



Welcome back to our first term as an Academy. A special greeting to all our new Year 7 parents and students. I hope that everyone had a relaxing summer break whether you stayed at home or went overseas. It is a pity, however, that we got our summer in October!

This is always an exciting time, the start of a new academic year when we look forward to the many opportunities that will unfold over the coming months.

It is normal for me at this time of year to report on our examination results with which we are very pleased. Our 'A' Level results, in particular, were excellent. The College average points score (APS) per student this year was 681 APS, an increase from 568 in 2009, with 43% of students achieving A/B (29% in 2009). The Sixth Form has been identified as significantly improving and was mentioned in the Sutton Trust report as getting more students to university as a percentage than our nearest three Sixth Form colleges.

The College is extremely proud of this achievement; it is one of the reasons for our expanding Sixth Form as well as our membership of Villiers Park Educational Trust. This initiative enables students who have no history of further education in their family, to get to the 'elite' universities.

GCSE results saw English achieving 74% A*- C and Maths 66% with 75% of students achieving 5 A*- C. The RE department was our star department this year with 82% of students achieving A*- C.

As always, the College is not complacent about its results; detailed evaluation has already taken place with each subject area. This is to ensure that strengths are identified and areas for improvement noted and worked on in the coming months.

The College has been granted Gifted and Talented status along with Business and Enterprise by the Schools Network. The focus for our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training for staff this year is 'raising aspirations' for all through the Gifted and Talented programme and Villiers Park programmes.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr A Stoten (Buckfast) and Mr N Hathaway (Walsingham), our two new Assistant Principals who will work alongside Mrs Bailey (Glastonbury) and Mr Slater (Evesham) and our other new colleagues. Each Assistant Principal is responsible for a House under our new system with each House being assigned a Student Manager and a Head of House. You may find it useful to make a note of who these are for future reference. I have no doubt you will hear a lot more about the House system from the students over the next year.

M Harries, Principal

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

Help the members of Buckfast House get through all the activities we are given.

Help us to understand everything we are going to do.

Give us the courage to take part in every activity and help us to encourage others to do their best.

Amen

Be the best you can be

Friday 30th September marked the launch day of the 'Be the Best you can Be' programme at St. Joseph's Catholic College. Inspired by the 2012 Olympic Games, the programme is based on the Olympic values of Respect, Friendship, Excellence, Courage, Determination, Equality and Inspiration. The activities are designed to enthuse students with a desire to be a part of the Olympic Legacy.

218 Year 7 students took part in the launch day which began with an inspirational talk from Mark Richardson. Mark is a former world class athlete who has won honours at all the major Athletic Championships. His career highlights include winning an Olympic Silver Medal in the 4x400m relay at Atlanta in 1996. Students relished the opportunity to listen to Mark's story and question him about his career in athletics.

Year 7 students then went on to complete their own success maps, based on their dreams and goals for the future.

Lucie Blake, 7L said "It was exciting to meet an Olympic athlete like Mark"

Sasha Brady, 7C said "It was inspirational and has definitely helped to build my confidence"

Michael Yap, 7S said "The day has been really interesting; meeting an athlete and learning about the Olympics"

Kyathleen Gurung, 7A wrote "Today was brilliant from the moment we stepped into our class to the moment we left school. The highlight today was meeting Mark Richardson and knowing his story and how he persevered through many obstacles. I think that we used B&E skills, asked questions and teamwork. I really enjoyed today and I hope that we have many more"



What's going on?

Dates for your diary

18th October	Sixth Form Open Evening
21st October	College closes for Students
1st November	Students return to College
8th November	GCSE Music & College Singers Concert
14th November	Anti-Bullying Week
15th November	Year 11 Parents Evening (Population P)
23rd November	Year 11 Parents Evening (Population Q)
6th December	Christmas Celebration Concert
16th December	Christmas Services

Christmas Boxes

In November, Year 9 students will work together with members of the Sixth Form during a Flexible Friday to make hundreds of Christmas boxes to send out into our local community. The students will decorate and fill shoe boxes with small gifts to be delivered to people in need over the Christmas period. We will be producing boxes for young children, teenagers, adults and the elderly.

We are asking members of our College community for donations of shoe boxes and Christmas wrapping paper. Please bring such items to G01, G02 and G03.

