



St John's College



Junior Newsletter

Summer 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Junior School Summer term newsletter.

This has been a sad term for teachers and the families of St John's College with the passing of our dear Headmaster, Dr David Neville. Thank you for all your kind messages and support over recent weeks.

I always enjoy this newsletter as we extend our extra-curricular activities in the Spring and Summer months. I hope you enjoy these reports written by teachers and pupils. The highlights for me have been the R9 assembly, the Eisteddfod, the R11 trip to Llansteffan and the Multi-Sports Tournament day with my winning team.

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 want to thank our R11 pupils who have taken on various roles of responsibility throughout the year.

Best wishes,

Rebecca Thompson (Head of Juniors)

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 their excellent commitment to 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 is fantastic considering the quality of players at the tournament. We are very proud of the conduct of all St John's players throughout the tournament. They were a credit to the school. We are looking to grow the tournament over the next couple of years and have been given the full approval by Table Tennis Wales who were very complimentary of our pupils and school facilities.

Junior Eisteddfod

Longyfarchiadau / congratulations to our Juniors who all participated in this year's successful Eisteddfod. The day was a feast of dance, musical and recitation delights. Carys R was this year's Bard for her exceptional contribution in all R11 competitions. The children were delighted that Mr Dominic Neville judged the House Choir competition.



Congratulations to the triumphant St David's Choir! The 2016 Junior Eisteddfod winners were De La Salle. Ardderchog, De La Salle!

R9 Geography Trip to Cog Waterworks

R9 visited Cog Waterworks with the aim of learning about water efficiency and variations in water consumption across the world. They took part in numerous activities in the 'African village' such as collecting water and cleaning households items. The pupils really enjoyed this hands on approach. James P said 'this is the best trip ever.'

R9 Mother's Day Assembly

On Friday 4 March, R9 performed their Mother's Day class assembly to their parents. R9 had been rehearsing in class and presented a short play, performed in a musical showcase and made promises to their mums as well as singing a beautiful song that caused a few proud tears.

R11 Enterprise Week

On 7th -11th March the R11 pupils participated in Enterprise Week, where they were put into mixed groups of 6 or 7 children in order to run a mini business. After some team building activities, they had to decide on roles within their group and on the products they wished to make. Each team also chose a company name. They spent two full days making their products to sell on Friday to other year groups, teachers and parents. They then had to work out costs; advertise their company; pitch their



products to younger pupils and finally set up their stall. The sale went extremely well, with very few items left at the end. The R11 pupils enjoyed the week, especially selling their products on Friday afternoon. They also learnt some valuable skills about running a business and working together as a team. The winning team was 'Make it Funny' – well done to Harshita, Adi, Theo, Ji-Eun and Isa.

R10 History Trip to Tredegar House



On Thursday 10th March, our R10 pupils enjoyed stepping back in time to the Victorian era as we spent a day at the impressive Tredegar House. Pupils have been studying the daily life of this period, including the

differences in social class. Pupils thoroughly embraced the day, dressed as Victorian children with Miss McManus, Mrs Burleton, Miss Thornton and Mr Dennis also dressed in suitable attire! The 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. The National Trust volunteers at Tredegar House commented on how impressed they were with the pupils' prior knowledge of the Morgans of Tredegar. Pupils were also lucky to experience life 'below stairs', with a private tour of the servants' quarters. However, the highlight of the day for many was finding out that Evan Morgan had a menagerie of wild animals in the garden; and used to invite his crocodile, boxing kangaroo and honey bear indoors during his wild dinner parties! Well done, R10, for an enjoyable day at Tredegar House! Da iawn, R10!

Book Club

Neil Gaiman's stunningly original novel, *The Graveyard Book*, kept Junior Book Club members guessing throughout. Members contributed enthusiastically to a Book Club debate on the appeal of the horror genre for children. All teams confidently answered questions on this challenging plot and its complex characters. Congratulations to the winning team, St David's 2, on an impressive performance.

