

Summer
2022

the MARY IMMACULATE NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I write as we approach the end of the academic year. This has been a very different year to those it followed. In some form we have returned to normality – pupils move around and we have had no pupil ‘bubbles’ but we have still had pupil and staff absences with COVID

(Continued on page 2)



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Continued from front cover

I am glad to say we have avoided the need to close, however – staff have covered for colleagues and helped each other to ensure we kept our school open for our pupils and the wider community. I pay tribute to the staff for their hard work – adapting and re-adapting these last few years as well as supporting each other.

With that normality has come a welcome return to trips, visits and events for pupils. We were very pleased to hold another successful Year 10 Interview day as well as a careers festival. We were able to welcome our new Year 6 pupils and their parents and a number of events over the last few weeks – it was fantastic to also see our Year 5 pupils join us for sporting and academic work. Finally, our Awards Evening was another opportunity to celebrate current and past pupils' academic, social and sporting successes in person. Being part of the wider catholic community is important to us and meeting our community in person has been one of this term's great joys.

September means new pupils – and as it turns out more than usual. We are expecting 190 pupils for year 7, the greatest number we have seen for a long time – due to huge numbers of pupils in our partner and community primary schools. We continue to be a school of choice for our parents and we welcome all of them. To support these increased numbers we are beginning a two-year plan to expand our spaces and facilities. This means a new toilet block, an extension to our already excellent canteen facilities and most exciting of all the building of a new pastoral hub offering ongoing bespoke support for pupils emotional and wellbeing needs as well as new counselling rooms. Some of this will be in place for this September – the pastoral hub for 2023.

As usual at the end of term we bid farewell to some staff. Mr Duffield leaves our Science department and Mrs White in PE. Three of our learning support assistants are moving on to new roles – Mrs Savage, Miss Hanlon and Mrs Howell. Huw Richards our senior assistant head is moving on to be Deputy Headteacher

at Pen Y Dre High School and Mr McKechnie moves on to a teaching role after being our cover supervisor this year. Finally, Mr Mills our school chaplain and Mrs Williams my personal assistant are also retiring – Mrs Williams after 31 years in service to Mary Immaculate! We wish them all the best in their new roles or retirements!

We of course have some new staff joining us too. Mr Andrews joins us as the new head of Humanities, Mr Williams joins the Science department. Miss Daniel and Mrs Jones add to our already strong Maths team and among our learning support assistants we are joined by Ms O'Brien, Miss Goode and Miss Spiteri.

With the increase in our numbers for 2022, we have had to add another Saint as our House and Form name – St. Josephine Bakhita. It seems appropriate that I should end my introduction with her words – where compassion is at the heart of our mission to our community:

"The Lord has loved me so much: we must love everyone... we must be compassionate!"

(Saint Josephine Bakhita)

Huw Powell

Headteacher



'Enrichment Lessons' At Mary Immaculate



This year MIHS has begun offering 'Enrichment' lessons. These lessons are to give our pupils a chance to develop new skills and talents that they would not usually cover in the curriculum. Teachers were asked to offer classes that would give pupils opportunities to explore new areas of work and essential skills. The courses on offer include first aid, sign language, gardening, textiles and confectionery.

Within the cakes and confectionary course, pupils spend 12 weeks with Miss Gallagher researching and creating different sweet treats including cupcakes, fudge, rocky road and moulded chocolates. In the last 4 weeks of the course pupils spend time designing and making a 4 layered cake in groups of 3.

The pupils bake the sponges, make buttercream, stack the cakes and decorate them in their own style. This term pupils have created amazing cakes that show off their new skills and creative flair!



Textiles



Chaplain's Corner



It has been a quiet term on Chaplain's front. We finally managed to get a date arranged for all our cans to be taken to the food bank at the Vincent Centre. You can see from the photographs that we had plenty of volunteers to load the van. We must give special thanks to Mrs. Frost and 7 King who did all the demanding work. They collected the cans of food from every class every week. An excellent job.

The sad news is that this is the last time that I will be writing Chaplain's corner as I am retiring in July. My time at Mary Immaculate has been really enjoyable. The staff, support staff and pupils have all been incredibly supportive of everything I have done. I would like to thank all of them for making my time here at Mary Immaculate so enjoyable.

