



## Academy Update

Dear Parents/Carer

The St. Joseph's Governing Body voted unanimously on 21 March 2011 to make an application to become an Academy by September 2011. If you recall, St. Joseph's was invited to become an Academy last June as an 'Outstanding' school.

A consultation meeting for parents and staff was held on Monday 11 April 2011. I would like to thank all those who attended these meetings. I have been speaking to students in assemblies updating them about exactly what is happening and how it will affect the College as well. A number of questions have been asked and an Academy FAQ document is available on our website under 'Academy'.

It is important to note that our application has been made in partnership with the Clifton Diocese. The Bishop and Trustees have stated that certain guarantees about the provision of Catholic education are enshrined in the funding agreement. These include:

The quality and provision of Religious Education

The quality and provision of worship, liturgy, prayer and chaplaincy

The access to the College through admissions policies for Catholic children and their families

PSHE which is in keeping with Catholic norms and doctrines

The Foundation Governors on the Governing Body have been asked to set the Bishop's vision at the heart of the process and to work for the common good.

St. Joseph's will not be changing its name nor will it be looking to change its excellent uniform. In fact, it may be that not a lot of change is noticeable in September, except for what we do as part of our normal review process. However, St. Joseph's will in effect become a state funded independent school as an Academy. The services which used to be provided by the Local Authority except for those which are statutory such as SEN, will no longer be provided. However, the Local Authority had already taken a decision to discontinue the support of these. We will need to buy in the services we consider necessary for our students.

All the secondary schools in Swindon will become Academies this year and will be working much more closely together as there will be little or no Local Authority support. An example of this would be the bid St. Joseph's is putting together with The Ridgeway School to become a joint Teaching School for Swindon. This is an exciting venture and one which I will expand on in due course. St. Joseph's primary partner schools will be Holy Family, Holyrood Infants and Holyrood Juniors.

I think Academy status will afford us many opportunities in the future. We will be working closely with Villiers Trust next year on revisiting our Learning and Teaching vision. The College is also looking to restructure our House system to support our excellent pastoral care.

At St. Joseph's, we do not stand still. This College is for our students and it must meet their changing needs. As always, we must ensure that we can 'further the vital and priceless benefits of Catholic education'.

*M Harries*

## Staff Training Day

The planned staff training day on May 8th 2012 has had to be moved due to an examination. This will now take place on the 3rd January 2012

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

## Prayer

God, Our Father,

Transform our poverty in the wealth of your love, our sinfulness in the healing of Jesus and our weakness in the power of your Spirit.

Create new miracles this day as we place ourselves into your all-powerful hands.

Transform our lives that we may become the people you call us to be.

Amen.

## Examinations

Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students will have GCSE, AS or A2 or module exams between Tuesday 10th May and Monday 27th June.

All students will have been given the dates of their exams, please ensure students are not absent at these times as the dates cannot be changed

## Revision Reminder

Please find information regarding the Booster sessions which will be held during the Easter break for Science, English and Maths.

**Science - Year 10 (GCSE)**  
Tuesday 26th April, 9.00-11.30, 12.30-3.00

**Science - Year 11 (GCSE)**  
Wednesday, 27th April, 9.00-11.30, 12.30-3.00

**Science - Year 10 (OCR)**  
Tuesday 26th April, 9.00-12.30

**Science - Year 11 (OCR)**  
Wednesday 27th April, Morning 9.00-12.30

**English - Year 11 (GCSE)**  
Tuesday 26th April, 9.30-12.00

**English - Year 10 (GCSE)**  
Wednesday 27th April 9.30-12.00  
Students are requested to bring their Anthologies and copies of Of Mice and Men to the session please.

**Maths - Year 11 (GCSE)**  
Thursday 28th April - Morning 9.30-12.00  
Students are requested to bring compasses, protractors, rulers and calculators to the session please.

