

Summer 2023

# the MARY IMMACULATE NEWSLETTER



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

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**  
The end of the term and the end of academic year 2023-24 was once again one of great success for Mary Immaculate High School. We began the year with some of the best GCSE results we have ever seen -

**Continued on page 2**



# Message From The Head Teacher

Continued from front page;

seen – it has been so pleasing to see our current year 11 (recently left) meet the challenge of examinations head on with the support of our staff and, of course, our parents. We have great hopes for how they will do, in spite of the many challenges that exist post COVID. Thank you for all the support you have given them, and us, over the last five years!

This has also been a year of great positive change. We saw 190 pupils with us in September – meaning the school exceeded 800 pupils for the first time in its history (rising to 840 in September 2023). This has meant the opening of new pupil toilets and an extension to our already fantastic canteen facilities – pupils have been enjoying these all year. In the next few weeks, the second round of building begins – giving us a new Pastoral Hub – housing a much bigger Bridge Unit and counselling rooms for pupils, along with a new Pastoral reception. This will provide enhanced support for pupils in an area that has been celebrated by pupils, staff and the wider community (including Estyn) multiple times. We look forward to next year's launch! That of course is in addition to the ongoing plans for a 3G pitch on site over the next few months.

There has been much to celebrate this year – in our last newsletter I reported on our Culture Week celebrations – we will be undertaking this again next year and look forward to our parents joining us again if they can. I am also pleased to say that our Year 11 boys have once again become the Welsh National Basketball Champions – beating much bigger schools all over Wales to take the crown. This means alongside Football and Rugby we are now a national centre for another key sport!

We have been fortunate to run many trips over the last few weeks – we have had visits to the Taylor Wimpey site for our construction pupils, community tree planting and litter picking, STEM Science events, Storey Arms and visits to St David's College and Cardiff Metropolitan University as part of our Aspirations Week. Aspirations Week also held Practice Interviews

for Year 10 and a Careers Fair – all around helping pupils make aspirational choices following their successful time here at Mary Immaculate.

A few of our staff are moving on to new roles this term. In Science, Mr Hannah is returning with his family back to the North West of England and Mr Williams also moves on to another school. Mrs Goode is moving with her family to Aberystwyth and will be teaching at a school there. Miss Attley and Miss Roberts also move on to roles in other schools. Mrs Cunningham one of our TAs is to begin her teaching course and Ms Jama leaves as our Office Manager – finally, Mr Crimmins our long time head of PE has been promoted to assistant headship at St Richard Gwyn in Barry. We will wish all of them the best for their future endeavours and thank them for their time here with us.

I want to thank our parents for their support this year – this has been such a successful year and we have been so proud how pupils have met every challenge and thrived.

We may be growing (a little) but we have always been a school where we know the pupils and they know us – that is the strength of Mary Immaculate and why parents continue to entrust us with that which is most precious to them – their children. I thank you for this on behalf of all our teaching staff.

Please enjoy your holidays – school reopens for pupils Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. We look forward to seeing you all again then!

H.J.Powell

Headteac



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# Drama, Arts and Food Tech London Trip



# Science Events



## Stem Ambassador Visit



In science, we recently had a visit from a STEM Ambassador, Rhian Lynes from Geosyntec consultants who shared her education and career path that led to her becoming a geologist with the pupils. She also shared information about careers in science and spoke about her own work at Geosyntec. Pupils learnt about the rock cycle and how different rocks are formed. Pupils enjoyed examining and getting hands on with rock samples, minerals and fossils.



## Birmingham NEC Big Bang Fair

On the 21st June, 50 Year 7 Science students had the opportunity to visit The Birmingham NEC Big Bang Fair where they independently attended different workshops being inspired in various STEM activities. It is the UK's biggest celebration of STEM where our students discovered everything they had on offer from the environment and sustainability to inventions and innovating the next big thing there really was something for everyone. All the activities, shows and workshops at The Big Bang Fair were designed specifically at our young students where they learnt about Health and well-being, the environment and sustainability,

