

Spring 2023

# the MARY IMMACULATE NEWSLETTER



Cover Photo: Drama arts and food tech  
Visit London - see inside page 2

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

As we approach the end of the Spring Term – and as the weather seems to be improving we now look back on what has occurred so far this term as well as looking forward to the completion of this academic year.

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# Message From The Head Teacher

One of the highlights undoubtedly these last few weeks has been our Culture Week. Building on our usual St David's Day celebrations, we were able to spend the week -and especially the Friday celebrating what makes our community unique. We are lucky to have such a wonderfully inclusive school where pupils and our parents felt confident to share about their own backgrounds – to tell us about their music, fashion, food and languages. It was amazing to see pupils come to the school in their national dress and embrace symbols such as their flags. Pupils walked together in our fashion shows and we all tasted some amazing foods. I would like to thank our parents especially who gave the day to come in and speak and share and of course to our pupils who threw themselves into everything we do – it was moving and educational and we look forward to doing it again!

Following the admissions letters that went out, we will once again be taking around 190 in September. This is again a testament to the work that teachers and all staff do to support pupils and make this such an attractive place for parents to send their children.

Over the course of this term we have seen a number of visits take place- from trips to Oxford to a number of Science related days to a wonderful wellbeing visit to St Fagan's – these have proved important in helping pupils experience life and education outside of school. I am also glad to say that our Year 11 basketball team continue their winning streak – soon they will play the North Wales Champions – I have no doubt they will once again prevail and be the Welsh National Basketball Champions! Well done to them and to their teachers and coaches.

Of course, one of the biggest events of this term was our School Production – High School Musical. This was our first post-COVID production for four years and it was an amazing place to restart our strong reputation for Drama. Pupils did a fantastic job – and due to snow ran three productions on one day to ensure all those who wanted to attend could do so. Their teachers and

all the pupils should be so proud of their performances – those watching were blown away by what they saw. I want to thank all of them for their hard work – we look forward now to next year's production!

In the next few months, more building work will begin. We already have new toilets and a huge canteen extension – a shelter will arrive soon along with new outdoor seating. In April, we expect our new pastoral hub building to begin ready for September – this will house a larger Bridge unit and new counselling rooms and a new conference room. I am also excited to say that plans for an on-site and full size 3G pitch are moving along – I expect to let pupils and parents know more of that as we move into next year! All of this means, we have amazing facilities for pupils and for teaching alongside our already outstanding pastoral support!

Mrs Cleave one of our Welsh teachers will leave us just after Easter – we wish her well. We have already appointed a new Welsh teacher to join us. Mr Capel our Drama teacher also left us a few weeks ago – I am glad to say a new appointment was made, who we hope to see in the next few weeks.

On behalf of all of us I'd like to wish everyone a happy and holy Easter. School reopens Monday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

H.J.Powell  
Headteacher



# Drama, Arts and Food Tech London Trip

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, staff and students set off on our annual trip to London. Everyone was in high spirits as the trip had not taken place for a number of years due to Covid. We arrived in the city and went to visit the Victoria and Albert museum. Students were captivated by the exhibits especially the rooms dedicated to musicals. From there, we went to the famous department store Harrods. After shopping we had a bite to eat and made our way to the theatre to watch the spellbinding musical, Wicked. Students enjoyed the performance immensely and it was a great opportunity for the Drama students to see a live performance. Day two began with breakfast, before heading back into London to experience the thrills and rides at Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park. A great time was had by all, and we are looking forward to the trip returning again next year.



# Wellbeing & Spirituality Officer- Flame Trip



On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, a group of pupils travelled to Wembley arena to attend the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales, the Flame Congress. The sold-out event saw 8,000 young people gather to hear music, inspirational speakers and take part in adoration of the blessed sacrament.

It was a fantastic opportunity to meet with other young Catholics as we travelled with Cardinal Newman and St. Richard Gwyn High schools.

The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the Scripture “Mary arose and went with haste” and crystallises it into the theme, “Rise Up!” Rise Up after the pandemic, Rise Up as young Catholics, Rise Up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith.

