



St John's College

Junior Newsletter



Summer 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Junior School Summer Term newsletter. We extend our extra-curricular activities in Spring and Summer months and I hope you enjoy these reports written by teachers and pupils.

Since the last newsletter, the highlights for me have been the two assemblies from R9 and R10, the Eisteddfod, the Talent Show, the R11 trip to Llansteffan and the Multi-Sports Tournament day. This year found us on a wet and windy beach in Llansteffan and then a week later enjoying a delightfully sunny day for the Multi-Sports Tournament - a complete contrast to last year. I have been continually impressed by the enthusiasm and cooperative spirit of our Junior pupils in all their endeavours and I have enjoyed seeing them supporting each other in various activities which incorporate all our year groups. I also want to thank our R11 pupils who have taken on various roles of responsibility throughout the year.

Best wishes, Rebecca Thompson (Head of Juniors)

Eisteddfod Ysgol Iau / Junior School Eisteddfod ❶

On Monday 2nd March our Junior pupils gathered together in the school hall for our annual celebration of Welsh culture. I would like to commend both pupils and teachers for their continuous hard work over many months in preparation of our much loved day of music, literary performances, celebration and friendly competition. Pupils competed in numerous competitions, ranging from stage competitions, including Welsh and English recitation, and solo instrumental competitions to homework competitions across the subject range.

It was a close competition, but this year, the winning house was De La Salle! Winners include Namitha P (R11K) for her wonderfully accurate Maths competition entry and Kavin D (R11T) for his impressive musical performance. The main

award of the ceremony goes to Christina L (R11T) who was crowned Bard of the Eisteddfod, alongside her runners up Ella E and Eleri R, both of R11T. Christina took to her grand chair on the stage, where she was draped in our national Welsh flag and presented with her certificate and prize before the formal ceremony closed with all of the Juniors proudly singing our Welsh national anthem! Llongyfarchiadau Christina! Congratulations Christina!

R9 Visit to Cog Moors Water Works ❷

On 5th March R9 enjoyed a fun day out at Cog Moors Water Works. In the morning they attended a session on water efficiency and learnt about the different jobs that the water works does for us so that we receive clear water. During the afternoon we went on a journey to an African Village called Kayabwe, where we experienced what it would be like to live in a real African Village.

The pupils were put into families and each given a hut with an animal and utensils to use. They then had to go on a long walk to fetch water from the river using a shadoof. The journey back was even more tiring, having to carry several litres of water. Once back at their houses the family had to decide how to use their water sparingly so that they could drink, feed their animal, wash themselves, wash their clothes, clean pots and pans and finally grow their crops.

The next part of the session involved some decision making. There had been a drought and the river had dried up! The only water was contaminated. What were they going to do? Luckily Water Aid arrived with help and clean water was supplied in the village. With more time to work and grow crops, the children were able to trade their goods to get money so that they could buy more items. Rhys J said that this was his favourite part of the day and that he really enjoyed it.

Junior Cross Country Relay at Tockington Manor ❸

Pupils from R8 through to R14 travelled to Tockington Manor set in the Gloucestershire countryside on Friday 6 March. The boys and girls greatly enjoyed the cross country relay event



and the senior boys' team finished 4th overall - a fantastic achievement.

R9 Mother's Day Assembly 4

R9 celebrated a wonderful Mother's Day assembly towards the end of last term. The children all worked tremendously hard and performed a variety of items including a play about new inventions to help the busy mum, individual musical performances, poems, songs, prayers and promises to help out at home. I was so proud of their efforts and had many positive comments from parents. One grandma even wanted us to do it all again the following week!

Welsh Primary Schools Table Tennis Tournament 5

Pupils' hard work in training in the past couple of months led to the A-squad achieving third place in the recent Welsh Primary Schools Table Tennis Tournament. This is an impressive achievement, particularly given that a total of 37 teams took part in the tournament. The pupils can be very proud of their performances.

Techniquet Visits Juniors

On Thursday 26th March, Techniquet visited the Junior School with their inflatable StarLab. Great excitement followed as, barefooted, each year group made its way into the dark interior. Suddenly, the projector whirred and we were transported into Outer Space. Earth disappeared, and then the planets, and soon we were in different solar systems. "They helped us learn about the planets. We learnt that there are lots of stars bigger than the Sun. The biggest is known as Beetle Juice" (Anish). Coming closer to Earth, the show finished with a stargazing session; constellations were picked out and their imagined pictures projected onto the walls of the tent. Then it was back down to Earth and reality. "We saw real images from space, and the stars in real time. The Techniquet visit was amazing!" (Sam).

