



The lead up to the Easter Holiday is always an intense time in any school and St. Joseph's is no exception. As well as the normal daily lessons and extra-curricular activities the older students start the final preparations for their GCSE and 'A' Level exams, all of which have an impact on their futures.

To give a flavour of the challenges faced by our students we need only look at the work of our Key Stage 4 Flexible Pathway students' portfolios, which are the culmination of two years hard work on a number of projects, all leading to a Level 2 qualification (equivalent to a GCSE B grade). We are very proud to say that of the 28 students who entered, their folders were passed by external assessors, who praised the quality of the work included.

We are equally proud of all of our Year 13 students who applied to university, 60 of whom have received university offers to date, in subjects ranging from Ancient History to Physics and Astrophysics, with all the different Science, Humanities and Arts subjects in between. This is a tribute to the hard work they have invested in their AS Levels last summer and in researching the best courses for their future plans.

Year 12 students are also busy preparing for their own university applications, taking advantage of the extra opportunities offered by Villiers Park Trust and attending lectures at Oxford University in subjects such as English.

Student Voice has been very active, with students giving feedback on many issues, contributing to important planning for the whole College. Students have completed questionnaires about challenges and progress in individual lessons, as well as on their feelings about the College. This allows us to identify any potential areas of concern or development, as well as strengths such as 'teachers encouraging them to do their very best' and 'teaching the differences between right and wrong'. The College Parliament has also been involved in the consultation on proposals to amend the College day. This student-created process has enabled each tutor group to question the Principal directly, giving their views as to what new and different forms of extra-curricular activities they would like the College to offer.

For all our students who make up the St. Joseph's community Lent and Easter is a period of preparation for their studies, as well as their faith. Many students have worked hard for their House charities and for Fairtrade, and also decided to give something up or do something

extra for their studies. By doing this they keep in the forefront of their minds what they need for the important exams ahead, some students have decided to attend subject revision sessions while others have prepared a study timetable to follow. We wish them every success in their exam preparations over the next three months.

On behalf of the Leadership Group we would like to wish you all a happy and restful Easter.

Assistant Principals: Clare Bailey, Neil Hathaway, Kathryn Sanders, Ben Slater and Adrian Stoten

Prayer

Loving Father,
as we come to the end of another term we come to you and place any difficult relationships into the healing hands of Jesus, your Son.

Enable us to leave behind any pain of the past and any regrets or bitterness, entrusting the past to your mercy, the present to your love, and the future to your providence.

Help to appreciate more the need to keep a good balance in our lives.

May the holiday be for us a time of recreation to help restore us and re-create us in your image and likeness, as we enjoy more of the love and presence of our families, on whom we ask your blessing. Amen.

Parent questionnaire

Thanks to everyone who completed the recent questionnaire for parents on Academic Review Day, your opinions and views are very important to us all at St. Joseph's. We have now collated all the responses and the results can be seen on the College website. A summary of the key points is on the home page, with links to follow to view the complete results.

Fresh College website coming soon...

In response to feedback from parents, students and staff we have redesigned our website, with the aim of keeping everyone more up-to-date on daily happenings at the College. The new site will go live after Easter, so keep a look out for it as we would welcome your continued feedback.

Dates for your diary

30th March	College closes for Students
16th April	College re-opens for Students
24th April	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Pop P)
2nd May	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Pop Q)
10th May	Year 11 Awards Ceremony and Leavers' Mass
10th May	Year 8 Transition Evening
17th May	Year 7 Parents' Evening (Pop P)
22nd May	Year 7 Parents' Evening (Pop Q)
24th May	Year 13 Study Leave and Leavers' Mass

New Starter Travel Arrangements

As of September 2012, for all new starters to our College, free public transport has been removed. Students who currently use this free transport will be unaffected until they leave the College.

St. Joseph's has been investigating how we can get the best arrangements possible for our incoming students, including looking at the possibility of providing our own transport service. Because of the geographical spread of where our students live it is impossible for us to provide the number of buses and the free transport that has been available up until now.

