

Summer 2024

the MARY IMMACULATE NEWSLETTER



Cover Photo: His Grace Mark O'Toole Archbishop of Cardiff and Menevia presides at the official opening of the Churchill Centre : See page 6

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we approach the end of term for the 2023-24 academic year, I look back on one of the most successful years for us in a long time. This year we saw Estyn return , along with our Diocesan Inspection team.

Continued on page 2



Message From The Head Teacher

Continued from front page;

The two reports that were published show the school in an incredible light – the support for pupils, our pastoral care, our academic challenge and our ongoing desire to go over and above for our pupils was seen at every turn. I pay tribute to our pupils and of course to our teachers for their hard work leading to such amazing outcomes.

In the last few weeks, we have seen the opening of our new Pastoral Hub building. This is a large space where we can offer all the services seen in our highly regarded Bridge, but a lot more. It has counselling rooms, a parental meeting room and a new pastoral reception where pupils can get help with uniform, timetables and other pastoral concerns. This provides an amazing resource I am eager to show parents at our next Open Evening. This of course supplements our canteen extension and brand new toilets for our pupils to use – cementing us as having amazing resources for pupils – it is no wonder parents fight for their place here – with another 190 pupils coming to us in year 7 next year. It will be a pleasure for them to use such amazing facilities.

In the last few weeks and months, we have been lucky to have so many trips to enrich our pupils' curriculum. Pupils have been to London on an overnight Arts trip. We also had pupils in London for a visit to the Tower of London as part of the Superbloom win that has given us new plants and expertise for our Pastoral Hub garden. Trips also visited Airbus, Techniquest and Cardiff University and pupils visited Llangollen to collect their Peacemakers Award for the work of the Bridge and our Mental Health team. Finally – well done to our pupils who attended the NFL Flag event in Loughborough after winning the Wales event. Although they did not win – they came fourth in a highly competitive field – not bad for their first attempt!

A few of our staff are moving on to new roles this term. Mrs Ronan our Head of year (among other

numerous roles) is moving on to a new school. We also say goodbye to Mrs Merola who is retiring and Mrs Azam who leaves us at the end of her sabbatical. Finally we say a special goodbye, thank you and a happy retirement to Mrs Churchill. Mrs Churchill has been at Mary Immaculate for years – in that time she has taught many of you as parents and really become the heart of our community. She has served our school dutifully for many, many years – it was fitting that our new block was named the Churchill Centre in her honour recently. It is a fitting tribute to her years of service to you as parents and pupils!

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 still be growing 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.

Finally – this term we were fortunate to hold our 60th anniversary Mass. It was such a pleasure to meet and talk to staff, pupils and parents from over the last 60 years as part of our celebration. The Archbishop said our special Mass – as well as opening our new block. This summed up the completion to such a successful year.

Please enjoy your holidays – school reopens for pupils Wednesday 4th September. We look forward to seeing you all again then!

H.J.Powell
Headteacher



Jobs Carousel 2024

As part of our ongoing Preparation for Post 16' programme, year 10 have recently participated in 2 events. On Wednesday June 26th we welcomed representatives from Wates and Dow Silicones to deliver sessions on completing a successful application form and preparing for interview during our Employability Skills Day.

The sessions were productive and informative and pupils have since completed their mock application forms in readiness for their "Interviews" on July 11th.

July 4th saw 15 different organisations and businesses visit us to facilitate a "Careers Carousel" day. The day began with an informative presentation by Jo Tanner from Cardiff and Vale College about the huge variety of options and pathways that they offer at Post 16, with pupils being reminded that the application process will begin for them in November. At the main carousel event, pupils engaged in short 10-minute sessions with each employer where they received information and asked questions about paths to further education and employment. The students were extremely engaged and feedback from all who attended was incredibly positive. The smaller groups and shorter sessions allowed everyone to inter act far more effectively and productivity of the sessions was focused and effective. Our Careers Wales advisor Ana Nunes also delivered a Post 16 Options session and will continue to work with pupils and parents to support and advise them.

