

Spring 2024

# the MARY IMMACULATE NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

There were indeed many successes and accomplishments this term. Following on from the fantastic Estyn report in October, we were once again inspected as part of the Diocesan Inspection in February. This saw two inspectors in for two days – looking again at lessons and what we offer pupils -

Continued on page 2

Cover Photo: Year 10 Visit New York - see inside  
Also inside World Culture Day - and more



# Message From The Head Teacher

## Continued from front cover

-pastorally and spiritually. I am very pleased to say the team saw again the amazing support and challenge we give young people; they commented positively on the collective worship and prayer we undertake with pupils and called our pastoral support exemplary. We of course know this already but it is always good for this to be confirmed externally – twice now!

Although a short term, it has been a busy one with events. We saw a group of year 10s visit New York and go to a prestigious private school there as part of an Art visit. This was an amazing experience for them and one they will not forget. In addition, we saw another school production – this time Matilda – take place in February. Once again our school hall was filled many times over with pupils and adults enjoying such an amazing production – the pupils did us and their parents and wider community proud – I am sure many are on their way to stardom!

Once again this year, we saw two wonderful events in our yearly Eisteddfod and of course, our famous Culture Day. Seeing so many of our parents and community leaders come in to talk about their cultures and celebrate what it means to be an inclusive community really sums up one of the strengths of the school – and something that sends a wider sign to the wider world where we need a more inclusive and caring environment. You will be unsurprised to learn the pupils revelled in this experience; where we have over 50 languages spoken at home – it is all the more important to really celebrate who we are as a community!

Our new build will be opening soon – we are expecting a May launch with a formal opening by the Archbishop in July. One of the more innovative parts will be a new pupil reception to support pupils' pastoral needs throughout the day. It will of course house our new enlarged Bridge facility and new counselling rooms to offer ongoing support for

pupils' mental health – something the school has now been published for numerous times.

This year is also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of school being opened – we will be holding a special mass at school and are hoping to invite ex-pupils and staff. More information to follow, but please check our website as we will be looking for you to tell us your memories of the school these last 60 years!

Of course the next few weeks will see us getting down to examination preparation, coursework completion and of course the exams

themselves. It is so important year 11 take every opportunity presented to come to revision and finalise learning – exams will begin mid-May so there is no time to lose. Please let us know if we can support your son or daughter – we have given every pupil a special revision pack with a whiteboard, pens, cards and highlighters to help them. They will do us and you proud I know!

In the meantime, I hope your Easter was relaxing – we look forward to a productive and enjoyable term ahead.

H.J.Powell  
Headteacher





# Easter Liturgy

The end of the spring term at Mary Immaculate saw the Easter Liturgy taking place once again. Parents, students and members of local parishes were invited to worship in the school hall. The theme of our Easter liturgy this year was "What was I made for?" We reflected on Jesus' calling to sacrifice himself for us, and then turned our thoughts to what our own personal vocations may be.

Students worked hard with the music department to develop beautiful musical arrangements for the evening, one highlight being Lillie Bright (Year 10) performing an arrangement of Billie Eilish's "What was I made for?" as all attendees lit a candle to represent their calling in life. The drama department developed emotional performances that depicted Jesus' journey to the cross from his trial to the moment of his death.

Thank you to all those who attended this year, and we look forward to seeing you at future liturgies and religious events.

## Chill Club

It's been a busy term for the pupils and staff at "Chill Club!"

Pupils have enjoyed a Halloween themed party before half term. Our Pupils enjoyed playing games, listening, dancing and singing along to music. Playing on our PS4, taking part in arts and crafts, face painting each other, whilst feasting on lots of Halloween snacks and treats. We had such positive feed back from our pupils;

*"This is so much fun! I love chill club it's a place where you can just be happy!" Gethin Rodgers 9JP*

We also held a Halloween film night where some of the chill club pupils watched "Hocus Pocus." Our pupils also received hot dogs, sweets, popcorn, cakes and toffee apples.

*"Thank you Miss, we cannot wait for the next one! Can we have a Xmas film night?"*

### COMPETITION AND RAFFLE WINNERS!

Congratulations to Oreoluwu in 7BA on winning the chill club leaders t-shirt design!

Sahara Richards & Karmnu Junior Borg on winning a signed CCFC football.

Lamara-Ray Canning 8JP for winning the signed CCFC shirt

Lewis Zheng 9 KOL for winning the two CCFC match tickets!