To help students and parents with this situation we have negotiated a special deal with Thamesdown Transport, who have agreed to offer a discounted price for a Scholar Pass for our new students. We are also working with them to develop the best bus routes and bus changes for each student. At this point no final decision has been made and we are still looking at any options available.

Parents who have a child starting in Year 7 in September have been contacted and asked what their views and preferences are in order to help us with this decision. We will keep you informed of all developments on this.

Chance it for Chocolate

Students visiting the Independent Learning Centre on World Book Day were challenged to 'Chance it for Chocolate' by talking for one minute about a book they would recommend to their peers. Students from Years 7 to 11 took part, with choices ranging from 'The Brilliant World of Tom Gates' to 'Twilight' and 'Romeo and Juliet'. Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, celebrating all that's great about books and reading.



'Thirst for Change'

The College is supporting Cafod's 'Thirst for Change' campaign, lobbying the government to demand clean water and safe sanitation for all. Students have written to the Prime Minister, explaining why they thirst for change, with their water droplet poems displayed in The Street. If you would like to add your name to the campaign, and stop water poverty in the developing world, you can pick up a leaflet from Reception to return to Cafod. Here's a sample of just one of the poems written by a Year 7 student:

Raindrops, the colour of the sea,
So many people want them so hear my plea.
Every 20 seconds a child dies from dirty water.
I don't know about you, but that's more than they 'oughta'.
These people that die, it's nothing that they've done,
They are human beings, the same as everyone.
Raindrops, or maybe a tear
Of a child dying - who has lived in fear.
I hope I've made this message loud and clear
Try to bring about change, I hope you hear.

Business & Interview Day



Year 11 students got to experience what it's really like to go for a job interview, with people from different organisations coming into the school to conduct mock interviews on 'Business & Interview Day'. Students got the opportunity to experience the interview process, completing application forms in advance, dressing appropriately and then being interviewed by companies such as BMW Group, Withy King Solicitors, Swindon College, NHS, Army Careers and local radio station, Swindon 105.5.

As part of the day students also got the opportunity to work on planning a Prom, dividing into groups and learning about managing budgets, event planning and working as part of a team. At the end of the exercise they presented their ideas, developing communications skills and confidence in presenting to a group.

"The Business Day provided us with a unique experience, resulting in a very different day where we all managed to develop different skills."

Ryan Perkins

"I think that today's experience was vital in enabling me to understand how to conduct myself in an interview, preparing me for the future."

Will Ford

Fairtrade News

The Fairtrade Franchise at St. Joseph's has sold £4400 worth of stock since the beginning of this academic year. £450 has been the commission made on the sales, which has gone to the Children of the Forest Project. We have supplied products to various Churches and Schools in our local Community. Thank you to all for your continued support. Here's a student review, telling us what has been achieved this year:

It is now the fourth year that St. Joseph's Catholic College has been a Fairtrade Franchise. In this time we have raised £2320 in charitable profit just from the support of all our students and staff!

To accomplish this amazing feat there have been hundreds of Fairtrade events, from our fortnightly stalls to our Fairtrade Fashion Shows. When you go to one of these events you can see just how whole-heartedly our College community has become involved in supporting the farmers overseas, helping them to achieve fair prices so that they can support their own families, improve communities, and lead better lives.

Each week helpers from every year group in the College set out the stalls, give up their free time to sell the stock and prepare behind the scenes for next week's stalls. These same people volunteer to help at the other events like the Fashion Show. It has been four years of fantastic Fairtrade events and in that time Fairtrade has become a part of our College. Without your support none of this would have been possible and we hope that you can continue to support Fairtrade. If you would like to become a part of running the Fairtrade stalls, or help at up-and-coming events, please contact Julia, our Chaplain.

Yasmine Yule & Rose Marie Kramer

Fairtrade Fashion Show

"I think that for the Fashion Show there were a lot more people than I expected and that the whole experience did send an important message to the attended audience. A strong message was conveyed, telling us where the money given goes and who it helps. Clothes were publicised and were modelled by the students and teachers, a new experience for most of them. There was a pleasant atmosphere throughout and an enjoyable end to a great day."