Employers commented that they had "really enjoyed meeting the pupils" they had enjoyed "extremely interesting and enlightening conversations" and how refreshing it was to see so many young people "with a very clear vision of their future aspirations".



Above : ISG staff with pupils



Above : Pupils changing stations in a very busy hall

A huge thanks to all who attended, especially to those companies listed below. Please come again!

British Transport Police	Educators Wales
ACT	ISG (construction)
Dept of Business and Trade	Mirus (Social Care)
Little Inspirations (nursery)	Environmental Health
Viridor (green energy)	ITEC
Evans Electrical	St David's Hotel
Big Ideas Wales	'Cropped' (Running your own business)

Science Events



Generation Tech

Recently visitors from GenerationTech at Cardiff University came into school to run a physics workshop with a group of our year 8 pupils. The pupils were split into groups and each group had to come up with a company name and logo and solve problems using Science. Amongst the challenges on offer was to find lost hikers in the hills and another was to develop an avalanche detector. 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.



British Science Week

To celebrate British Science Week in March, year 8 pupils were invited to attend a series of workshops at Cardiff University Physics and Astronomy department. Pupils were introduced to old theories of the solar system such as the Earth being the Center of the universe (Platonic geocentrism) and they also got to think about whether there is life on other planets.

We then listened to a lecture about the science of scuba diving, presented by Prof. Paul Roche of Cardiff University.

Pupils also attended a workshop where we got to do experiments using infra red cameras and then went on to learn about exoplanets in our solar system. It was a very fun and educational day for all the pupils involved - thank you Cardiff University for having us.



So what, Stem?

In June, approximately 50 year 7 pupils attended a 'So what, STEM?' event at Cardiff University. Firstly they learnt about how a turbine works using the smallest wind turbine in the world! Then they learnt about different shapes and how we can use maths to solve problems and how STEM subjects can be used to save lives.



In the afternoon, we attended a STEM fayre which had various interactive stalls; from making viruses and DNA bracelets to making casts of teeth with the Cardiff school of Dentistry. Pupils also competed against other schools to make the strongest bridge out of spaghetti! We didn't win the competition the pupils had a lot of fun while learning about constructing structures.

Below: Pupils in the lecture theatre



Below: The Cardiff Uni lecture team



Below: Creating a "virus"



Below: Dissection of an anatomically correct fake otter



Below: Electrolysis



Below: Spaghetti bridges



New School Block has official op

Mary Immaculate High School has recently expanded its on-site nurture facility, called 'The Bridge,' to offer tailored support and intervention to a greater number of students. The specialist provision caters to students with emotional, mental health, and wellbeing issues. Staff offer a range of intervention strategies to help students overcome barriers to learning while also nurturing them to be ready for the real world. The Bridge also provides a sanctuary for students who need extra support and comfort. The expansion includes a new outdoor area as well as intervention rooms that will allow staff to help individual students in private.

Nadia Yassien, Head of The Bridge, said:

"It's important we have this extra space to utilise different interventions, which will allow us to help with the more complex needs our students have. Covid increased the number of students with mental health and wellbeing issues, particularly anxiety. There are also a lot more young carers now. We are also seeing many negative impacts of social media, from cyberbullying to unrealistic expectations. We will never give up on any student, even if it takes them until Year 11 to turn around. They need to know they are going to be listened to and supported throughout their school journey."

Staff at The Bridge work hard to build relationships with parents and carers, as well as developing partnerships with outside agencies, including the educational psychology service, mental health services, school nurse teams, social services, and police community liaison officers. The Bridge was recently recognised by schools inspectorate Estyn for its effective practice in removing barriers to learning.

Huw Powell, Headteacher of Mary Immaculate, said:

"We are proud of The Bridge and what it has achieved for our students in terms of removing barriers to learning and giving them the support and comfort they need. We are grateful to the local authority for recognising the value of The Bridge and for providing the investment to help it expand. With this much-needed expansion, The Bridge can properly fulfil its role as a sanctuary within our school and allow us to support even more students."

