

Spring
2022

the MARY IMMACULATE NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The Spring term is almost always focussed on the preparations for Year 11 and their forthcoming exams. Pupils in Year 11 have had pre-finals, finals and numerous other exams to prepare them for returning to formal examinations this year.

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

For some, this is the first time in many years they have faced these but I am very proud of the way they have approached all their assessments, including any coursework that they are still completing.

Over the course of the next few weeks these activities will continue. There will be no study leave this year – we felt that having lost so much time in the last two years they needed time to finish courses and revise. There is an extensive revision schedule every night, through the Easter holidays and in the next (Whitsun) half-term to help them further. Being such a fantastic year group, I know they will take every opportunity to be the best they can be!

Our work around the new curriculum in Wales continues to be part of our planning. Please be assured that normal subjects will remain as we develop a new curriculum for our pupils. As part of that our enrichment curriculum has been met with a really positive response among the pupils – we have been able to offer a wide range from gardening to British Sign Language and cake decoration to First Aid. These are all non-examined and support our wellbeing work with pupils. The enrichment curriculum extends to all pupils in year 9-11 next year.

Preparations also continue for September 2022 and the new year 7s who will join us. Due to large numbers wanting to join Mary Immaculate, we have increased our admission number to 190 (from 159). This means we will become a seven form entry school at least for next year and maybe the year after. This also means we will have to expand our facilities to support these pupils – there are plans for new toilets and a canteen extension to be in place for September 2022. During next academic year we will also be building a new pastoral support hub – this will house our highly regarded Bridge and a number of new counselling and pastoral rooms. This will be

in place for September 2023. All of this shows that what we offer is really prized by our community – it is a privilege to work in and for the local community to offer young people the learning and support they need.

There is more good news from our PE department. In a close fought final, our year 10 boys became the Welsh National Basketball champions for the first time winning out against much bigger schools. I was so proud of their success and for how they presented themselves at the event. Even our Year 11 boys came close to winning themselves!

Over the course of the next few years our trips and visits will return – including overseas events. Parents evenings may also return to being in person – it is important as parents you get to meet your child's teachers and see the facilities we have an offer. Other events we hope will also return to normal; we are particularly looking forward to new school productions and end of term liturgies and other events where we can celebrate children's achievements publicly. It was very pleasing that we were able to do that last month at our Eisteddfod celebrations.

We have a small number of staff who are leaving us at Easter. Miss Parry leaves the Maths department and Miss Revoire from Drama and English. Mr Peachey who retired last year but has returned recently to support the school leaves us again. We wish them all the best for the future. After Easter, Miss Attley joins us in a new role working to support post-COVID literacy and numeracy.

I want to wish all our families a happy and holy Easter. School reopens Monday 25th April

Huw Powell
Headteacher



Pupil Voice at Mary Immaculate



Mary Immaculate School has worked with Citizens Cymru to give students and staff training in active listening - which involves listening carefully to a speaker and being able to respond, reflect and retain the information.

Community Organiser of Citizens Cymru, Fiona Meldrum, said: "The purpose of the listening training was to get students to appreciate that schools are often the heart of the community and that they have potential and appetite to change the world around them." "We want to train students at Mary Immaculate on how they can make positive social change together and to build their sense of community and power to achieve change".

The School Parliament was democratically voted in earlier this year.

Head Boy, Blessing Kilonda, said "We value the importance of having a platform to share our views and opinions.

Listening training helped me personally understanding the value of engaging others and allowing them to speak openly."

Head Girl, Georgie Avery, added: "It is exciting to explore these issues and help everyone to see their rights and how we all need to ensure that we are respectful of others."

Pupils decided to focus on becoming a Rights Respecting School which aims to champion children's rights and explore the 45 Articles outlined in the United Nations Convention on Human Rights.

As a school we are very excited to see pupils use our garden and will continue to build partnerships with our local community to continue our exciting new enrichment curriculum.

School aims to give pupils a voice through listening training

Pupils value having a platform to "share" [their] views and opinions

Schools are "often the heart of the community"



Chaplain's Corner



Hello everyone and welcome to another newsletter. We had two major events this term, the celebration of St. David's Day and Ash Wednesday. St. David's Day began with a celebration of Mass with Canon Michael Evans, the Parish Priest of St. Patrick's Grangetown. Many pupils took an active part in the celebration by reading the scriptures and some of the prayers. They were excellent. The celebration then continued with the Eisteddfod. I am sure there will be an article on that elsewhere in the Newsletter. It was a great show of the talent that we have here in Mary Immaculate.