We are already looking forward to next year’s event, and all those who would like to get involved in chaplaincy this year will be invited to join us!



## Big Lent walk

As we are in Lent, as a school, we decided to get involved with CAFOD’s Big Lent Walk. During Lent, pupils will be exploring the stations of the cross during form time and they will be walking with Jesus during this time of his life. Meanwhile, as pupils explore the Stations of the Cross, they will be considering the crosses people around the world have to bear.

Therefore, we will be walking over 200km (about half the length of New York State) as a school to raise money for CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). As we walk, we remember other people around the world that are struggling with their crosses and how CAFOD helps them, like Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus with his cross.



We would encourage everyone in our Mary Immaculate School community to please donate via Parent Pay as our pupils and staff walk with Christ this Lent. Thank you

# Science Events



At the end of November, visitors from Cardiff University came into school to run a physics workshop with a group of year 7 and 8 pupils.

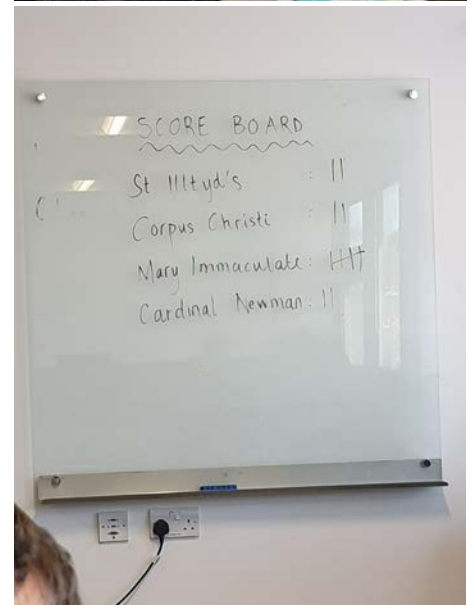
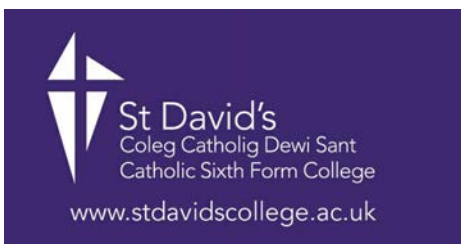
Groups of pupils had to come up with a company name and logo and solve problems using Science. Amongst the challenges on offer pupils had to find lost hikers in the hills and monitor the population of penguins.

As part of the workshop the pupils had an opportunity to use advanced equipment from the University such as microscopes and heat vision cameras. They learnt about pixels in facial recognition and the use of small, long-lasting batteries in equipment. The groups presented their ideas on how they would solve their problems using the science they had learnt in the sessions. Pupils confidently came up with some excellent and impressive solutions that day.



In January, ten year 8 pupils attended a females in STEM day at St Davids College.

A very inspirational talk was given by a student from America who attends Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She spoke about her journey through school and college, her interest in STEM subjects and how it has led her to getting her new job in New York. We then took part in a coding competition with 3 other schools.... and we won! We finished our visit with a tour of St David's college.



Dr Mark Smith came in to speak to our year 9 and year 11 triple scientists in February about his work as a nuclear fusion physicist. He is part of the biggest nuclear fusion experiment in the world working to help develop Britain's 1<sup>st</sup> fusion reactor (as opposed to fission which we already have) He spoke to the pupils about the doughnut shaped reactor that houses plasma travelling at a tenth of the speed of light.



# Mary Immaculate's First World

As a school, we pride ourselves on our inclusiveness and diversity in our school community. For this reason, this year we decided to celebrate a Culture Day allowing us all the opportunity to share and enjoy the many cultures represented at our school. Culture shapes the way we think and live each day and the person you are. That's why it was so important for us to learn and understand our diverse community, to encourage an understanding and that's what we did during our first ever Culture Week! Our school has over 50 different cultures and we all came together on Culture and celebrate our differences.