The good news is that my replacement Ore will be starting in September. She is young and dynamic and will add a new dynamism to the work of the Chaplaincy. I know that you will give her all the support she needs.

My final thought is to share with you one of my favourite prayers written by an American Monk, Thomas Merton.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me

Nor do I really know myself,

And the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are with me, and you will never leave me to face my struggles alone.

Goodbye and thank you.

Tony Mills



Mock Interviews



At the end of June, Year 10 took part in the annual Mock Interview day. This involves all pupils in the year group producing a CV and completing an application form before being interviewed by employers from a number of different sectors. This year employers included CAVC, St David's College, Principality Building Society, Starling Bank, Hoop Recruitment, University Hospital of Wales Health board, Ministry of Justice and Cardiff County Council.

All pupils dressed in business wear and were extremely smart and professional throughout. The feedback from employers at the end of the day was superb and included;

"What an absolute pleasure this was. Every child was polite, prepared and performed excellently during the interview. I was genuinely impressed by all of them. A credit to the school" Cardiff and Vale College



"The school put on a great day for the Year 10 mock interviews. The standard of the application forms was great but even more pleasing was the professionalism that was brought to interview by pupils. I've thoroughly enjoyed my day here at Mary Immaculate and it has been great interacting with such a variety of children on what was a well put together and invaluable day for both parties" Principality Building Society

"Excellent day! Students were extremely well prepared and had put a lot of effort into their performance and presentation. Great to hear some fantastic aspirations from your young people!" Starling Bank

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my day at the mock interviews. The students I have met have been very engaging and a lot of fun to talk to. There are some exceptionally intelligent students here who will go far in their careers. I think a mock interview day is very beneficial as it helps build life skills and I wish I had the opportunity to do this in school as first interviews are terrifying. Students were excited and hopefully learnt things about themselves to take forward". Cardiff County Council.



Drama for all



On Wednesday the 6th of July , Mr Capel took our Mary Immaculate Drama classes to one of our feeder primary schools, St Marys Catholic Primary school.

Working with a mixture of the year 5 and 6 pupils, Mr Capel introduced them to what Drama is like in Mary Immaculate High School through games, performances and evaluating.

The Year 5's and 6's were fantastic and proved themselves to be excellent little actors! And we look forward to welcoming them, when they join us here at Mary Immaculate High School .

Head Boy & Girl

We would like to introduce ourselves to all within our school community! We are the recently elected pupil leadership group.

My name is Gwilym Evans and I have the absolute privilege of introducing myself as the Head Boy at Mary Immaculate. My counterpart as Head Girl is Forgive Isay. We are supported by our deputies, Tommy Abbott and Chantelle Thomas-Iti.

We are excited to work alongside pupils, teachers and the local community to ensure that the school continues to be the welcoming, inclusive and happy place that it is. In each termly newsletter, we will update you on the work that we have completed but, for now, we just want to introduce ourselves to you all and wish you a fantastic summer holiday!

Head Boy- Gwilym Evans



Head Girl - Forgive Isay



School Building Developments

Over the summer holidays and into next term, the school will undergo a large number of improvements to support the additional pupils we are taking this year. There are three phases to this work:



1. Canteen

More pupils means we need more space for them to sit down to eat. Therefore, over the next few months, the canteen will be expanded for us to gain more than 60 new seats. There will also be new doors and revamped outside facilities when finished.

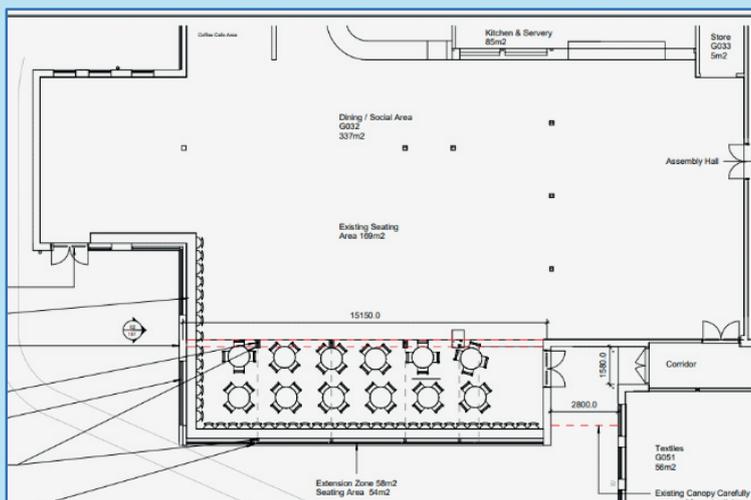
3. Pastoral Hub

Starting during 2023, the school will be adding a new pastoral hub block – this large development will house our highly regarded Bridge Support Unit plus a new pastoral office and new counselling rooms. This will substantially upgrade the support we can offer to pupils in 2023.