Ash Wednesday was the beginning of Lent. Each Lent the school tries to have a project. This year the project is in conjunction with the St. Vincent's Centre in Ely. We are collecting cans of food for the food bank that they are running. Our contribution is a can a week. Every Wednesday pupils are asked to bring in a can of food; so far the response has been exceptionally good. The manager of the Centre is coming to speak to the pupils in an assembly about the work that the Centre is doing.

Unfortunately, there will be no live Easter celebration this year, but we will be putting a video on the school website. It won't be that long, and it would be wonderful if lots of you could watch it.

All that remains for me to do is to wish you all a very happy Easter. May the risen Christ be with you all and give you comfort, peace and strength.



Rights Respecting School Award



The School Parliament and Rights Respecting steering group have been working hard this term. Having recently completed their 'leadership & listening' training provided by Citizen's Cymru, they have been using their new leadership and listening skills.

Letters have been sent home to all parents / guardians to inform them that Mary Immaculate is pushing forward to become a Right's Respecting School. To date, pupils have engaged in the 45 Articles on the Rights of a Child and have now set a clear action plan.

Targets set including raising awareness across the school through assemblies, academic review and PHSE. Additionally, creating display boards at key points through the school and launching competitions that help us all learn about our human rights and how these rights should be respected.

Year 7 & 8 Drama Club



We have recently set up a brand-new Drama club for Years 7 and 8. The club takes place on a Monday after school and spaces have already been filled to the brim with 30 students and more on the waiting list, if spaces become available.

The club is structured with games and tasks that students participate in, focusing on acting skills such as voice and physicality. The club aims to put on a short production that pupils will perform, recording this for others to watch. The benefit for pupils is that it enables them to become more confident individuals who are always willing to participate.

Pupils will also be equipped with skills for life, including collaboration skills, communication skills and vocal skills. The club will also help with pupils' confidence and allow them to be apart of a positive community environment.

Pupil's Absence From School

Please use the following ways to report an absence:

FIRST DAY YOUR CHILD IS OFF SCHOOL PLEASE RING- 02920 593465 (OPTION 2). There is an answer machine where you can leave your child's name, registration group and reason for absence and any other information. Voicemail is available 24/7.

CONTINUED ABSENCES- Please provide an appointment card or letter for GP, hospital, dentist etc.

PARENTMAIL- Messages and reasons for your child's absence can be sent to our App.

COVID ABSENCES-Please let us know when your child has had a positive PCR result as soon as possible and the date your child needs to return to school.

Student Details:

Please can you inform the school of any new student details. This is vitally important in the case of an emergency.

EISTEDDFOD



Perfformiad Cerddorol

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A huge thank you to all staff and students involved with their fantastic contributions towards the Eisteddfod this year. The Welsh department were delighted to receive so many entries of such a high standard.

We are pleased to announce that 7JP and 8KOI were our overall winners with the most fantastic entries and points totals overall -
da iawn!!

Welsh Exam Revision



Year 9 and 10 students working hard to revise and prepare for their final examinations-

DA IAWN!



FOOD 2022



Welsh 'Shout out'



Huge shout out to our ever growing Clwb Cymraeg - a fantastic session utilising Welsh apps and websites!

GCSE History Trip to London

In December, the history department held a trip to London for the GCSE history students. The trip involved a combination of historical excursions as well as a few Christmas related activities.

The three days began with an evening arrival to London, with pupils being mesmerised by the Christmas lights that lit up the main streets and shops- for many this was their first time in London. After food we checked into our hostel (simple but perfectly clean and welcoming) in the Elephant and Castle area of London. After a good night's sleep and breakfast our first day took us to the East End of London for a tour of the location of Jack the Ripper's vicious murders. Pupils were fascinated by this tour- not only did they recognise numerous places from their learning, but the tour guide was fantastically eccentric and informative! The tour was followed by a visit to the Maritime museum, then food.

Day two was the day everyone had been waiting for, not because of the Blitz tour (which was ok), or the visit to the Churchill War Cabinet Museum (full of brilliant Churchill quotes) but because the evening was spent buying gifts, filling up on crepes and choosing the craziest rides to go on in a very wet but magical Winter Wonderland in Hyde park.