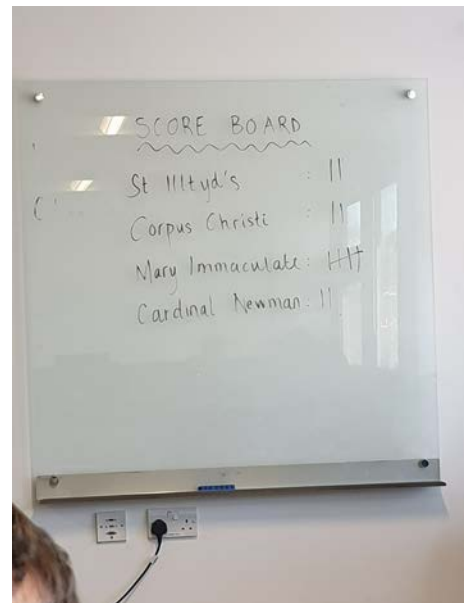


Technology and innovation plus energy and transport. Lots of fun was had by all students and staff. Very much looking forward to returning to the fair next year.



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.



# Storey Arms 2023

In June, 33 of our Year 10 pupils headed to the Storey Arms for a residential weekend. Those that attended were current GCSE PE and Sport Coaching pupils in preparation for the practical activities they will experience later in the course- for some, contributing up their moderation.

Pupils travelled to the centre on the school and Storey Arms minibuses, these were also used to transport pupils between the various activity sites located across the beautiful Brecon Beacons. Whilst at the centre pupils were challenged with many chores including setting out and clearing tables before and after mealtimes, making their own packed lunches as well as cleaning and tidying their dorm rooms.

Mary Immaculate staff including Mr Camilleri, Miss Evans, Mr Wilson, Mr Hannah and Miss Barker took our pupils to oversee the weekend and participate. The weather was spectacular for the whole weekend, allowing pupils to have an amazing time, taking part in rock climbing, caving, gorge walking, canoeing and paddle boarding. Gorge walking was again the most popular activity amongst the majority of pupils and they enjoyed jumping into rivers, crawling through waterfalls and diving off cliffs. We look forward to our next trip for our current Year 8 in September.

A Big thank you to all staff and pupils who were involved in this successful trip, it was a terrific and fun weekend for all.









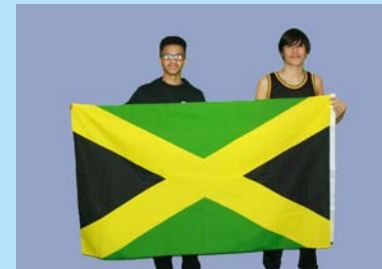
# Culture Day photographs Con

More photos celebrating world culture day !





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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 Sincler 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, when we arrived we all met in the meeting room. Where we talked about health and safety on the site with the health and safety manager Jo. We also got opened up to opportunities of the jobs on the site and more in depth of the apprenticeship's available, by the apprenticeship manager Rob. After the talk, we all put on our our steel toe capped boots, hard hats, gloves and hi-visibility vests. We then went to the compound where we split into groups and had demonstrations on how we use the cement and lay the bricks using a trowel by our instructor Liam.



## Health and Safety Briefing

After the demonstrations we started our tasks, our first task was to make a wall using the lightweight thermalight bricks and how we can utilize the brick jointer. Our second task was to use the heavier breeze block bricks to build a wall. Finally we used the smaller lightweight bricks to build a wall. After we had finished that, we had to clean up all the cement that had fallen on the floor using shovel then we had received our Taylor Wimpeys certificates. After that it had come to the end of the day where we took off our PPE and returned back to school again with the minibus.

A Big thank you gain to everyone at Taylor Wimpey.

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



Left to right : Brayden Lloyd, Rejwan Khan, Ken Dias, Rob, (the lecturer) Behind- Muhamoud Mohamed , Temesgen Yosef, Alfie Helyar, Rhys Osborne, Jaden Bahumaid, Jacob Canning, Ethan Canty.



