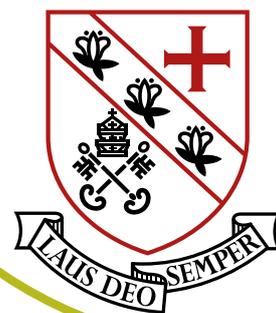


St. Joseph's Newsletter



YEAR 9 PREFECTS MAKE A GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION:

Term 4 has seen the launch of Year 9 Prefects, with students being asked to submit an application to take on a role of real responsibility within the College.



A large number of Year 9 students were interested in becoming a Prefect and 36 were selected for the role. The Prefects' main responsibility is assisting staff with lunchtime duties, but they also take on supporting roles during parents' evenings and other College

events. They have undertaken training to equip them with the skills needed to fulfil their role and were presented with a red tie as their badge of office by Mr Hughes in the first Year 9 assembly of this term. It is hoped that the role of Prefect will give students valuable experience

of undertaking a position of responsibility, which can be referred to in future applications for further education or work.

As a College we would like to thank the 36 young people who have volunteered to give up their free time to support the College and their peers.

**MUSICAL
THEATRE
AND BTEC
SHOWCASE**

WEDS 26TH APRIL

YEAR 13 BTEC 3 PERFORMING ARTS AND ADVANCED MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE

The Year 13 students have been working really hard on their Showcase for the BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts units. They have to arrange, direct, choreograph and rehearse all the songs for the performance. The performance will be on Wednesday 26th April.

Joining the Year 13s on the night will be the Advanced Musical Theatre Group, which is led by Georgina Squires, a past student, who has been working with the Department since September running both the Advanced and the Girls Musical Theatre Groups.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7 APR | College closes to all students |
| 24 APR | College re-opens to all students |
| 2 MAY | Year 8 Parent's Evening Groups (KLMN) |
| 10 MAY | Year 8 Parent's Evening Groups (PQRS) |
| 25 MAY | Year 13 Leavers' Mass |
| 26 MAY | Year 11 Leavers' Mass |
| 26 MAY | College closes to all students |
| 5 JUN | College re-opens for all students |
| 19 JUN | Refugee week commences |
| 20 JUN | Year 7 Parents' Evening |
| 23 JUN | Year 11 Prom |
| 26 JUN | Staff Training Day |

Preparing for Easter

St. Joseph's Catholic College has spent much of Term 4 preparing for the celebration of Easter.

The entire College community took part in special services during Ash Wednesday, in which we marked the start of Lent. Since this day students have gathered together in the chapel on Friday lunchtimes to recount the Stations of the Cross.

We thank Mrs Ash for organising and overseeing these services that have enabled students from all year groups to gather together and reflect on the sacrifice made for us by Jesus.

The College has also held a Family Fast Day to support CAFOD and to give students the opportunity to consider the difference we can make to others through works of charity. The Sixth Form students are collecting donations of Easter Eggs from all the younger year groups to ensure that the people supported by the Harbour Project can enjoy the Easter celebrations in April.

Finally, Ms Almeida's classroom has become the centre of attention over the last three weeks of term as a batch of real eggs in an incubator has slowly hatched into a mass of cute, fluffy chicks.



Although this demonstrates the start of life for students, it also reminds us all that Easter gives us the annual opportunity to renew our relationship with God and to face the world afresh.



We wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter

The times of Easter services in our local community are as follows:

HOLY FAMILY

| | |
|--|--------|
| Holy Thursday | 8.00pm |
| Good Friday | 3.00pm |
| and Family with Stations of the Cross 11.00am & 7.00pm | |
| Holy Saturday | |
| Vigil Mass | 8:30pm |
| <i>(First Mass of Easter)</i> | |
| Easter Sunday | 9.30am |

ST PETER'S

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Holy Thursday | 8.00pm |
| Good Friday | 3.00pm |
| Holy Saturday | |
| Vigil Mass | 9.00pm |
| <i>(First Mass of Easter)</i> | |
| Easter Sunday | 10.00am |

HOLY ROOD

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Holy Thursday | 7.30pm |
| Good Friday | 3.00pm |
| Holy Saturday | |
| Vigil Mass | 8.00pm |
| <i>(First Mass of Easter)</i> | |
| Easter Sunday | 8am, 9.30am, 11am & 5.30pm |

PARENT PORTAL

This is a valuable tool for parents, and we recommend that you view this regularly. Please be aware that with effect from **September 2017** all year groups will have migrated to a paperless format and we will no longer be printing any student reviews. These will instead be visible to you via the Parent Portal.