Culture Day consisted of the Culture Fair where pupils and staff learn about different cultures from fellow pupils, parents, staff, and local members of our school community. Everyone came in their beautiful traditional clothing and clothes that represent their culture showing our vibrant clothing to everyone at the fashion show. There were multiple opportunities to learn and explore themes such as traditional dress, dishes, dances, and music from across the world. Our aim for Culture Day was to celebrate the cultures' similarities, and differences that make our vibrant and unique community. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help and all the amazing parents that also came to support the day. Especially, those parents who came along and manned the stalls, and a big thanks to the River music project for the drum sessions at lunchtime.

I am so thrilled that everyone enjoyed the day, and I am excited to see how we can learn and celebrate our unique, inclusive, and colourful community.





## MARY IMMACULATE CULTURE WEEK



### WHY CULTURAL WEEK HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED?

- Year 11 initiative
- Become more tolerant to others
- Education - learn from our peers (about their cultures)
- Prevent racism
- We are a multi-cultural school



### PUPIL FEEDBACK:

"It was a special week. Our Chaplain and pupils did a fantastic job of organising the Friday event. I Loved how our parents were involved," Ms Yassien.

"I think we should do it every year, as it was easier way to experience other peoples cultures and learn about our differences" Seren 7 Bakita

"The food was nice and the fashion show interesting"

"What I really liked about Culture week was how happy everyone was. Everyone came together and embraced it. The pupils in their traditional dress looked amazing. The atmosphere in school was fantastic." Miss Elliott



"I really loved it because of the new opportunity to socialise and learn about the different cultures within our school community. It gave us pupils and teachers something exciting to look forward to. I feel it brought everyone closer. The mood and energy in school was surreal." Wei Ni Wu Year 10

### WHO WAS INVOLVED?



- All pupils
- Parents helping with stall
- Staff produced Culture themed lessons
- Visitors (Chinese Dragon and African Drummers)
- Canteen staff served food from around the world all week
- Pupils and staff dressed in clothes from their cultures on the Friday

### IT CONTRIBUTED TO OUR WELLBEING...



- We were able to learn about peers cultures
- We tried food from all over the world
- Our parents were involved in running stalls
- We had a fashion show
- There was music from all over the world
- We had a Chinese Dragon come to school
- We listened to African Drummers
- We felt part of a large community
- We had FUN!

### LONG TERM

We are going to have Culture Week every year. It will take place the same week as Eisteddfod and St David's day.

Next year we are going to set up more stalls, as some countries were not represented. We would like our Feeder schools to be involved.

### WHERE ARE WE GOING ?

Our Well-being Culture trip to St Fagan's. Use QR code below to access our Cultural Well-being Trip



# Culture Day photographs Con

More photos celebrating world culture day !





tinued



We have over 800 pupils , with connections to over 60 different countries and all the cultures they contain.

But we are One amazing community.



# Mary Immaculate Day

In late December, we held our “Mary Immaculate Day”, this has been interrupted badly by COVID for the last 2 years and it was fantastic to finally be able to celebrate this day fully.

The beautiful, crisp, clear but cool day was absolutely perfect and meant the outdoor activities in the morning went ahead uninterrupted, meanwhile in the indoor activities that pupils had chosen to attend were in full flow.

Outdoor activities included events such as basketball, netball, cycling and football. While indoor activities varied from the physical variety, such as dodge ball, yoga and circuit training in the fitness suite to craft type of fun including: chocolate bouquet creation, Christmas baking, needles and natter, Christmas crafts, and mandala creations. Other activities such as karaoke, computer gaming, dingbats (quizzes), reading and movies were also taking place.

In the afternoon, it was fantastic to have the school hall packed with a live audience for the talent show. The talent show was once again hosted by our compere supreme - Mr Ross Capel, ably assisted by Mr Martin Childs with sound and music.