Our Year 13 students have been and will continue to approach local businesses to request donations of items suitable for the boxes. We would also welcome any good-quality but unwanted items you have that could be given as little presents for somebody.

We would ask for items such as: small cuddly toys, chocolates, soaps, mittens/gloves of all sizes, scarves, bubble bath, books including novels and children's books, jewellery (ideally in small boxes or pouches), toiletries, sweets, nail varnishes, toy cars/trains, colouring books with crayons or pencils, stationary, unwanted DVDs, biscuits, tea, hair accessories, small or deflated footballs, yo-yos, tennis balls, bouncy balls, playing cards, Barbie dolls, small dolls, Lego, Christmas decorations, small board games, and other items you think someone might like to receive this Christmas. Please also bring such items to G01, G02 and G03.

If you are able to support or contribute to St. Joseph's Christmas Boxes in any way, or know anybody who can, please get in touch with a member of the RE department as soon as possible.

If every person at St. Joseph's donates just one item, we could make hundreds of people happy this Christmas!

Money and Morality

HBOS Whistleblower, Paul Moore, Catholic and former head of Group Regulatory Risk at HBOS, whose revelations led to the resignation of Sir James Crosby the Deputy Chairman of the Financial Services Authority, will speak on "The HBOS story and the lessons learned" on Wednesday 19th October, 7pm at St. Joseph's Catholic College. Admission is free.

ICT News

Information Technology is becoming more and more a major part of everybody's life; IT systems at work, games consoles at home, mobile phones for virtually every teenager, email, facebook and twitter replacing conventional communication methods. The rapid development in IT technologies throws up challenges of how to keep students up to date with these changes, whilst still covering the essential requirements of the ICT national curriculum.

For the last two years at St. Joseph's, we have introduced a topical ICT theme every week to make all students aware of recent developments and also to stimulate their understanding of the wider world of IT outside the curriculum. Recent themes have included:

- ICT's role in the summer riots
- Updating wikipedia to understand its reliability and bias
- How relevant is ICT to the church?

Across all year groups, students enjoy these "Themes of the week" and enthusiastically take part in the ensuing discussions. If you'd like to keep in touch with what is being covered, ask your son or daughter about the week's topic, or if you'd like to suggest a topical theme, send me an email at sfirth@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk.

Fantasy Football

The Fantasy Football league is now up and running with over 100 teams taking part. This year, we have linked the league to the House system, so there will be house points available each month for teams with the most points. It's not too late to enter a team and entries are open to parents as well – just ask your son/daughter to pick up an entry form from Mr Firth in the Silver Family Area. For more information, latest standings and house points keep an eye on the notice board in the Music corridor and on the website at www.schoolfl.com. Good luck all!



Student Destinations

The summer of 2011 marked the end of what was a very successful year for our College Sixth Form. Our students have certainly made the most of the opportunities at St. Joseph's and we wish them every success in the future.

The destinations of our Sixth Form students are wide-ranging; they include degree programmes, gap years, employment, apprenticeships and joining the Armed Forces.

Destination	% of students
University in UK	48%
Deferring UCAS application until 2012 and/or Gap year	12%
Employment	12%
Further Education (including specialist courses such as make-up for film & Performing Arts School)	11%
Apprenticeship programmes	6%
Joining the Armed Forces	5%
Foundation Degree at Swindon College	3%
University in USA	1.5%
Return to Country of birth	1.5%



Catherine Carroll

Studying Criminology at Cardiff University



Josie Prunty

Studying Geography at Lancaster University

Amy Chapman

Studying Film Studies at Southampton University



Gavin Ougan

Studying Business Studies at Cardiff (UWIC)



Alana Turner

Studying Sport at Gloucester University



Ryan Sweeney

Studying Law at Reading University



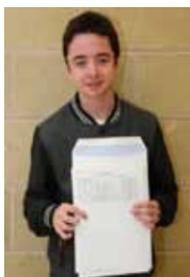
Gillian Langston

Studying Biochemistry at York University



Katie Blackmore

Studying Mental Health Nursing at University of West England (UWE)



John Jamieson

English Literature at University of West England (UWE)



Liam Ody

Studying an apprenticeship with Network Rail in Portsmouth

Attendance

Attendance at College is extremely important. As you will see from the illustration 'Every School Day Counts!', days off school add up to lost learning. The more days off school, the less likely students are to make the necessary progress with their studies. Research has shown a close correlation between attendance and GCSE results. Students with less than 90% attendance achieve on average between a half/one GCSE below that of their peers.

