



## Junior School Newsletter

### Summer 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Junior School Summer Term newsletter. The arrival of more clement weather means our timetable does entail more field trips and as a result, this is always one of my favourite newsletters. All year groups have enjoyed trips away from the classroom and although the examination period will soon be on us, we still have lots of extra-curricular activities to look forward to.

The Multi-Sports Tournament saw all pupils working cooperatively and enjoying themselves enormously at the same time. It was unfortunate that our 'wonderful weather' terminated proceedings midway. We are hoping to finish the tournament either this term or in September. I would like to thank the PE staff for organising this event and I wish R10 and R11 every success when competing against other schools, in a similar event, on Thursday 12th June.

Rebecca Thompson (Head of Juniors)

### R9 Cog Moors Wastewater Treatment Works



Thursday 6th March was an extremely wet day but that did not deter R9 from visiting the Cog Moors Wastewater Treatment Works as part

of their study of the right to clean water for all. The morning was spent in the education centre where the pupils learnt about the need to conserve water and how to make their homes more water efficient. They worked out that just one dripping tap could waste as much as 300 baths full of water in a year!

In the afternoon the children experienced life in a mock African village. They learnt how to use a well to get water from the 'local river' and how heavy it was to carry it all back home! They then had to make decisions on how best to divide the water between drinking, cooking, cleaning, feeding animals and growing vegetables. 'The next day' they were given the gift of water sanitizer tablets provided at the village by an organisation like 'Water Aid'. The pupils were able to see that by not having to spend time going out to fetch the water there was a lot more time to spend in the village. As one pupil put it "We had more time to cook and were able to grow more vegetables which we traded for items like chickens, eggs and soap (which made cleaning easier!)." We got very wet but that didn't spoil the fun! The pupils were able to learn so much about the life of people less fortunate than themselves and the right to provide clean water for all.

### Success for Mostyn in Junior School Eisteddfod



On Friday 7th March, our Junior School pupils gathered together in the school hall for a day of music, literary performances, celebration

and friendly competition as we held our annual Eisteddfod. The pupils eagerly await this time of year when they can celebrate and embrace Welsh culture. Pupils competed in a variety of competitions including Welsh and English recitations, instrumental performances and homework competitions like creating a 3D castle and designing a Celtic Knot. It was a close competition this year, but the winning shield was awarded to the house of Mostyn.

Winners included Bute and St David's for the R8 Welsh Choir Competition, Ella E in R10 for her captivating recitation of a Welsh poem, and R11K for their enchanting performance of a traditional Welsh nursery rhyme. The highest award of the ceremony goes to Holly C in R11 as she was crowned Bard of the Eisteddfod. Holly said afterwards 'I really enjoyed the Eisteddfod, as usual. It was filled with music and a lot of nice competitions. I was so surprised when Miss McManus called out my name as bard!' Runners up in the Bard Competition were Luca A and Ben A. All teachers would like to thank the pupils for their hard work and efforts leading up to the Eisteddfod. We are all very proud of our Junior School pupils. Llongyfarchiadau pawb! Congratulations everyone!

### Techniquet Visits Junior School



On Wednesday, 26th March, Techniquet visited the Junior School with their workshop, 'Magical Materials'. This took the

form of a magic show where white rabbits were made to appear; a wire read our minds and formed the word, 'HOT'; "solids" flowed through holes; water disappeared; and rubber ducks changed colour. The show explored the properties of solids, liquids and gases, and the pupils were encouraged by Mr Techniquet to offer their own explanations for what they observed. All year groups watched in fascination and learnt a lot from the show. Rishi said, "My favourite trick was the birthday cake trick because the candles went out with baking powder and vinegar", while Daniel noted "My favourite part was the three water cups because everyone thought he was going to pour water on his head, but the water didn't go on his head."

### Junior Book Club News



In March, Junior Book Club members gave R J Palacio's Wonder a standing ovation. Quiz winners, team Olivia (St David's), also

deserve a round of applause.

