



# SJL BUZZ

'LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST'



EDITION 1

SPRING TERM 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM MR HURLEY

### NEGES GAN MR HURLEY

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda, i chi i gyd. I hope you have had a blessed Christmas. Welcome to the first edition of The Buzz, our new half-termly newsletter. We hope you find it helpful in knowing a little more about what has happened and what we are looking forward to in the coming weeks. I am looking forward to my first full term as Headteacher at the school and to welcoming our new Assistant Headteacher, Mr Chris Pinnington.

The warm welcome I have received from staff, pupils and parents alike encapsulated for me the strong sense of Christian community and the care that the school is so well known for. Even in the cold winter months ahead for this half term, I look forward to us all growing in and learning more of this compassion and kindness together.

It is an important term for all our pupils, a term where much of the key learning for the year will take place. As we start this term, I would underline my first message to them in our first assembly together: be kind, work hard and learn well.

## SPRING TERM DATES

### DYDDIADAU TYMOR Y GWANWYN

**Start of Term:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Half-term:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**End of Term:** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**INSET:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023



## CHARITY AND COMMUNITY LINKS

### ELUSENNAU A CHYSYLLTIADAU CYMUNEDOL

Last term our charity events included a delightful feast of coffee and cake as we took part in MacMillan's Biggest Coffee Morning,

In October we raised money for CAFOD and Ty Bryngwyn Hospice, two of our adopted charities as a school.

November saw the return of Pudsey with cakes, raffles, own clothes day and a visit from Pudsey himself.

Our annual Christmas Hamper appeal was yet again another great success in giving a helping hand to families in the local area as part the Youth SVP

# PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING

GOFAL BUGEILIOL A LLES

YEAR 7

BLWYDDYN 7

YEAR 8, 9, 10 & 11

BLWYDDYN 8, 9, 10 & 11

In September, we welcomed our new Year 7 pupils to St John Lloyd. The Year 7 pastoral team have been proactive in delivering restorative approaches, circle time and check-ins with pupils each Monday morning during registration. Pupils were also given a starter pack on their first day to support each pupil with the correct equipment at the start of their new school year. In October, pupils were placed into new groupings and a literacy recovery programme implemented to support the year group.

During the Christmas activity week, Year 7 form classes became very competitive in the annual Christmas Karaoke competition. The winners were 7S who performed extremely well. Da iawn, 7S! Year 7 enjoyed their first reward trip to Xcel bowling. We are now looking forward to the next reward trip to Heatherton World of Adventure.

Year 11 spent the day sampling lectures at Coleg Sir Gar in order to choose their next steps in education. An informative day and a thank you to CSG.

Pupils enjoyed an end of term trip Bowling, it was good to see them having fun and showing their competitive nature as we return to our reward systems.



## SCHOOL CLUBS

### CLYBIAU YSGOL

The Key Stage 3 Make and Bake club started back in November. Pupils have made and taken home a variety of bakes including cupcakes and cheese straws. The current group of twelve will finish toward the end January, when twelve new spots will become available. Interested Pupils should see Miss Rowlands or Miss McNally.

Members of the 'Pom Pom club' created beautiful gifts for the Christmas table and made £60 for charity. They will be making gifts again for 'Santes Dwynwen Day' on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. All proceeds will again be given to charity.

Clubs this term:

Busy Bee Club – Every lunchtime Welsh Room 1

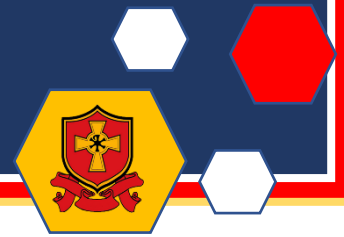
Games club- Every Thursday Welsh Room 1

Languages Club – Monday after school and many more



# YEAR 5 & 6 TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

GWWEITHGAREDDAU TROSGLWYDDO BLWYDDYN 5 & 6



Please contact:

Mr C Pinnington – Assistant Headteacher

Miss J C Roberts (Head of Learning- Year 7 & Transition Co-ordinator) for help and support with Year 7 students

Mrs R Evans (Head of Wellbeing & Pastoral Care) for help and support with Year 8-11 students

For help and support with students with Additional Learning Needs – please contact Mr T Earey (ALNCo)

Attendance Officer- Mrs M Harries

On Thursday 13th October, we welcomed families of Year 5 and 6 pupils to our themed Welcome Evening based on the World Cup and football. It proved a very exciting and inspiring occasion and almost 90 families attended the event. A special thank you to Father Martin who attended our Welcome Evening and has been proactive in marketing the school through our wider Catholic communities in Llanelli, Burry Port, Pontyberem and Carmarthen areas.