### THANK YOU!

We would like to give a special thanks to Joe Ralls and Rubin Colwill for the fabulous CCFC donations and to Mrs Linda Hoskins for the CCFC match day tickets. The raffle was a great success and the pupils loved their prizes.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Nalani Tyson in year 8 for the fabulous Halloween cake she made for us in Chill Club. It was delicious! ( Pictured above )

And finally, a huge thank you to all our pupils and parents for your continuous support. Chill Club would not happen without all your kindness, generosity and support.



**Chill Club 3:20 -4:20pm in the Learning Resource Centre**  
**A safe and supervised environment for all pupils to enjoy.**  
**Come join us**

# Science Events



## Cardiff TeenTech Festival

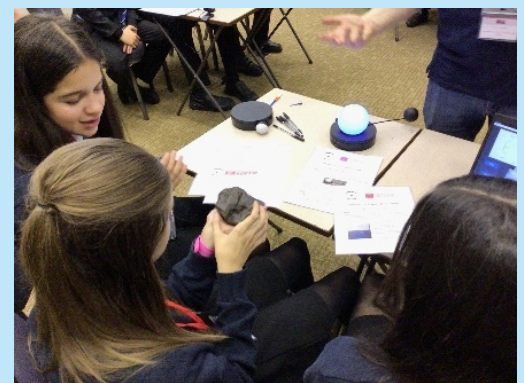
In December, 10 year a pupils attended the Cardiff TeenTech festival. During the day pupils got to experience different workshops and meet different scientists, engineers and technologists.

The first session allowed pupils to visit different STEM areas including, landing a virtual plane, learning about lasers and microscopes, using a VR headset, driving a mini forklift truck, making a moving hand from paper and straws, taking casts of teeth like a dentist would and learning about insurance.

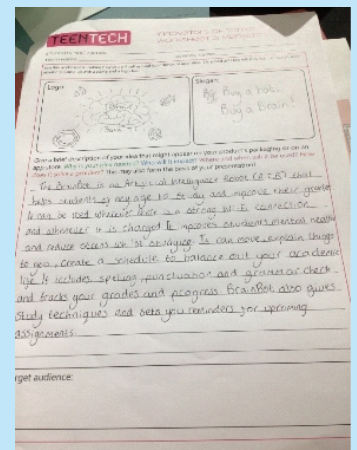
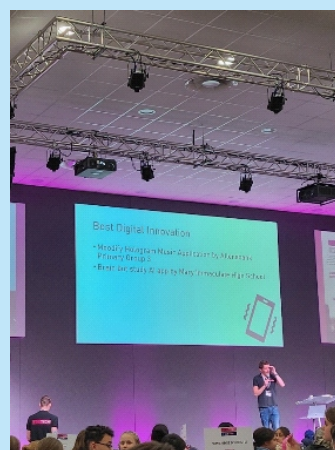


Our second session was all about team work. Pupils had to build a dome from sticks. (Left)

Our third session was all about space and how exoplanets are discovered. Pupils even got to hold a meteorite that was 4367 million years old... older than the earth itself. ( Right )



Our last session was all about pupils coming up with their own ideas on how to solve a problems. One team presented their BrainBot that would use AI to reduce student stress levels by helping them revise, coming up with revision timetables checking the quality of your work as well as setting reminders. The group got a special award for best digital innovation.

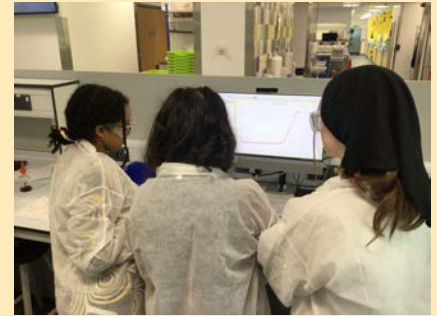
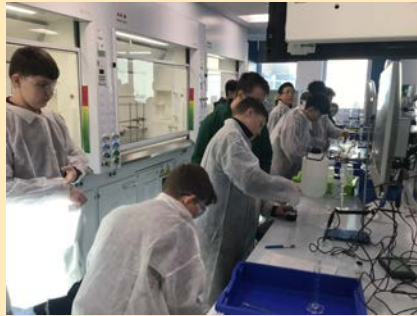




## Swansea U



In January, year a triple science students group visited the Chemistry department at Swansea University. Firstly, we got to hear about the various careers that involve chemistry -there were so many, ranging from investigating crime schemes to discovering new medicines.