The theme of the next Junior Book Club was The Great War, to commemorate its 100 year anniversary. Book Club members chose between two award winning, poignant and moving texts: *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo and *War Game* by Michael Foreman.

The Private Peaceful Book Club quiz was won, by the narrowest of margins, by a combined Bute and De La Salle team. So close was the result that all participants can rightly consider themselves winners. Contributors were able to demonstrate an impressive, mature grasp of a challenging topic - congratulations to all. The final Book Club of the academic year will explore the spy genre. The chosen texts are: *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz (recommended for older readers) or *Spy Dog* by Andrew Cope (suitable for all).

### R9 Mother's Day Assembly

On Friday 21st March, pupils wowed their parents with their acting, recitation skills, singing and musical talent and at times there wasn't a dry eye in the house! Each pupil received an achievement certificate for their efforts so far this academic year from all areas of the curriculum. They worked extremely hard in the run up to the event and really made staff and parents proud on the day. Well done, R9.

### R10 Millennium Trip - March 2014.



This year's Millennium trip was once again a great success and the weather was kinder to us than last year. The pupils enjoyed an array of

activities beginning with a tour of the Millennium Stadium. The children were quite awe-struck as they sat in the Royal Box and watched James Hook practising his kicking. Millie said that she used up most of her photos at our first location. Theo could not believe that it cost £20,000 a season to rent one of the boxes. All the pupils were able to celebrate victory at the stadium by lifting a trophy and having their photos taken.

Soon after we arrived at the Bay, we went for a picnic lunch before learning a little about the history of the Bay and how it had changed since the decline of the coal industry. A tour of the Senedd followed and the children discussed the function of the building in Wales and how it was actually constructed.

The children were given tokens to put into different boxes to summarise their view of the tour. Ella E. said that she had put hers in the 'very good' box as it was great. After an enjoyable meal at the Urdd Centre it was time for the talent show. There were singers, comedians, and magicians. There was lots of clapping, cheering and laughing but it was finally time for bed.

Friday was another packed day, starting with a boat trip around the Bay. The captain's talk was full of strange facts and Maddy particularly enjoyed his story about why pirates wear eye patches. Ben was a little worried when the fog lights had to be turned on but all was well and the captain's dog was a big hit with all of the children. Once on land there was time for some pirate games organised by Mrs Firth and then it was time to go bowling. Sohini was very pleased that the girls scored more than the boys. Next it was back to the Millennium Centre for a back stage tour. The children particularly enjoyed seeing the dressing rooms and some of the costumes. The stage was set up for Wicked and the children were very impressed with the number of props and how they could be moved around.

Finally it was time to return to the Urdd to collect our bags and return to school. Everyone was tired but we all had a great time. These are some of the children's comments as they got off the coach: 'Awesome! Great! So much fun! Amazing! Unforgettable!'

### Spring Concert, St John's College Hall



The Music Department's annual evening Spring Concert on Friday 21st March was a resounding success, with an incredibly high standard of music making. Many congratulations to all the performers involved in this magnificent concert which ended in a standing ovation!

### Roath Fire Department Visit

R10 were visited by Roath Fire Department on Tuesday 29th April. The firemen were impressed



R10's abundant knowledge on fire safety. At the end of the presentation, each pupil in R10 was able to direct the powerful water hose.

### Junior School Disco

Thursday 1st May saw our school hall transformed into a fun-packed disco for our Junior School pupils (and teachers). DJ John brought lights, music, bubbles, games and competitions. All pupils participated in the musical games with gusto and the teachers tried very hard to keep up. Each year group performed a dance competition and the judges found it so hard to choose a winner as all our pupils were such enthusiastic performers. Joshua said, 'my favourite part was when the R11 boys went to the front to perform the Macarena'. Jack said 'It was sad that it was my last disco and I hope next year the Juniors have DJ John again'. I would like to thank the parent helpers who manned the tuck shop for our thirsty dancers. Ellie said 'the ladies at the tuck shop were really nice and polite and didn't hurry me up when I took ages to choose my sweets'.