There was an incredible array of talent on show – the musical section consisted of singing, piano, guitar, drumming, dancing and rapping. Later we had a Rubik’s cube race between Rio and Ayyan which was certainly something we hadn’t seen before. We also had brilliant gymnastics display from Gabriele Dzete which was very popular with the audience

There were so many good singing performances given, with Natalia Melendez, Emery Da Silva, Amelia Roberts, Div Baruti, Forgive Isay and Samuella Mabengo all giving great renditions of various songs. The dancing was likewise excellent as were the musical performances. The judging panel consisting of Mr Tony Mills, Mr Jon Butcher and Ms Amelia Link after a long deliberation finally settled on the winners who were:

3<sup>rd</sup> – Emery Da Silva of 7BK with his rendition of “house of memories” by Panic at the Disco.

2<sup>nd</sup> – Gabriele Dzete 9JP with her rhythmic gymnastics display

1<sup>st</sup> – The “Year 11 Girls” consisting of Forgive Isay 11 KL, Div Baruti 11Ki, Ire Egbetola 11 Kol, Samuella Mabengo 11 Kol, Rutendo Chagweta 11Ki and Gloria Idreherne 11Ki who performed a beautiful medley of songs for us. Their harmonies were a pleasure for all to hear and we will certainly miss them next year as they leave Mary Immaculate for pastures new. It was certainly a fitting swansong (pun intended) for these girls and we wish them well in the future.

Thanks to all involved, and a huge mention for Mr Capel, Mr Childs, our Judges and all of the staff. And of course a special thanks to all those pupils who took part and to the audience who cheered, clapped, hooted, and really enjoyed themselves.

Below: The judges and the “crowd”



Dodgeball



Basketball



Circuits



Karaoke



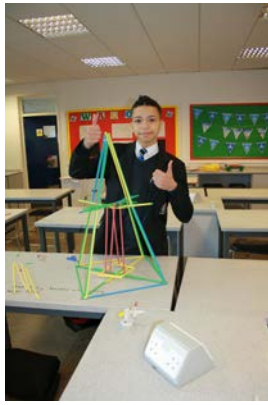
**Tanisha Blake 10JP**



**Shante & Eliza Yr 7**



**Jacob Palecki 9Ba**



**Carragher Watkins 7Ba**



**Maisie Watkins 7Rom**



**Claudia Pollakova 8JP**



**Amelia Roberts 10 Ba**



**Drums - Mekihi Sincliar 10Ba**



**Lucy Peebles 8JP**



**Rutendo Chagweta & Gloria Idehenre 11Ki**



**Saul Flor 10Ba**



**Alleah Beard-Pace 10 Kol**



**3<sup>rd</sup> place - Emery Da Silva**



**1<sup>st</sup> place - The Year 11 Girls**



**2<sup>nd</sup> place - Gabriele Dzevte**



# Built Environment Visit Taylor Wimpey Building Site

In the morning, we travelled to the Taylor Wimpey construction site and we were inducted by the site manager Johanne. We were then given our own pair of work boots to keep, then we were taken down to lay a brick wall using trowels, cement/mortar, and bricks. We were given a demonstration first by a Taylor Wimpey bricklayer and then proceeded to build our own wall.

After our food, we were taken down again and was able to build a wall corner, but before that we were given another demonstration by a Taylor Wimpey bricklayer on how to build it. After we built the wall, we then had to clean up and then proceed to clean the surrounding area.

Throughout the day, we learnt many safety rules to be aware of on site such as what PPE we need to wear. We learnt terms such as "Mortar" and different brick types such as "Concrete Blocks and Common Bricks".