During the week commencing Monday 10th October 2022, we welcomed several local schools including Hendy, Swiss Valley, Model and St Mary's Carmarthen to a 'Teddy Bear Enterprise' event. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event. Pupils had to create a teddy bear and pitch to a panel of judges. Winners included a group from Swiss Valley and St Mary's, Carmarthen. The event even had a Teddy Bear Supply shop run by the team of Year 10 buddies.

Our feeder primary schools including St Mary's (Llanelli), Pentip and Dafen Primary School enjoyed their Santa's Workshop experience in the Technology department in December. With the support of our Year 10 buddies, Year 5 and 6 were able to make Christmas gongs, gingerbread stained-glass biscuits and reindeer pom pom decorations. Diolch o galon from the transition team at St John Lloyd to all our partner feeder schools who continue to support and promote successful links between us.

Coming up this term:

Santes Dwynwen Transition sessions

Easter Transition Sessions



Any queries with regards to transition events or should you wish to take a personal tour of the school, please contact Miss J C Roberts. Email address: [julia.roberts@stjohnlloyd.co.uk](mailto:julia.roberts@stjohnlloyd.co.uk)

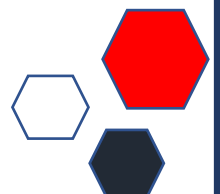
Keep up to date with all that's going on in St John Lloyd Catholic School and with transition events on our Twitter and Instagram pages:



@stjohnlloyd



stjohnlloydllanelli



# AREAS OF LEARNING & EXPERIENCE

## MESYDD DYSGU A PHROFIAD

### LANGUAGE, LITERACY & COMMUNICATION

### IEITHOEDD, LLYTHRENNEDD A CHYFATHREBU

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Year 10 English Literature students enjoyed a visit to New Theatre, Cardiff, to watch a performance of J B Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. The live performance was enjoyed by all, and so was the opportunity to soak up the city centre sunshine.

It's been a pleasure to see our Year 7 learners enjoy their weekly Friday morning guided reading session delivered by the Year 10 reading buddies; in the words of one Year 7 learner, "The sessions with the Year 10 reading buddies are great and help to build our confidence and love of reading. It's also a nice chance to get to know some older pupils at SJL."

At the start of term, our Year 7 learners honoured the age-old SJL tradition of creating individual time capsules to be opened at the end of Year 11. As part of this experience, each Year 7 learner enjoyed the chance to write a letter to their future self, detailing their hopes and ambitions for their time as an SJL pupil.

#### The Rotary Youth Speaks Competition 2023

It's great to be able to congratulate both the senior and intermediate Youth Speaks teams on their success in the local heat of the annual Rotary Youth Speaks competition. This exciting event was held at Bryngwyn School on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, and, pleasingly, SJL took the following Awards from the evening:



#### **Senior Team** - Best Team

Aeliyah Vergara - Best Proposer

Demi Jones - Best Opposer

#### **Intermediate Team** - Best Team

Emily-Grace Kitchin - Best Chairperson

Leon Alvarez-Collinson - Best Proposer

Eleanor Toft - Best Opposer

The students have worked exceptionally hard, and we are extremely proud of each and every one of them. We look forward to the next round at Queen Elizabeth High School, Carmarthen on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023!

For this year's Rotary Young Writer Competition, many of our KS3 learners have enjoyed the chance to write creatively on the theme of Peace. We eagerly await the results of the first heat.

This term we have enjoyed celebrating the wonderful, diverse community we are by celebrating European Day of Languages in September with teachers dressing up, a treasure hunt and a quiz for pupils. Then in October we encouraged pupils and staff to 'rho gynnig arni' and have a go at practicing their Welsh skills for Diwrnod Shwmae. November saw a day of celebrating our Welshness and the historic moment of Wales playing in the World Cup. We launched a brand new Languages club on a Monday after school for pupils who love learning languages.

Coming up:

- Santes Dwynwen- celebrating the Welsh saint of love.
- Dydd Miwsig Cymreig- Welsh music day
- School Eisteddfod and Dydd Gwyl Dewi.



# AREAS OF LEARNING & EXPERIENCE

## MESYDD DYSGU A PHROFIAD

### HEALTH & WELLBEING

#### IECHYD A LLES



Pupils in Year 7 have been taking part in Health and Wellbeing sessions, looking at what is important in making their mind, body and spirit healthy.

At the start of the Spring term Crucial Crew will return to give various talks to pupils.

### HUMANITIES

#### Y DYNIAETHAU

We started the year celebrating Mass together as a whole school along with Fr Martin. We have also been fortunate enough to celebrate voluntary Masses in the chapel with Frs. Martin and John Thomas. The Youth SVP held their first meeting of the year and swung straight into action organising the school Christmas hampers. Year 7 participated in a 'Day of Reflection' during which different workshops were run by RE staff, Fr Martin and Sr Anne. Sr Anne has also been in school, working with year 7 and 8 on Advent traditions. We are finished the term with the school carol service.