The new centre is called "The Churchill Centre" after Mrs Churchill, who is retiring this summer after 28 years working at Mary Immaculate. Mrs Churchill has been involved with the welfare of our pupils for the majority of her career and will be missed. The "Churchill Centre" was officially opened and blessed by His Grace Mark O'Toole, the Archbishop of Cardiff and Menevia, on 2nd July 2024 in the presence of staff and pupils, both past and present.



Right: The new Bridge garden area, planting to commence soon.

Opening

The opening has been long anticipated, with numerous delays caused mainly by the exceptionally wet weather that we have had over the winter. Once this cleared the tradesmen went full-steam to complete it as soon as they could. We would like to offer our thanks to all those involved in creating this space for our pupils. Special thanks to Cardiff City Council and Weavers the main building contractor.



Above the Bridge Kitchen



Above: The Bridge looking out to the garden



Above : Headteacher Mr Powell, Greeting all those attending the opening.



His Grace officially opening the Churchill Centre

Below : His Grace bestowing his blessing



Below: Mrs Churchill who the centre is named after



Visiting Cardiff Museum



Cardiff Museum Trip - Friday May 17th

Pupils in Year 7 attended a trip to Cardiff Museum to take part in a literacy workshop and a reading challenge that led them around the various areas of the museum.

They had a thoroughly enjoyable day which was a reward for their commitment, positive attitude and progress of their literacy skills.

The workshop was led by the Educational Director within the museum who challenged pupils with a creative writing task using various artefacts to inspire and spark their imaginations.

The progress that pupils demonstrated from start to finish was fantastic! They worked collaboratively, showed great enthusiasm and engagement to the task they undertook.



The behaviour of the pupils was exceptional throughout the day and they should be very proud of the way they represented Mary Immaculate High School. I hope they enjoyed the day as much as Mr Birch and I did.

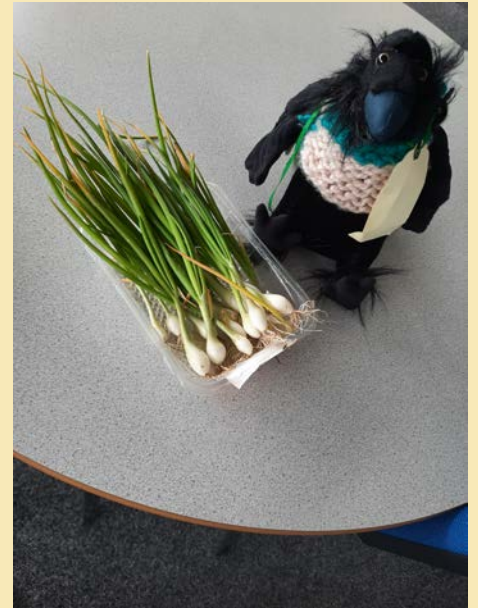
Many thanks,
Mrs Butler



Gardening Enrichment

Spring made its way into summer and the Enrichment Gardeners of Years 9 and 10 have been busy. Some of the spring onions that were planted in October have been harvested, cleaned and provided to the canteen staff to add to school lunches. Mint and Basil have taken well to the soil in the greenhouse and the hard working team under the stewardship of Mr Doonan and Mr Birch have tended to the plants, watering regularly and weeding along with 'dead heading' the roses which encourages the flower to produce more of its pink petals. Perhaps our most amazing achievement has been to grow two tomato plants from just a slice of tomato. Sadly we have lost one of the plants but we are hopeful the other one will produce fruit before school ends for the summer break.

We have recently been joined by a few guests with squirrels and at least one of the local pheasants being visitors to our garden. Keep your eyes and ears open and you will hear and see them.



