

R11 Enterprise Week

R11 pupils will take a week from the school timetable to become budding entrepreneurs. They will work very hard designing, producing and then selling products to the pupils in the Lower School. All profits are donated to a worthy cause chosen by the pupils. You will be welcome to view and purchase their products on Friday, 7th March. R8 and R9 pupils, who attend the football/netball fixtures, will have the opportunity to purchase items prior to the sale.

St John's Aqua Games

The St John's College Junior Aqua Games replaced the usual Swimming Gala format for the first time last year and was a resounding success with pupils and staff. Pupils have developed a core range of skills required to be confident, competent and safe in water in different aquatic disciplines. Our 'Aqua Games' are more inclusive and ensure everyone is involved at all times. Pupils will rotate in houses over four activity stations. House points will be awarded based on each station completed.

R10 Millennium Trip

R10 will have the opportunity to participate in a number of activities based around the Millennium Centre over a period of two days. This trip also involves an overnight stay at the Urdd City Sleepover. Last year's trip was a resounding success and enjoyed by all pupils. To give you an idea of some of the activities involved the pupils will have a tour of the Millennium Stadium, tour of the Welsh Assembly, back stage tour of the Millennium Centre, a boat trip and bowling.

R11 Llansteffan Residential Trip

Once again I am looking forward to accompanying R11, Mrs Kloosterman and Mr Lewis to Hooke Court, Llansteffan. This will now be our fourth year visiting this centre which provides the R11 with an adventurous three days set in an idyllic setting. Some of the activities included rock pooling, beach walks, a candle light walk to a castle, bushcraft, team building exercises and an excursion to view coastal features of erosion and deposition. This trip will provide the R11's with a variety of educational and social experiences and will be lots of fun!

Achievements:

Well done to these pupils who achieved music grades recently: Max (drums), Anya (piano), Nia (piano), Anchitha (piano), Hiya (violin), Anish (piano), Ananyaa (electric guitar), Thomas (piano), Yash (piano), Aryan S (violin), Poppy (violin), Oskar (jazz), Harshita (violin), Carys (piano), Varun (piano).

Well done to the following pupils for their sporting achievements: Aoife (gym squad); Aoife, Benedict, Selina, Niamh, Ronav, Ashmit, Aalya, Alex, Annabel J, Anish, Aryan S and Nadiya (next level at swimming); Crina (next squad for CCSC); Kundi, Ronav, Aryan M, Harri, Alfie, Anya, Daniel B, Poppy and Kate (next level at tennis); Ashlin and Aryan S, (cricket development squad), Daniel A (Cardiff and Vale County Cricket team); Conrad (gold medal for Karate tournament) Luke and Ashlin (next belt in Karate); James (next belt in Akido); Ved, Sam K, Harry, Jake (next level in Taekwondo); Harshita and Katie (LA Hub development team for netball); Katie (2nd in badminton competition), Elizabeth (1st in tennis competition); Varun (well placed in first Fencing competition); Dylan J, Jack P and Daniel B (well placed in schools table tennis tournament); Oliver G (won U11 hockey championship); Shanwen and Abii (well placed in tennis tournament); Jolinaa (gymnastics badge); Kritthik (Archery medal); Finlay (Rugby medal).

And... well done for these achievements:

Owain (Athlete, Hike and Night Away badges in cubs); Harshita performed in a dance show; Jake (Rookie Lifeguard - Bronze); Ethan (Under 9's chess champion); Tanisha (won chess competition); Hiya (Welsh Girls' Champion for chess); Aalya (gold award for dance); Dylan S (Beavers award)

And Finally...

If a pupil is unable to take part in PE lessons, please could you provide a note to PE staff on the day of the PE lesson. Please also remember that white trainers are the required footwear for PE.

Please put a name on all removable items of clothing as we have a number of items of uniform which do not have name tags and as such we cannot match pupils to lost items.

Thank you for your support in these matters and please continue to keep us informed of any matters which may affect your child's wellbeing in school.