We then got to do experiments in the University laboratories. We found out that aspirin is an acid, paracetamol is neutral and morphine is an alkali. We then used sensing equipment to carry out a neutralisation practical. In our second laboratory session, we made aspirin by carefully following a method using specialised scientific equipment.

Our afternoon session was in the pharmacy department where we got to use stethoscopes, measure our pulse rates and check prescriptions. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit!

[www.swansea.ac.uk](http://www.swansea.ac.uk)

SCIENCE



# Mary Immaculate's World Culture

At our school, we truly cherish the beauty of inclusivity and the tapestry of diversity that defines our community. That's why we decided to have another culture week and culture day this year, once again inviting everyone to come together and bask in the richness of our collective heritage. Culture isn't just something we observe from afar; it's woven into the fabric of our daily lives, shaping who we are and how we interact with the world. With this in mind, we embarked on another Culture Week, eager to explore and celebrate the our cultures that make our school so unique.

As we gathered for Culture Day, excitement filled the air. It was a day of discovery and joy, as students, teachers, parents, and local community members shared their traditions, stories, and experiences. Seeing everyone adorned in their beautiful traditional attire was like witnessing a living mosaic of cultures come to life before our eyes. From the tantalizing aromas of diverse cuisines to the rhythmic beats of global music, every moment celebrated our collective heritage.

I am deeply grateful to all the volunteers and parents whose dedication and support made Culture Day possible. Your efforts truly made a difference, and your presence added warmth and authenticity to our celebration. To the River Music Project, thank you for infusing our day with the soul-stirring rhythms of your drum sessions and Bollywood singing performance. Your contributions were the heartbeat of our celebration.

As I reflect on the joy and camaraderie shared during Culture Day, I am filled with gratitude and anticipation for the future. Together, we have laid the foundation for a more inclusive and harmonious community, where every culture is valued and celebrated. I look forward to continuing this journey of discovery and connection, as we embrace the unique tapestry of our school community with open arms.



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



**But we are One amazing community.**





# ulture Day 2024





# Culture Day photographs Con

More photos celebrating world culture day !





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But we are One amazing community.



# Eisteddfod 2024



On Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mary Immaculate staff and pupils in years 7, 8 & 9 celebrated St. David's Day with a School Eisteddfod. The Welsh and Music departments arranged an afternoon of performances with plenty of opportunity for audience participation.

We were extremely lucky to witness some truly talented students who volunteered to entertain us. Pupils from year 7 to year 10 took to the stage to give solo, group and instrumental performances that were thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Diolch yn fawr iawn and congratulations to all our performers:

**Milly Morgan and Enya 7Kol (Vocal duet) 'Call me Maybe'**

**Sara Wozniak 8 King and Jessie-Mai Mclean 8BK (Vocal duet)**

**Ore Fasasi 7Ba (Piano solo) 'Carol of the bells'**

**Caitlin-Marie Docherty 7Te (Vocal solo) 'Never Enough'**

**Welsh Recitation 'Fy Nheulu' – Yr 7 & 8**

**Nyla-Rae Barker 8King (vocal solo) 'Read all about it':**

**Victorine Mabengo 7Ba (vocal solo) 'Speechless'**

**Christina Mehari 9 King (Piano) 'In the Hall of the Mountain King'**

**Lillie Bright 10Ba and Mariana Petikova 10JP: (Vocal duet) 'Slipping through my Fingers'**

**Julia Pungaro 7 Kol (Vocal solo) 'A million Dreams'**

**Miki Zheng 7Kol (Cello solo) 'Dafydd y Garreg Wen'**

**Elysa Johnson & Shania Hoffman 7 Rom– (vocal duo) 'The Greatest'**

**Olivia Wonnacott 7 Rom– (Vocal solo) 'This is me'**

**Tianna Webster 10Ba: (Piano) 'Passagio'**

**Geraint Losmagos 7 Rom– singing 'Viva la Vida'**

**Tallulah and Federico 7 Rom– (Singing) 'Yma o hyd'**



**Above: Mrs Welsh**



**Above: Mrs Hinder**

The energy and enthusiasm in the room was tangible and provided a truly outstanding environment for all to enjoy the celebration. The audience showed great appreciation for the performers and their enjoyment was visible to all.

We were very proud to conduct our own chairing ceremony and our warmest congratulations go to the winner Feras Al Shehri from 8 Rom. The ceremony officials Ifeoma Okafor Yr 10 and Pleasant Ikwegbu Yr 11 escorted Feras to the stage having dressed him in his robe and 'crown'! Audience participation ensured that the bard was seated with everyone's approval. Both runners up were in year 7 and another huge 'da iawn' goes to Sophia Aherne 7 Te and Mercy Adeniji 7 JP. Many thanks to the English department for their work in selecting our winners and runners up.