### Junior Special Achievement Award - May 2014.



Lotte T, Catrin D and Isel H are our latest pupils who have been given a Special Achievement Award for their positive approach and contributions

to school life at St John's College.

### R9 Welcome Aircraft Pilot to Circle Time



R9 would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Stephen Lewis (Elizabeth's dad) for visiting the class during Circle Time to talk to us

about the job of an aircraft pilot in May. The pupils asked lots of questions and got to see some footage of a real plane landing from the cockpit!

### R9 Tudor History Trip to Llancaiach Fawr

Last month, R9 stepped back in time, spending a day at Llancaiach Fawr Manor. They looked fabulous in their costumes with Elizabeth and Theo dressing as royal visitors. The children toured the house, meeting the music master and making lavender bags to ward off the plague. Ansha sat as the judge in the court session held in the Great Hall.



However, R9 soon discovered that life could be hard for Tudor children as Adi explains; "Jacob had to turn the spit

for 10 hours and he had to sleep under the kitchen table." In the afternoon the children took part in a pike drill and quickly learnt that it is not so easy to co-ordinate. "The real pikes are 8 metres long. I held a half-size pike and it was very heavy!" remarked Crina. The award for bravery went to Ella who volunteered to be the barber surgeon's patient.

### South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians

Congratulations to our pupils who entered the South Glamorgan Festival of Young Musicians, hosted this year at St John's College on 3 and 4 May: Robert in R14, Luca A in R11 and Pablo L in R8 were all prize winners, and new pupils Menglin L and Jacky T-H came joint first in the senior piano prize.

### R10 Assembly

On Friday 9th May R10 welcomed parents, grandparents and friends to their class assembly. Our assembly was based on the well-known phrase 'don't judge a book by its cover'. Highlights included extracts from the book *Wonder*, a mini play based on David and Goliath, food tasting and a fun rendition of 'The Tortoise and the Hare'. After prayers, the musicians of R10 treated us to some excellent performances! R10 really enjoyed rehearsing and performing the assembly. Well done R10, we were very proud and impressed by you all.

### Chess Mega Final



Our Chess Club continues to flourish, with a host of nationally-ranked players across the age range. On Saturday 10 May, St John's College

welcomed 150 pupils from across South Wales for the annual Mega Final. Our pupils won trophies for coming first in the boys' and girls' under 7 category and the boys' under 13 category. A remarkable total of 8 St John's College pupils now progress through to the UK Giga Final later this summer.



**R8 Trip to Oxwich Bay**  
R8 had a lovely trip in May to study the Wonderful Weather in Oxwich Bay. They learnt about wind

direction and strength by making wind vanes and flying wind socks. Temperature, humidity and wind speed readings were measured across the sand dunes. Dials helped the children identify various cloud formations, but the parachute activity was definitely the most fun part, with the children building up storm clouds and rain. The children also witnessed how air pressure builds, as a water rocket was launched several times. Although it was windy, for once the weather was wonderful and the children thoroughly enjoyed their free time building sand castles on the beach. Owain didn't want the day to end.



### R11 Trip to Llansteffan

Last month, R11 went on a residential trip to Llansteffan for three days. After arriving at the country house, they went rock-pooling at the local beach. Jasmine said, "We walked down to the beach after each of us received a fishing net and

enjoyed stomping in the water with our wellington boots. I caught a green crab then an orangey yellow one." In the evening, we walked to a castle where Chris told the children about how the castle was constructed to protect from possible invasion. The next day was all about survival in the wild. The pupils built shelters, learnt about bush tucker and different methods to start camp fires, finishing off with team building games in the evening. Ben said, "The next morning we woke up and hiked to a forest where we learnt about some of the local wildlife. We were put into three teams and instructed to build a shelter using a piece of tarpaulin and four ropes. Afterwards we made sweet and savoury bread,



prepared mussels, rabbit and fish to cook over the fire." On the final day R11 returned to the beach to learn about coastal erosion.