In addition to viewing student reviews, Parent Portal allows you access to much more information about your child. You are able to view termly and year-to-date attendance information, rewards and sanctions that have been issued to your child, along with their timetable and the College calendar. Other information available will relate to options, trips, parents evenings, and for those students in exam years, examination entries and timetable information is visible.

If you have not yet registered for your Parent Portal access, you can still do so. You will need to come into the College with a form of primary identification, such as a passport or driving licence and proof of your current address, this can be a named utility or council tax bill. This is to ensure data is suitably protected.

You can register at the College Reception Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm during term time, or 8am and 4pm during College holidays. Please note that the College is closed on Bank Holidays.

If you do not have an email address and/or have no access to a computer or the internet, alternative arrangements can be made for you to access the Parent Portal at the College site, please ask for details.

Parent Parking Request

If you pick your child up in a car at the end of the College day, please park in the Tesco carpark nearest the College.

We have an agreement with Tesco and the footpath from College leads directly and safely to the carpark in less than five minutes. Residents in Culverhouse Road and Shrivenham Road are inconvenienced by parents parking at 3.00pm.

Please be considerate to our neighbours and avoid parking on these roads. Tesco's is certainly the easiest parking area from inside to make a quick departure.

Change of Address

If you move house or update your telephone number, please can you ensure you notify the College as soon as possible. Many thanks for your co-operation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 27 JUN | Uniform Pop-up Shop |
| | Year 6 Parent Information Evening |
| 29 JUN | Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening |
| 30 JUN | Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening Year 13 Prom |
| 5 JUL | College Production |
| 6 JUL | College Production |
| 7 JUL | College Production |
| 10 JUL | Sports Day |
| 13 JUL | Uniform Pop-Up Shop |
| 17 JUL | Activity Week Commences |
| 21 JUL | College closes for all students |
| 17 AUG | AS / A Level Results Day |
| 24 AUG | GCSE Results Day |

Sixth Form Consultation

Parents are reminded that the Sixth Form closure consultation runs between 16th March and the 2nd May. Please use links on the College Website to access the consultation form.

MEETINGS WITH STAFF

We'd like to remind parents and carers that if you wish to see a member of College staff that you need to make an appointment for a time that is mutually convenient.

In recent weeks, we have had parents and carers arriving at the College unexpectedly, wanting to see members of staff immediately. In secondary schools, staff in all areas have a strict timetable of lessons, appointments and meetings; this means that staff are not available. If you wish to meet with someone, please do not hesitate to call the College to make an appointment.

This will also give time for the member of staff to prepare for the meeting, so that it is a productive experience for all.

Additionally, we would like to remind parents and carers that we endeavour to create a mutually respectful atmosphere in all our meetings. This means that shouting and aggressive language and behaviour will not be tolerated. We are all working together for the benefit of our children and we wish for this to take place in a constructive atmosphere.

We thank you for your co-operation with this.

Year 11 Mock Interview Event



On Thursday 9th March, Year 11 participated in a mock Interview event at the college to help prepare them for the world of work.

Students were invited to wear business dress and were interviewed by 25 business partners representing organisations including BMW, Great Western Hospital, Intel, Marriott, Monahans, Royal Navy, Thamesdown Vets, UK Space Agency, Wiltshire Police and the Wyvern Theatre.

Prior to the event students participated in a series of careers assemblies and workshops that focused on how to highlight their key skills and qualities when completing application forms and CVs and interview techniques.

Although many of our students were nervous during their interviews, they all agreed, that it was an extremely valuable experience and have taken on board the feedback that they received.

All of the employers were enthusiastic about our students with many of them considering some individuals as potential employees in the future.

Miss Green

KS3 Science Challenge Day



On 27th January, I had the pleasure of accompanying some gifted and talented St. Joseph's students from Years 8 and 9 on a trip to Oxford University to compete in the Key Stage 3 Science Challenge Day.

Students worked in teams to complete a series of activities and technological challenges, all of which are designed to explore magnetism and electromagnetism, and specifically to enable them to undertake hands on experiments and explore new concepts with the support of students from the University.