Charlotte's Web Junior Book Club

Congratulations to all pupils who read this half-term's classic text, Charlotte's Web. Book Club members were captivated by E. B. White's classic text. Team Bute won a closely fought contest.

Tom's Midnight Garden Junior Book Club

Congratulations to all pupils who read this half-term's classic text, Tom's Midnight Garden, by Philippa Pearce. Teams Bute and St David's narrowly won a lively Book Club quiz where a range of views were expressed and debated.

Solar Eclipse

Friday 20th March saw pupils in the Junior School excitedly experience the Solar Eclipse. Pupils were able to watch the live feed on the interactive whiteboards. They were then taken to a safe area outside where they could not directly view the eclipse but could experience other changes such as the darker sky, the colder temperature and the eerie quiet due to the lack of birdsong. The Headmaster explained the process of the sun, moon and earth's alignment via role play with each class.

Comic Relief

Mrs Thompson would like to say a big thank you to the many resourceful pupils in the Junior School who managed to raise a total of £210 for Comic Relief through a variety of activities. The pupils particularly enjoyed 'guess the teacher' which they found more difficult than they had imagined. Well done to Ella E and Topsy P who seemed to be able to match most teachers to their baby pictures.

Junior Talent Show 6

The finals of the Junior Talent Show took place on 24th March. The competition began with year group auditions followed by the selection of two acts from each year group to perform in the finals. Pupils demonstrated their talents with well-rehearsed performances. There were some excellent musical performances; some exciting magic tricks and entertaining comedy acts to name a few. It was difficult to choose the winning performances from so much talent, but a decision was made with Hiya R and Alma S coming 3rd with a musical duet. Varshnay S came 2nd with his Indian drumming, which was a very popular act. In first place was Akshara N with her Indian traditional dance, which was beautifully performed. We all enjoyed the many talents being performed and would like to say a big thank-you to all who took part.

Easter Assembly 7

During the last week of term the Juniors celebrated the story of Holy week with an assembly led by R11T. We heard how Jesus entered Jerusalem with shouts of joy on Palm Sunday, how He celebrated the Passover on Maundy Thursday, how He was put on trial and sentenced to death on the cross on Good Friday and finally how He rose to life on Easter Sunday. It was a very special celebration. I would like to thank all the children involved and congratulate them on their wonderful performance. I would also like to thank all the parents who helped to make costumes.

R10 Visit to Tredegar House 8

At the end of March, R10 pupils enjoyed stepping back in time to the Victorian era as they spent a day at the impressive Tredegar House. Pupils have been studying daily life and the differences in social class during this historical era and thoroughly embraced the day.

Dressed as Victorian children, pupils had a tour of the house and learned all about the Morgans of Tredegar and their influential role in the development of industry and commerce in South Wales, particularly within the city of Newport. Pupils were also able to take part in daily Victorian activities such as cooking in the old kitchen, using herbs and vegetables from the garden; as well as the making of 'rag rugs' and playing Victorian games! The highlight of the day for many was finding out that Lord Tredegar used to keep a crocodile underneath his bed!

Junior Fire Service Visit 9

In April, the fire service visited R7 and R10 to teach the pupils what to do in the event of a fire in their house and the benefits

of proper precautions which they and their parents could take to avoid this happening in the first place. Then pupils were taken for a tour of the fire engine and Jamie L demonstrated how to use fire beaters.

Junior Disco 10

On Thursday 23rd April, the Junior pupils returned to school in the evening dressed to impress in their best party outfits. The pupils all enjoyed the disco with DJ Deano. Isabelle O-S said 'it was fantastic, everyone had a lovely time'. Jake K said 'I enjoyed dancing and the sweets'. The children impressed us with their polite behaviour and super dance moves. A fun and enjoyable evening was had by all.

GTHC Onesie Walk

Although I had vowed to never wear a Onesie, a windy Saturday morning in April saw myself, Ms Teideman and some of R11 join Nicky Piper to parade around Cardiff city centre raising money for GTHC who have supported two of our R11 pupils, Eleri and Gabriel Robinson. Sponsorship monies are still being counted but we did raise £640 in our collecting buckets. The Onesie is now safely residing in the back of a wardrobe! Thank you to all those who took part or who sponsored our pupils for this event.