In the Spring term we will celebrate St David's Day with whole school Mass and will again have the opportunity for voluntary Mass in the Chapel.

- Youth SVP members will be launching the annual Easter egg appeal.
- Year 8 will have their own 'Day of Reflection'
- A group of pupils in year 10 to Wembley Stadium for the CYMFED conference.
- Fr Liam Bradley will be into school to talk to year 11 about his work as Dyfed Powys police chaplain.

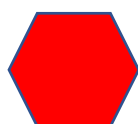


At the end of October, the Humanities AOLE took year 7 on a visit to Kidwelly Castle. The pupils investigated the features of the castle and the history of Princess Gwenllian. The pupils used the information gathered during this visit to support the learning in the classroom during the second half of the term. The pupils were fantastically behaved and enjoyed the autumn sunshine that we had. A huge thanks to the staff who supported the pupils during the visit and also to the PGCE student teachers from The University of Wales Trinity Saint David who also attended.

### MATHS & NUMERACY

#### MATHEMATEG A RHIFEDD

Students will be entered for the UKMT Maths challenge. The Maths challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice challenge encouraging reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting and functional problems. Year 7 and 8 will be able to enter the junior challenge, while year's 9/10/11 will be able to enter the Intermediate challenge. Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards are available for students achieving the required marks.



# AREAS OF LEARNING & EXPERIENCE

## MESYDD DYSGU A PHROFIAD

### EXPRESSIVE ARTS

#### Y CELFYDDYDAU MYNEGIANNOL



In September a group of 15 MAT musicians from year 9 and 10 attended a Young Composers of Dyfed Workshop. The workshop was run by Ms. Lynne Plowman, a composer and lecturer at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, accompanied by a string trio from the National Orchestra of Wales.

In October Year 7 visited the National Botanical Gardens of Wales to engage and enjoy a day of relaxing artwork.

Congratulations to Phoenix Williams on her success as props creator, designer and manager for Carmarthenshire Amateur Operatic Society's (CAOS) half term production of the musical 9 to 5.

Congratulations to Kade Mullane-Durrant, whose song Joy of Wales came 3rd in the Song Writing competition. To Dulcie Davies, Bethan Green and Eleanor Toft whose Podcast on Ruth Jones came 2nd in the creating a Podcast competition. And finally, to Leon Alvarez Collinson - a reading of his own Poem 'Just Imagine', who came 1st in the Illustrating a Poem through Sound category.

Dulcie Davies, Bethan Green. Rosie Andrews and Lyndsey Hernandez performed with the Carmarthenshire Intermediate Orchestra at Theatre y Ffwrnes as part of the Carmarthenshire Music Service Annual Christmas Concert. Congratulations on achieving your first 'musical' county cap – well done! Congratulation to Eleri Gwyne, Sam Monni and Ben Jiju on passing their piano exams with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London and to Dulcie Davies on passing her Trinity College London Music Theatre exam.

A big thank you to all musicians who took part in the school Carol Service. Your God-given talents being used through instrumental and vocal work made it a very special evening for all those who attended.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### GWYDDONIAETH A THECHNOLEG

This term, a group of Year 7 pupils participated in a Robotics session with Swansea University Technocamps. The pupils worked in pairs to programme their robots to complete an obstacle course. The group will complete an additional session next term further developing their computational thinking skills.

A number of Year 8 have attended a Coding Live Workshop with a Minecraft Education Expert. The pupils used their coding and computational skills in a quest to escape an enchanted mansion.

Minecraft Monday club continues. Our Minecrafters are currently constructing the French room and updating our corridors.

Year 10 Business took part in a live tour of an Amazon fulfilment centre. Pupils had a glimpse of the technology and people that work behind the scenes of the global distribution centre.

Mr Bowen has successfully selected learners to be part of the SJL Eco-Schools committee. The club has spent the Autumn Term planning activities to run during the Spring Term to make changes in our school and everyday lives to tackle environmental issue like climate change, bio-diversity loss and plastic pollution.

In February the SJL Eco-Schools committee will visit the Senedd Cymru for the Eco Summit, where they will meet with Lee Waters MS and other Senedd members to discuss climate change.

The Year 11 GCSE Food and Nutrition pupils to the "Walk Eat, Talk Eat" event in London in October. The trip was a huge success with all pupils gaining experiences and information to support them with the GCSE Food and Nutrition course.

The Health, Social Care and Childcare class were very lucky to have a presentation and Q&A session NHS Careers Advisors.

Christmas hit the Technology department early with Mr Kent and Mrs Rowlands running Santa's Workshop and Christmas Cooking activities with pupils from local primary schools. Lots of fun was had by all.

This term will see the start of the Science and Crest Award club where learners will complete Science projects and fun experiments.

