask. The survey found that some people are alone because they have work commitments over the Holidays; others avoid being with friends and family, sometimes fibbing to them to avoid spending time together; some are very sad and feel the desperate need of company.

Our school is a place of community, a big and diverse family. We have done fantastic charity work in the run up to Christmas this year, as you can see in the stories below. One of the main learning points we make, though, as a Catholic school is that Jesus Christ, who's birthday we celebrate on 25 December, is the reality of the God who never leaves us alone – born as one of us to be with us for ever. Now, I'm not naive; it's rather glib to say 'if you've got Jesus in your heart, then you will never be alone'. This is a truth of Christian teaching. However, the reality is that Jesus also becomes present when we give him as a gift to others. Giving a gift is personal; it is often more precious to turn up on someone's doorstep and surprise them with a visit than to give them a pile of presents which they like, but really they are not as needed.



Going to Christmas Mass, to Carol Services, and to be together with fellow believers in church is one of the best ways we can show we belong as a family to one another. Church doors are open and welcoming; arrangements can be made to bring those without transport. This is at least one very worthy way of making sure nobody is required to be alone at Christmas!

Mwynhewch y Gwyliau! Enjoy the Holidays!

FAREWELL AND GOD'S BLESSINGS

BENDITHION A FPARWELIO

We have had some staff movements during the term. This is our time to record our gratitude to them for their huge contribution to the life of this school and the learning of our students. Among those leaving us is Mr Paul Carter, who has been an amazing teacher, with us for ten years. Learners in that time have experienced the highest quality of support through his dedication to teaching and learning. His personality and warmth have helped light up the path of opportunity for countless young people over the years and we will miss him very much. As Additional Learning Needs' Co-ordinator, he has developed a department of consummate excellence and we offer him our good wishes and prayers as he goes to a similar post in Gateacre School in Liverpool.

Others who have already left us since the summer are sadly missed, and we wish them well in their new posts and in their retirement, in some cases:

Anne Wynne – Catering Staff
Dr Jane Eastham – Temporary

Janine Dixon – TA
Science Teacher

Sue Rush – Cleaner
Marissa Serrano Marcos – Temporary

Natasha Gee – Cleaner
Spanish Teacher

Thank You Father Shaji

Diolch Y Tad Shaji

താങ്ക്സ് ഫാദർ ഷാജി

We enjoy many benefits from being a Church School, not least the invaluable added dimension which gives us a particular identity. This is commented on by visitors to our school without fail. It is what makes us unique in Flintshire and in the northern half of Wales. Father Shaji has been our school chaplain for over four years, during which he has faithfully dispensed the sacramental ministry of the Catholic Church to every member of our community. Without a priest with us on a weekly basis we would not have our voluntary Friday Mass (often attended by over 40 students). Fr Shaji also celebrates our year Masses and whole school Masses. His favourite question when he preaches his homilies is, 'Are you happy?' He normally asks this at the end of what he has preached.

He has helped us to see how God comes to our hearts in Jesus; how we should worry less about things that don't matter so much and make sure we live good lives which will reflect the glory of God living in us, which will give us true happiness.

We wish him every happiness as he takes on the additional responsibility of another parish, which is the reason we bid him farewell. We thank him with happy hearts for all he has shown us of God's love.



The Bishop has appointed Fr Luigi Morrone, who is a Vocationist Father, as our Chaplain from January 2015. We welcome Fr Luigi very warmly to our school community and look forward to enjoying the benefits of his ministry among us. Benvenuto Padre Luigi alla nostra scuola!

Headteacher/Prifathro
Ronald M Keating MA NPQH

SCHOOL CLOSSES
SCHOOL REOPENS

12.30pm Friday 19 December
Tuesday 6 January 2015

**Bring the Joy of Christmas to a Child
Helpwch Blentyn Mwynhau Llauenydd y Nadolig**

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the Operation Christmas Child Campaign. In total we sent 139 boxes and six bin bags of additional bits and bobs. We are very impressed and proud of everyone's effort. Thank you for bringing this gift of joy to children all over the world.



