



Dear Parents/Carers

We are drawing to the end of another

busy term where students and staff have been actively engaged in a wide variety of enterprising and enlightening activities.

Sixth Form students have been visited by various Universities and Institutions, including a Year in Industry and a representative from the Apprenticeship Programme, to begin to consider their future plans. The Villier's Park students have had an inspirational week in Cambridge, where they were challenged to think and solve problems that were beyond their normal range of experience.

As a result of all this preparation, all Year 13 students who are hoping to go to university in September 2011 have completed their UCAS applications forms, with many receiving their offers already, which gives them a clear goal to aim for. These forms were completed with the help and support of the pastoral team in the Sixth Form, ensuring that students applied to the most suitable universities with a well written personal statement and reference. We are also fortunate to receive information from local companies about employment opportunities, which always get passed

on to the students. Additionally, for those wishing to enter employment, there is access to a free CV checking service to help.

We are currently interviewing all students who applied to join the Sixth Form in September 2011, where we will discuss career pathways and subject choices, ensuring students are taking relevant and academically appropriate courses. It is very important at St Joseph's that students make the right choice at the end of Year 11 and we endeavour to support all our students whatever their post-16 options.

However, life in the Sixth Form is not just about academic achievement. Students are encouraged to lead events in the College community; the latest instance of this was when the Sixth Form students organised and ran a Valentine disco, which was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by Year 7 and 8 students.

I would also like to take this opportunity, as we begin our February break, to urge all students in Years 9 – 13 to continue working hard towards their summer examinations and, if they have not done so already, begin a focussed revision plan utilising the many resources available on our VLE.

Clare Bailey
Assistant Head Teacher

ePortal and Parent Pay

Information on ePortal and Parent Pay are different IT packages.

ePortal is part of the College Management Information System. It enables parents to log on to look at different information about their child. It currently includes information on timetable, attendance (Years 7-11), previous review sheets, personal contact details as well as up and coming events such as parents evenings.

All parents, where contact details are known, have been sent their personal log ons. ePortal link can be found through the College website on

www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk and go to parents and then Parental access

Any problems/questions should be sent to portal@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk

Parent Pay 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 problems/questions should be sent to Dhaynes@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk

Prayer

If school is not a place where tears are understood
Where do I go to cry?

If school is not a place where my spirit can take wing
Where do I go to fly?

If school is not a place where my questions can be asked
Where do I go to seek?

If school is not a place where feelings can be heard
Where do I go to speak?

If school is not a place where you'll accept me as I am
Where can I go to be?

If school is not a place where I try to learn and grow
Where can I just be me?

WJ Crockett

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.

Year 12 and Year 13 Attendance Pie Chart on ePortal

This does not represent attendance to lessons for Year 12 and Year 13 students.

Please see the letter sent home to all parents/carers which contains further details.

Dates for your diary

2011

21-25/02	Half Term
28/02	Training Day
01/03	College reopens to students
09/03	GCSE Support Evening (Year 10 and 11)
17/03	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Population P)
22/03	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Population Q)

Shrivenham Road

Due to the volume of pedestrian students and residential traffic using Shrivenham Road in the mornings in particular, we would urge parents/carers to refrain from driving down this road to the dead end at the bottom to drop off students. This is a particularly dangerous practice as there is little space to turn around with residents' cars and students walking to the College.

As well as using Tesco's car park, another suggestion has been to use the County Ground car park where there is plenty of space to turn around and students can then walk down Shrivenham Road if they prefer not to use Canal Walk.

Mr Davies ran a cluster Chess tournament in January at St. Joseph's. A host of primary schools took part and the event was a great success, so much so that we hope to make it a regular event. Well done to Lawn primary as inaugural winners.

Mr Kerr and Mr Firth of the ICT department are running a transition project with our partner primary schools. The aim is to match ICT provision at the end of Year 6 by supporting delivery in primary schools with a new ICT curriculum for the start of Year 7.

The P.E. department along with primary liaison are planning a Year 6 'Olympics' event at the County ground track on Tuesday June 28th during National School Sport week. The event will allow our partner primary schools to bring their Year 6 students along to try several Olympic events on a carousel and a chance to compete in selected events at the end.

Anthony Cross is planning a Year 3 and 4 activities day for Holy Rood Juniors and their partner school St. Edmunds in Calne as part of their twinning arrangements.