The Ofsted Framework introduced in September 2009 looks closely at students' attendance. In fact, there is now a judgement grade relating to this. It would be a great pity if we were to lose our 'outstanding' overall grade next time due to our attendance figures.

There will be times when students are ill, have unavoidable medical appointments, and unforeseen family emergencies. The College is very sympathetic to these occurrences. However, there are a significant number of requests for holidays in term time and in some cases these holidays being taken without consent, despite previous correspondence on this matter.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise again that I am constrained by Government and Governor guidance as regards attendance. The issuing of a Penalty Notice by Swindon Education Welfare is now the norm in cases of unauthorised absence from the College during term time. Only in extreme circumstances, bereavement for example, am I allowed to make exceptions. The Attendance Officer will need medical evidence for periods of illness over three days.

Fairtrade

A big thank you to all who supported our first Fairtrade Stalls on 23rd September – a record breaking £356 was sold. Well done!!

Rugby Season

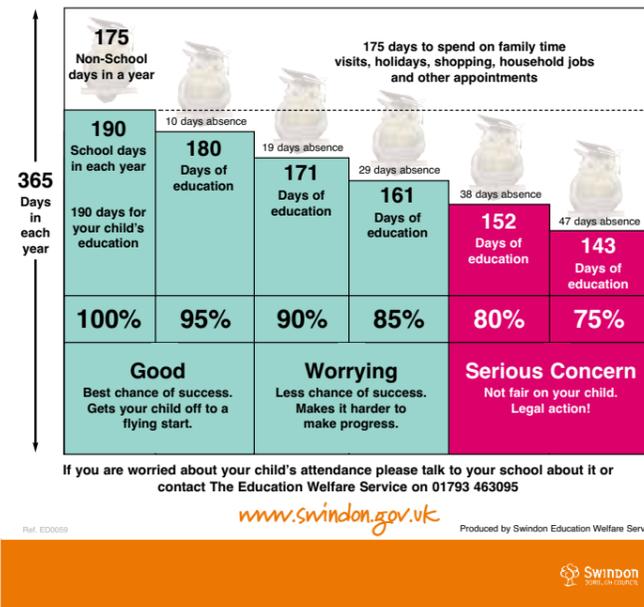
It has been a busy start to the school year for the Rugby players at St. Joseph's. Good numbers of students have been attending training sessions on Tuesday evenings and three College teams have been operating.

St. Joseph's have played matches against Lydiard Park Academy, Isambard and Ridgeway and there are further games scheduled with Dorcan and Warneford. The Year 8 and Year 9 teams both lost in their first matches against Lydiard Park Academy and then both had good wins versus Isambard. The Year 11 team lost narrowly at Ridgeway but showed great spirit, which should guarantee that they have a positive season.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!



- Days off school add up to lost learning.
- Please don't let your children miss out on the education they deserve.
- Every school day counts.



Cup Football

The Year 8 and Year 11 Football teams both had disappointing starts to this season when they both went out of their ESFA competitions in the first round. The Year 11 team travelled to Sheldon School, Chippenham, and lost 3-0. The score line was rather harsh as the game was very even all the way through with St. Joseph's unable to make the most of a number of good chances to score. The first goal was from a penalty just before half-time, with the other two in the last 10 minutes.

The Year 8 team, who had won the Swindon Cup last season, were beaten at Kingsdown with many decisions going against them. Both teams have the ability to bounce back from these disappointments and hopefully will do well in the Swindon Schools' competitions.

Run4 Home Success

On the 9th of July, former student Shaun Mochan took part in a run-bike relay from Runnymede, near Windsor, to Swindon. It was in aid of the charity 'Threshold Housing Link' who work with people on the fringes of Swindon's community.

The route charted the journey of a homeless ex-serviceman who was given care and support by the Threshold charity.

In all, nearly £2,000 was raised for the Threshold, and we had a great time.

Focus on the Future

During the first weeks of term, Sixth Form students and their parents attended an evening organised to help them make the best of Sixth Form life and start to plan for their futures after 'A' Levels.