## Dates for your diary

18th Apr	Easter Holidays Begin
3rd May	College Reopens for Students
12th May	Year 11 Awards and Leavers' Mass
13th May	Year 11 Prom
17th May	Year 7 Parents' Evening Population P
25th May	Year 7 Parents' Evening Population Q
26th May	Year 13 Leavers Mass

## Year 7 visit to Boulogne

Please return the Parental Permission, Passport Office sheets and photos by Monday 11th April

Non-British passports need to be handed in by Monday 9th May

EHIC cards and final payments need to be handed in by Friday 10th June.

All students who have a place on the visit have received a letter.

*Miss Price*

## Junior Maths Challenge

A team of 4 students – Lucy Bailey, Tess Pringle, Greg Winiarski and Hannah Lloyd – took part in the Junior Maths Team Challenge at Wootton Bassett School on Friday 18th March.

About 20 teams from schools all over Wiltshire took part in the day's challenges. We had a fantastic day solving puzzles, running Maths relay races, and meeting many new people of our age. Few schools from Swindon took part and, in fact, we weren't sure it would be very interesting. However, it was really good fun, very challenging and we hope we can all do it again next year.  
*Hannah Lloyd*

## Visite à Lille

Year 12 French students and some Year 11 students had a practical experience of using their language skills in Lille when we spent a day there. We travelled by Eurostar; ate a three course meal in a restaurant; did a Treasure Hunt and had free time for shopping. It was a very long day, but a really good chance to visit France.

## Anti-Bullying Policy

St. Joseph's College Parliament: Reviewing the Anti-Bullying Policy

This term in College Parliament our focus has mainly been on amendments to the Anti-Bullying policy. This has involved MP's giving presentations to their constituents and collecting feedback to help us in our task. By talking to the students we were able to gain feedback, but most of the feedback revolved around the Anti-Bullying policy itself. To combat this we selected a panel of MP's to look over the policy to look for parts which may have proven non-user friendly. We also selected a panel of people to design and create a laminate to display in classrooms. The MP's were given 2 weeks to look over the policy and note down any changes they would like to make, these were then imported into a PowerPoint presentation and given to Mrs O'Connell and Mrs Vincent.

After Parliament had presented, the MP's later went out to feedback to their constituents once again, but this time they were there to talk about the changes

they had made to the policy and wanted to know was there anything else that could be added.

I believe this a great opportunity for Parliament and for St Joseph's as it is the first time students will have an input into the policy on problems and changes, so I feel deeply privileged to be a part of this project.

If you are interested in what our past Anti-Bullying policy looks like you can find it under Student Resources on Moodle, also if you would like to look at the presentations given in Parliament you can find this on the Student Voice Forum on Moodle.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to this project, every suggestion has made a huge difference and if anybody has any more suggestions to contribute or any ideas about any changes that can be implemented, please do not hesitate to contact a Student Member of Parliament.

*Ryan Perkins and Kieran Sieluzycski*

## Primary Liaison

### Transfer and transition mini-conference

St. Joseph's has been part of a Swindon Schools transfer and transition group for over 2 years. The group was set up to share good practice from within the town and work together to try to improve how the transfer of students and their information is conducted. St. Joseph's staff played their part of organising the first ever Swindon conference on the topic of transfer and transition along with three other Swindon schools, they also ran workshops on 'ICT transition' and 'Hopes and Dreams of Year 7 students' which went down very well with the attending colleagues.

### Primary Roadshow

The St. Joseph's Primary Roadshow is shortly out on the road again holding meetings at our four main partner Primary Schools.

Holy Family – May 18th

St. Catherine's – June 8th

Holy Rood Juniors – June 9th

St. Mary's – June 15th



### 'Your World Your Say' Convention

On Tuesday 8th March, 12 Year 8 students from St. Joseph's travelled with Julia, the College chaplain, to Bristol for the 'Your World Your Say' convention. 14 schools in total attended the convention, at the BAWA leisure centre, Filton. The day was centred on how we, as the adults of tomorrow, can make a change now and improve our world, for example by saving energy, or raising awareness of charities. The students from each school were split into groups and each student took part in three different workshops throughout the day, fitting with the theme. We then had the chance to make three pledges for our College based on what we had learned and then read a few of them out to each other. Representatives from participating charities also came and spoke to us to tell us how we can make a difference.

