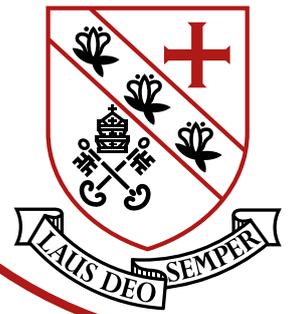


St Joseph's Newsletter



UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I write this piece for the newsletter in the week that the Department for Education (DFE) releases the official school and college performance tables. There is a great deal of detail in these tables showing the progress our students have made and allowing comparisons with other schools locally and nationally.

In the local newspaper we were ranked as the top school in the town on the five A*-C including English and Maths measure but I would draw your attention to one point which is not explained by the DFE. The government made a change to the rules for compiling such tables which allows only the inclusion of the first sitting of any exam. Therefore the students who did resits and improved their grades are not included in the tables. Our view is to do what is best for the students, so any decisions about resits are made on this criterion. Our Key Stage 4 percentage of students achieving 5 A*-C GCSE including English and Maths appears as 67%, which was the highest in Swindon but the actual figure achieved by our young people is 70%.

Our Year 11 and Sixth Form students have been receiving feedback on their progress following the Pre-Public Examinations and we hope this will help them understand what they need to do in these crucial months ahead. Many departments are offering extra revision sessions and support for students in the run up to the exams and I am sure this will have as big an impact as it did last year. It was good to see so many parents attending our Academic Tutoring Day this month and to talk with many of you about your experience of the College.

Mrs Bailey, Miss Foley and I are currently spending a lot of time meeting students who have applied to our Sixth Form. It is a great pleasure to discuss with these young people what they might do in the years ahead and to encourage them in their aspirations. We have had over 150 applications this year and are looking forward to welcoming so many students into this final phase of secondary education.

Although we had our very good Ofsted in November, we are not complacent about our self-evaluation and have scheduled a review of Teaching and Learning in February. Mr Giles and I will be joined by an external Deputy Headteacher, who is also Ofsted trained in conducting the review so that we have a clear picture of the quality of Teaching and Learning in the College.



We have now completed the process of appointing our senior students. Following their letter of application, taking up of references and interviews, I am delighted with the team of young people who have put themselves forward to serve our community. Congratulations to Alex King who has been appointed Head Boy, Omolola Funsho who has been appointed Head Girl. Also to Mark Crasto, who has been appointed Deputy Head Boy and Megan Nash who has been appointed Deputy Head Girl.

I have been asked to speak this month at a national conference for secondary Headteachers and I look forward to telling them about St. Joseph's and praising the work done here by our students and their teachers.

Paul Hughes, Principal

Dates for your Diary

- 13 FEB** College closes for students
- 23 FEB** College reopens for students
- 5 MAR** Year 9 Transition Pathway
- 11 MAR** Year 9 Parents' Evening (ABLM) 5:30pm
- 12 MAR** Staff Training Day
- 17 MAR** Year 9 Parents' Evening (CESW) 5:30pm
- 26 MAR** Easter Services
- 27 MAR** College closes for students

Change of Address or Telephone Number



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.

Swindon Inter-school Year 8 G&T challenge day



On Tuesday 13th January, Mr Davies and twelve Year 8 students travelled to Lydiard Park Academy for the Annual Inter-school Gifted and Talented Challenge. The other schools that competed were: Lydiard Park Academy, Highworth Warneford, Isambard, Kingsdown and Commonweal.

The day was lots of fun, and we competed in stimulating and inspiring challenges. The first challenge was art-based, we had to express our creative side and draw to music, like artist Wassily Kandinsky did. There was also a language based cryptic codebreaker. We even learnt some Swedish! Other challenges included engineering, English and Maths. We had to design a product and create a persuasive advertisement, make a paper table, solve a maths murder mystery and see how long we could keep a parachute that we made in the air for!

Despite all our best efforts, we came fourth but we all had a great time and learnt lots.

Sofia Anthulakis

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day was amazing because we gathered round with different schools and people around the world. We heard a very moving speech from the Mayor of Swindon. It was a wonderful experience to see us all united for this special day.

We were invited to the 'Friends Meeting House' where we snacked and learnt about peace. We thought that it was a fantastic opportunity to visit, meet and learn about different people.

Nicholas Ferrari, Shehani Rodrigo and Cybil Rodrigues



During this term the Chaplaincy Team has continued to lead worship and reflection activities at lunchtime in the Chapel.