The Swindon Transfer and Transition group of which I am part is planning a

Primary Liaison

Transfer and Transition Mini-conference on Tuesday 22nd March from 1.30pm – 4pm. The conference is designed to showcase ideas and good practice from around Swindon related to Transfer and Transition. St. Joseph's will be running two workshops on the day related to ICT transition and transition projects using Gifted & Talented students.

St. Joseph's is running a joint Business and Enterprise / Fairtrade project with all four of our partner Primary schools in March. Each of our partner Primaries has selected ten students to attend a cake baking workshop using only fairtrade ingredients. The students will then take their creations into school and raise money for their school charity.

Mr Iles



Mathematics GCSE Exams

This table shows the most up to date information regarding the Mathematics exams for 2010-2011. If you are unsure of which course you are taking please speak to your maths teacher.

		Set 1	Set 2	Set 3a	Set 3	Set 4
Year 9	Exam Date	13th June 2011	13th June 2011	n/a	13th June 2011	13th June 2011
	Details	GCSE Modular Unit B – 25% Higher	GCSE Modular Unit A – 25% Higher	n/a	GCSE Modular Unit A – 25% Higher	GCSE Modular Unit B – 25% Foundation
Year 10	Exam Date	6th June 2011	13th June 2011	13th June 2011	13th June 2011	6th June 2011
	Details	GSCE Linear Paper 3 – 50% Higher	GCSE Modular Unit B – 25% Higher	GCSE Modular Unit B – 25% Higher/Foundation	GCSE Modular Unit B – 25% Foundation	GCSE Linear Paper 1 – 50% Foundation
	Exam Date	10th June 2011	n/a	n/a	n/a	10th June 2011
	Details	GCSE Linear Paper 4 – 50% Higher	n/a	n/a	n/a	GCSE Linear Paper 2 – 50% Foundation
Year 11	Exam Date	13th June 2011	6th June 2011	6th June 2011	6th June 2011	14th April 2011
	Details	FSMQ Additional Mathematics 100%	GSCE Linear Paper 3 – 50% Higher	GSCE Linear Paper 3/1 – 50% Higher/Foundation	GCSE Linear Paper 1 – 50% Foundation	Award in Personal Finance
	Exam Date	n/a	10th June 2011	10th June 2011	10th June 2011	n/a
	Details	n/a	GCSE Linear Paper 4 – 50% Higher	GCSE Linear Paper 4/2 – 50% Higher/Foundation	GCSE Linear Paper 2 – 50% Foundation	n/a

Food Technology

The following students are practising hard to compete in the Swindon College Cooking Challenge; Katie Smith 8L, Laura Brown 7B, Sophie Hanrahan 9M, Alana Blake 9W.

The theme for the competition is 'Locally grown organic produce' i.e. all the ingredients should ideally come from Wiltshire or surrounding areas.

They will be judged on; Menu, Healthy options, Nutritional Value, Time sheet/work timing, Health and Safety, Personal Safety, Work Station, Clearing Down, Cooking Methods, Taste of dishes and Presentation.

Sports

Five aside Football

Congratulations to the Year 8 5 Aside Football squad who came runners-up in the Swindon Schools' Championships. They had qualified for the finals after winning their preliminary round against Churchfields, Swindon Academy and Warneford, Highworth. The team came through their semi-final match 3-2 after conceding the first goal, showing great effort and teamwork. In the final they met Warneford and lost a very even game 1-0. This was disappointing for the boys as they had previously beaten Warneford in the preliminary round.

On January 12th we hosted and organised the Swindon wide Year 5 and 6 Girls Football Tournament. It went really well, with Holy Rood Juniors from the St. Joseph's Cluster finishing in third position. Well done to the Year 12 and 13 leaders who helped organise and officiate the event.

On February 2nd we hosted the joint St. Joseph's and Kingsdown Year 3 and 4 Hockey festival. This was well attended and our Year 10 BTEC students were responsible for delivering coaching rules and skills clinics in the first half of the morning – and then they organised an officiated an informal round-robin tournament before lunch. Well done to all students involved – the feedback from the primary school students, staff and parents was really positive.

Year 10 helpers; Salik Ahmed, Daniel Bright, Thomas Caton, Jack Cole, Gavin Cowie, Branzon De Souza, Isabelle Di Pierro, Piotr Faszczka, Devan Garrod, Cameron Gordon,

Subject News

Alexander Grant, Corey Horgan, Mateusz Krych, Ashleigh Loftus-Thorne, Sebastiao Miranda, Sean Mortimer, Andre Niehues, Patrick Norris, Ross Paone, Lionel Pereira, Kyle Reynolds, Leonna-Jayne Taylor-Doodo, Joshua Wilson, Matthew Wood.