A series of workshops were delivered to Year 12 students about how to approach 'A' Level studies and how to be successful quickly, whilst all students were able to attend workshops on the UCAS application process, higher education finance, applications to Oxbridge universities, and the advantages and availability of apprenticeships.

All who attended found the evening very informative and many Sixth Formers have been using the knowledge acquired in organising their studies or in applying for university and apprenticeship placements.

We would like to thank the representatives from the University of Gloucester, the University of Oxford and The National Apprenticeship Scheme for spending the time with our students and parents that evening. Most of all, we would like to thank parents and students for attending the evening, as it really does make a good and purposeful start to a new academic year.

Forward notice: There is another information evening, the GCSE Support Evening, for parents of students in Years 9 – 11 on 13th December 2011.

Work Experience

The dates for the Year 11 Work Experience this year are as follow:

Population P 14th -18th November

Population Q 21st -25th November

All Year 11 students have been constantly reminded to check the status of their Work Experience placement online via the swindon.learnaboutwork.org website or by visiting Miss Green in SF12 for an update.

Any student who has not had a placement confirmed will be expected to attend College as usual.

If you are unsure of your child's status please contact Miss Green on 01793 714213 or email agreen@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk



Dolby Digital Day

On 23rd of September a group of students were taken to Dolby Digital in Swindon to perform a red-carpet role play for their training day programme. We had to devise a script to last fifteen minutes and perform it four times on the day so that each group from Disney, Paramount Fox etc could observe it and train on the technical equipment.

I personally, found the experience very exciting and a good taster of what presenting on the red carpet is like. It was a real honour to be asked to do something so big and I will remember it for the years to come. It was excellent to dress up in fancy clothes and be filmed as if we were true celebrities. It was also very valuable that we had a chance to talk to Richard who showed us around the equipment and told us about working behind the scenes of the red-carpet events. A big thanks to Miss Dawe who organised for us to go to this event, it truly was an amazing opportunity.



McDonalds Visit

On the 13th September, some students had the opportunity to visit McDonalds. Here is what they thought of the trip.

When we got there we were introduced to Paul, the owner of all of the McDonald's restaurants in Swindon. Liam and I were then taken back downstairs to have a look around where Paul told us to put on aprons and hats. On the way back up Paul showed us all the pictures on the wall about McDonald's and the staff. Then Paul shows us the staff room when the staff take their break and do their other work. Paul then showed us how the drinks are made and how it is transferred upstairs.

The amazing part was when Paul took us where the food is stored. I was surprised how much stock that was there Paul took us to the freezer it was very cold and it was freezing so we quickly got out from there. We finally went upstairs, Paul told us that we are cooking, so I decided to do the buns and Liam decided to do the dressing. I really enjoyed doing the buns and I learned lots of things. It was getting very busy so I was cooking we had to speed up.

While Liam and I were cooking Paul started taking pictures of us. It was nearly lunch time and Paul said "for the hard work you are going to have your lunch here". After when we finished having our lunch we had to get back to school so we said "thank you" to Paul and we left McDonalds.

R.E. Exams 2011

The R.E. department would like to congratulate all students on their successful results this year. All Philosophy and Ethics AS and A2 students achieved a 100% pass rate this year and we would like to wish Alex George good luck in studying Philosophy at University. At GCSE all students completed the full course and the department are delighted with the result of 82% grade A-C.

Our current Year 11 group also did well in their Year 10 exam. A break down of marks awarded per question can be found in students AFL booklets for target setting and parental information.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support.

Here is what one student had to say about GCSE R.E.:

'GCSE RE was one of my favourite subjects; it allowed me to gain knowledge in a way that other subjects did not; you don't just learn topics just for the sake of gaining a qualification but the subjects covered topics that you can apply in your everyday life. I was pleased with the grade that I achieved and would recommend for students to give it as much attention as other subjects as it will be worth it in later life.'

Science vs. R.E. Debate

On the 8th July Flexible Friday, Year 10 took part in a debate to discuss ideas about evolution from a Science and R.E. perspective. We looked at debating and reasoning skills by working in teams, before going to the hall for 'The Big Debate'. Firstly, we worked in the I.T. rooms with Mrs Gilder to think and discuss the science side of the argument; looking at the theories of evolution and The Big Bang.