We would like to thank our students to their enthusiasm and contribution to the Catholic life of our College. Listed below are the activities that will continue to take place in Term 4. All are very welcome.

MONDAY: Collective Worship

TUESDAY: Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY: "Lovely Letters"

THURSDAY: KS4 Prayer Group

FRIDAY: KS3 – Reflection

ARTS AND CRAFTS:

Making friendship bracelets is a fun way to share time and prayer with each other.

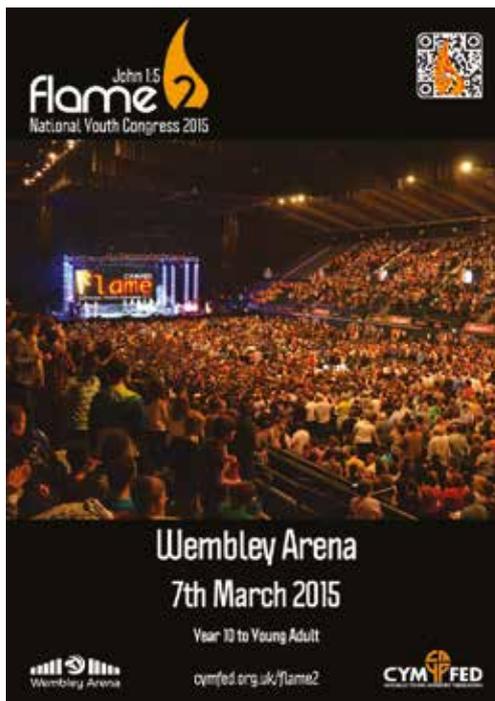
FAITH IN ACTION IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Arts & Crafts in the Chapel



In Term 3, we are continuing with Arts and Crafts in the Chapel. Making friendship bracelets is a fun way to share time and prayer with each other.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS



The Chaplaincy Team would like to invite our students to take part in the National Youth Congress at Wembley with thousands of young people from all over the UK.

Contact Mrs Croft in reception for tickets or get a letter from your RE teacher.

For more details about this day see cymfed.org.uk

The Year 13 General RE students would like to thank our St. Joseph's Community, for their generous donations to our Shoe Box appeal again this year.

We worked tirelessly to ensure that your donations were presented and gift wrapped beautifully before being sent to a very worthy charitable organisation in our Swindon community.

Some of us even delivered the gifts personally and the impact was quite emotional for everyone. Thank you.

Bookending Urban Outfitters

Students in Year 9 Technology were fictitiously given a design brief by Urban Outfitters to create a quirky and original bookend for males and/or females aged 13-16 years.

Using their computer aided design skills and practical woodwork skills, they spent the first two terms of the year researching, designing and then making a variety of different bookends. The project enabled students to develop their interests within technology and art with some bookends being carefully constructed together from an engineer's perspective and other bookends being beautifully finished with painted techniques.



A glimpse of Professional Practice in Art at A-level

Recently, I came across an article on the Ofsted website demonstrating outstanding practice at A-level. It discussed the importance of introducing A-level students to professional practice.

“Staff... place a stronger emphasis on developing students’ wider understanding of working in the creative industries and preparing them well for potential careers in art and design, than is usually seen in A-level provision in schools or colleges.”

It was then I realised what a fantastic range of experience we offer at St. Joseph’s as I found similarities in our approach to this article. Examples of this can be seen from the following opportunities Sixth Formers have.

- Textiles and Art students visited Bath Galleries looking not just at the Costume Museum but also the smaller galleries and the format in which art is sold.
- Photography students get to visit Lacock, the birthplace of photography and explore the amazing location.
- Year 12 students get the opportunity to run their own exhibition for Art, Photography and Textiles. This enables them to develop their own professional identity through creating flyers, business cards, customer relations, manning the exhibition space, marketing and publicity.
- Textiles and Graphic Communication students have worked with the Wyvern Theatre this year looking at costumes and the marketing of products with a visit to us and a talk with the marketing manager for the Wyvern.
- Art students have been working closely with Modern Art Oxford, even attending an exhibition opening and meeting Turner Prize winning artist Jeremy Deller. A workshop for these students also took place where professional artists came in and worked with them.
- More recently this year we have had a visit from the University of Gloucester about careers in Art and Design and how to put together a portfolio.
- We also look forward to the Summer Term where we take part in print and life drawing sessions at Swindon College.

As well as these great extra experiences on offer, we are also looking at taking a trip to New York in Spring 2017! Watch this space!