Basketball at St. Joseph's is gaining it's second wind. We train on Tuesdays afterschool from 3pm until 4pm in the Sportshall, with coach Dave Colclough at the helm. We have had over 40 students, from Year 7 to 13 (boys and girls), attending the sessions on a regular basis.

The Sixth Form 1st team are currently enjoying the opportunity of playing fixtures. The first match was abandoned as the away team, Swindon College, arrived somewhat later than expected – hence we only just squeezed in part of the third quarter before we had to call a halt on proceedings. We look forward to the return match, St Joseph's were trailing by three points!, and many more fixtures to come.

The St. Joseph's fencing club is now up and running! We have top specification kit and our coach, Mr Kerr, is on tap. Training is on Tuesdays afterschool from 3pm – 4pm in the gym, and Friday lunchtimes.

Well done to Samantha Berry 10C who is benefiting from attending the Swindon Leadership Academy – I have received very positive feedback about her performance – and she is now tasked with feeding back her skills and knowledge to the rest of the St. Joseph's Sports Leaders so that they can plan a Tri-golf session for Holy Rood Infants School.

Indoor County Cricket Finals

St. Joseph's had two teams representing Swindon in the indoor cricket county finals held in Chippenham on Monday 14th February; Both drawing South Wilts Grammar School in the semi-final.

The U15 team of Ashleigh Loftus-Thorne, Nicole Anyango, Amber Vanhorne, Olivia Cowley, Christina Mulligan, Charlotte Haynes, Megan Avery and Joanna Fernandez faced some fierce bowling and will drilled fielding in their match making it difficult to score runs. St. Joseph's fought back in the field with excellent bowling from Ashleigh and Nicole resulting in a wicket each and a superb catch from Amber. South Wilts however proved too strong all round and went on to the final.

The Under 13 team of Clara Philippe,

Bernadette Barrett, Ginella De Oliveria, Sophie-Ann Humphrey, Leah Formoy and Alex Johnson were playing in their first ever competitive match with most of the team bowling for the first time. The team pushed South Wilts all the way with the highlight of the match from Clara bowling to get her first ever wicket. Again South Wilts proved too strong winning by 39 runs to progress through to the final.

A big well done to all those who played, it was a pleasure to take them to the games, they conducted themselves excellently and were a credit to themselves and the College.

Mrs Brennan and Miss Foley

Match Report

When we took part in the indoor cricket finals we played a team who were really good at bowling. While we were batting we took few chances to hit the ball and get runs but when it was our turn to bowl and field we did quite well. I hit the stumps and got a player out and so did a couple of other people and our fielding was not that bad, working as a team to try to get the players out. Even though we did lose we all had a great time and we want to say a big thank you to Mrs Brennan and Miss Foley for taking us there.

Ashleigh Loftus-Thorne 10W

New Term, New Club

A girls only recreational club will begin in the new term. On Monday lunchtime the sports hall will be open for girls to take part in any physical activity they wish. Just turn up with your trainers, choose your activity and get active.

Mrs Brennan

Year 11 and Year 10 Science Revision

Year 11 Revision for GCSE Science

Every Friday after Half Term. Revision sessions will run from 3.00pm till 4.00pm in B10.

Year 10 Revision for GCSE Science

Every Tuesday after half term. Revision sessions will run from 3.00pm till 4.00pm in B10

OCR Nationals catch up sessions

Will continue to run every Wednesday after College.

Year of Catholic Education 2010 to 2011

Music News

Rock School Concert

This event was a resounding success and we had 5 bands performing. There were two bands from Year 7 and this was their very first gig. A band featuring Year 8 students and two bands from our Yr 11's.

Our Year 11 bands are very experienced and have come a long way since their early days in Year 7 and our current Year 7's were able to see to what they can aspire as they gain more experience in performing and song writing.

The students are coached by Andy Wraight from the Swindon Rock School and he has given the students many opportunities to perform in a variety of venues as they progress.

Swindon Young Musician of the Year

On Sunday 6th February, two of our Year 11 students, Jessica Long and Joseph Young represented the College at the Swindon Young Musician of the Year, held at Blunsdon House Hotel.

Both students performed really well and did themselves and the College proud. Joe performed his own composition, accompanied by another Year 11 student, David Kirby, and he achieved a Highly Commended.

