



St John's College



## Middle School

### Newsletter December 2009

Dear parents,

Once again, the pupils of R12, R13 and R14 have had a most productive term, taking part in a host of activities. As we approach the end of the year, with revision and examinations over, the girls and boys can now look forward to the Christmas festivities and a well-earned break.

All the Middle School staff join me in wishing you and your family a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Rosemary Hart (Assistant Head)

#### R13 Geography Field Trip

All R13 pupils took part in a Geography field trip at the end of September. The day consisted of a preliminary talk by a member of staff from the Abergavenny-based Ty'r Morwydd Field Study



Centre. Then we boarded coaches to Llantwit Major to study coastal processes and management. Our studies focused on the Col Huw beach and surrounding cliffs. The weather was dry and warm, the scenery

spectacular and children enthusiastic! Here are some of the children's accounts of their fieldwork experience:

"The first thing we did when we got to Llantwit Major was to walk across the rocky beach. It was really fun because you had to look really carefully where you walked because the rocks came in so many shapes and sizes. As we walked along the beach we saw a wave-cut platform and we noticed that it looked like a cobbled street and Ceri said that that's where the idea of cobbled streets came from. After 30 minutes we came across a large cave and we had a quick look inside, it was very damp and wet. On the walls and ground you could see lots of old fossils from a long time ago."

"Sea defences protect the lifeguard station and the café from stormy weather. There is rock armour just before the lifeguard station... it has slanted roofs so that stones and waves bounce off. ...The reason the council chose rock armour as its main defence is because it looks natural, and it doesn't spoil the view."

"Throughout the day we examined caves, cliffs, beaches, a cliff walk and other coastal features. We learnt how to measure up beaches and how to record and measure the size of the stones. We learnt the names of the different coastal features during our cliff walk and much, much more! Llantwit Major has a beautiful and interesting beach with lots of coastal features. I enjoyed the trip and learnt so much."

Thank you to all the children who wrote such informative reports for Mrs Cooke.

#### Remembrance Day 2009

On Wednesday 4th November, six pupils from St John's College, accompanied by Mrs Brown and Mr Taylor, attended the opening of the 2009 Garden of Remembrance in Cathays Park. We were



invited by the Royal British Legion and were the only school in Cardiff who were present. The Lord Lieutenant, First Minister and political and military representatives

were present. Each placed a cross in front of a giant poppy wreath. In the garden were hundreds of miniature crosses each representing a person who had laid down his or her life in conflicts since World War One.

The pupils had the chance to speak to veterans of the Second World War, including a survivor of the D-Day landings and Commodore James Miller, who served in the Falklands conflict.



Pupils commented: "The adults were pleased to see us at the service...remembering all those who died. I think that we should keep it this way." Natalie Lloyd-Gale R13C

"The people we spoke to were extremely pleased we came to the service....It reassured them that they wouldn't be forgotten in years to come." Anna O'Leary

"I thought of my grandfather, who was in the medical section in World War Two. My great grandfather was gassed in the First World War...They would have loved to see us here."

## Sports News

This year, new 'adventurous activities' have been introduced to PE. The entire Junior & Senior Schools have greatly enjoyed and benefited from these activities, which are helping pupils to develop their team building skills, problem solving, communicating and working with others.

## Gibraltar Netball Tour



On 23 October, 30 girls and 4 staff members began a most enjoyable 5-day trip to Gibraltar, where they competed against netball teams from all over the world. The girls performed outstandingly well and every squad member played with determination and a will to win. (For the full itinerary and daily account of the tour, please see the 'Sports News' page of the school website).

## Sports Results

This year's **Inter House Netball Tournament** was greatly enjoyed by all the girls involved.

R12 Inter House Winners	St David's
R13 Inter House Winners	Mostyn
R14 Inter House Winners	Bute

Other highlights of the term included excellent **girls' cross country** results; the ten girls who represented St John's proved that they had great determination and strength in the cold and wet weather at Trelai Park, achieving the following placings: Emma Cooney 107, Sally Williams 113, Eilish Menzies 116, Tess Russell 121, Emily Knowles 131, Mako Chiganze 146 and Harriet Banks 164.