Obviously over the next few months there will be some disruption as this work is completed but we will keep all pupils safe. Once completed this will provide hugely improved space and facilities for pupils!

1. Toilet block

In line with most new schools, one of our toilet blocks will be converted into unisex provision. This means they will be cubicle only (floor to ceiling) with shared hand washing facilities. Creating this new layout allows us to have more toilets for pupils attending as well as upgrading the facilities for everyone.



Summer School

We have recently had many year six pupils from our feeder primary schools visit us on our "Transition Day" programme. The pupils were shown around the school site and introduced to staff as the day proceeded. They then had lunch with us before returning home. While here the pupils were expertly guided by Year 7 pupils, Mr Camilleri and Mrs Howell who look forward to greeting them again in the Autumn when the new school year starts.

We also offer a Summer school for those pupils who come from outside of our main feeder schools. This year the dates for summer school are Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th of July.

To contact the school regarding attending, please use the information on our school website

<https://www.maryimmaculate.org.uk/>

Storey Arms 2022

In June, 37 of our Year 9 and 10 pupils headed to the Storey Arms for a residential weekend. Those that attended were current GCSE PE pupils and did so in preparation for the practical activities they will experience later in the course.

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 charged with many chores including setting out and clearing tables before and after meal times, making their own packed lunches as well as cleaning and tidying their dorm rooms. Mary Immaculate staff including Mr Crimmins, Mr Camilleri, Mrs White, Miss Evans, Mr Curtis and Mrs Weare were there to oversee all of this.

Despite it being summer we got our usual dose of June wind and rain whilst there, which had some influence on the activities we could do. However, all pupils still had a great time taking part in rock climbing, caving, gorge walking, cliff diving, orienteering 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.





Storey Arms 2022 (cont)



Period Poverty



As a school we have always ensured our female pupils have access to period products in school and ensure they know who and where they can access the products from. Now, we want to ensure that every female pupil during their time at Mary Immaculate High School will have access to FREE period products throughout the 5 years they spend with us.

This year we have been working with the Healthy Schools Team to ensure we are receiving products regularly and although this is working we found that some pupils are reluctant to ask!!!

Therefore, we are piloting a scheme where every female pupil is given a blue

(school colour) tote bag containing day & night pads, tampons and reusable pads. Pupils can also request "period knickers" (packs of 3) and the menstrual cup. Pupils are then able to bring the bag back into school to be replenished regularly - no questions or embarrassing conversations needed. This also feeds into our sustainability curriculum by using environmentally friendly products.

St. Josephine Bakhita

As mentioned in the Headteacher's letter, we have a new house in Mary Immaculate High. The Saint we have chosen to represent this new house is St. Josephine Bakhita.