Aqua Games

The St John's College Aqua Games entered its second year this term with the change of format proving very popular. We have moved away from the traditional swimming gala to a more empowering but fun activity-filled morning. Pupils competed in their houses across a variety of water-based events including: walk the plank; water polo; fastest flume race and the paddle boat race. All pupils have worked exceptionally hard during their swimming lessons this term and it was a chance to celebrate that hard work. Pupils demonstrated fantastic team work and leadership throughout the games and were a credit to the school. The parental support for the event was, as always, outstanding. The winning house for the R8/R9 games was Mostyn and for the R10/R11 games, it was De La Salle. A huge congratulations to all pupils involved in what was a fantastic Aqua Games.

R11 Trip to @Bristol

On Friday 18th March, R11 headed to @Bristol to celebrate Science Week. Our morning passed quickly as we investigated @Bristol's many interactive visits. Favourites included animation and green screen volleyball. After lunch we went to our workshop where we made puppets using pulleys, cams and levers, which was great fun for all. The children even used their knowledge of levers to lift Mrs Rees! Our day was rounded off by a trip to the gift shop. As we were leaving Ben P 'wished there were more hours in the day to spend here'.

Technique Visits Juniors



It was with much excitement that the pupils filed into the Hall, removed their shoes and sat down, eager to see what 'The Technique Man' was going to do this year. They were not disappointed.

The topic for this year's visit was 'Forces'. Pupils were given an informative introduction to this diverse subject, and were entertained by many demonstrations. Pushes and pulls, Newton's Laws of Motion, magnetism, and friction were all covered in what was a most enjoyable hour for each year group.

Pupils fired catapults to show that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. An electromagnet was used in a tug-of-war, and Mrs Burleton demonstrated an excellent technique when throwing magnetic darts. Unfortunately, as hers were the same pole as the dartboard, she did not win! Air resistance and a parachute helped Dalton the Duck to land safely; pupils sat on mats of different materials and were dragged with varying degrees of success across the floor; and the piece de resistance was a ride on a child-sized hovercraft, which drifted noisily across the hall floor on a cushion of air. It was then time for shoes to be put on, the hall to be left, and new found knowledge to be discussed. "Technique Man's" mission was over for another year!

PC Pope Visits Juniors

First of all, PC Pope helped the children to understand what anti-social behaviour is and the children quickly came up with lots of ideas. The children watched a short clip showing how a young boy experienced peer pressure which caused him to take part in anti-social behaviour. The clip helped us understand how our actions can hurt people's feelings, perhaps in more ways than we realise at the time. R10 then finished off by discussing how important it is to face the consequences of our action

R11 did themselves proud in their workshop with PC Pope. They had a mature approach to the workshop based around the dangers of drugs. The children took part in thought-provoking discussions on both legal and illegal drugs. Highlights for the children included taking part in role plays to help illustrate important points and a card sort to find out about the different levels of alcohol in drinks available to over eighteens.

Junior Disco

On Thursday evening we welcomed back Junior pupils for our annual disco. The children arrived dressed to impress and were excited to be back with friends. All of the pupils had an enjoyable time. Poppy M said 'the disco was fun and exciting' whilst Ashlin said 'he really enjoyed the disco- especially the sweets and dancing'. The teachers were impressed not only by the brilliant dance moves of our pupils but by their impeccable behaviour too.

The Jungle Book & The Sheep Pig Book Club



Our book club for this half term was *The Sheep Pig*. This children's classic is an enchanting story about a polite little pig that learns how to look after sheep, and his determination to become a 'Sheep Pig'. Reuben said he

'absolutely loved the story'. All the children involved tried very hard, with Mostyn as overall winners.