Clara Philippe



House News

"On Friday 2nd March we were all split into different groups. I was in group 1, which was split up into teams of six or seven. These groups consisted of at least one Year 7, one Year 8 and one Year 9. The first challenge was a maths challenge. I'm a whizz at maths...but only with a calculator! I have to say this challenge was a big fail for our group. With 20 minutes to the end of the first session, we had a knock on the door. It was Mr Harney. He entrusted me with a camera and I had to take pictures and make a video too."



In task two we had to make House brochures and then create a short presentation. From our main teams we split up into two, three person sub-teams. I worked with Plesney and Jacob. I researched shopping and made the brochure. Plesney found facts and history about Glastonbury. Jacob designed the front cover. It was up to me to speak in the presentation. I was worried. But in the end, I performed really well!

In task three we had to write a House sonnet. We were back in our main groups again, and thankfully all went to plan. Our sonnet actually turned out alright. In the majority of lines we had "In Glastonbury" as it was already five syllables which made the rest a bit easier! As you can probably tell we didn't win this activity.

In the final task we had to copy a house image using a grid method. This worked out very well. Our team was divided into two sub-teams. At first we split up the A3 piece of paper into many segments but the problem was that we were running out of time. It didn't matter if it was too precise as long as we finished it. We turned over the piece of paper and started again, this time with eight segments. Our group had finished in time. This was the first activity we won. We were rewarded with chocolate!"

Paulo Di Mello, Glastonbury

Parent Governor Elections

St. Joseph's recently held an election for a Parent Governor, following a parent Governor coming to the end of their term. Neil Cowie duly applied and was elected on to the Governing Body on 27 February 2012. We welcome him on to the Governing Body.

Geography

Geography: You'd be lost without it

It's been a busy year for the Geography Department so far, with a wide range of activities taking place - whether it was modelling coastal landforms with playdough, orienteering at Badbury Clump, debating the future of tourism in the Alps or exploring flood potential along the River Cole locally. The Department is also continuing its involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh programme at the College and is looking forward to the Bronze Expedition practice in April.

One of the highlights for many this year will be the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London during August. This will certainly not go unmentioned in the department, with plans for the relevance of the games in terms of tourism, urban regeneration and social equity to be studied across the year groups. All this should lead to a number of students entering the Royal Geographical Society's (with IBG) 'Young Geographer of the Year' competition.

If all that wasn't enough there is still plenty more to come, including the annual Year 7 daytrip to Eastrop Farm in May, the Year 12 trip to Swanage and, one of the real highlights in the calendar, the joint Geography and Sports GCSE trip to Pencelli in South Wales during July.

Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside...



"For the AS Geography course we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go on a field trip based in Slapton, Devon. We were able to visit places such as the Eden Project, the city of Plymouth, Totnes and Dartmoor. During the trip we completed activities such as walking, evaluating sea defences, examining Eustatic sea level rise, a decision making exercise in Lyme Regis, oh and did I mention some more walking! The trip was a lot of fun and we gained skills along the way that will prove very useful to us during our A-levels. With it being such a small group we all became good friends during the trip."

Lisa Cook

"On Friday 10th February we went on a geography trip - it was very cold! For me though the trip had been long awaited and I was rather excited. It was an opportunity to go far away with my favourite lesson and with all my friends. We visited Bournemouth and effectively prepared for our Geography Controlled Assessment, spending the day alternating between bus and beach. Overall, the whole trip was really enjoyable as I got the opportunity to socialise with new people and the chance to see how geography works in real life rather than just in books. The trip enhanced my view on how geography fits into real life and just how important the subject is."

Tarnia Gonzo

WaterAid Project

Many thanks to those Year 8 geographers who contributed towards the collage sent to Murariati Primary School in Kalaroa, Bangladesh in support of the Thames Water WaterAid Project. They were very excited to see how we live in Swindon, and grateful for our support of the project. You can find out more at the daily blog at www.thameswater.co.uk.



Where are they now?