An excellent display from our young athletes in the **boys' cross country** led to a 4th place finish from Owen Jones in the Year 7 race. A field of around 200 runners took part with George Quine, Ryan Martyn and Tom Pompeus showing promise around the difficult course. Owen looked in control throughout, while George Willicombe and Dominic Yau ran strongly in their Yr 8 and 9 event and would have easily finished in the top 80 if not for a mix up at the start. The boys showed a superb level of maturity and determination to claw back a 400 metre head start and also pick off a good number of competitors.

An outstanding display from **R13 rugby team** resulted in a 17-15 win against Corpus Christi. Tries by Terri Gee and the winning conversion by Toby Thomas meant that St John's recorded their first away win at Corpus Christi. The boys later produced their best performance of the year to comfortably beat Michaelston 19 – 5. Stand out performers were Terry Gee, Ellis Bellamy and Shaun Malloy. Also of note was James Minto from R12 who was again outstanding.

Meanwhile, the **R14 rugby team** took victory against Rougemont 20-19. Mathew Edwards (captain) commented: "A close encounter saw St John's (who were the better team) take victory. Three breakaway tries allowed Rougemont to catch up, but some hard work and determination saw St John's hold out for a win. Every team member can take credit for such an impressive performance, and especially Connor and Jacob for their superb tackling. Congratulations to all the boys".

## Careers Activities

Middle School pupils should be praised for their enthusiasm and imagination during this term's careers activities.

**R12** had the task of designing an outfit for a male and female, The children had to present as a group to the rest of the year the materials used and their strengths and weaknesses. The models took to the stage very well, with some pupils displaying excellent public speaking skills when presenting.

**R13** pupils took on different roles in their activities, such as accountant or general foreman, whilst reproducing a hidden model only seen by one pupil who was the architect. Pupils undertook specific tasks and eventually built a replica of the model and worked out their accounts. The group which built the model and worked out costs correctly, won.

The essential skills of teamwork, communication and problem-solving were at the forefront of skills being developed by **R14** this year. The task involved creating a campaign to sell a computer game. They had to market the CD cover and also produce a presentation to encourage others to buy theirs.

## Prefects

Prefects were chosen at the beginning of the year. All pupils were given the opportunity to vote for those who they thought:

- were good role models for the form
- helped other pupils in the form and also the form teacher
- ensured high standards of uniform and behaviour amongst others. Those chosen are:

<b>R12C</b>	Ryan Martin & Chloe Smith
<b>R12R</b>	Daniel Cullen & Ashleigh Patrick
<b>R12W</b>	James Minto & Makomborero Chiganze
<b>R13C</b>	Dewi Jones & Olivia Lane-Anderson
<b>R13T</b>	Jack Israel & Hannah Son
<b>R13L</b>	Azeem Baig & Kathryn Dainty

## Cathedral Choir Lunchtime Concert at St David's Hall

The Cathedral choristers performed outstandingly to an audience of around one thousand people on Tuesday 1 December. Congratulations to the boys, girls and gentlemen for such a beautiful performance.

Last term, the boy & girl Cathedral Choristers appeared and sang in **BBC's Doctor Who** with **David Tennant, Bernard Cribbins & Claire Bloom**. The episode is likely to be David Tennant's last, and is due to be aired this Christmas. We have choirs for both boys & girls, with choristers of all ages. No previous training is required. For further information, please contact [dominicneville@cantab.net](mailto:dominicneville@cantab.net)

The **Concert Orchestra** has been preparing some musical delights for the Christmas Concert & Prize Giving and has the largest number of members to date. For further details about auditioning, please contact Mrs Neville.

## School Production

The Middle and Senior School production this year is an adaptation of PG Wodehouse's "Jeeves and Wooster". Rehearsals are currently in progress and feature an array of Middle School talent. For a full list of cast members and the weekly rehearsal schedule please see the 'Music & Performance' page of the website.

### Dates for the Diary

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert & Prize Giving  
Wed 16<sup>th</sup> December - End of term  
Wed 6<sup>th</sup> January – Term starts  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February – Half term  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup> February - Middle School Eisteddfod