Above: "Geoffrey" with freshly harvested spring onions



Above from left ; Mason Paul, Jaidan Biggs, Ridwan Rahman, Noel Cox, Jacob Salt, Dylan Cox , Preston Sargent

AKA " the Garden Gang"

By the time of print Mrs Sanger and Mr Birch would have returned from The Tower of London having taken pupils from Year 9 and 10 to The Superbloom Tower of London initiative. Supported by the mascot; Geoffrey (The Raven) the pupils were looking forward to meeting the project founders and showing off their knowledge of what they had been planting throughout the year.

Below left : Green house growth Centre :Preston Sargeant sowing thyme Right: Miss Whitty in the kitchen



School Eco Committee



Over the past few months, our School Eco Committee has been focusing their efforts on cleaning up the school and finding ways to make us more eco-friendly by recycling more of our waste. Rhoslyn Hancock in 11 King did a smashing job of writing up a sponsorship letter for us and the committee went out of their way to approach potential sponsors and local companies who might be able to contribute to our purchase of new recycling stations around the school so that our staff and pupils can dispose of their rubbish in a cleaner, greener way.



We would like to thank M & J Cosgrove construction company and the taxi and transport company Veezu who have generously donated to our recycling fund, allowing us to purchase some new recycling bins to place around the school - thank you so much. If anyone in our community would like to help us with any further donations to place recycling stations around the school grounds, please get in touch with the School Office. We hope that next year we'll be able to reduce the number of black bags that go to landfill from MIHS to be as close to zero as possible.



Term dates for 2024/2025

Autumn 2024

Term starts: Monday 02/09/24 (Staff)
Wednesday 04/9/24 (Pupils)
Half Term: Monday 28/10/24 - Friday 01/11/24
Term ends: Friday 20/12/24

Spring 2025

Term starts: Monday 06/01/25
Half Term: Monday 24/02/25 – Friday 28/02/25
Term ends: Friday 11/04/25

Summer 2025

Term starts: Monday 28/04/25
Half Term: Monday 26/05/25 – Friday 30/05/25
Term ends: Friday 21/07/25

INSET days

Monday 02/09/24
Tuesday 03/09/24
Friday 25/11/24
Friday 17/01/25
Monday 10/03/25
Monday 21/07/25 (as a twilight)

Easter

Maundy Thursday 17/04/25
Good Friday 18/04/25
Easter Sunday 20/04/25

Young Mental Health Champions Award



We are thrilled to announce that some of our young pupils have received an prestigious Young Peacemakers Award. Nominated by Mrs. Yassien as Young Mental Health Champions to the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA), they have been recognised for their outstanding contributions in the bridge area of our school, where they have provided invaluable support and mentorship to our younger students.

The pupils travelled to the eight annual Young Peacemakers Awards, held this year at the Llangollen Eisteddfod on the 5th of July to receive their award (Pictured below).

These exceptional students have also been instrumental in organising and assisting with various after-school events throughout the year. Their dedication was particularly evident during the recent New Year Sevens Evening held this month. Their contributions have significantly enriched the Mary Immaculate community, and they are truly deserving winners of this award. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their invaluable service and commitment.



Left hand photo , left to right; Alanna Kemble, Soliana Yonas and Radah Mohamed

Head Boy & Head Girl 2024

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

We are Hope Kilonda (bottom right) and Leona Atabong (bottom left) and we have the absolute privilege of introducing ourselves as the Head Boy and Head Girl at Mary Immaculate. We are supported by our deputies, Jacob Paleki and Azza Alkoko.

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. We both have suggestions to make World Culture day more fun for us all. We also have other ideas regarding a "tuck shop" and an increase in numbers of sporting events. But for now we are just happy to introduce ourselves. Have a great summer and thank you for voting for us.



60 Years of Catholic Education and Mary Immaculate



Mary Immaculate High School celebrated 60 years of Catholic education on this, its current site on Tuesday the 2nd of July. The first incarnation of the school at the site was known as Mostyn Secondary School and it opened in September 1963 with 393

pupils on the register. They all came from the feeder schools of Saint Cuthberts, Saint Patrick's, and St. Francis. Pupils from St. Mary's primary later also started to attend. The school's name was officially changed to Archbishop Mostyn in RC High School in 1965.