Rudyard Kipling's classic, *The Jungle Book*, seems to have captured the imagination of another generation of young readers, over a century after it was first written. Book Club members were able to make connections between Kipling's original (1894) and our last Book Club text, *The Graveyard Book*. The author of the latter, Neil Gaiman, acknowledges that *The Jungle Book* was the inspiration for his 2010 Carnegie Medal winning title. Congratulations to team Mostyn 1 for winning the quiz. Many Book Club members have subsequently seen and enjoyed Walt Disney's latest interpretation of this book.

R10 Millennium Trip



R10 had a fun packed two day adventure based at the Urdd in Cardiff Bay. The trip began with a tour of the Principality Stadium where the main highlights for the pupils was running down the players' tunnel onto the pitch

and sitting in the Royal Box whilst having their photos taken by Mrs Taylor as they lifted the cup. After lunch the children spent the afternoon at Techniquet where there was a surprise addition to the programme, a visit to the planetarium. Before dinner the lovely sunny weather enabled everyone to run off some energy whilst playing lots of team games.

Later, Mr Turner tested the pupils' knowledge with a challenging quiz and eventually it was time for bed. It is probably best not to mention what time pupils went to sleep but some were up and ready for the final day at 5am! After a hearty breakfast it was time for a backstage tour of the Millennium Centre, followed by some very competitive bowling at Hollywood Bowl. There was time for a quick lunch before the trip ended with a relaxing boat ride around Cardiff Bay. Everyone returned to school tired and happy. Well done, R10!

'Wonderful Weather' Geography trip to Oxwich Bay

Krishna L (R8): 'When we arrived at Oxwich Bay, Dawn, 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 had lunch half way through the day and then created our own wind socks. We were allowed to fly our wind socks on the beach. Then we tried activities on higher ground and we used some equipment to measure the wind speed and humidity of some different places on the beach.'

R11 Trip to Llansteffan



On 11th May, R11 went on a residential trip to Llansteffan for three days. After arriving at the idyllic country house and unpacking, they 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. In the evening the pupils 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 R11 spent their morning preparing food that could be foraged and cooked on an open fire. They also learnt how to make fire using different techniques. In the afternoon they went rock pooling on the local beach collecting crabs and other creatures. 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. They were also given time to play on the beach and relax and enjoy the sunshine. It was another successful trip to Llansteffan and pupils returned to St John's tired but happy.

Chess Mega Final

Junior pupils had some great successes on 28th May in The South Wales Mega Final held at St John's College. The following children won the overall titles with 100% scores (6 out of 6):

u13 Boys: Anlan Q, u9 Girls: Hiya R, u8 Girls: Ashika S

The following pupils also qualified for the Northern Giga Final with scores of 4/6 or better:

u13 Boys: Daniel J, u10 Boys: Anish C, u8 Boys: Sridatta D, u7 Boys: Ben J

The following pupils were also very worthy participants in this year's Mega Final:

Dominic O, Krishna L, Rishi P, Ananyaa Y, Isabella L, Oliver S, Aryan M, Kiki B-F, Ben J

Everybody who represented the school played some very good chess, won games and behaved superbly, reflecting great credit on themselves and on the school.

Junior Multi-Sports Tournament

The annual Junior Multi-Sports tournament took place in glorious conditions and it was a huge success. Over 140 pupils and 20 teachers were involved in the tournament as participants and organisers. The GCSE PE pupils

demonstrated fantastic leadership skills throughout and were excellent role models to the Junior participants. There were some tremendous team and individual performances on display and the large crowd of spectators were entertained throughout the day. St David's were the eventual winners and were presented with the trophy by Mrs Thompson. There were also four individual awards that went to Aurelia J, Harri P, Ji Eun K and Josh S for outstanding levels of performance and attitude throughout. I would like to thank all the spectators for their excellent support.

Special Achievement Award

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 Jake, Jacob, Sinead, Soraya, Joshua, Yash, Tomos, Daniel A, Sofia, Harriet, Vineet, Katie, Ashike, Nia, Ansha, Ben P, Ella, Isel, Thomas C, Owain, Pablo, Zahra, Shanwen, Annabel, Sam K, Anya, Lily, Selina and Anchitha.