| DATES | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| FEBRUARY | |
| Wednesday 24th | Welsh Nationals Table Tennis |
| Thursday 25th | R10/R11 Netball |
| Monday 29th | R8/R9 Netball |
| MARCH | |
| Wednesday 2nd | Eisteddfod |
| Thursday 3rd | R9 Cog Water Works |
| Thursday 3rd | R11 and R10 PC Pope |
| Friday 4th | R9 Parent's Assembly |
| Monday 7th to Friday 11th | R11 Enterprise |
| Tuesday 8th | Book Clubs |
| Wednesday 9th | R10 Football Fixture |
| Wednesday 9th | Parents Meeting for R10 Residential Trip |
| Thursday 10th | R10 Tredegar House |
| Friday 11th | R8/R9 Football Fixture |
| Friday 11th | R8/R9 Netball |
| Tuesday 15th | St David's Hall Concert |
| Wednesday 16th | Parents Meeting for R11 Residential Trip |
| Thursday 17th | Aqua Games, 9.30am - 12pm |
| Friday 18th | R11 @Bristol |
| 23rd Mar-8th Apr Easter holidays | |
| APRIL | |
| Wednesday 13th | Technique visit St John's College |
| Monday 18th | R10 Fire Service |
| Monday 18th | Spring Concert - RWCMD, 7pm |
| Tuesday 19th | R11 PC Pope |
| Wednesday 20th | R10/R11 Rounders |
| Friday 22nd | R8/R9 Rounders |
| Tuesday 26th | Book Clubs |
| Thursday 28th | Junior School Disco, 6 - 7.30pm |
| MAY | |
| Thursday 5th to Friday 6th | R10 Millennium Residential |
| Tuesday 10th | R8 Wonderful Weather |
| Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th | R11 Llansteffan Residential |
| Monday 23rd | R8 and R9 PC Pope |
| Thursday 26th | KS2 Sports Tournament |
| 30th May to 3rd June | Half Term |



St John's College

Junior Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Lent Term newsletter for the Junior School. It has been a busy but very enjoyable academic year to date with A Midsummer Night's Dream being a highlight for most pupils and parents. Thank you for the positive feedback; it is always good to know that the weeks of rehearsals and behind the scenes organisation were worth it. We have a display of photographs from the production in our corridor, which I hope you were able to see during our recent parents' evenings.

Some of our activities had been rescheduled as a result of the play and I am particularly looking forward to the R11 Enterprise Week as our budding Entrepreneurs have already been put into their business teams and their enthusiasm is infectious. Our other, eagerly awaited highlight of the year is the Eisteddfod. It is always a pleasure to see our pupils embrace Welsh culture and this year we have introduced a whole house singing competition to be judged by Mr D. Neville.

In this newsletter you will find brief reports of activities from our Advent Term as well as pupil achievements and future activities.

With best wishes,

Rebecca Thompson
Head of Juniors

Special Achievement Award



These are awarded for pupils who demonstrate a positive attitude, are always helpful to their peers and participate fully in all their lessons. Well done to Dylan S, Isabelle H, Ved N and Kundi M, Tanisha K, Poppy M, Tomos H, Sam D, Ji-Eun K, Sruthi G and Oskar G.

Merit awards were also presented during our awards assembly in December and I would like to congratulate the many pupils, across all year groups, who have worked so hard to achieve their first merit badge - well done.



A Midsummer Night's Dream



This term saw our Junior School pupils venture into the writings of William Shakespeare. The Book Club text, an abridged version of A Midsummer Night's Dream, captured their imagination. A full scale production of this confusing but

magical tale of love and mischief was then played out to packed audiences across two nights. It was an extravaganza of music, dance and well-rehearsed verse.

Every Junior pupil had an opportunity to perform and the delightful mix of classical and modern music, beautiful costumes, imaginative make up, full stage lighting and sound, as well as clear diction created an evening which our pupils will never forget.



I would like to thank our parents for their wonderful comments and just praise to our pupils who delivered their roles with such precision and enjoyment following weeks of rehearsals.

Congratulations to our pupils, some of whom were only nine years old, but still able to recite Shakespearean verse with aplomb.



I would also like to thank all the Junior staff who helped create this production and to staff from other sections of the school who supported us at the performances.

Thank you to Mrs Kloosterman for her initial idea to 'try' Shakespeare and for all her efforts in directing the play.

January Book Club

A Christmas Carol seems to have inspired another generation, 173 years after it was first written. For Junior pupils to have read this classic tale in Dickens' own words, albeit abridged and then to be able to discuss it with such confidence and enthusiasm was impressive, congratulations to all. Special congratulations go to teams Bute 1 and Mostyn 1, the joint winners of the quiz.



A large number of Junior pupils also read the retelling of the seasonal favourite, A Christmas Carol (retold by Gill Taver) and were eager to answer Book Club quiz questions on the text. Congratulations to quiz winners, team Bute.

R9 Wastesavers

R9 went to Wastesavers in Newport as part of their Geography study of the environment. They were kept very busy with various workshops and activities that focused upon different aspects of recycling. They particularly enjoyed watching the workers sort through the rubbish; even if it was a bit smelly!

Primary Maths Challenge



Congratulations to our R10 and R11 pupils who took part in this year's Primary Maths Challenge, provided by the Mathematical Association. As the name implies, the 25 questions are very challenging and I am always pleased by our pupils' enthusiasm to tackle these problem solving style questions.

In R10, Dylan J was awarded a Bronze certificate and Anish C was awarded a Silver certificate. In R11, Ashok A, Crina C and Varun G were awarded a Bronze certificate; Matthew L and Carys R were awarded a Silver certificate. Harshita A, who won the Gold certificate, has made it through to the final round in February.