In 1987, the school was renamed and became Mary Immaculate High School. In 1996, the school was extensively rebuilt, to form a 5-form entry level school on the its current site. The old buildings were torn down and most of what we use today was built. This rebuild was completed in 2002, and the new school was opened by then First Minister Rodri Morgan, following a service by Archbishop Peter Smith.

To celebrate our 60th anniversary we invited past Staff and pupils to attend a mass which was presided over by His Grace Archbishop Mark O'Toole from Cardiff Archdiocese. It was a moving ceremony , accompanied by the Mary Immaculate Choir

who sang beautifully adding to the atmosphere throughout . Some of our pupils also took an active part in the ceremony, giving readings and assisting the Archbishop in his duties throughout the evening. Past Headteacher Mr Michael Howells (1980-1998) then gave a speech reflecting on his time at the school, Starting from the very original opening of "Mostyn" as he was one of the teachers present when the school first opened in 1963. After the Mass there was a buffet for all those who came to enjoy, allowing those present to catch up with old friends, Colleagues and former teachers .

Please have a look at these photos and realise the history of the school and reflect on those who came in the sixty years before you. You are part of a fabulous and well-established community here at Mary Immaculate.

Left: 2013



'Ex-head to see 'vision' finished

By Margaret O'Reilly
Education Correspondent

MICHAEL Howells was a new and very junior teacher when his school opened its doors to pupils for the first time.

Now, 36 years on, he has retired as headteacher and the buildings will soon be flattening these same buildings.

But Mr Howells is maintaining his special relationship with Mary Immaculate RC High School on Carran Lane, Ely, Cardiff, by overseeing the rebuilding of the same school for the next century.

The school is being transformed in a £5.4m scheme which will give it some of the best facilities in Cardiff.

The school is currently on two sites either side of the Ely Link Road. Buildings on both sites are deteriorating and pupils waste up to 30 minutes a day walking between the two far lessons.

Despite the difficulties, the 700-pupil school is thriving and was re-subscribed this year.

It has been a long battle to obtain the funding and planning permission to rebuild an improved school on a single site.

Delay followed delay and Mr Howells' hopes of seeing the result of his campaigning before he retired faded.

But when he retired from the school last summer, new head Philip Gilpin and the governors took the

decision to retain him to oversee the project.

"For someone new to come in and face the complexities of a project like this one would have been very difficult," said Mr Gilpin.

"It could have become so absorbing that the real role of headteacher became secondary. Now I can concentrate on the job I was appointed to do," he said.

Mr Howells said: "It will be terrific to see the project through. I would have been disappointed to leave things half finished."

"I wanted to see the fruition of my

the inside of the building to be transformed over a weekend, changing the shape of classrooms and corridors.

But the reinforced concrete classroom block suffered the same short-lived fate of many 1960s buildings and is now in urgent need of replacement.

No one will be happier than Mr Howells when the classrooms he saw filled for the first time in 1963 are flattened.

The campaign to create a new single-site school began in 1999 after Government inspectors criticised the time wasted by pupils having to move between sites.

They praised educational

Michael.

"We just had to persist," said Mr Howells. "There were huge problems about the ownership of the land, buildings and the footbridge linking the two sites."

"The Welsh Office said it was the most complex project of its type they have dealt with."

"It will probably be Spring 2002 before everything is finished," he said.

The school will have a new sports hall, changing rooms, IT facilities, music halls and teaching block. There will be a large resource centre and library.

A courtyard designed by pupils will be at the heart of the school and the school is also raising money for a chapel.

Mr Gilpin said: "Francis and the parishes have remained loyal to the school despite the difficulties and that says a lot about what goes on here."

"Now we will be able to repay that loyalty with state of the art accommodation."

There are plans to expand occasional classes at the school and Mr Gilpin can see a day when video conferencing could be the norm, offering pupils much more choice in what they learn.

"I would like us to think much more imaginatively about what sort of life we are preparing kids for in the 21st Century. In 2015 the skills which will be highly prized will be creativity. How people think will be the most important," he said.