When we arrived in the morning, we were given a number of things, including a "Passport" to be used in an activity called "Tracing and Messaging". In these passports was the name, age and birthplace of a made up character and a family member they were looking for. Our challenge was to go to the ICRC (International Confederation of the Red Cross) stand and register ourselves in the hope we would find our lost relative. The activity proved very successful, with the majority of people finding their partner with no trouble.

All in all, the 'Your World Your Say' convention was an inspiring and eye-opening experience from which I have definitely learned a valuable lesson.

Katie Smith 8L

### Food News

Laura Brown Year 7 and Katie Smith Year 8 are representing St. Joseph's Catholic College in the Swindon College Cooking Challenge Final on May 9th.

They will be competing against other local schools.

The winners and families win a meal at Blunsdon House Hotel, they will also receive trophies and the chance to experience a working kitchen.

### Football fixtures

#### Year 7

The Year 7 team have performed exceptionally well in their first season together, they are currently unbeaten in

## Subject News

all fixtures and through to the Cup semi-finals.

#### Year 8

The Year 8 team after a first game defeat have remained unbeaten since and played some very good attacking football and are also through to the Cup semi-finals.

#### Year 9

The Year 9 team have been in good form this season with some excellent displays not least their fantastic away win against a good Kingsdown team.

#### Year 10

The Year 10 team has been reborn this season with some wonderful results and big winning margins. They have lost only once this season so far, unfortunately for them in a Cup game.

#### Year 11

St. Joseph's have again been one of the few establishments in Swindon to run a Year 11 football team, they have had an enjoyable final season of school football.

### Swindon Inter-schools Climbing Competition.

On Wednesday the 6th April 2011 we entered one Junior and one Senior team for the above competition at the Link Centre, Swindon. The students were selected based on a trial session the previous week and were allowed to progress through to the actual competition. None of our climbers have any real experience and would all class themselves as novices really. Even so, we managed to finish 4th overall and the students performed admirably and were a credit to the College and themselves. Well done to the following students - (Junior Team) Henry Ash 7B, Gabriela Caruso 7L, Caitlin Dooley 7W, Katie Grocutt 7C, (Senior Team) Celia Berry 10S, Alexandra Galt 10M, Ross Paone 10W and Sean Parker 11W.

*Mr Cross*

### Sports Leaders – Olympic Festival

On Tuesday 5th April 2011, 4 of our Year 10 BTEC / Sports Leaders group participated in the Swindon Sports Leaders Academy, Next Generation Gym. They had a brief which stated that they had to plan, organise and deliver a 10 minutes activity, based on agility, to a small group of 5-7 year olds. They also had to somehow include the Olympic value of 'courage'. The students were only able to get their collective heads

together for a very short period of time to put their programme together. On the day itself they had just over an hour to rehearse and trial their activity before delivering it to groups of young students, who arrived on a carousel basis for the remainder of the day. The Programme Manager has given me very positive feedback regarding their planning, performance and rapport with the young students and the impact that they had on the day. A very big well done to Samantha Berry, Isabelle Di Pierro, Bradley McCabe and Marie Philippe.

*Mr Cross*

## Uniform Focus

Please note the following uniform rules:

No make-up in Years 7 and 8. Discreet make-up in Years 9 to 11.

No nail varnish in any year group.

Plain black trousers or knee length skirt without slits. Skirts should be free moving and not tight against the legs and trousers should not be extremely tight or baggy. Tube skirts and any type of jeans are unacceptable.

Hair styles should be practical, clean and safe. Extreme hairstyles that detract from the smart appearance of the uniform are not allowed. The definition of what is extreme will change with fashion but includes shaven or excessively short hair, coloured hair, hair with patterns cut into it or artificial hair extensions. In this, as in other uniform and dress matters, the judgement of the Headteacher is final.