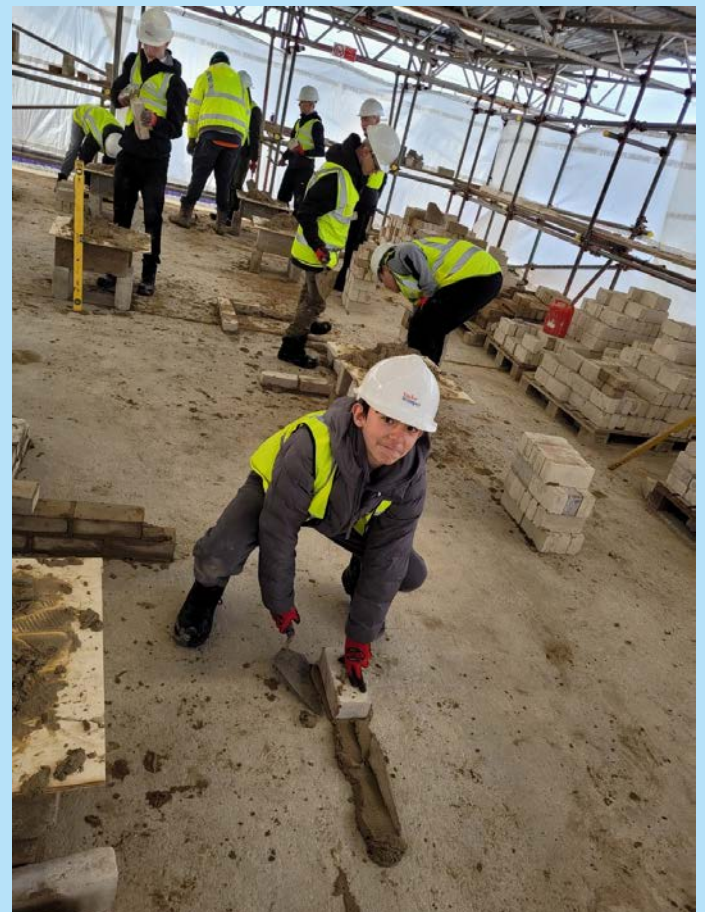
\*Build Environment is a part of Design and Technology Faculty

Author - Thomas Jones 9Te

**Taylor  
Wimpey**



Elliot Broom 9JP -standing  
Brandon Dowbella 9Kol -bricklaying



Neo Palmer 9Ba - Bricklaying

# Christmas Hampers

Before Christmas, helpful members of the Mary Immaculate Chaplaincy team joined forces with the SVP Centre on Ely Bridge to put together Christmas hampers to help people in our community that are struggling with the current Cost of Living Crisis and financial issues. By the end of our very busy day, we had made 101 hampers for families to enjoy and share during the Christmas period. On behalf of our school and our Chaplaincy team, we would like to thank SVP Ely Bridge for giving us the opportunity to help our local community and next year we hope we will be able to help even more people!



# Pensioners Christmas Party

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, Mary Immaculate held our first Senior citizens Christmas Party since Lockdown in 2020.

Over 50 Senior Citizens from the local community and Parishes attended to enjoy Christmas Music, 2 course meal, Raffle, and a visit and gift from Santa himself.

The event gives our children the opportunity to show their appreciation of our local senior citizens by treating them as VIPs for the day. It gives them the chance to understand the role they have in our society and an awareness of showing concern for others. It helps break down barriers between the youth and elderly and removes traditional stereotypes so that our community works effectively together. Thanks to