It was an excellent trip and everyone really enjoyed it. Lotte said, "I enjoyed the trip so much. It was amazing and I wouldn't change anything about it. I was really disappointed when we left. Everything we did was so much fun and made us all smile."

### **Gilbert & Sullivan HMS Pinafore**

Senior and Sixth Form pupils are in the final weeks of preparation for their annual Drama production. Following on from the success of last year's G & S operetta, *Trial by Jury*, audiences will be transported on a journey of mirth and merriment on the high seas this summer in the much-loved *HMS Pinafore*. Tickets are available from the College Office for two performances on Wednesday 9 July and Thursday 10 July in St John's College Hall at 7.30pm (£10 family ticket, £3 adults, £2 concessions) - please email [admin@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk).

### **Individual Achievements:**

Well done to the following pupils who have achieved music grades recently:

Pablo L (violin), Dylan J (piano), Anish C (piano), Poppy M (piano), Sinead HB (piano), Isel HE (piano), Matthew L (violin), Katie W (piano), Ella H (piano), Soraya W (piano), Ella S (piano), Kavin (piano), Akash (piano), Topsy P (piano), Oscar H (euphonium), Ella E (piano), Daniel P (piano), Luca A (singing), Sachin P (piano), Jack A (piano), Sophie H (flute), Joe M (cornet), Olivia P (flute and cello), Holly C (piano), Jasmine S (piano and violin), and Catrin D (clarinet).

Congratulations also to the following pupils: Katie W passed the next grade in ice-skating, Karan M, Akash and Arnav G achieved their next belts in Karate, Alex W and Jeff G passed their next belts in Taekwondo, Llyr B-P attended a goal keeping course, Owen W played in a London Irish Rugby tournament, Srinetra B passed next grade in Gymnastics, Christina L passed her next grade in Ballet, Joshua W, Dan P and Evan L have trials for Cardiff and Vale Football, Pannu N and Holly C went up a stage in swimming. Meanwhile, in Chess, Dominic O, Ben A, Daniel P, Sachin P and Irene T all qualified for the Mega Finals. Good luck to Oliver S and Anish C who progress through to the UK Chess Giga Final. A few of our pupils have also had starring roles in productions too. Luca A starred in 'Seussical the Musical'; Jack A starred in 'Cast Rocks On' and Sachin P starred in 'Wizards vs Aliens Series 3 for CBBC.

### **A few polite reminders:**

Please can you ensure that your son/ daughter is wearing the regulation school uniform as per Winter and Summer lists supplied by the School. Specifically, please can you ensure your child wears a blazer to and from school; no nail varnish and long hair is 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.

Please could pupils read every night to an adult and could the reading diary be annotated accordingly. Improved reading skills are fundamental to pupils' development at this age and to their ability to access all areas of the curriculum.

Diaries are a vital means of communication between teachers and parents. Please could parents check (and sign) the diary every night.

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 a joint project. Also, all new Junior parents are invited to a meeting with myself and other Junior staff on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 4.00pm in room 3.1.

At the same time we will be saying goodbye to our R11's at the Parent's Assembly on the afternoon of Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July. They will perform a drama piece and be awarded well earned certificates of achievement. We wish them every success as they move onto 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.

<b>Key Dates</b>	
<b>June</b>	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	R10 Pirate Day
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	R10/R11 External Sports Tournament
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	First Holy Communion
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> -Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	R9-R11 Internal Exams
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	R7 and R8 Induction Week
<b>July</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sports Team Photographs
	Middle School Induction Meeting (New Parents)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	R8/R9 Botanical Gardens
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sports Day
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Junior School Induction Meeting (New Parents)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Activities Day
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Senior School Production – <i>HMS Pinafore</i>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Senior School Production – <i>HMS Pinafore</i>
	R11 Parents' Assembly
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	End of School Trips
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	INSET