WE JUST HAD TO PERSIST. THERE WERE HUGE PROBLEMS ABOUT LAND, BUILDINGS AND BRIDGE LINKING SITES



FORMER HEADTEACHER
Michael Howells.

'The school project will be one of Michael Howells' legacies'

Mr Gilpin added: "Michael Howells was involved in the school over four decades and has a huge emotional attachment to it. The project will be one of his legacies to the school."

When the £120,000 upper school site first opened among green fields, it was described as "magnificent" by then headteacher John O'Connell.

"You could not ask for better," he said the Echo at the time.

One of the pioneering features was their participating which

standards but said they were affected by pupil spending had as much as a day walking between lessons which often started 10 minutes late.

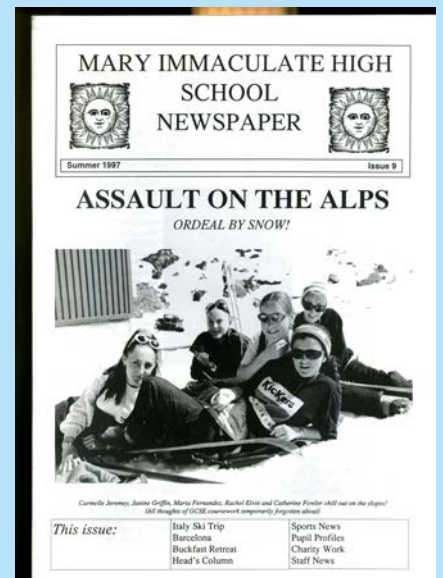
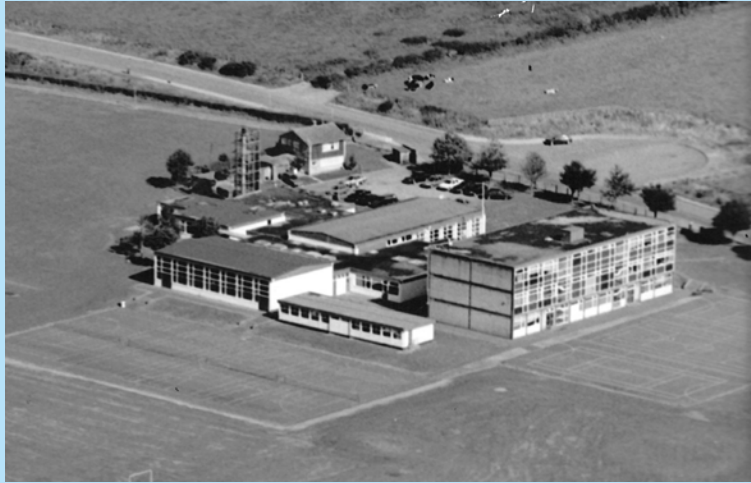
The school approached South Glamorgan County Council and the Archdiocese of Cardiff without success and in April 1994 opted out of local authority control.

It allowed governors to apply direct to the Secretary of State for Wales for funding. Since then they have had to deal with five, David Hunt, John Redwood, William Hague, Ken Clarke and Alton.

Get a story about education for us? Contact Echo Education Correspondent Margaret O'Reilly on 01222 537111

MONDAY Time To Remember TUESDAY Health Check WEDNESDAY The Profile THURSDAY Education Echo FRIDAY Friday People SATURDAY On the Case

ation at Archbishop Mostyn culcate High School



Facts:

- In the 60 years since Mostyn First opened, nearly 12,000 pupils have attended the two schools.
- There have been five headteachers and 1 acting headteacher and well over 300 members of teaching staff.
- The school faced closure in 2009 but thankfully remained open and has gone from strength to strength since.
- We have had multiple excellent inspection ratings, and some excellent exam results being achieved by you the pupils (guided by your committed teachers of course).
- The original school uniform was Green with yellow, then later a bright blue before eventually settling on the oxford blue we have today.
- the school once occupied two sites, with a footbridge over the A4232 used by pupils to go to between the two sites (see photo over-leaf)