CSA Chorister Sports & Evensong Day at Wells Cathedral

On Wednesday 9 March, the boy and girl cathedral choristers enjoyed the annual Choir Schools Association Sports and Evensong Day, this year generously hosted by Wells Cathedral. The boys and girls finished a respectable 3rd in the Football and 5th in the Netball competitions against teams representing the cathedrals of Bristol, Exeter, Gloucester, Hereford, Llandaff, Truro, Wells, Winchester and Tewkesbury Abbey. The glorious sunshine held out all day, and a busy afternoon of sport culminated in a joint Evensong in the magnificent setting of the cathedral, with well over 150 cathedral choristers taking part.

Cathedral Choir Easter Concert

On Tuesday 15 March, the girl and boy choristers and gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir performed their annual Easter Concert at St David's Hall with string orchestra and piano solos performed by Menglin L (R13) and Ashley P (U6). A rich and varied programme of Fauré *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Bach Cantata BWV 4 *Christ Lag in Todesbanden* and Mozart *Pastoral Mass K140* was very well received by a large and appreciative audience.



Spring Concert at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama

On Monday 18 April, the annual Spring Concert was dedicated to the memory of Dr David Neville. A packed Dora Stoutzker Hall

played host to a very moving concert featuring the Concert Orchestra and the Cathedral Choir.

Triumph at South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians

The Music Department would like to congratulate all our pupils following their tremendous successes at the SGFYM Festival. It is a great honour for St John's College that Hiya, Pablo, Ben A. and Menglin were selected by the SGFYM panel of judges to perform at the wonderful SGFYM Gala Concert. Menglin won three gold medals for her triumphs in the Senior String trophy, Concerto Class trophy, and Unaccompanied Baroque shield. Menglin also achieved great success in the Senior Recitalist Class as a pianist and won the bronze medal for her accomplished performance alongside students who were more senior in age.



Choristers Sing with Tennessee Tech University Chorale

It was a great pleasure for our choristers to join forces with Tennessee Tech University Chorale and Llandaff Cathedral Choral

Society for an evening of wonderful music on Sunday 15 June at St Martin's Church in Roath. The selection of music also made the most of the notable acoustics, particularly with music from Rachmaninov *Vespers* and Tavener's *Song for Athene* (made famous at the funeral of Princess Diana). Our new American friends performed a remarkably entertaining and impressive range of exquisite music from the Renaissance, such as music by Tallis and Gibbons, to folk songs and spirituals, including *Shenandoah*, and a dazzling arrangement of 'The Circle of Life' from *The Lion King*.

Dylan O. in R13 was given a standing ovation for his remarkably accomplished performance of Richard Strauss's aria *Die Nacht* ('The Night'). At the concert's conclusion – a rousing performance of *Calon Lân* – the audience rose once again to applaud the combined choirs with another standing ovation.

Key Dates

- 6th Jun - R8 First Confession
- 7th Jun - R8 Caerleon
- 8th Jun - R11 External Sports Tournament
- 9th Jun - R10 Pirate Day
- 12th Jun - First Holy Communion
- 14th Jun - Book Club
- 16th Jun - R9 Llancaiach Fawr
- 17th Jun -24th Jun R9-R11 Exams
- 20th Jun - 24th Jun R8/R7 Induction Week
- 25th Jun - Cathedral Choir Concert with the Choir of Gonville & Caus College Cambridge, St Mary's Church, Whitchurch, 7.30pm
- 28th Jun - Middle School Induction Meeting (for parents of new starters to Senior School in Sept 2015)
- 30th Jun - Junior School New Parents' Induction 4-5pm
- 1st Jul - Activity Day (R8-R11)
- 4th Jul - Sports Day
- 5th Jul - R11 Parents' Assembly
- 7th Jul - Trips and Last Day
- 6th-8th Jul - The Sound of Music, St John's College Hall, 7pm. Tickets - £4 / £3: foyer@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk / 02920 778936
- 8th Jul - INSET

Achievements:

We asked our pupils what they have achieved since our last newsletter:

Well done to these pupils who achieved music grades recently:

Max M (drums), Alma S (piano); Krishna L (flute); Emyr A (piano); Rhea I (singing); Sofia A (singing); Nadia A (piano); Idris K (trombone); Tomos H (cornet); Carys (saxophone and flute); Oliver S (piano and trumpet).