Mrs Wiltshire

Royal Shakespeare Theatre



On 28th January, Drama students took a trip to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon to watch *'The Christmas Truce'*, a play based on the events that took place during the Great War in 1914.

The German and English soldiers on the Front Line in Belgium declared a truce and ceasefire to celebrate Christmas Day.

They exchanged gifts, sang carols and played a friendly game of football. The play was produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company and it was both memorable and touching. It showed how even the worst of enemies can find peace with each other.

A particularly memorable scene was when the German Officer confronted the British Sergeant and demanded to know why he refused to shake his hand. Not only was the acting spectacular, but you could feel the significance of the event and truly understand the magnitude of the ceasefire; both the Germans and the British had families and lives outside the war and didn't truly want to fight.

Even though it wasn't a musical there were several musical numbers; some of these included a French maid who entertained the soldiers during their respite and a round of carols in both German and English. Both these numbers gave us goosebumps as their voices were both pure and haunting in the light of the circumstances.



It was a very emotional trip but allowed us to mourn the men, German and British, who lost their lives in this tragic world event and we definitely won't forget it for a very long time.

Mary Mungai, Hannah Burston & Alana Kahan

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

Could you write a story using only **twelve words?**

THEN ENTER OUR...

**Twelve
word
Story
Competition**

"Mr Snowman needed a cuddle; the sun agreed... now he's a puddle."

**HAND IN YOUR
ENTRIES TO THE ILC
BY FEBRUARY 25TH
FOR THE CHANCE TO
WIN A COPY OF
GUINNESS WORLD
RECORDS 2015!**

Year 11 Mock Interview Event



St Joseph's will be hosting its annual Year 11 Mock Interview event on **Thursday 5th March**.

Students will be invited to wear business dress for the day, (although this is not compulsory), and will be allocated an interview slot with an external business partner.

Year 11 will attend a number of workshops in preparation for

the event to help them present a quality application form. They will also be given advice on interview techniques as well as guidance on what to wear.

If you are a parent/carer or local business partner who would like to be involved in the event, please contact Amanda Green - IAG coordinator on 01793 714213 or email agreen@stjosephscollege.net

Year 10 GCSE Applied Business

In Business Studies this year we have been comparing how small and large businesses are different. For our small company we got to choose our own local business; for example, I have chosen R42PRO, a filming and photography business. For the larger company, we are studying Cadbury's and I have learnt how ethical they are trying to be; for example, did you know that Cadbury's was the first chocolate company to stop using slaves and set up a system of fair trade with their suppliers? To help us with our controlled assessment coming up soon, we are going to Cadbury World on 6 February; it would be an exciting experience to see what Cadbury's is like and learn about the company's aims and objectives. So far in this course I have enjoyed what I have been learning throughout the class. My teacher Mr McNulty makes learning more difficult topics very interesting.

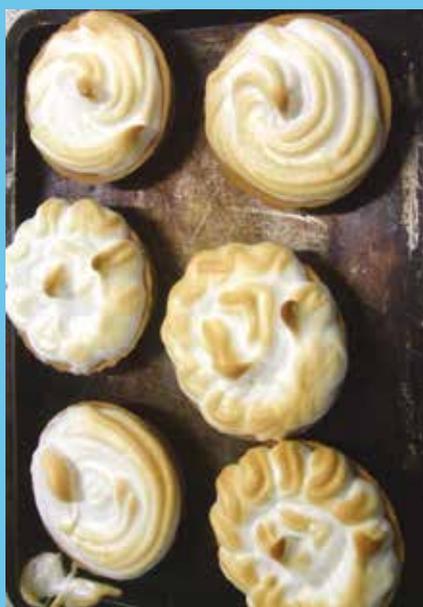
Crecilda Crasto

Student Investor

In Business Studies, we signed up to a website called Student Investor. It is a game where you can buy and sell shares of businesses and whoever makes the most profit wins and moves on to a further stage in the competition. The overall winner will win a trip to New York. We had to sign up in teams of four. Then we had to choose businesses to buy shares in and we had to predict whether they were going to lose money or make a profit. After a few days we could check our portfolio and see if the businesses we had bought shares in were losing or making money. If they were losing money, we could sell the shares we had in that business.

Sasha Brady

Food Technology



At the beginning of the year, 16 Year 9 students enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh cooking skills club.

Students attended for 12 weeks, cooked something of their own choice, photographed the dish and uploaded it onto their Duke of Edinburgh profile page. It is a lively, enjoyable experience allowing the students to practice valuable kitchen skills and at the same time follow a recipe!