Elaine O'Connell

## Parent Pay

The College now uses Parent Pay which enables parents to put money on to their child's 'payment cards' so they can purchase items from the College canteen as well as pay for trips and visits. This can be done on line or at any Pay Point retailer. Parent Pay:

<https://www.parentpay.com>

Any queries should be sent to [Dhaynes@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:Dhaynes@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk)

## Swindon Strategic Partnership Conference

### Year 11 Leavers' Book

We are in the process of collating our Yearbook. This will make a great memento for the students to remember their time and friends at St. Joseph's College from 2006 to 2011.

Letters have gone out requesting pre-payment of these books so that we can get numbers together for our order. Preliminary costs are £15. Students are asked to fill in their order form and hand it in, together with payment, to Reception.

The books will be handed out to students on 25th August, when they come into College to collect their GCSE results.

Could we request that students do not bring their own leavers' books and cameras until Monday 9th May, their last week. Neither should be seen during lessons, and permission should be obtained from anyone in photos.

If you have any queries regarding the books, please contact me at the College

*Mrs B Rudnik*

### Change of details or telephone number?

It is important that we always hold up to date address and telephone number information for you and your child/children. This means we can contact you immediately in an emergency.

If you move house or update your telephone number, please ensure that you notify the College in writing as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

A group of SJCC students attended the Swindon Strategic Partnership Conference which took place at STEAM on the 18th March. The objective of this conference was to find out what improvements have already been made in Swindon - given the council's limited financial resources - and what more could be done to make further improvements.

Tom Charnock, Chair of SSPC opened the conference by welcoming everyone and there was a moment of reflection for the people of Japan, struggling to come to terms with the aftermath of their disasters.

Pat Geenty, Assistant Chief Constable, Wilts Police, explained how our police force has already made many positive changes and that future plans would only make Swindon a safer place to live in. On the same note, Lyn Hill-Tout, Chief Executive of the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, explained how its re-structuring policy was taking shape, but that there were still more 'cuts' of about £20 billion which needed to be made. There were many other representatives from local charities and community volunteer groups. The students from SJCC were the only representatives from Swindon schools and actively participated in the various discussion groups, the input of which we hope will go towards making Swindon a better town to live in.

The strong message from the conference was that the Coalition Government's idea of a "Big Society" has already come to Swindon and that changes have been taking place. If we all understand the national and local context for Health, Police and the Council and gather round all the different groups and organisations in Swindon and work more closely together, we WILL make a difference and WILL deliver 'One Swindon' over the next 4 years! We hope they're right! If you want to see some of the issues your SJCC representatives raised in the discussion groups, go onto MOODLE to find out more.

Finally, I would just like to say that the day was a very interesting insight into how different communities and organisations in Swindon are really trying to make a

difference to our lives and wellbeing. They want to hear from young people like us. It is therefore important, that we as College students should take every opportunity to participate in such conferences. Our young voices CAN make a difference - at least in Swindon!

*Joanna Vickers*

### Italian Exchange to Sesto Fiorentino, Tuscany, Italy

Italian Exchange to Sesto Fiorentino, Tuscany, Italy

Twelve students from Years 10, 11 and 12 will be taking part in the second leg of the Italian Exchange this Easter holiday.

We shall be leaving bright and early on Friday morning and flying to Pisa from Gatwick. After meeting our host families, we will be spending time in the Piero Calamandrei School and then visiting the beautiful sights of Tuscany's historic cities. We will visit the Palazzo Vecchio and the world-renowned Uffizi art gallery in Florence, the medieval town of San Gimignano, the location of Italy's Palio horse race in Siena and no visit will be complete without seeing the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Students will not only have a unique opportunity to broaden their historic and cultural understanding Italy, but will also improve their linguistic skills as they spend time with their host families. We look forward to telling you all about our visit in the next newsletter.

*Mrs Mistretta*

### Prayer Group

Mrs Mobey is running a Student Prayer Group every fortnight in the Chapel. There is a notice on the Chapel door informing when the group is taking place. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to come and pray, or to have time in a busy school day to reflect. Please encourage all to attend.

### Book Amnesty

Calling all College textbooks or equipment that have 'mysteriously' made their way into your homes.

Please return any College equipment that has not been officially signed out to you anonymously in the ILC fast-return box.

Many Thanks.