Kids' Lit Quiz

Two teams of 4 pupils (in R11 and R13) took part in 'The Kids' Lit Quiz'. Both teams finished with very respectable scores in a competition in which the standard was very high.



Our best team finished with a score of 71/100 compared to the winners who had a score of 81. One of our teams were also joint winners in one round. Congratulations to all the pupils involved.

R11 Victorian Day History Trip

On Thursday 13th November, R11 enjoyed stepping back in time to the Victorian era, as they visited Maestir School in St Fagans. Pupils started their day in true Victorian fashion, wearing clothes typical of the historical period. Pupils were accompanied by Mr Taylor, the school master, and Miss McManus, the pupil-teacher as they made their way to the school where they took part in a drill, and a number of Victorian school activities, such as handwriting, arithmetic, reading and singing. Topsy P wrote 'When we had our lesson, Jeff was writing with his left hand, so he got told off by the teacher!'



In the afternoon, pupils visited the terraced houses from different historical periods, learning about the living conditions in Britain leading up to, during and after the Second World War. Pupils enjoyed collecting research from the different homes. Maddy B wrote 'The last house we saw was a prefab house built after the Second World War, to be honest, I wouldn't mind living in it; it was cosy and comfortable.'

Junior Department trip to The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

On Friday, 11th December, the Junior School visited the Sherman Theatre to see 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. Both pupils and staff enjoyed this well-loved tale by C. S. Lewis which was brought to life in a magical musical production. Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy sang their way through the wardrobe into the enchanted world of Narnia where they met speaking animals, an evil queen and

the mighty lion, Aslan. The pupils were transfixed by the story, the costumes, the scenery and the multi-talented performers who retold this story through music and drama. This was a spellbinding start to our Christmas celebrations.

Headmaster Appointed a Papal Knight of The Pontifical Order of St Gregory

At the Cathedral Carol Service on Sunday 20th December, Dr David Neville was honoured to be appointed a Papal Knight of the Pontifical Order of St Gregory. Canon Peter Collins, Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral, announced:

'On behalf of the Cathedral Community I extend our warmest congratulations to Dr David Neville KSG upon receiving a Papal Knighthood within the Order of St Gregory from His Holiness Pope Francis. The honour has been bestowed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the life of the Archdiocese over the past thirty-five years through his role as Director of Music and Organist at this Metropolitan Cathedral Church of Saint David. As founder Principal of St John's College, designated as the Cathedral Choir School, Dr Neville has created a structure of musical provision for the Cathedral that is the envy of my fellow Cathedral Deans.'

R11 Cyberbullying Talk – PC Pope

On Monday 18th January PC Pope showed a short clip about a girl called Megan. Sadly Megan was led on by girls posing as friends who recorded her online and then posted the video on the Internet. The children discussed this scene and decided that being cruel in any way, behind people's backs or on the internet is very bad. R11 and PC Pope used the famous phrase 'if you haven't got anything nice to say, don't say it at all.' Other top tips included always tell your parents or teacher if anything happens to you so it can be dealt with straight away. PC Pope also told R11 about CEOP which offers an opportunity for children and parents to log any concerns about incidents that happen online.

R10 @Bristol

On Wednesday 20th January, R10 headed to @Bristol. Our first activity was an interactive show based on how our bodies work; the children were very impressed with our presenter burning sugar to represent how our body makes energy. After lunch we learnt all about our Solar System in the 3D planetarium. Our day was rounded off by investigating the interactive exhibits and a trip to the gift shop. It was an enjoyable day for all – well done R10!



R10 Parents' Assembly - Photo x 1



On Friday 5th February R10 welcomed family and friends to their Parents' Assembly.

The R10 assembly was based on the upcoming season of Lent and how it signifies a time to be still and appreciate life. R10 also performed two recitations, Hiawatha and a modern version of The Tortoise and The Hare – both were exceptionally performed. We finished off our assembly by listening to our talented musicians.

Peer to Peer reading

This has proved popular with our younger pupils in the past. Older pupils listen and support younger pupils to read. It does not replace the pupil/adult reading timetabled but is an additional activity to promote the love of reading in our younger



pupils. Our older pupils enjoyed their supporting role although they found it harder than they had anticipated. It also promotes social interaction across the Junior School which we feel is important in generating an inclusive environment.

Top School in The Sunday Times 'Parent Power' - November 2015

In November, St John's College was once more delighted to sustain its record as top school in Wales in *The Sunday Times* 'Parent Power' based on combined GCSE and A Level performance. Dr David Neville: 'Warmest congratulations again to our wonderful students, to their parents, and to our superbly dedicated teaching staff at both A Level and GCSE.'