Above: Split site school show foot bridge- year unknown



Above : 2005 Below : Mary Immaculate Day 2006

Below: End of sports day 2018



Below : Paris 2016



Our History

Archbishop Mostyn RC High School - Mary Immaculate High School 1963-1987

C.S.E. introduced across England and Wales To complement O Levels	1963	The Mostyn Secondary School opens. Jack O'Connell appointed Headteacher
	1964	Official opening by Archbishop John Murphy
Expansion of Comprehensive Schools	1965	Name changed to Archbishop Mostyn RC 11-16 School
	1971	Top floor of Cyntwell Comprehensive 'leased' to ease accommodation problems
	1971	Archbishop Mostyn RC High School takes over the Cyntwell building and becomes a split site school. Upper School (Years 4, 5) and Lower School (Years 1, 2 and 3)
Raising of the School Leaving Age to 16	1972	
	1975	Archbishop Mostyn RC High School adds a Sixth Form 11-18
Education Act allows parents greater choice of schools for their children	1986	HMI Inspection
GCSEs introduced across England and Wales.	1980	Michael Howells appointed Headteacher
	1987	Reorganisation of Catholic Secondary Schools in South Glamorgan. Archbishop RC Mostyn High closed, one of six schools. Mary Immaculate High School 11-16 opened as one of four 11-16 schools serving the newly created St. David's Catholic Sixth From College
Education Act. National Curriculum across England & Wales. Introduction of Local Management of Schools (LMS)	1988	

Mary Immaculate High School 1990 - present day

Teaching Welsh Language made Compulsory up to age 14.	1990	First Mary Immaculate High School Estyn Inspection
Local Government Reorganisation. 22 Local Authorities created in Wales.	1994	Mary Immaculate High School acquires Grant Maintained status.
	1996	Mary Immaculate High School now has Lower School in Cardiff and Upper School in the Vale of Glamorgan. Permission to build on one site granted by Welsh Office.
School Standards and Framework Act National Curriculum and Local Management of Schools introduced. The Government of Wales Act. The National Assembly - Devolved Government.	1998	Philip Gilpin appointed Headteacher.
Education Act	1999	Mary Immaculate High School returns to Voluntary Aided status ..
Key Stage Testing ends in Wales Curriculum Regulation Education & Skills Act	2000	New build commences.
Raises Leaving Age to 17	2002	Official opening of the single site new building by Archbishop Peter Smith.
	2008	Simon Canham appointed Acting Head. Threat of closure of Mary Immaculate High School.
	2009	
	2010	Following appointment in 2009 Marc Belli joins the school as Headteacher on 21st June 2010.
	2011	Closure threat withdrawn.
School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act. Qualifications Review	2013	50th Anniversary.
	2014	Huw Powell appointed Headteacher
	2023	New Pastoral Hub Build starts
	2024	New area opens - 60th anniversary celebrated

Harry Potter Studio Tour



This term, 50 lucky Year 7 students embarked on an exciting journey to the Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio Tour, London. Travelling by coach, the anticipation was palpable as we set off early in the morning, eager for a day filled with magic and adventure.

Upon arrival, pupils tucked into extravagant snacks and treats based on items from the Wizarding world. We were seriously jealous of those ENORMOUS ice-creams!

After a magical introduction in the cinema room from the cheeky Phelps twins who portrayed Fred and George Weasley (or was it George and Fred?), We were immediately immersed in the world of Harry Potter. Our tour began with a behind-the-scenes look at the sets, costumes, and props that brought the beloved books to life. One of the first stops was the Great Hall, where we marvelled at the intricate details and grandeur of Hogwarts' dining room currently showing the costumes from the marvellous Hubble Bubble scene at the beginning of the Prisoner of Azkaban. We learned that the enormous singing toad puppets were much too heavy for the child actors, so they had to be controlled by puppeteers in green screen suits from behind the actors.