**Staff ;** M Jeffrey, R Jeffrey, L Weare, O Egbetola, R Capel

**Pupils not shown ( the cooks );** Abigail Russell, Celine Solomon Perks, Ayesha Butt

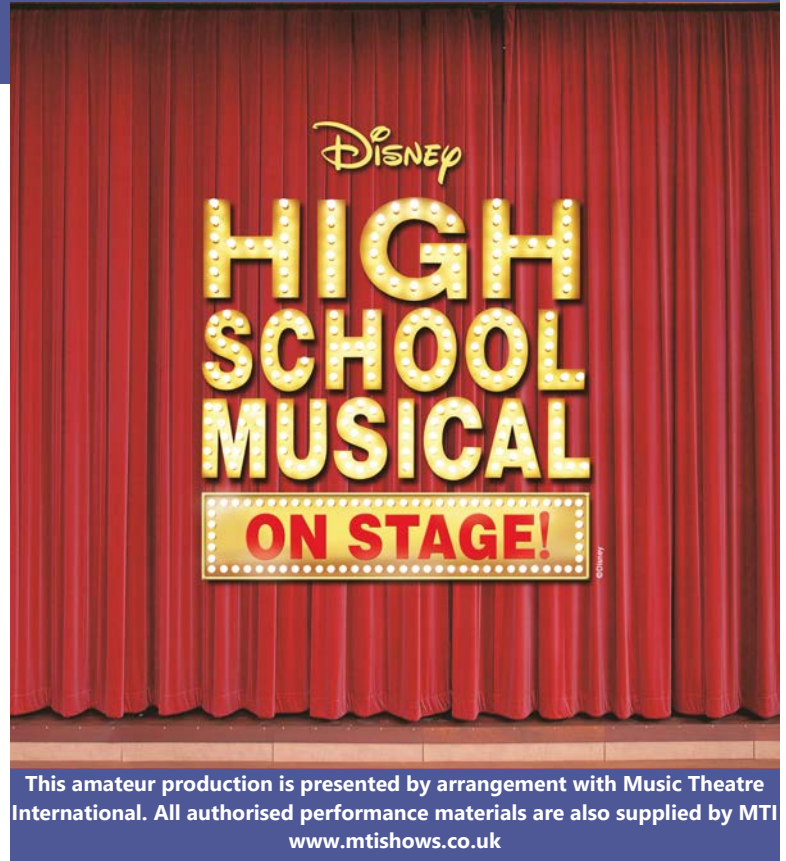


Pupils;  
Craig Mills (Right)  
Nahele Mendes (Right)  
Jaden Bahumaid  
(Right)



# Mary Immaculate High School's Production of

On Thursday the 9th March, students performed in our school production of High School Musical. This was the first production to take place in four years and students were keen to come back with a bang. The musical follows the story of Troy, played by Daniel Intrigila-Cascon and Gabriella, played by both Poppy Richardson and Lilia Hewer. After a chance meeting on New Year's Eve, both characters discover they attend the same school in Albuquerque. They also discover a love of singing. They bring the school together to show everyone that you can be anything you want to be and encourage them to follow their dreams. Songs such as Bop to the Top and Breaking Free were crowd favourites, and the audience were blown away by the talent displayed on the stage. After the disappointment of performances being cancelled due to bad weather, the students went above and beyond to perform three times on the Thursday. The support from parents, guardians, and the school community has been overwhelming and the students and teachers involved look forward to next year's production.



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)



Weekend rehearsals have been my favourite part

**Mia Furtado**



My favourite part has been making new friends and working with the teachers

**Tara Terzic**

My favourite part was learning a lift to end one of the songs

**Daniel Intrigila- Cascon**



My favourite rehearsal was when we all broke out into the conga

**Menna Thomas**

I have enjoyed the whole experience and feel like I have grown in confidence

**Harriet North**

I liked it when we had pancakes for pancake day!

**Sara Wozniak**

## Running Order

### Act 1

Wild cats cheer  
 Start of something new  
 Get your head in the game  
 What I've been looking for  
 What I've been looking for reprise  
 Status quo

### Act 2

Wild cats cheer  
 Counting on you  
 When there was me and you  
 Start of something new  
 Were all in this together  
 Bop to the top  
 Breaking free  
 All in this together  
 Bows

## Cast List

### Actors

Troy - Daniel Intrigila-Cascon  
 Gabriella - Lilia Hewer/ PoppyRichardson  
 Ryan - Jacob Sage  
 Sharpay - Harriet North  
 Taylor - Olivia Hoskins  
 Chad - Ethan Williams  
 Kelsi - Mia Furtado  
 Zeke - Nalani Tyson  
 Coach Bolton - Lucy Gittens  
 Mr Darbus - Gethin Rogers  
 Jess Scott - Eleni-Rose Robertson  
 Teacher/ Skater dude - Lucy Peebles  
 Martha - Tara Terzic