# Christmas Hampers

## Fair Trade Fortnight



This year FAIRTRADE Fortnight was run by the us, Y10 ASDAN class and Mrs Sanger. We were looking at what we could do to help our community and help our wider community and we chose Fairtrade fortnight as it highlights the importance of making ethical purchases. We started by brainstorming what we thought FAIRTRADE was and why this was set up. Then we decided we wanted to help our school realise why Fairtrade is important and the work that they do as an organisation. To do this Mrs Ronan let us create the work we do during our morning registration. As part of this we also had a stall selling chocolate, lemonade and toffees, to highlight how we can make ethical choices even when we are

buying treats! The stall was set up in the hall every break time during Fairtrade fortnight and we ran the stall. We very quickly ran out of our Lemonade and the milk and caramel chocolate bars were very popular. We want to say a big thank you to Mrs Sanger for helping us with this project, Ore who organised the products for us to sell and Mrs Ronan for letting us take over the school's registration for the week. A big thank you to everyone who bought from our stall.

**Left to right;**  
**Jacob Lloyd**  
**Callum Gilbert**  
**Rafaella Flor**  
**Natalie Brown**



# Sports Day 2023

On a baking hot Friday on the 8th July Mary Immaculate held its annual sports day. The day was divided into a morning and an afternoon session. In the morning session pupils took part in three different activities of their choice, the many activities included were netball, football, volleyball, basketball, yoga, mountain biking, dodgeball, dance, zorb football, Goal ball, boxercise, ultimate frisbee, baseball, TAG rugby and field ball. Goal ball, for those wondering is a sport from the para-Olympics that the pupils play blindfolded using a ball with bells in it.

There was then a lunch break so the pupils and staff could rehydrate and recover after all this exercise before the afternoon athletics session out on the main field commenced. Here the pupils competed in various races for their respective houses. The races run were the 100m, 200m, 800m for boys and girls and the mixed 4 by 100 metre. These races were hotly contested by those running and the support noise from the side lines was immense, really adding to the atmosphere of the afternoon. House points were awarded for all activities and a house winner declared for each Year Group the house winners are listed below.

The soundtrack ( and bad jokes ) for the day was provided from the "sound shack" by Mr Childs and Mr Hannah. Drinks and refreshments were provided by our fantastic canteen staff and tip-tops were sold by the ladies from the "Chill out Club. These proved to be very popular on a very hot afternoon. A big thank you to Miss Evans from the PE dept who arranged the activities and the timetable and a further thank you to all those staff who suggested and supervised the activities for the pupils.





# the MARY IMMACULATE SPORTSLETTER

*The latest sporting achievements from MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL*



## **Y11 Basketball Boys Crowned Welsh National Champions In Bangor**

Is This basketball team the most successful school sports team in Wales? That's the question being asked after Mary Immaculate High School's Year 11 boys' basketball team were crowned U18 Welsh Basketball Champions for the second year in a row. The victory tops an outstanding few years for the boys, who have remained unbeaten since they were in Year 9. Adam Camilleri, PE teacher and head of basketball at the school said:

*"It's one thing being able to perform at a high level against people your own age, but what these young men have achieved against teams much older than them is incredible. The dedication and passion they have for the sport is inspiring."*

It's no fluke the boys are so successful, with Mr Camilleri explaining just how dedicated they are. "The boys get to school early every day to train from 7.30am to 8.30am without any help," explained Mr Camilleri. "They're constantly running plays, practicing patterns, and changing scenarios to meet the demands of a Welsh Finals tournament." Their victory is a testament to all their hard work and I could not be any prouder of them. Jay Shorthall, the team's small forward, said he was delighted to be a double Welsh Champion.

*"I'm so happy to be a part of this team," he said. "We found the semi-final difficult as Holyhead tried to counteract our zone with clever plays. After a 'timeout' with Mr Camilleri and Mr Hannah, we calmed down, switched tactics, and went on to win the game. After that, it was about holding our nerve and continuing to trust each other – the result spoke for itself. "I'm so happy to be a double Welsh Champion and finish our school life on the highest of highs!"*

Mary Immaculate won a total of eight games during the Cardiff Regionals and Southern Finals. The boys then progressed to the national final, which was held at Bangor University and saw them competing against players up to three years older than them. In the semi-final they beat Ysgol Uwchradd



Caergybi from Holyhead 31-12 before beating Bishop Gore School from Swansea 21-16 in the final. Mr Camilleri said the boys showed "incredible resilience and professionalism" and praised them for their "formidable defence" during the final.



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