An ex-student from St. Joseph's talks about where geography has taken him:

"When applying for university I found it hard deciding on the course I wanted to do and whether to choose Business Studies or Geography. In the end I decided on Geography and I'm currently studying BSc Geography at Lancaster University. The course is so different to what I have done in the past and this makes it all the more interesting. The fact I'm doing a BSc means the degree is of a scientific nature making it more challenging and rewarding.

As of September I will be studying the second year of my degree at the University Of Western Ontario, Canada, which is an amazing opportunity. I was able to choose my modules here and have been able to incorporate a business course into my Geography scheme (which may please Mr McNulty!).

My time at St. Joseph's definitely helped me decide what to do with my future, and the enthusiasm of Mr Stewart, Mr Johns and Miss Fuller encouraged me to further my involvement with the subject. Along with the fact that we had an amazing class and all got on really well, I really enjoyed the subject and the interactive elements to the course, particularly the field trips! However, all this wouldn't have been possible had I not had the support and help of Mrs Bailey and Mrs Carter as well."

Jose Prunty (attended St. Joseph's from 2004 to 2011)

Where in the world?

The 'Where in the world?' competition continues to go from strength to strength, with more and more students expanding their knowledge of the world and gaining house points and a variety of prizes in the process. Keep your eyes open for a new picture and clues each month on the 'Student Resources' section of Moodle.

Technology

Food Technology

Italian 'A' level cooking

Eight enthusiastic students prepared and presented their Italian pasta dishes whilst the Language teachers enjoyed espresso coffee, biscotti biscuits and listening to Italian music. There was a wonderful atmosphere and the results were amazing. The Food Technology Department is very much looking forward to the GCSE French students cooking a French starter soon.

6th Form: Cooking on a Budget

In this cooking challenge groups of students are given £5 to purchase ingredients so that they can make a nutritious meal for four in 50 minutes. Dishes included a fried breakfast, omelettes, spaghetti bolognese and a tomato pasta dish. We can't wait to see how the other tutor groups do!



Inter-house cooking competition

The second inter-house competition this year is focused on making a delicious dessert. There has been a fantastic variety - pastries, cakes, mousses and cheesecakes. We have been very impressed with the presentation too.

Swindon Cooking Challenge

We are in our sixth year of competing in this local schools' competition, with our highlight so far being second place in the final. This year two Year 8 students, Laura Brown and Caitlin Dooley, are practising their dishes, themed around the Olympics, hoping for a place in the final. Christina Tucci, who won the Year 10 dessert competition, will be representing the school in April. We wish them all the best of luck.

STEM Club

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Club has grown from strength to strength, led by Mr Redrup and Miss Sparks from Science and by Mrs Berger and Mr Quant from Technology. The club takes place every Thursday on a Week A in Science and on a Week B in Technology.



So far we have looked at how a vacuum cleaner works, disassembled the suction head and then putting it back together again. We have created bridges that consisted entirely of spaghetti, and which held 200g of weight. Some of the bridges even held up to 600g. What a mess they made when they fell apart!

Some students have taken on long term projects like building a bird house or inventing a tool, with a group of girls in the club working on creating a wall hanging.

We have bent glassware using Bunsen burners and explored what happened when thermo-chromic paint came into contact with boiling water and other temperatures. Animations were made out of Lego bricks using digital cameras. We also explored the function of tendons by making a robotic finger.



We explored how an egg can be wrapped, using the least amount of money to buy the best resources. We then dropped the egg over the College balcony. Not all the test subjects survived the fall! We also used the balcony to establish the best paper plane.

We explored printing techniques by using acrylic paint and cellulose adhesive to create marbled paper, a technique used in Victorian times to create dust covers for books. This linked to an earlier activity where we made greeting cards just in time for Valentine's Day, using ink and string. All in all our many and varied experiments showed just how exciting and hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics can be. We look forward to doing more next term!



Art

In the seven years since I started at St. Joseph's I've been privileged to teach some excellent students, seeing them go on to work and be successful in the creative industries; in fact last year I was visited by an ex-student who was doing work experience as part of her degree. It is always rewarding to see students achieving their potential when they leave St. Joseph's and we have had plenty of student success within the school too. In 2011 our GCSE cohort achieved 82% A-C, with 25% of those achieving A- A*.