The aims of the day were to motivate students to attend more extracurricular science clubs and experience 'real life problem solving' with a particular focus on core physics topics. Students worked hard to develop their knowledge of

applied physics and their practical skills, with very good outcomes.

The Challenge Day is sponsored by the Ogden Trust and has been developed by the Oxford Ogden Science Partnership, of which I am a founding member.

The students did the college proud, working hard and competing on level terms with other students from both state and independent schools from all across Oxfordshire and the surrounding area. One of our teams did exceptionally well to finish 2nd overall and the top state school attending!

I hope to be able to extend this opportunity to students again, so Y7 and Y8 students should keep their eyes peeled next year for the opportunity to attend the day!

Mr. Edwards

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Year 9 had an off-timetable day in February to explore the importance of safe and healthy relationships. The whole year watched the play 'Last Orders' by Solomon Theatre Company.

The play, which looks at the consequences of binge drinking by two young girls, was developed by a team of doctors, police, NSPCC professionals and teachers. Based on true events, the accessible but hard-hitting play immediately captures the attention and imagination of those who watch it. The workshop enables students to explore the events portrayed in the play and teaches them about the risks associated with alcohol.

Students also took part in workshops from Women's Aid on healthy relationships, from U-Turn on the risks associated with drugs and the Samaritans on the importance of talking to support emotional health. The day included discussions in tutor time, a talk from Liz Jarrett the College Nurse, lessons in science on reproduction, and the Catholic teaching on relationships from the Life Group.

Year 7 have also had a series of visitors in the last couple of terms, including the PSCO Mandi Cole talking to each class about 'Keeping Safe', Swindon Borough Councils talks on road safety, and a hilarious but informative performance from the Momo theatre company on road safety. The show also encouraged sustainable methods of travel to protect the environment, such as walking, cycling and car sharing. On the theme of the environment, students have had a talk from the Council covering the issue of littering to the environment, both locally and globally. Year 7 have also had a fun workshop from ASH Wales on the effects of smoking. The feedback has been excellent.

Year 11 and 10 have benefited from a Financial Awareness Workshop sponsored by Nationwide organised by the Maths department and Year 11 have enjoyed the brilliant interview day that you can read about in this Newsletter.

This is the highlights of the last couple of terms where we have been fortunate enough to have outside speakers coming into College but there are so many important social, health and wellbeing issues that students have the opportunity to discuss in curriculum and tutor time that will help them manage their lives, now and in the future.



Former Students Success

Two former St. Joseph's students had the opportunity to perform live on stage at the Brits. Taylor Lynch and Charlotte Payne, who are currently in their second of three years at the Wilkes Academy of Performing Arts, danced on stage with the girl group Little Mix at the event on 22nd February.

We would like to offer our congratulations and wish the pair all the best for the future.

Year 11 Residential Trip

In January, all of the Year 11 Villiers scholars went on their annual two-day residential trip to the Villiers Park centre in Foxton.

Over the course of the two days, our main theme was encrypting, decrypting and hacking codes. We were introduced to a variety of ways to encrypt messages, starting with simple techniques like the Scytale, dating back to the Ancient Greeks, and progressing to much more complex strategies used in the First and Second World Wars. We applied our maths, logic and teamwork skills and used a lot of brute force, to hack other teams' codes!

Our tutor, Billy, was great and made the topic really engaging and interesting, through competitive team activities. He also made it challenging with complicated logical reasoning in hands on activities.

On the Thursday, we went on a trip to the Museum of Computing in Cambridge, saw first-hand computers from the earliest machines to the modern day technology, as well as arcade and console games throughout the generations.

We really enjoyed the residential and learning something new, whilst developing our skills in new ways. We also enjoyed meeting the other scholars again and spending time with them on the tasks, as well as in the games room in free time. Overall, it was a good few days away and we are looking forward to next year's residential.

Darius and Kieran

Flame 2017



20 students from St. Joseph's went to Flame 2017 on March 11 at Wembley Arena.

It began at 11:30am and ended at 7:30pm. It was a fun day to be at. It was like a religious concert with a singer called Matt Redman and he sang "10,000 Reasons" and "We are the free".