### Chorus

Carlotta Melendez  
 Maisie Watkins  
 Summer West  
 Sophia Follett  
 Nalani Tyson  
 Mariale Dibwe  
 Mariama Sani  
 Sofia Atufe  
 Claudia Pollakova  
 Nyla Rae Barker  
 Brianna Beja Carvalho  
 Nevaeh Green  
 Menna Thomas  
 Ava Driscoll  
 Sara Wozniak



Troy



Gabriella



Gabriella



Ryan



Sharpay



Taylor



Chad



Kelsi



Zeke



Coach



Mr Darbus



Jess Scott



Teacher  
Skater dude



Martha



Our favourite part of rehearsals has been meeting new friends -

Cast and crew ( above )



I have enjoyed being around people who are passionate about performing. I also loved it when Mrs Wilson came to rehearsals with her dogs!

Mariale Dibwe



## Crew and Assistants

Director - Mrs Emma Dyer  
 Assistant Director and assistant stage manager - Miss Inira Hurford  
 Musical Director - Mr Martin Childs  
 Choreographer/ Stage manager - Miss Chloe Evans  
 Band:  
 Mr Ben Davies - Keyboards  
 Mr Martin Childs - Bass  
 Mr David Jefferies - Guitar  
 Mr Huw Griffiths - Drums  
 Lighting technicians - Miss Abigail Russell  
 Miss Isabel Richards  
 Sound technician - Stage and lighting services  
 Costume/ Make Up - Students and Mrs Lauren Perks  
 Staging - Stage and lighting services  
 Mr Mark Rayer/ Mrs Grace Harris  
 Props - Mrs Dyer/ Miss Evans  
 Media - Mr Matt Gibbs  
 Front of house - MIHS Staff  
 Refreshments - MIHS Staff

# the MARY IMMACULATE SPORTSLETTER

The latest sporting achievements from MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL



**The Year 11 boys team**

team's success: "Our mindset has been excellent, each player has worked very hard in the mornings before school. It always helps having someone over 6ft 5 in Onanefe, but the last two tournaments were different, we've added a lot more variety to our game in offense and are even more disciplined in defence. We're excited to go to Bangor and compete with the best!"

Mr Camilleri, Team Coach, spoke the following words : "Since the start of Year 10, the team are unbeaten, and this is a testament to their character, determination, discipline and professionalism. All I ever ask of the boys is to stay focused, trust each other and enjoy themselves- the rest is history."

Good luck in the final gentleman!

## Y11 Basketball Boys Go Marching On...

Our Year 11 Basketball Team continue to go from strength to strength as they have progressed onto the Welsh Basketball National Finals, to be held at Bangor University on April 26th. It is important to note, they are playing in a Year 11-13 tournament and therefore facing opponents who could be 18 years of age.

Before half-term, the team won the Regional Tournament, held at Cardiff University, beating Glantaf (19-12), Cantonian (15-5), St David's College (18-14), Cathays (22-9) and St Illtyd's (16-11). The squad progressed onto the Southern finals, again held at Cardiff University, beating Gartholwg (28-18), Porthcawl (27-11), and St Joseph's (31-18).

Marcus Richards, Point Guard, explains his thoughts of the team's success: "Our mindset has been excellent, each player has worked very hard in the mornings before school. It always helps having someone over 6ft 5 in Onanefe, but the last two tournaments were different, we've added a lot more variety to our game in offense and are even more disciplined in defence. We're excited to go to Bangor and compete with the best!"

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## School of Hard Knocks

Pupils ranging from Year 7 to 11 have been part of a programme run by a group of coaches and mentors from a charity called 'School of Hard Knocks'. They have been taking part in weekly rugby and mentoring sessions since September. These sessions focus on raising achievements, engagement and aspirations for individuals through the sport of rugby. As a result of their hard work, last week they attended their first Girls Touch Rugby Festival at Merthyr Rugby Club which saw Mary Immaculate compete against various schools including Cardiff West, Fitzalan, and Pencoedtre. Some of these girls have never played rugby before and for a few, experienced contact rugby for the first time. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the day, and we are super proud of how far they have come! Well done to you all!



For all the latest sport news follow the PE Dept @MI\_PE\_Dept