Above: Outside the studio



Above : Diagon Alley

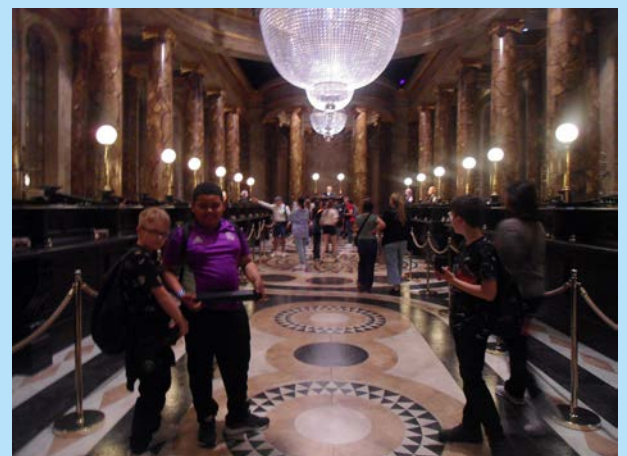
The tour continued through the Forbidden Forest and Diagon Alley, each area offering unique insights into the filmmaking process. Pupils (and teachers) were terrified by the magical creatures in each areas, some running screaming from the huge Acromantula, Aragog, descending from the ceiling in the forbidden forest set. Who decided huge animatronic spiders were a good idea?

A highlight of the trip was the photo experience on the Hogwarts Express. Students lined up to take turns posing in the famous train compartments, recreating scenes from the movies. It was a delightful moment, with many of us pretending to sip pumpkin juice and snack on chocolate frogs, and even being terrified by dementors!

The learning didn't stop there. We discovered fascinating facts about special effects, animatronics, and the creative work of the costume and makeup departments. It was inspiring to see how much effort and talent went into creating the magical world we love.

No visit would be complete without a stop at the massive gift shop. It was a treasure trove of memorabilia, from wands and house scarves to Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans. One of the most popular items among students was the delicious sugar quills, a sweet treat that many of us couldn't resist buying.

As the day drew to a close, we boarded the coach for the return journey. Despite the tired faces, there was a sense of fulfilment and excitement from the day's experiences. It was a trip that not only entertained but also educated, leaving us with wonderful memories and a deeper appreciation for the magic of film-making.



the MARY IMMACULATE SPORTSLETTER

The latest sporting achievements from MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL



Introducing “Flags” Success

Here at Mary Immaculate, the PE Dept has this year introduced the pupils to a new sport called “Flags”. The game is a variant of gridiron or as it is more commonly known “American football”. This version of the game is non-contact and this means that the teams are a mixture of boys and girls. Our year mixed Year 7 & 8 team has, under the guidance of Mr Gasson and Miss Evans gone on to win Wales’ Inaugural Regional Championship. The team faced tough competition but managed to go through the tournament unbeaten.



4th at the UK Championships

As a result, the team progressed the UK National Championship held at Loughborough University. The competition was much harder, but we are immensely proud of our Boys and girls as they managed a well-deserved 4th place, representing not just Mary Immaculate but Wales as well. Dai iawn and we look forward to seeing you all next year.



Welsh Champs 2024

Cardiff and Vale Football Plate Triumph

We would like to congratulate our Year 8 boys football team, who back in May managed to win the Cardiff and Vale football plate final against a very talented Fitzalan team.

At the final whistle the score was 4-3 to us, with Dayton Jeremy scoring a dramatic late goal to clinch the Plate for Mary Immaculate. This was Dayton's 2nd goal of the match with the others scored by Luca Tarr and Alfie Williams respectively. Man of the match went to Morgan Parsons of 7 Teresa.



Schools Netball Victory

On Wednesday the 29th May during the half term our girls mixed team, composed of year 7,8,9 and 10 pupils competed in a Schools netball Tournament organised by the Cardiff Welsh Feathers team. Our team worked really hard throughout and went on to win the title. Well done to all the girls involved in this fantastic success. Inira Hurford (pictured left) and 9 Kolbe also took the player of the day award for her efforts.



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