Our A-level courses continue to go from strength to strength, with the Art and Photography Sixth Form cohort going from three entries in 2007 to 60 in 2012. During this time we have also achieved the prized A* grade in both Art and Photography endorsements. The students get excellent value and benefit from strong working relationships with the very experienced staff in the department and we offer a wide specialism base that includes 2D and 3D visual studies, photography, printmaking and textiles.

Next year's Sixth Form have the opportunity to study textiles as a subject in its own right in conjunction with Swindon College. In Year 12 we continue to foster links with Swindon College, where students can try life drawing and printmaking at their workshops. Year 12 also organise and run their own exhibition at the Post Modern Gallery in Swindon, providing them with a very real experience of life as a practising artist, building skills essential for the working world.

At St. Joseph's Art Department we provide as many opportunities as possible for our students – Year 10 have recently spent a great day at the V&A and Year 11 visited Swindon Art Gallery to support their studies. Year 10 and Year 12 students also have had the opportunity to attend a two day residential in Cornwall, looking at the art at the Eden Project and St. Ives as well as exploring the beach environment.

As we wish all our current students the best of luck for their up-and-coming exams, we are also busy planning for the next year ahead, when we will be offering Year 9 students a chance to opt in to the Bronze Arts Award during their course. This gives Year 9 a real opportunity to be rewarded for their artistic success, and to prepare them for their GCSE in Art.

A massive thanks to parents for all their support and donations of equipment and materials, and to the staff; Miss Shaw-Giles, Mr Rutter, Mr Chappell and Mrs Payne.



If you go down to the woods today...

If you go down to the woods you might find some impressive pieces of land art made by Year 8 students recently on a Flexible Friday that was linked with Geography.

Students took part in an orienteering exercise with Geography and were then able to explore the shapes, colours and textures of the autumnal setting. They investigated the area, examining the work of artists Andy Goldsworthy and Richard Long, before they constructed their own pieces of art work. This experience was essential in learning in an out of classroom context. The ability to have the freedom to construct large structures with found materials tested the students problem solving skills, as well as getting them to consider the aesthetics of their work. The students communicated their ideas effectively, demonstrating excellent speaking and listening skills when presenting their work. Some students on the short bus ride home were heard to say it was 'the best Flexible Friday ever'. Many thanks to all who attended, and to Geography for helping to organise the trip with Art.



Art Club Round-up

Key Stage 3 Art Club has continued to build on its popularity from previous years with a regular attendance of twenty students from Years 7 and 8. During the Autumn Term students looked at the Brothers Grimm fairytale, Snow White. Students relished the opportunity to create 3D puppets and figurines representing the characters in this dark children's story. Students worked in teams to create Snow White, several dwarfs, an evil queen, and a magic mirror amongst other pieces. The results were of a particularly high quality, and the students took turns to use studio lighting and professional photographic equipment to photograph the pieces, turning them into posters using digital processes on Photoshop. The students enjoyed the opportunity to work in three dimensions and to use the range of mediums normally reserved for much older students.

Since Christmas students have been working hard on the set for the College production of Oliver! Painting eight foot flats can be a daunting task, however the students have more than risen to the challenge. Without their mature, co-operative attitudes the results would have been far less impressive, and it is testament to the quality of our students at St. Joseph's that they can organise themselves so effectively to bring the best out of each other. While the club is particularly well attended, there is always space for a few more, so if you would like to take part or find out more join us in R11 Session 8 every Monday!

Sports & Activities

BTEC Sport

As part of their BTEC Sport course our Year 10 students planned a series of sports activities for the Year 6 pupils at Holy Rood Primary School. The weather was not kind on 7th March, so it proved essential that our Year 10 students had organised alternative venues for their activities.

Holy Rood had initially planned to walk the 60 plus students to St. Joseph's but, due to the persistent rain, Mr. Iles ferried the children to the College by mini-bus. This resulted in an alteration of the starting time for the activities. Our Year 10 students took this setback in their stride and set about their activities with enthusiasm.