Special Achievement Award 11

These are awarded for pupils who demonstrate a positive attitude, are always helpful to their peers, participate fully in all their lessons and are valuable role models to all our Junior pupils. Well done to Abhiram, Sam, Max, Jamie, Oskar, Katie, Carys, Christina, Kavin, Sabit and Millie.

R10 Residential Trip to Cardiff Bay 12

On Thursday 7th May an excited R10 headed to Cardiff Bay for their annual overnight stay at the Urdd. At the Millennium Stadium pupils enjoyed a guided tour, during which they held the Dove Trophy and ran out through the players' tunnel to applause over the stadium speakers. A visit to the Senedd followed where pupils learned about the history of the Assembly and the unique and sustainable design of the building.

After a busy day we headed back to the Urdd where we had an entertaining evening, which included a talent show and a quiz. The following morning, after a hearty breakfast R10 toured the Millennium Centre which was followed by a hotly contested ten-pin bowling match - our top scorer was Sara M! After a quick lunch, the pupils learnt about the history of Cardiff Bay and the construction of the barrage on a boat tour of the bay.

After a packed two days of activities we headed back to St John's with a tired but happy R10. Throughout the trip the staff received many positive comments about the children's behaviour. Thank you R10 for making this another successful and enjoyable trip.

Chess Mega Final 13

The Chess Mega Final on Saturday 9 May was a massive success, with over 220 pupils and 100 parents attending. St John's pupils outperformed all other schools involved, with a record 8 pupils qualifying for the Giga Final. On 8 June, the St John's Chess Team made the long journey to Prestatyn to compete in the prestigious EPSCA Semi-Final. Our team scored an impressive 22 out of a possible 30 and is now through to the English Primary Schools Chess Association Final in Birmingham on 30 June and 1 July 2015. Many congratulations to our talented chess players on this remarkable achievement.

Junior Multi-Sports Tournament 14

Well done to all pupils who were involved in the Junior Multi-Sports Tournament on Thursday 21st May. The tournament was a huge success, with all pupils showing fantastic levels of enthusiasm and commitment. Congratulations to Izzy O, Jenny G, Jack B and Dylan O for winning the player prizes and to Bute house for winning the competition overall. Finally on behalf of the PE Department, I would like to thank all the spectators for their support.

R11 Trip to Llansteffan 15

R11, together with Mrs Kloosterman, Mrs Thompson and Mr Williams, went on a residential trip to Llansteffan for three days. After arriving at the idyllic country house and unpacking, R11 hiked to a nearby wood where they were put into teams with a challenge to build shelters which could provide them with all their basic needs. 'I liked shelter building as we had to scavenge for materials and it made me think I was Bear Grylls', Akash N. At night, they walked to a castle where Chris (our facilitator for the three days) told the children about how the castle was constructed to avoid possible invasion. The next day they went rock pooling on the local beach collecting crabs, mussels and shrimp. 'My favourite part was going on the beach and getting to see all the sea creatures', Tara G. 'Theo and I caught 26 crabs', Ben D.

In the afternoon they prepared rabbit, fish, mussels and bread, which they flavoured with foraged leaves and flowers. These they then cooked on open fires having learnt different techniques to light them. 'I got to try rabbit for the first time and I ate fish prepared by my chef classmates', Sohini G. In the evening they played various team building games aimed at teaching them effective communication. On the final day R11 returned to the beach to learn about coastal erosion. It was an excellent trip and everyone really enjoyed it. 'I enjoyed the shelter building, team challenges, the evening activities, the hot chocolate at night and playing charades. It was fun as everyone joined in - even the teachers', Ella E.

R10 Trip to Cog Moors

On Friday 22nd May, R10 visited Cog Moors to learn more about the water cycle. R10 had fun creating their own mini water cycle and making reservoirs. After lunch we learnt all about what goes into waste water and made our own using various household products. The day was finished off with a tour of the different stages of sewage treatment, where dirty



water was transformed into clean water ready to head out to sea. R10 thoroughly enjoyed the day and they were excellently behaved as always.

Journey to the River Sea Book Club

Junior Book Club members were unanimous in their praise for this modern classic Book Club text. Congratulations to team Mostyn for an impressive winning performance at the Book Club quiz.

Cool! Book Club ¹⁶

The modern classic text, *Cool!* by Michael Morpurgo, appealed to a range of ages and to both boys and girls alike, provoking a lively discussion at this half-term's Book Club. Congratulations to team St David's for winning a closely fought quiz.