Some notable highlights of the day would have to be the rousing rendition of our national anthem 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' and a particularly energetic and patriotic crowd performance of 'Yma o Hyd' led by Tallulah, Federico (and Mrs Welsh!) Geraint Losmagos certainly got the crowd on their feet with his rousing rendition of 'Viva la Vida'.

The Welsh Department would like to thank all staff and students for their support and especially Mr Childs for selecting and preparing the performers from the many volunteers, and ensuring we were able to hear all our performers clearly. We hope to see even more of you on stage next year sharing your many talents with us all and are already looking forward to Eisteddfod Ysgol Mary Immaculate 2025!





Above: Bard Feras Al Shehri 8Rom, Ifeoma Okafor & Pleasant

Above: Bard Feras Al Shehri 8Rom, Sophia Aherne & Mercy Adenji



Above: Lillie Bright 10Ba and Mariana Petikova 10JP

Above: Miki Zheng 7Kol

Above: Geraint Losmagos 7Rom

Above: Olivia Wonnacott 7Rom



Above : Tallulah and Federico 7Rom 'Yma o hyd'



Above: Tianna Webster 10Ba

Below: The national Anthem

Below: The national Anthem





# Year 10 Pupils Visit New York



In February 2024, 16 Year 10 pupils had an amazing opportunity to travel to New York on an educational exchange trip. All pupils are either studying GCSE Art and/or PE. The purpose of the trip was to experience the educational system in a different country as opposed to ours in the UK, with an added bonus of amazing sightseeing experiences. In order to qualify for this trip, an application had to be made to Taith, which provides funding to enable educational staff and learners to spend time abroad as part of their studies. It also brings learners and educators from around the world to Wales.

Leading up to the visit, all pupils were involved in many fundraising activities. From October to February, bake sales were held every Friday in school. In December, a major raffle was held in school with prizes consisting of; Wales Rugby signed shorts, Netball tickets, Manchester United Football tickets, hair and beauty vouchers and many more! Additionally, the PE department organised in-house competitions for football and netball to raise money towards purchasing jumpers for all pupils to wear. In January, our pupils were able to attend our local Tesco for a bag packing day where pupils had the opportunity to speak to the local community and inform them of our trip. In February, staff members attended the local gym and took part in a boxercise fitness class which was a massive success. Finally, we were fortunate enough to receive donations from the community which contributed to many tourist attractions. In total, we managed to raise over £3000! Without the support of the community and staff members, this would not have been possible.

Gatwick Airport



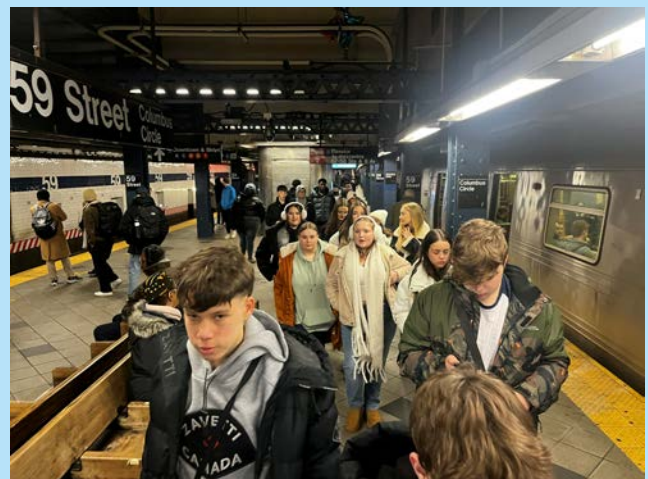
Mid flight excitement

For some of the pupils, it was their first ever time on a plane and for some, their first experience out of Cardiff. Fortunately, Taith also supported any families with payments towards their passport or towards additional items needed. We flew from Gatwick and with British Airways who provided an exceptional service for the 8 hours we were on the flight! Then whilst in New York, our main mode of travel was the subway – which was crazy busy!!

Across 7 days, pupils visited Riverdale Country School for 3 days, went ice skating in Central Park, visited Madison Square Garden to watch the New York Knicks basketball match, went up the Empire State Building and had plenty of time to shop around Times Square. A highlight for the pupils was to visit the The World Trade Center. This was a moving experience for all and an opportunity to reflect on those who were killed in the 2001 attacks.