Well done to these pupils for their sporting achievements:

Aryan M is now Rainbow League cricket captain; Katie W is captain of Gaelic football team; Krithik went up a grade in Karate; Ronav D, Finaly B, Anchitha K, Isabel H, Siyona N, Jolinaa S, Imogen W, Tanisha K, Rohan G, Pablo L, Anish C all moved to the next stage of swimming; Aoife P, Lily F achieved the next level in gymnastics; Ben L is top goalkeeper for Sully football team; Kundi is now a member of the British Tennis Club; Nia G achieved the next level in ice skating and tennis; Anya S earned a certificate in tennis; Ashmit won a tournament for Lisvane Panthers; Evelyn T achieved 3rd place in an ice-skating club competition and 20th in London and Guildford; Vineet B attended Cardiff football trials; Jack P trialled for Cardiff Met AFC and awarded a place; Shanwen G won an Aegon tennis match; Joshua S attended a rugby presentation; Rishi T moved to the next stage at football; Daniel A won man of the match playing for his county against Hereford; Harry E achieved his 1000m swimming badge; Ananya A won a 2nd place trophy and went up a belt in Karate; Zahra R, Conrad S awarded the next belt in Karate; Ananyaa Y gained gold for swimming 32 lengths in 25 mins; Varshnay S awarded player of the week at football camp; Dylan J moved up a stage in table tennis; Owen W played in a Rugby tournament for Chippenham and District; Oskar G improved his tennis rating; Harshita A won a tennis tournament; Llyr BP trialled for Merthyr FC; Oliver S has joined the UWIC tennis academy; Aditya B has joined the UWIC football academy; Elizabeth L awarded silver for her vault in gymnastics and won 2nd place in a tennis competition; Matthew beat the Welsh champion at badminton; Isabelle OS gained a bronze medal for her floor work in gymnastics.

Well done to the following for their achievements:

Lilah R has been dancer of the week at her dance class; Aoife P took part in a dance show; Sanvi D achieved 2nd place in Chess mega finals; Ashike P achieved 1st place in Chess mega finals; Anish C played for Wales against England in chess tournament; Evelyn T will be in the Sleeping Beauty ballet at the New Theatre; Krishna L, Kiki BF, Rishi P represented South Glamorgan in Chess mega finals; Tanisha K passed her Indian dancing exam; Pablo played in the gala concert for the SGFYM; Soraya passed her next ballet grade.



Congratulations to Jamie and Ollie in R11, who took part in a 24-hour charity basketball event. They raised £250 for Dementia UK which is a charity which provides one-to-one support for families with dementia.

Notices for Parents:

Please be aware that there is no teacher supervision in the school building before 8am. After 8am, pupils may wait in 3.1 with either Mrs Thompson or Mrs Kloosterman until they move to their form bases at 8.30am with their form teachers. All pupils should be in school by 8.40am for a registration start of 8.45am. Lessons commence at 8.55am.

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 can I request that pupils do not bring large rucksacks to school unless they are pupils who travel to school via the bus. The school red bag and a lunchbox, should be sufficient.

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 wellbeing 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 activities around an Olympics theme. Also, all new Junior parents are invited to a meeting with myself and other Junior staff on Thursday, 30th June at 4.00pm.

At the same time we will be saying goodbye to our R11's at the Parents' Assembly on the afternoon of Tuesday, 5th July. 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.