R8 'Wonderful Weather' Geography trip to Oxwich Bay ¹⁷

'When we arrived at Oxwich Bay, our tour guide showed us a water rocket, an air rocket, a wind sock and how to use a maple branch to get a rough idea of how humid the air is and the same thing with a pine cone. We then created our own wind socks and were allowed to fly them on the beach. On higher ground we then used some equipment to measure the wind speed and humidity of some different places on the beach.' Krishna L (R8)

Individual Achievements:

We asked our pupils what they have achieved since our last newsletter. Well done to the following pupils on their successes:

Music Grades: Varun G (music & theory); Thomas KB (saxophone), Christina L (piano), Kavin D (piano), Jeff G (Piano), Akash K (piano), Namitha P (violin), Srinetra B (theory), Rhys T (theory), Tanisha K (piano), Ella H (piano), Aditya B (piano), Karan M (guitar), Anish C (piano), Poppy M (piano), Tomos H (cornet) and Conrad S (piano).

Sporting Achievements: Alex W achieved a red belt in taekwondo while in karate, Conrad S has achieved the purple belt and Yusuf has attained a brown tag. Meanwhile, in rugby, Oscar H won the coaches' player trophy for his rugby club, Owen W's club (St Peters RC) won a tournament and Harry E won outstanding player in a rugby tournament. In tennis, Alex D competed in a tournament, Ansha K was awarded a certificate and medal, Oskar G came 2nd in a tennis tournament, Matthew L won a tournament and Tom KB won a county tournament. In football, Pablo MS and Jack P have won medals/certificates and Dylan O's team (Lisvane Panthers) won a tournament. In swimming, Sinead HB, Tanisha K, James P, Sofia A, Rhea I, Alma S, Akshara N, Eleri R, Anish C, Pablo MS, Thomas C and Rishi T have all progressed a stage further, Harry E swam 800m and Crina C is now a member of Cardiff Swimming Club.

James P gained level 1 in skiing, Oliver G was given captaincy in a hockey competition, Jacob P learnt to sail and Elys M has competed in various dressage competitions. Daniel A and Aryan S play cricket for Lisvane Cricket Club and they also won a tournament.

Varun and Rohan raised money for Comic Relief Zambia by swimming

400m and 25m respectively, Alex W and Maddy B performed Street Dance in the Millennium Centre, Ella E danced in a charity event for Owen Williams, Thomas C played the piano in a charity concert for Nepal, Alex W won a Dyslexia writing competition. In the performing arts, Tanisha K, Alma S, Harriet W, Sofia A and Soraya W passed their Ballet exams, Elizabeth L gained a silver award for gymnastics, Tanisha K achieved a grade in Indian Dance and in the South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians, Christina L, Pablo MS and Hiya R were all prize winners.

A couple of reminders:

Please can you ensure your son/daughter is wearing the regulation school uniform as per the Summer list supplied by the School. Specifically, please can you ensure your child wears a blazer to and from school; correct shoe wear (black), no nail varnish and long hair has to be tied back (I do have a supply of spare hair bobbles). For PE, pupils' trainers should be white and, for health and safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn. Please could pupils avoid wearing earrings on a day when their PE lesson is scheduled. Pupils should continue to read every night to an adult and the reading diary annotated accordingly. Improved reading skills are fundamental to pupils' development at this age and to their ability to access all areas of the curriculum. Thank you for your support in these matters and please continue to keep us informed of any matters which may affect your child's well being in school.

And Finally...

Our thoughts are now turning to the next academic year. We shall be looking forward to welcoming R7 into the Junior School. They will be spending an Induction Week, at the end of June, working with R8 on a joint project. Also, all new Junior parents are invited to a meeting with myself and other Junior staff on Thursday, 2nd July at 4.00pm. At the same time we will be saying goodbye to our R11's at the Parents' Assembly on the afternoon of Wednesday, 8th July. They will perform a drama piece and be awarded well earned certificates of achievement. We wish them every success as they move into the Senior School. I want to take this opportunity to thank all my Junior colleagues for their support this year and wish all pupils, and their families, a relaxing Summer break.

For up-to-date news and details of forthcoming events, please visit www.stjohnscollegcardiff.com

Key Dates

22nd-29th June	R9-R11 Exams
22nd-26th June	R8/R7 Induction Week
29th June	R9/R10 Production Auditions
30th June	Middle School Induction Meeting (for parents of new starters to Senior School in Sept 2015)
2nd July	Junior School New Parents' Induction 4-5pm
3rd July	Lego Day (R7-R11)
6th July	Sports Day
8th July	R11 Parents' Assembly
9th July	Trips and last day of term