We had a lot of fun and enjoyed it. The whole concert was about refugees and their lives. The sponsors of the show were the volunteers from CAFOD. The day ended with mass. We met Cardinal Nichols and Bishop Declan.

The day was wonderful and so inspiring to see so many young people joined together in faith.

Year 9 Students

Year 11 Kintbury Retreat

Our retreat to Kintbury from the 26th to the 29th of January was an amazing experience, and one we will never forget.

We spent 4 days at the retreat centre, surrounded by beautiful gardens, taking part in a variety of activities all based around our faith, getting to know new people and learning to "live in the now".

We spent a lot of our time in small groups, mixed with another schools, and had the opportunity to share our ideas and discuss a number of topics - which we perhaps wouldn't do had we not been at Kintbury. We also had a lot of free time, which we spent in the

gardens, relaxing in the beanbag rooms and chatting to our friends.

Not only was Kintbury a rare chance to get away from GCSE troubles, but it was a chance for us to see what God means in our lives - which we often forget in the business of everyday life. Kintbury is an experience that each of us would recommend to everyone, it is unlike any other school trip you'll have the chance to go on and you come back having learnt a lot about yourself.

'Hats off to the students in Berlin!'



Students from three Key Stages spent four days in Berlin over the February half term. Designed to help students appreciate aspects of the History GCSE Units on Germany as well as the Cold War, students visited a number of relevant sites including museums and landmarks.

After a short flight and transfer, we spent our first evening looking at the East Side gallery of painted sections of the iconic Berlin Wall. Artists have been invited back to restore their work some thirty years after originally celebrating the fall of Communism.



Our first full day saw a more sobering look at the treatment of minorities under the Nazis. The morning was spent walking around Sachsenhausen concentration camp which was a site of mass killings both during and after the War. Students watched a film and were able to look at the exhibits which outlined the apparatus of genocide under the Nazis at that time and tour the different sections of the camp.

The afternoon gave some context as we visited the magnificent house which was the site of the Wannsee Conference: the meeting where the decision to undertake the Final Solution was taken by the top levels of the Nazi regime.

Our evening lightened the mood as we hit the bowling alleys on the East Side and students were able to relax after a hard day's walking and reflect on the things they had seen and read.

Students were true Berliners in taking the S-Bahn and U-Bahn around the city as we kept to a strict timetable and our second day saw us hit the streets with a walking tour which took us through the key aspects of Twentieth Century Berlin. Students saw the new Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie and the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Despite the -6 degrees, students were alert and asked some insightful questions of our guides. We then visited the renowned Jewish Museum which took students through an interactive journey reflecting the religion and the challenges to it during the recent century. Post-war Berlin and the challenges of the Wall were covered

by our visit to the Checkpoint Charlie Museum which houses a fascinating array of exhibits linked to the Cold War and escape attempts and our day finished with a visit to the Topography of Terror which went into more detail about the background to the treatment of minorities and the role of the SS.

Our final evening was spent gazing over the wonderful city views from the iconic TV tower which dominates the skyline.



With time for more on our last day we visited the Story of Berlin which interactively took students through the history of the city. This included an eerie tour of one of the many nuclear bunkers designed to house sections of the population at the height of the Cold War. The DDR museum in the afternoon gave students a wonderful insight into what life was like behind the Iron Curtain, focussing on the everyday things that affected people's lives. Travelling in luxury with our own S-Bahn carriage we made our way back to the hostel for our flight home.

The staff who accompanied the students were fantastic, but the real stars of the show were the students. It was a real pleasure taking these students around the city in quite challenging conditions and at a fairly frantic pace, but they never moaned or groaned and behaved impeccably throughout. It made the job of the Staff so much easier.

CAFOD YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

We were assigned the task of raising awareness and money for CAFOD.



The group put together a presentation on 'World Gifts' which was delivered during assembly to Year 8, Year 9, and Year 10. Year 7 were given the presentation during their citizenship session, we visited the classrooms in pairs.

The presentation showed that any donation big or small would make a difference to the lives and communities of those we are trying to help.

We asked Mr Hughes if we could hold a non-school uniform day, with the money donated going to CAFOD. The total amount raised was £1105.44 it was decided to give CAFOD £772.00 with the balance split between the college charities of Swindon Young Careers, The Harbour project and Threshold.



Primary School Visit

Chaplaincy team members from our partner primaries visited the chapel at St. Joseph's during Advent.