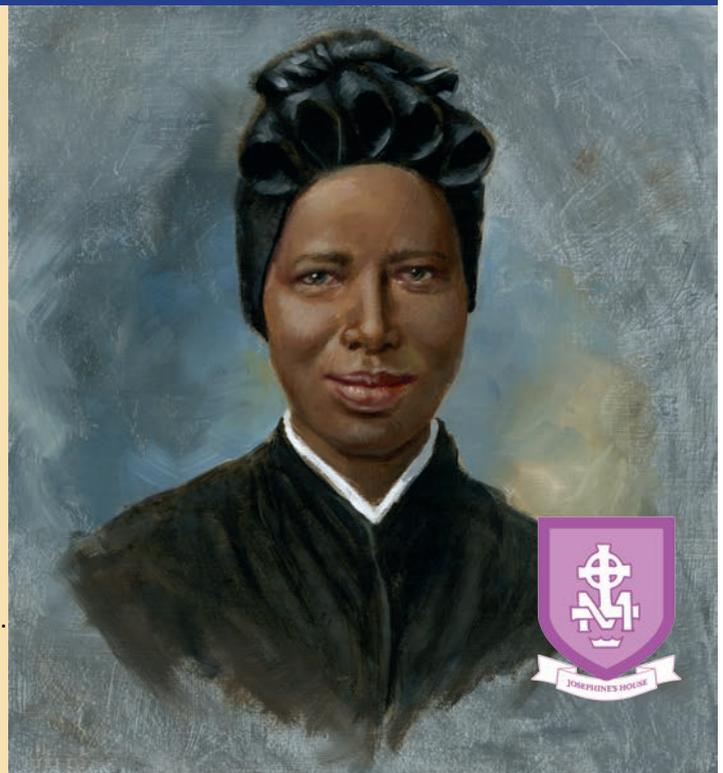
St. Josephine was born around 1869 in the Darfur region of the Sudan, sometime in February 1877 she was kidnapped by Arab traders and sold into a life of slavery.

Over the next 12 years St. Josephine was bought and sold over a dozen times, and suffered horrific treatment in the hands of some of her owners.

Eventually she was left with a convent by her owners where she learnt of God and discerned a call to follow Christ. The sisters of the convent had her freed from her slavery in a court of law, and St. Josephine chose to stay with the convent. She was baptised in 1890 and became a novice, for the remainder of her life she worked within the church until her death in 1947.

Pope John Paul II canonized her on the 1st of October 2000.

St. Josephine is the patron saint of Sudan.



Awards Evening

On a warm Thursday Evening in July, hundreds of pupils and their families joined us in the Sports Hall for our Annual Awards Evening. It was lovely to welcome back the Class of 2021, who were presented with their GCSE certificates. Pupils from each Year group reviewed their year and reflected on all that they had achieved in the last 12 months. Mr Powell reminded us of all the successes we have enjoyed and the continued strive for excellence that Pupils, Staff and Governors at Mary Immaculate are all working together to achieve.

The Audience were entertained by our Year 10 vocal group, singing a "Lion King" medley and the song "heart of stone" from Six the musical. The evening was a true celebration of all that we continued to achieve as a school. Thanks to all those staff who contribute to making this evening a success. A special thanks to all those pupils who give of their best each and every day and who were, once again, recognised and acknowledged during the evening's celebrations.

Year 7 Pupil of the Year	Rahoy Garoy
Year 8 Pupil of the Year	Macie-Leigh Mclean
Year 9 Pupil of the Year	Joelle Wassoula
Year 10 Pupil of the Year	Maisie Allen-Young
The Bridge to Success Award	Roksana Dzugaj
The Art and Design Award for outstanding work in Year 11	Salsabeel Quasier
The Performing Arts Award for outstanding performance	Shannon Miller
The Father Fahy Trophy for outstanding sporting achievements	Adam Coomer
The Rotary Shield for all-round contribution to the school community	Leah O'Connell
The Norah Hitchen Award for most progress made in school	Naveah Duffin
The Father Christopher Delaney Award for resilience	Elise-Marie Whetter
The Lauren Leigh Powell Award for Inspiration	Deryn Skene
The Julie Cochlin Award for most progress made in Maths	Ramisa Gehlan
The Dawn Wilson Award for Design Technology	Franco Ferrante

Cardiff University Science Visit

Year 8, 9 and 10 Triple Science pupils had a workshop with a scientist from the School of Physics and Astronomy at Cardiff University.

They learnt about what happens to stars when they die and as a class, they constructed a Hertzsprung-Russel diagram which shows us how the size, temperature and colour of stars change as they near the end of their life. We study this diagram in GCSE physics, so it was really helpful to construct one during a hands on activity.