The first three sessions were basketball, kwik cricket and dodgeball/benchball followed by handball, multi-sports and basketball. The Year 6 students were clearly enjoying the activities, which was a good reward for the hard work which had been put in by the BTEC Sport students. Some students were understandably a little nervous initially, but the positive response from the primary school children certainly helped them to gain confidence.

Overall, it was an excellent learning experience for the Year 10 group and our thanks go out to Holy Rood for allowing their Year 6 pupils to participate. All involved certainly gained a great deal from the day.

Some comments from Holy Rood students include, "I had a great day at St. Joseph's and I am looking forward to coming up and taking part in more P.E.," and "I enjoyed the cricket most because it was fun and good. Also Year 10 were amazing".

Maths Challenge

Junior Team

The St. Joseph's team was made up of Jerzy Pilipczuk, Hannah Lloyd (who returned from last year), Andrea Napoli and Chelsea Pereira. Unfortunately the Year 8 trip took place on the same day, so Chelsea and Andrea from Year 7 had to take part instead, but hopefully this will give them a good experience for the next couple of years. We found the group questions the hardest and the cross number (like a crossword) took a bit of getting used to. After lunch we got to run about a bit with the maths relay race.

Intermediate Team

Huge congratulations to Connor Wetherell and Gavin Cowie who got Gold Certificates in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, showing excellent puzzle-solving capabilities. Silvers went to Aston Bishop, Salik Ahmed, Nigel da Cruz, Kyle Reynolds and Daniel Stuart, and Bronzes to Daniel Carbone, Louis Askins, Ryan Perkins and Donal Holliday (all from Year 11) and Fiona Beaton, Joe Forrester and Jennifer Jurga from Year 10.

Student Investor Challenge

Trading is now over! Results are in and the final standings have been calculated. Well done to 'The Risky Business' team, who rose to the challenge and were the only pupil team to beat the teachers' team, the 'St Joseph's Superstars'. Commiserations to the other 72 pupils in 18 teams that took part and don't forget there's always next year!

Duke of Edinburgh

We are now about to start on the new Duke of Edinburgh season for 2012, having just celebrated the efforts and success of 2011.

We had over 60 Extra Curricular and 20 Flexible Pathway students completing their Bronze expedition section in the Mendips in June and 10 Silver Award participants passing their expedition section in the Brecon Beacons in September.

Sixteen Year 13 students also passed their expedition section in the Lake District in October, an amazing achievement in which they journeyed for eight hours each day on foot over four days! Congratulations go to everyone who took part.

Many of these students are completing their volunteering, skills and physical sections in order to attain their full Duke of Edinburgh Award. Some of them are very close to completing this and several have submitted completed record books already. Congratulations to them all! An award ceremony is to be held for all those finally attaining the award soon.

"The Duke of Edinburgh was an amazing few months, from the build-up to the practice and the ending of the physical, skill and voluntary sections. The whole experience is an unforgettable time in my life. I can't wait for the silver and maybe gold."

Patrick Parker

"Duke of Edinburgh is a fantastic experience, as well as a great opportunity to add another achievement to your future CV. It's all about teamwork, leadership and good communication skills. As a team we had to walk 12 miles and put our coordination skills to the test, as we were all guided by our maps. These exercises required trust in our teammates to finish the expedition."

Tia Greenidge



National Science Week

Students at the College celebrated this year's National Science Week by taking part in lunchtime activities every day. A wide range of activities were available from dissecting hearts to making sparks through to making slime and an eggstravigant activity. Student comments included "scary at first but really fun"; "awesome but disgusting"; "gooey fun" and "slimetastic".

Extend

Sustainable Travel

"On Thursday 9th February two people from Swindon Borough Council came to our school to present a show on sustainable travel to Year 7.

What is sustainable travel, you ask? Sustainable travel is the way people travel around without polluting the Earth. These two men gave a sophisticated and hilarious production which kept us interested and occupied. We all enjoyed the production - especially how the dim-witted assistant made us all laugh with his amusing acts. Although the act was very informal it taught us a lot about the greenhouse effect and how we can avoid it.