Well done to both students!

Art Department Exam Period

A reminder to all parents and students that all Art GCSE and A-Level Coursework is due in on the 31st January. All Exams will start on the 1st February with Exam dates and hand in dates for exam set units as below. Good luck to all Art and Photography students.

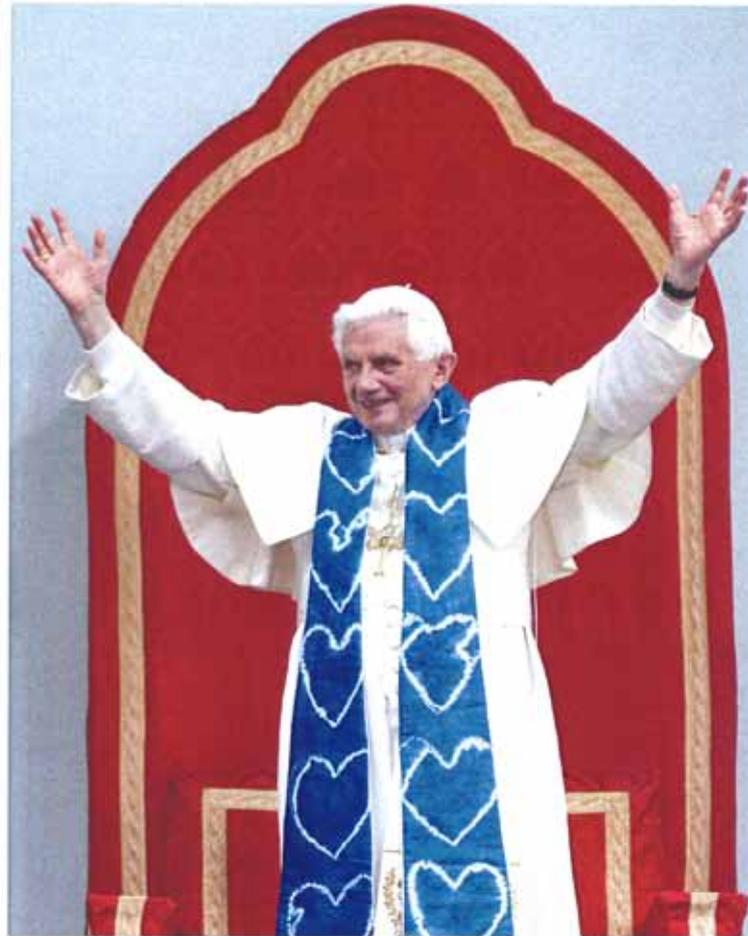
GCSE Exam 7th, 8th April

AS 11th March (Exam unit hand in 13th May)

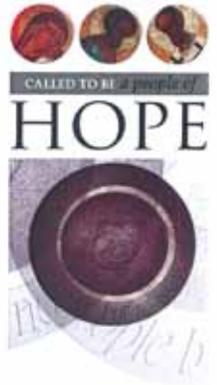
AS Photography 9th March (Exam unit Hand in 13th April)

A2 Art Exam 4th, 5th, 6th May

A2 Photography 13th, 14th, 15th April.



UNFOLDING wisdom



We will celebrate the year of Catholic Education by promoting our theme of 'Unfolding Wisdom' through:

Prayer – giving prayercards to everyone in our schools, colleges and parishes

Bishop Declan's pasioral letter on Education Sunday

Celebrating Masses in thanksgiving for all involved in education in our diocese

Developing our theology for teachers programme

Publishing our theology for teachers programme

Publishing our 'Unfolding Wisdom' prayerbook

Developing a common understanding of the mission of our schools and colleges



cliftondiocese.com

Sixth Form Football

The St. Joseph's Sixth Form football team continued their run of good form with a supremely professional Cup win against previously unbeaten New College B. Goals from Willoghby, Ody, Babu, Wilkinson, Sousa and Devenney ensured that they head into their quarter-final match having netted 15 goals in their previous three matches. Other displays of note came from Endicott and Popowicz as well as Witts who always looked composed at the back.

Royal Wedding

As you will no doubt be aware, the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton will take place on Friday 29th April 2011. Consequently, this day has been designated as an additional bank holiday for 2011. As the College will be closed on that day, due to the Easter break, it has been agreed to adopt a 'substitute' day of Friday 1st July 2011. The College will, therefore, be closed on 1st July.