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD



Term Dates for 2022/2023

Autumn 2022

Term starts: Monday 05/09/2022 Staff return
Pupils return Wednesday 07/09/2022
Half Term: Monday 31/10/2022 - Friday 04/11/2022
Term ends: Friday 23/12/2022

Spring 2023

Term starts: Monday 09/01/2023 - Inset Day
Pupils return Tuesday 10/01/2023
Half Term: Monday 20/02/2023 - Friday 24/02/2023
Term ends: Friday 23/03/2023

Summer 2023

Term starts: Monday 17/04/2023
Half Term: Monday 29/05/2023 - Friday 02/06/2023
Term ends: Monday 24/07/2023

Easter: 06/04/2023 Maundy Thursday
07/04/2023 Good Friday
09/04/2023 Easter Sunday

May Day Monday 01/05/2023

Inset Days

Monday 5th September 2022
Tuesday 6th September 2022
Monday 7th November 2022
Monday 9th January 2023
Friday 24th March 2023
Monday 24th July 2023



Sports Day 2022

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 lunchbreak so the pupils and staff could rehydrate and recover for 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 for the day was provided from the "sound shack" by Mr Childs and our compere and comedian Mr Capel. Drinks and refreshments were provided by our fantastic canteen staff. A big thank you to Mr Crimmins and Miss Evans from the PE dept who arranged the activities and the timetable and a further thank you to those staff who suggested and supervised the activities for the pupils.



Sound Shack



Obstacle Course with Mrs Dyer on the net



Yoga with Miss Browning



Goal ball with Mr Garcia



(sports news continued ..)

Welsh Baseball

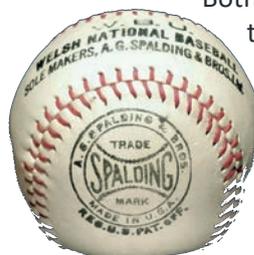


Having had two summers of no fixtures due to COVID it has been great to be back playing baseball against other schools.

Welsh Baseball has always been one of the most popular sports at Mary Immaculate and is a big part of our PE lessons and extra-curricular timetable in the summer term. We have had huge number attending after school baseball club including girls and boys from every year group.

The boys have begun to play fixtures with Year 8 beating Ysgol Bro Edern by 12 runs and Year 9 losing by 27. Year 9 also travelled to Llanishen and lost a very close game by 9 runs with Year 10 winning by 32.

Both the boys and girls teams from Years 7 through to 10 will be playing in county tournaments during July which all are very excited for!



the MARY IMMACULATE SPORTSLETTER

The latest sporting achievements from MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

A huge well done to former pupil **Mackenzie Martin** who received his first cap for the Wales U20s at the end of June.

Having helped Cardiff Schools win the Dewar Shield in Year 10 Mackenzie was selected by Cardiff Blues U16. After an excellent season he was offered scholarships to a number of independent schools in England but chose to remain with Cardiff Blues after being offered a place in their prestigious academy set up whilst studying at Cardiff and Vale College.

During his time at CAVC Mackenzie was an integral part of the team, along with other former pupils Jack Grant and Cody Eltringham, in helping them with the Welsh Colleges Championship and also represented Cardiff Blues U18. Mackenzie then went on to make his senior debut for Cardiff RFC at the tender age of 17.

All this progress meant that despite having just turned 18 Mackenzie was included in the Wales U20 squad for the Six Nations Summer Series.

Mackenzie made his first appearance for Wales in a 45-15 win over Scotland and also helped Wales defeat Italy and Georgia to make the final, where he also played against South Africa.



Heartbreak for Year 10 Football!

A strong run in the Cardiff and Vale Schools Football Cup came to a disappointing end for our Year 10 football team. In the early stages of the tournament, the boys saw off strong competition from Cardiff West, beating Whitchurch in the semi-final to set up the final against Glantaf.

A spirited performance saw the boys come back from one-nil down with a superb equaliser from Nahele Mendes (Year 9) in the first half, only to concede a late goal in the second half, losing 2-1. A game where either team were strong enough to win, but our boys were unfortunate not to come out on top of an enthralling fixture. We're very proud of each and every player in the squad, we learn together and will come back stronger next season!



Luey Giles continues to make us proud representing both Cardiff City FC and Wales Under 16s.

Luey received his international cap recently, playing against Brazil, Turkey and Spain, scoring on two occasions. Luey's professionalism and hard work is truly paying off and he leaves Mary Immaculate going on to a two-year scholarship with Cardiff City FC.



As Wales qualify for the World Cup this winter in Qatar, we're sure we'll see on the big stage! (More sports news inside)



ugh!



For all the latest sport news follow the PE Dept @MI_PE_Dept