Cathedral Choir BBC Radio 4 Live Broadcast

On Sunday 10 January, our boy and girl choristers and gentlemen of the choir offered a superb live broadcast on BBC Radio 4 to an estimated audience of 1.6 million. The highlight of the service was Bruckner's sublime motet, Os Justi. We are very proud of our choristers. A great team effort from everyone brought about a wonderful performance: thank you. Lovely messages have been received from listeners across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.



Cathedral Choir Christmas Concert

On 1 December, the Cathedral Choir performed its 33rd annual Christmas concert at St David's Hall, joined by two outstanding pianists and a chamber orchestra of 18 instrumentalists from St John's College. The choir performed a lovely programme of well-known favourites such as The Holly and the Ivy and Dr David Neville's sophisticated arrangement of Silent Night alongside an equally joyful selection of less familiar repertoire.

Musical Collaboration Day



On Thursday 22 October, our Music Department welcomed pupils from across Cardiff to join our pupils in an orchestral and choral music collaboration day. The afternoon's performances featured the Concert

Orchestra, Cathedral Choir, Training Orchestra and Junior Girls' Choir. The Concert Orchestra performed Walton's Crown Imperial and Elgar's Chanson de Matin and members of the orchestra gave lively demonstrations of instruments to introduce the pupils to the orchestra. The musical collaboration culminated in a joint performance of Handel's magnificent coronation anthem, Zadok the Priest, with some 175 pupils in the choir and orchestra.

Sports News

Here are selected sporting highlights from the PE Department:

Junior Football Festival

The November festival was a huge success with over 160 pupils from St John's College, Rougemont and Kings Monkton taking part. The aim of the festival was to provide pupils with a positive footballing experience, encouraging good sportsmanship, learning of the rules and for pupils to enjoy themselves. Throughout the festival there were several examples of this from all three schools and there was also some fantastic team and individual performances on display. The R16 GCSE pupils were involved in the running of the event as it is linked to organising. This is an option for them in their practical assessment in the summer. All pupils involved were a credit to the school and received excellent feedback from all staff.



Netball - Congratulations to the R10 and R11 who won their first Netball match against Kings Monkton. All pupils played exceptionally well. A big thank you to the R12 pupils who helped coach the pupils. Meanwhile, R8 and R9 pupils have displayed terrific netball skills in their matches, especially in a match V Kings Monkton. All girls came away with a win which was fantastic!



R8-R10 Football Festival - in January, St John's College organised a



football festival for R8, R9 and R10 pupils at Cardiff University Sports Campus with Llandaff Cathedral School. The current R16 GCSE pupils were involved in the organisation and running of the festival which was a huge success. Over 90 pupils were involved in the festival and all involved were a credit to the school.

Table Tennis Tournament

St John's College proudly hosted a fantastic afternoon of table tennis to round off the half term. Pupils from Llangan and Ysgol y Castell primary schools attended. Pupils were selected from R10 and R11 based upon excellent commitment to our Extra Curricular Table Tennis Club. There was national talent on display throughout the tournament with Llangan's team boasting a number of Welsh squad players. St John's pupils performed exceptionally well culminating in Dylan J achieving a 3rd place finish which was fantastic considering the quality of players at the tournament. A massive thank you to Ysgol y Castell and Llangan primary schools for attending and we look forward to hosting future events.

World Youth Chess Championships – Greece 2015

To represent your country at this event is one of the greatest achievements to which young players can aspire. This year, no fewer than twenty children from all over Wales made the trip to Halkidiki. Among them were two St John's pupils: Ethan C (Under 8 Open) and Hiya R (Under 10 Girls). Both players made excellent starts. Ethan won his first game and followed up with two solid draws, while Hiya did even better with two wins before meeting an extremely strong Chinese junior in the third round. Although neither player was able to maintain their early momentum, Ethan continued to pick up points while Hiya recovered from what could have been a discouraging run to finish strongly with three consecutive wins. Ethan's final score was 5/11 (four wins and two draws), while Hiya scored 5½/11 (five wins and one draw). Both players should be congratulated for highly respectable performances at such a high level.

Cardiff & the Vale Chess Championships

St John's College Chess players did extremely well in the Cardiff and the Vale Junior Championships at the County Hall this weekend. Ethan C came first in the U8 category, Hiya came first in the U9 category, Anlan Q came joint first in the U13 section and Anish was third in the U10 section. They all received their award from the Lord Mayor of Cardiff and are absolutely thrilled.



Eisteddfod

The Junior School Eisteddfod, on Wednesday 2nd March will be held in the school hall to accommodate our growing pupil numbers, as well as some of the dance performances and recitations. The pupils may come to school in the traditional Welsh dress or a Welsh rugby or football shirt with the school tracksuit bottoms. They will be offered juice and Welsh cakes at break time and the pupil in R11 who has achieved the highest points in the Eisteddfod competitions will be chosen as Bard.