We were told about car-sharing, being seen when cycling and what not to do when walking, cycling and driving. The main points were never texting when approaching a road, never using the phone, never being distracted by music and always wearing fluorescent clothing to be seen at night. Overall, the presentation was extremely educational and taught us a lot."

Sofia Seferi, Emily Cole and Luke Wood

Year 11 Flexible Pathway

Congratulations to the Year 11 Flexible Pathway students who completed an application form as part of the nPower and Swindon Town sponsored 'What's Your Goal?' competition. A Swindon Town representative commented that those sent from St. Joseph's were some of the best from the whole borough.

The applicants who make it through to the final stage get the opportunity to have a week's work experience at Swindon Town, in roles such as Community Coach, Groundsman and Community Manager.

Another 'well done' is due to those students in Years 10 and 11 who have completed their CoPE Level 2 files in time for the March moderation. Almost two years of hard work has produced some excellent results and a special mention must also go to Mrs Buckenham and Mrs Cartwright for their meticulous file checking and last minute motivation attributes.

Young Enterprise

'Captured in Time', the St. Joseph's Year 11 Young Enterprise Team, are aiming to make 2012 the year to remember!

Last November, we competed against 12 other secondary schools and colleges at the Nationwide Enterprise Competition. We sold personalised cacti, coming runner's up after being judged on our presentation, organisation, and the trade stand itself. We hand painted the pots and potted a selection of fabulous cacti!

Throughout the year we have used a range of Enterprise skills, including overcoming problems (such as very spiky cacti!), working together and being creative.

We are creating personalised leaver's hoodies for Year 11. Every student will have their name on the back, with the school name on the front. Each hoodie will cost £19 and would be a perfect memento to remember your school years with. The Tutor Group to bring back the most reply slips and money will win a tin of chocolates and 20 House points. The more purchases received, the lower the price will get, and thus, you may get some change!

Maths Revision

Analysis of past GCSE Maths papers show that students lose a significant number of marks on the C and D grade questions. This includes students aiming for grades A*, A, and B as well as C grade students. So how can you revise these areas? Come along to our breakfast revision at 7.30am on Tuesdays to find out. We look forward to seeing you there!

GCSE Unit C Maths Revision Sessions: 7:30am – 8:15am, Room S02 and S03

Date	Topics
17th April	Probability: Mutually exclusive, relative frequency, experimental probability
24th April	Proportional change
1st May	Nets, surface area and volume of prisms
8th May	Percentages of amounts, increase, decrease and percentage difference
15th May	Expanding and factorising equations and solving by trial and improvement
22nd May	Graphs: Distance/time, linear, parabolas, 3D co-ordinates
29th May	Selection of topics for final revision

Also, St. Joseph's Maths Department now have a Twitter account, @sjccmaths, which will keep you up-to-date with everything that is happening in the department and in the wider world of maths, complete with puzzles and occasional competitions. Join us today and find out what's going on!



Young Carers Awards Ceremony

Two young carers from St. Joseph's represented the College at the Young Carers Awards Ceremony, held at Swindon College on 8 March 2012.

These awards have been created to celebrate the work of the young carers in our community and the work that schools invest in supporting the needs of these highly responsible young people, who do very important work caring for the needs of their families.

St. Joseph's has a growing community of students who are young carers. We are constantly astounded by how well they balance their commitments in College with their tasks at home. Within the College they offer a support network to one another; which is extended further into the other Swindon schools, where they enjoy meetings and activities with other young carers.

We were very proud of our two St. Joseph's representatives, who prior to the ceremony talked to the Swindon Borough Council's Director of Children's Services and the Chair for the NHS Gloucestershire and Swindon Board about their daily lives, whilst simultaneously enjoying the wonderful catering by the Swindon Catering College (we all agreed that the chocolate brownies were 'to die for!'). Then, on the behalf of St. Joseph's young carers, the students received a beautiful mosaic plaque that recognises the support that our young carers receive, which we will proudly display in our main entrance.