Our final day was rounded off by an early visit to the Imperial War Museum (where we lost Mr Lambert who was enthralled by all the information), a terrifying trip to the London dungeons (screams galore) and a beautiful meal at Spaghetti House where they not only fed us with tasty food but also gave us Christmas crackers and played Christmas music. The perfect way to end a Christmassy history trip; informative, interesting and most of all fun!

A big thank you to Mr Lambert, Miss Carey and Miss Barker for agreeing to come on the trip with Miss Browning and look after 40 hyper, but very well behaved, GCSE students!





World Book



This year's World Book Day saw the return of many mischievous characters to the hallways and classrooms of Mary Immaculate. Pupils were both delighted and terrified by the assortment of playful and perilous protagonists that arrived to teach lessons.

One such deadly visitor was none other than the Syth Lord, DARTH Vader. You might be wondering to yourself, what is DARTH Vader doing making an appearance at World Book Day? Well, did you know that since the original release of the 1977 masterpiece, *Star Wars: A New Hope*, there has been an astonishing 381 books added to the well-known film franchise?



Despite having a busy schedule tormenting Batman and the people of Gotham, the Joker made his disturbing presence known as hideous cackles and laughs were heard echoing even about the menacing tones of the Imperial March as DARTH Vader patrolled the corridors to make sure that all pupils were aware of his menacing presence. Not bad for a 82 year old villain that has appeared in thousands of comics.

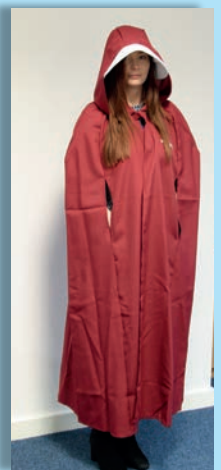
Frodo was spotted bounding down the corridor, seemingly lost on their way to Mordor. They even taught some English lessons during their brief visit to Mary Immaculate. Frodo was seen to be educating Year 7 on exactly what a Hobbit is, the history of Hobbiton and informing all pupils that Hobbits are particularly good listeners, before disappearing to find his best friend, Sam, and return the One Ring to Mordor!

As well as the villainous and heroic, we were also graced with the presence of the fairy-tale too. Little red riding hood delivered a whole basket of goodies to the staff room after running into a spot of trouble at Grandma's house. Snow white

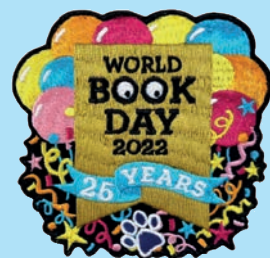
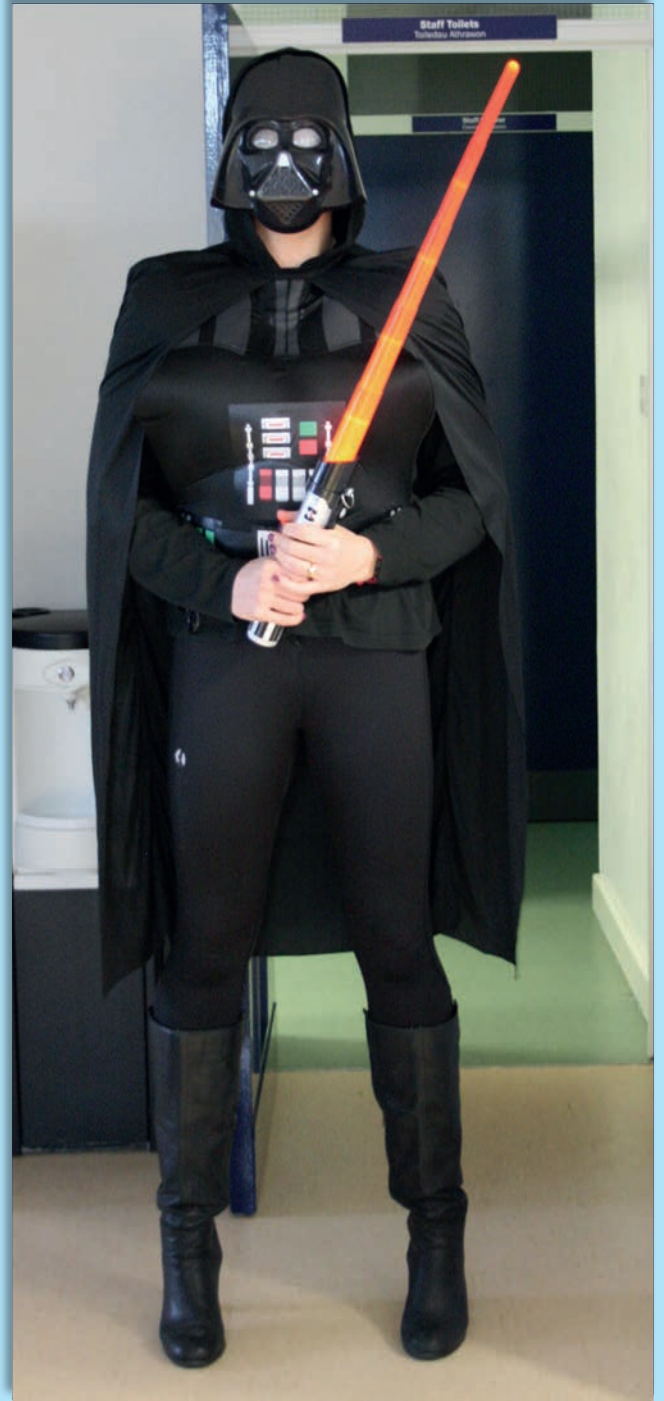
was also on hand to brighten everyone's day. Have you ever seen a host of birds, squirrels and deer tidy a classroom? If only all teachers were blessed with such a magnificent voice and the power to call animals to their aid.