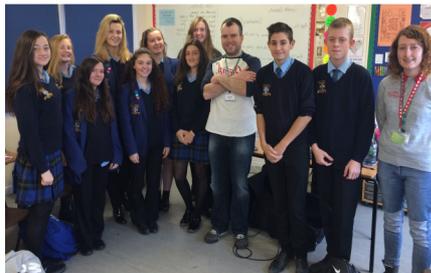
**Full course Welsh Caernarfon visit
Ymweliad â Chaernarfon Cymraeg Cwrs Llawn**

On Monday, all full course Welsh pupils from Year 10 and Year 11 went on a visit to Caernarfon for the day. The day started with a guided tour in Welsh around Caernarfon town and castle with our tour guide, Emrys. The tour gave pupils the opportunity to learn a lot about the history of Caernarfon and to practise their Welsh outside of the classroom. The group also had time to visit some local shops and cafes to practise their Welsh further. Pupils then had fun in 'Yr Hwylfan' in Caernarfon which is a Welsh themed activity centre where they also had food - ordered in Welsh of course! Before heading back to school, pupils watched part of the final dress rehearsals for a new Welsh musical, 'Sbri!', in which all of the cast are Welsh speakers from the Caernarfon area. Due to the 'Cymraeg Bob Dydd/Everyday Welsh' project that the Welsh department is a part of, this visit was free for all pupils.



**Welsh Language
Awareness Sessions
Sesiynau Ymwybyddiaeth Iaith**

Full course year 10 pupils have been taking part in Welsh awareness sessions over the past three weeks. They've had two sessions with a visitor from the Urdd, and finished with Mr Phormula, a Welsh language beat boxer and rapper. Using the topics and ideas discussed in the sessions about the history of the Welsh language and its usage now, the pupils then worked hard to make their own rap in Welsh. It was an excellent opportunity for pupils to practise and develop their Welsh outside of lessons in a fun and informal way. Da iawn Criw Pendil a diolch Mr Phormula!



Glan-Ilyn

Last weekend, full course year 10 and 11 pupils were given the opportunity to visit Glan-Ilyn, a Welsh outdoor activity centre. Pupils took part in a range of activities including bowling, raft building, canoeing, wall climbing as well as team building and problem solving activities. Pupils had an excellent time and practised their Welsh in a variety of different ways with hands on activities.



The Church of The Immaculate Conception, Flint

Students in Years 7 and 8, who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next year must collect a form from Fr Adrian Wilcock as soon as possible. Thank you.

Christmas Jumper Day Diwrnod Siwmpwr Nadolig

On Friday 12 December staff and seniors took part in Christmas Jumper Day, which is organised by the Save the Children charity. We helped to make the world better with a sweater by raising just under £200.



**RETURN LOOKING SMART
DEWCH YN ÔL YN DACLUS**

We are complemented on how smart we look as a school. Students are wonderful ambassadors for the school and we thank families for their continuing attention to school uniform, tidy hairstyles and general appearance. This is a reminder that piercings and hairstyles should not be a cause for our concern when students return on 06 January 2015.

**Mass Times for Christmas
Church Of The Immaculate Conception, Flint
Christmas Eve:**

Wednesday 24 December Mass 6pm,
Carol Service 9.30pm, followed by
Midnight Mass 10.00pm

Christmas Day:

Thursday 25 December Mass 9am
There is no Polish Mass.

Friday 26 December: Mass at 11.00am for all altar servers to attend and renew their vows.

**Blessed Sacrament & Blessed Trinity,
Connah's Quay & Queensferry
Christmas Eve: Connah's Quay
Children's Mass**

Wednesday 24 December Mass 5.30pm
Midnight Mass 12pm

Christmas Day: Thursday 25 December
9.30am Queensferry
11.00am Connah's Quay

**St Winefride's Church, Holywell
Christmas Eve:**

Wednesday 24 December, Carol Service 5.30pm,
Vigil Mass 6pm
11.00pm Carol Service Vigil Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day:

Thursday 25 December Mass 9.30am