Firstly we sat and watched a video about the birth of Jesus. We then helped the children with the activities, we decorated a cross, made a manger with the baby Jesus in it to hang on the tree, we had baubles to personalise and pictures to colour.

Whilst the activities were going on the students were offered biscuits and squash. At the end of the session all the children were given a Fairtrade chocolate Christmas lolly. Everyone left feeling inspired by the birth of Christ.



YEAR 8 MASS

Our Year 8 mass was shared between 8A and 8B and was led by Canon John from Holy Rood and our tutor group made prayer cards writing our own prayers on the theme of Peace and Joy.

I took part in the offertory taking up the hosts, Nathan and Aaron carried the prayer cards that the class had made. It was lovely to have a class mass and we enjoyed it very much. Canon John ended the mass with a blessing.

Holocaust Service

On Friday 27th January we walked with Mr Foster and Mrs Chivers to the Cenotaph in Swindon town centre to attend a ceremony in memory of those whose lives were lost in World War 2.

The commemoration service marked the day when the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated in 1945.

We heard people speak of the tragedies that occurred many years ago and it made us think of people who lost the ones they loved.

The Mayor of Swindon presented a large, floral wreath in memorial to those that had lost their lives.

We were the only school that attended and we felt privileged and humbled to be there.

Young Enterprise Success at Swindon Outlet Centre

St. Joseph's students have set up and developed their own companies as part of the national Young Enterprise programme since September 2016.

The students have developed their companies' brand, product and marketing over the last two terms, increasing their understanding of commercial finance, market research and above all, teamwork.



DECO: Anna Maria, Charlotte, Glory, Rachel

On Saturday 11th March, four of these companies took up the opportunity of selling directly to the public in the Swindon Outlet Centre with other schools from the Swindon area. The companies were Deco, Made with Love, Sweet Sensations and Tresor.



SWEET SENSATIONS: Grace, Winona, Hannah

These students transported their products and their trade stands to the Outlet Centre and prepared for business before many of the shops had opened.



MADE WITH LOVE: Sofia, John, Charlotte

Between 11am and 1pm, they traded successfully, interacting with the public and securing many sales. During this process they were judged by members of the Outlet's management team.



TRESOR: Ellen, Julia, Eliana, Sara Blanco, Alethea, Klyne

Sweet Sensations won the runners up award for best trade stall, but all the students who took part felt like winners, having come to a challenging sales environment and made money.

Well done to all the students who took part.

Swindon Young Musician of the Year



On Sunday 5th February four of our students represented the college at the Swindon Young Musician of the Year competition, which is held annually at the Blunsdon House Hotel.

Alfie (Year 8) on the Drum Kit and Isla (Year 7), vocals took part in the Under 14s Class and Philip (Year 10) on the piano and Winona (Year 10), vocals performed in the Senior Section.

The standard of all the performers was really high this year and our students performed beautifully and were a real credit to the College.

Alfie came 3rd in the Junior Section - which was an excellent achievement. Well done Alfie!



BUGSY MALONE

Auditions are nearly over and rehearsals will be starting soon.

If you would like to be in the chorus it is not too late to sign up. Please speak to a member of the Performing Arts Department to get your name down!

The cast list be will going up before Easter - check the Production Board!

The day we became judges!

On Saturday 18th March, Mrs Cooke and Mr Baker were invited to judge the students at Swindon StageCoach. We were both delighted to be asked and the talent we saw was great! It was lovely to see some of our St. Joseph's students taking part in the Talent competition. Over the last couple of years, we have been working with Stagecoach in a number of joint ventures.

If you would like to know more about Stagecoach, see Mrs Cooke.

Performing Arts Concert



What started out as a concert featuring a number of items showcasing our wonderful students ended up becoming a full scale 'production' which included over 120 students!

Students from Year 7 to Year 13 took to the stage and there was abundance of talent on show as act after act demonstrated the talents of the students at St. Joseph's.

The concert featured:

Year 10 BTEC Dance group

Students who performed at the Swindon Young Musician of the Year Competition

Students performing at the Swindon Festival

Boys Group

Street Dance

Rock School

Year 9 Drama students' assessment work

College Singers

Boys Musical Theatre

As well as a number of other solos from St. Joseph's students and Swindon Stagecoach.