Flights and accommodation were covered by Taith, with only food needing to be bought. During our stay, pupils chose to eat at many restaurants and fast-food takeaways including Raising Canes, the Hard Rock Café and Ellen's Stardust Diner – which was fantastic to listen to Broadway singers whilst eating our food! Location was perfect, with us staying in Manhattan – so perfect for walking to Times Square!

[www.taith.wales](http://www.taith.wales)



New York subway system



All pupils thoroughly enjoyed it and have quoted it as “a holiday to remember”. Staff Members Miss Evans and Mr Camilleri who were responsible for leading the trip have stated how amazing and well behaved all pupils were and are a credit to our school. Future plans are now involving Riverdale Country School to attend MIHS as part of the exchange and the GCSE Art pupils using their photographs taken in New York towards their projects in Year 11.



Above : Gatwick coach



Above : Manhattan skyline from Brooklyn



Above : Central Park

Below : Central Station



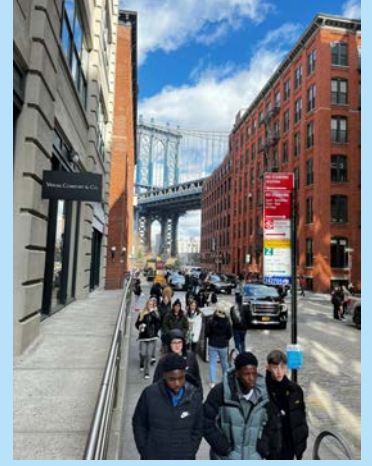
Below : Ice Skating in Central Park



Below : Ground Zero Memorial



Below : Brooklyn



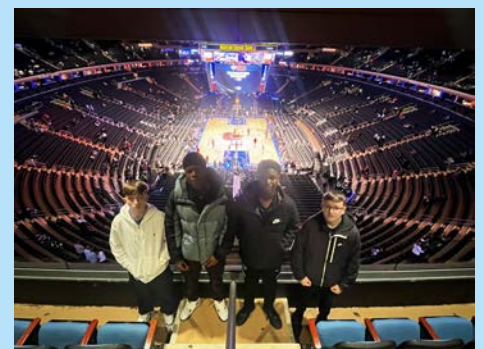
Below : Times Square



Below : Empire State Building View



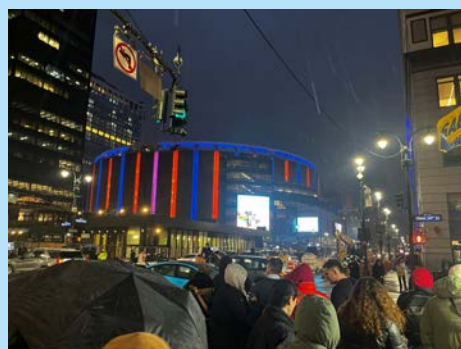
Below : Basketball at Madison Square Garden



Below : Riverdale School



Below : Madison Square Garden



Below : Ground Zero Memorial





# Mary Immaculate High School's Production of Matilda JR.

It was with great delight that we performed the musical, Matilda this year. Full of 'Revolting children', the pupils had a great time throughout rehearsals and the performances, for both primary schools and two sell-out audiences.

A little bit about the show - Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher Miss Honey. During her first term at school, the two forge a bond, as Miss Honey begins to recognise and appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Agatha Trunchbull, hates children and just loves to punish those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

***'Bambinatum est Maggitum - Children are maggots!'***

Our cast was incredible, and everyone is worthy of a mention in equal measure. from lead characters to chorus members, each were fantastic and a full cast list is shown on the right.



Above: Cast set "ONE "

Below: Cast set "TWO"





## Song List

Miracle  
Naughty  
Acrobat Story (Part 1)  
School Song  
The Hammer  
Naughty - Superglue  
The Chokey Chant  
This Little Girl  
Bruce  
When I Grow Up  
The Smell of Rebellion  
Quiet  
Revoluting Children



## Cast List

### Little Kids

Harriet North  
Poppy Richardson  
Tallulah Tajul  
Naveah Green  
Sophia Follett  
Marta Brownnut  
Olivia Wonnacott  
Daniel Intrigila-Cascon



### Big Kids

Imogen Russell  
Sofia Atufe  
Gethin Rogers  
Leah Watts  
Tianna Webber  
Amelia Stepnik  
Menna Thomas  
Jinghan Zheng  
Ava Driscoll  
Issy Stubbs  
Michelle Zajac  
Brianna Beja-Carvalho  
Isis Urzedo-Zucolli  
Dana Alhakami