Mrs Curran

Year 11 Futsal Tournament

St Joseph's Year 11 boys took part in a schools 5-a-side futsal tournament. The team got off to a slow start in their first group game with a 1-1 draw against Dorcan who later went on to win the tournament. The goal in that game came from Biagio Mazzotta and Henry Firth made some fine saves but was beaten at his near post. In the second game the boys were victorious over Lydiard Park Academy 2-1, with goals coming from Kye Robinson and Tommy Ouldrige. The final group game was against Warneford School's B Team, however the boys went into this game knowing they had already qualified, although they had to work hard to come out 3-2 winners. A superb solo display from Tommy Ouldrige, scoring a Hat-trick, saw the boys progress in second place on goal difference.

The team were confident going into the quarter finals without a loss but soon found themselves 2-0 down in the first half against Warneford School's A team. It wasn't until late in the second half the boys really turned on the heat and were able to level the scoring with two goals coming from Ouldrige late on.

With no team able to find a winner in the last minute, the only outcome was a penalty shootout which is always a nerve racking experience. Tommy Ouldrige stepped up first and scored; Henry Firth followed it up with a fine save from Warneford's first penalty. Kyle Parker then converted St. Joseph's second penalty with a powerful strike, but Warneford were also able to score their second. Bertram Clement had the chance to win it for St. Joseph's only to see his penalty hit the post; Warneford responded by scoring and taking it to sudden death. Biagio Mazzotta then saw his penalty saved and Warneford were then on hand to score their penalty to see them through and knock the mighty St. Joseph's out.

It was an enjoyable experience and congratulations to all the players who took part. It was a very good effort from the boys, WELL DONE!

St Joseph's students are lucky charms for STFC

St Joseph's participated in the Pro Red ticket scheme for the Swindon Town v Chesterfield match in January.



This was the first trip to the County Ground for many of the students and we were thrilled to see Swindon Town win 3-1.

As part of the package, we were able to form a guard of honour for both teams and officials as they walked onto the pitch and met Man of the Match Nathan Byrne afterwards for selfies, questions and autographs. We also featured in the match day programme.

It is hoped that this experience will take place again in March and that we can, once again, watch Swindon win!

Mrs Fraser

St. Joseph's Boys Wiltshire Cup Football

TEAM	STAGE
U12s - Year 7	Through to Semi finals
U14s - Year 9	Knocked out first round
U16s - Year 11	Through to Quarter finals
U18s - Sixth Form	Through to Quarter finals

Congratulations to the YEAR 11 FOOTBALL TEAM who won their fixture against Dorcan 2-1 and progress to the next round of the Cup competition. Well done, boys! *Mr Barkham*

ROCK SCHOOL GIG



The New Year has been a busy one for the department. On Thursday 15 January, five bands from our Rock School After College Club performed in the College hall. The stage was set with Rock Star lighting, smoke and big sound!

All the bands were asked to perform at least two songs, with the more experienced performers being challenged to do a 10-15 minute set. Great practice for those future gigs! All the bands have been working with DJ from Swindon Rock School since September; they did their first gig in front of bands from other schools just before Christmas.

One of our bands featured two guests from St Mary's School! Both students will hopefully join our Rock School if they come to St. Joseph's in September.

We now at last have a girl band - which is fantastic!

Congratulations!

...to Caitlin O'Leary in Year 12 on passing her Grade 6 Music Theatre Exam with Distinction!

If you would like to have singing lessons (or lessons on any of the instruments) come and see Mrs Cooke.

ADVERT:

Rock/Pop Band currently looking for a vocalist (male or female)

If you are interested in 'fronting' the band as a lead vocalist please come and see Mrs Cooke (and the band) to audition!

KEEPING MUSIC LIVE IN OUR COLLEGE



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@stjosephscc

Sixth Form Twitter:

@SixthFormNews

Find us on Facebook:

St. Joseph's Catholic College

Holy Rood 'Evening of Carols'

The Senior College Singers attended this event on Friday 16th January.

Despite not having the full choir available, the students sang really well and the audience were very keen to come and speak to the choir after the concert to show their appreciation of their performance.

The concert was a big success for the church and over £1,000 was raised towards the upkeep of the building. (Including the new roof and repair work).

The Senior College Singers have some exciting projects coming up over the next year. If you are in Year 9-12, enjoy singing and would like to be challenged, come and see Mrs Cooke for details about joining.

Students in Year 7-9 are more than welcome to come along to Junior College Singers on Wednesday lunchtimes at 1.10pm in the Music Room.