The audience was packed and the Performing Arts Department were again in awe of the wonderful students we work with!

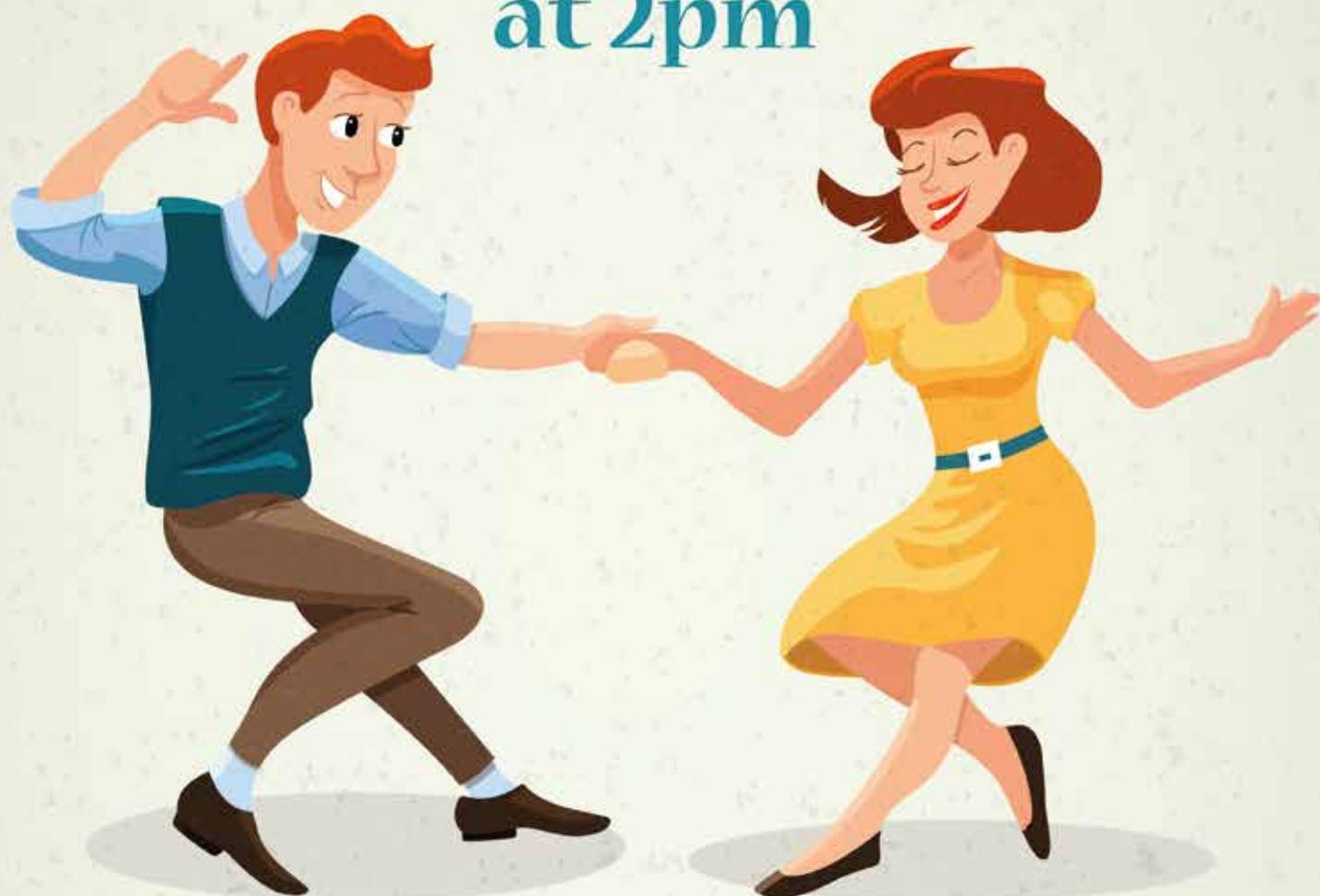
If you would like to take part in any of the extra-curricular groups, please come and see us and find out more.



TEA DANCE

Wed 31st May 2017

at 2pm



👉 TICKETS £15.00 👈

ADMISSION WITH TICKET ONLY

HOSTED BY

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE • OCOTAL WAY • SWINDON • SN3 3LR

FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS PLEASE TELEPHONE 01793 714608