## Cast List

### Actors

Erica: Marta Brownnut  
Tommi: Olivia Wonnacott  
Amanda: Naveah Green  
Bruce: Daniel Intrigila-Cascon  
Lavender: Tallulah Tajul  
Alice: Sophia Follett  
Hortensia: Eleni-Rose Robertson  
Nigella: Sara Wozniak  
Matilda: Poppy Richardson  
or Harriet North  
Mr Wormwood: Ethan Williams  
Mrs Wormwood: Nalani Tyson  
Michael: Jacob Sage  
Mrs Phelps: Elyssa Johnson  
Escapologist: Geraint Losmagos  
Acrobat: Tallulah Tajul  
Miss Honey: Lillie Bright  
Agatha Trunchball: Sofia Atufe  
or Gethin Rodgers  
Rudolpho: Ava Driscoll  
Sergei: Elyssa Johnson



A major production like this doesn't happen without the dedication and support of the staff, so thanks go to Miss Harries (Her first school show at Mary Immaculate), Mrs Dyer, Miss Evans and Mr Childs. Every year we think we can't do better, but each year we always manage to, due to the boundless energy of the youngsters involved.

Finally, and most importantly, we would like to thank our pupils who worked incredibly hard from the Autumn to February, giving up their time after school and on weekends to rehearse. For many it was their first ever performance on a stage in front of a live audience and they were outstanding in each and every performance. We are already looking forward to the next show, what ever that may be!

**Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical JR.*** is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

## Mary Immaculate High School Presents



# ROALD DAHL Matilda THE MUSICAL JR.

Book by  
DENNIS KELLY

Music & Lyrics by  
TIM MINCHIN

**7th and 8th of February 2024**

Doors open 6.30 pm - Performance 7.00 pm

Adults : £ 4.00 Concessions/Children : £ 2.00  
Caerau Lane, Wenvoe, Cardiff. CF5 5QZ

Box Office 02920 593465

www.maryimmaculate.org.uk



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# the MARY IMMACULATE SPORTSLETTER

The latest sporting achievements from MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL



## Year 11 Boys make Football Final

Sport can be very cruel at times and sometimes things just don't go the way that you want them to. It was a tough loss for our year 11 boys in the Curtis Welsh National Cup- Year 11 against a solid Syr Hugh Owen team.

The match was played on the 5th March at Penydarren Park, the home of Merthyr Tydfil FC. While the team lost, they did not go down easily working hard and fighting until the final whistle constantly pushing our opponents. An early goal for us looked promising, but subsequent lapses in focus costs us the result overall in the end. The team took the loss result well and showed true sportsmanship, congratulations to Syr Hugh Owen boys team.

There were loads of opportunities for us but sadly we could not capitalise on them and win the game with final score not reflecting the competitive nature of the game. Our Year 11 boys have made us so proud this year, with minimal training fitted in around their already busy academic schedule, and other sporting commitments. They have still managed to make this National final and bowed out in exceptional fashion. Well done, boys.

Special recognition goes to Jaden Bahumaid for his outstanding performance and to Cian Presdee, who earned the Man of the Match title for his captain's performance and exemplary leadership throughout the game.



**The Year 11 boys team**

## MIHS Girls Sport

In February 2024, our Year 7 netball team travelled to Stanwell School to compete in the County Netball Tournament. The girls worked incredibly hard and won 2 out of 4 matches. MIHS beat Glantaf and Cathedral School but losing out to Radyr and Stanwell. Well done girls!!



Additionally, the Year 7 Girls Football Team travelled to Howell's School to participate in a Football Tournament. A total of 5 games were played. The first match was against a well-disciplined Llanishen team who managed to come away with a goal. The second match saw the girls take the 3 points against a fast-paced Cantonian team with a fantastic goal from Ifeoluwa in the bottom corner! Our 3<sup>rd</sup> match showed off our resilience and the girls did not give up against a very strong Bishop of Llandaff team. We progressed through to the Silver Semi Final where the girls kept their heads in the game to see them win 4-3 on penalties against Howell's! Unfortunately, it was not meant to be with St John's College taking the final win beating MI 1-0. However, the girls came away all smiling and I think that reflects us as a school! Well done girls!

**The Year 7 girls football team**



For all the latest sport news follow the PE Dept **MIHSPE**