Mario, minus Luigi, ran riot through the corridors collecting gold coins, with several pupils tripping over banana skins on their way to lessons. Meanwhile, Tweedledum (or was it Tweedledee?) returned, jumped right out of the looking glass loudly accusing their twin of ruining his nice new rattle, demanding a duel to settle to the argument.

Another whirlwind visit from the nefarious, the naughty, and the nice has left Mary Immaculate reeling once again. The question left in everyone's mind: when will the characters strike again?



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the MARY IMMACULATE SPORTSLETTER

The latest sporting achievements from MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mary Immaculate's Year ten boys' basketball team have become the Welsh Schools Basketball Finals Champions 2021/22.

This tops an outstanding season for the boys, where they've been unbeaten in the league and their 3 previous competitions.

This is how their competitions went:

Cardiff Regionals:

Mary Immaculate 19-0 Eastern High

Mary Immaculate 27-12 Cathays

Mary Immaculate 24-10 Bro Edern

Mary Immaculate 15-11 Glantaf

Progress onto Southern finals:

Mary Immaculate 13-6 Porthcawl

Mary Immaculate 14-2 Garth Olwg

Mary Immaculate 13-4 St Richard Gwyn

Mary Immaculate 14-5 Cwm rhymini

Progress onto the National finals:

Mary Immaculate 45-17 Bodedern

Mary Immaculate 26-24 Olchfa



The boys showed outstanding resilience and professionalism in the final coming from behind at 24-18 with a minute left to win 26-24. One of their key players, Idiado made numerous turnovers and scored a critical 10+ points at critical times throughout the game, an incredible performance.

Marcus Richards, the team's captain, spoke about how the "team's hard-work, dedication and desire" was key to their success. Marcus went on to say that the team "put a lot of time and effort into morning sessions to expand their knowledge and skills of the game, an advantage against any team they played."

Another thing Marcus mentioned, which encapsulates why they are so outstanding as a team was "that all of our players, whether it's those who start a game, or those who are a substitute have trust in each other to play well and get a positive result whether they are behind or in the lead"

Adam Camilleri, PE Teacher and Head of basketball for the school, went on to say that "all I asked the boys to do was enjoy themselves, I knew they had the skills, knowledge and organisation to go on and win the whole tournament. Additionally, I emphasised the importance of being focused for the duration of each game as one second lost in concentration could be hugely detrimental to their performance. This led to disciplined and professional performances in the semi-final and final. I could not be prouder."

It is safe to say that everyone at Mary Immaculate is immensely proud of the boys and wish them more success in seasons to come. Well Done Year 10!



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