After that session, we went to an R.E. room and worked with Miss Pileggi on the design and causation arguments. In this we discussed how everything must have a cause and effect and something as detailed as the Universe must be planned and cannot be based on chance therefore, it must have been created by God. We created posters to show this in an artistic way.

We also linked the Evolution and Big Bang theories of Science to R.E, and how they can fit together rather than always oppose. Before going to the hall for 'The Big Debate', we continued R.E. and Science with Mrs Ash to conclude and evaluate our ideas. We then individually thought of some questions to ask in the debate and decided on the best ones to use; for example, 'If everything must have a cause and effect, who created God?' which was answered by Mrs Hobbs from an R.E. point of view. We then divided the tutor group into two groups, and had a mini-debate; one side being for R.E. and the other for Science. 'The Big Debate' was a really good and an interesting idea, and helped us to hear other people's opinions and ideas on the subject.

Young Catholic Writer

Congratulations to Rosaline Ackah who was awarded a runner-up prize for the 2011 Catholic Young Writer Award for her piece based around the theme of the Royal Wedding, displayed below.



Love is...
When that ring goes on your finger,
It is an indicator or a sign
That a special bond has taken place
Implementing God's design,
Which is a blessing called marriage
For two hearts to intertwine.
Plus the addition of unconditional love
Which comes from God who is divine.
After the marriage of Cana at the reception
Christ came to dine,
But soon all the drink was finished
So Jesus turned water into wine.
You can only love Christ when you are connected to the vine

Just like nerves can only function if they are connected to the spine.
Love has no boundaries; it cannot expire or grow moss,
But it can be demonstrative as we see Jesus on the cross.
I want to be an example of love because Christ is working through me,
So when they see me they will marvel and know what unconditional love is supposed to be.

Future in Our Hands

Fund raising events on 24th September 2011 helped raise money for GLORES project in Cameroon to build a clinic for disabled children to have access to physiotherapy and rehabilitation training.

Four Peaks Challenge in Brecon Beacons National Park

A group of 13 intrepid adventurers all with St. Joseph's connections, parents, grandparents, teachers, Chaplain, support staff, students both former and current set off from Swindon early Saturday morning.

We climbed up four mountains Fan y big, Cribyn, Pen y Fan and Corn Du in the Brecon Beacons. All day on every mountain it was in the clouds and very wet we had very poor visibility so we got limited views on the peaks. It took the group about seven hours to complete the trek. The evidence is two peaks in the photos they are the peaks of Fan Y Big and Pen Y Fan. We decided to do this challenge to help disadvantaged disabled children in Cameroon. We realised how lucky we were to be able to complete such a difficult challenge. Instead of us being the voice for the poor we were the legs for the poor on this occasion. We certainly have the blisters and aches to prove it.

Many thanks go out to our numerous sponsors.



Philosophy and Ethics

On 10th November twenty Sixth Form Philosophy and Ethics students will head to Oxford Town Hall for an A-Level Conference entitled Living the Good Life. The conference will investigate questions such as 'what does it mean to say that a life is good?' and 'what is the purpose of life?', as well as the ethics of war. The students will be fortunate enough to hear leading academic speakers in the field of Philosophy and Ethics, Peter Vardy and Bernard Hoare, as well as the views of Lord Ashdown during the debating section of the conference. They will, of course, be able to voice their own opinions if they feel inspired!

The conference will provide the Philosophy and Ethics A Level students with the opportunity to experience university level learning in an inspiring setting, as well as the chance to pick up useful examination hints and tips to secure success at both AS and A2.

Clifton Mass for Education

The Cathedral at Clifton in Bristol was the venue for a special mass held for all the schools in the diocese to celebrate the year of Catholic Education. Each school in the diocese sent student representatives as well as teachers. During the mass every school brought their banner up to the altar in a procession, which symbolised to me how the wider church is really a community of communities, but that we are all part of one whole. During the mass each school collected a candle which was lit and then blessed. This candle symbolised our unity in faith as we celebrated the mass, and then, as we carried our candle back to our schools, how our faith goes out to embrace others.

One of our students wrote, It was dark by the time we arrived at Clifton Cathedral, but inside was bright and bustling. The building was crowded with representatives from schools all over the Clifton diocese. All ages were present, from young Year 7 students to senior Headmasters. The Mass started with a procession of flags from the different schools, followed by a thoughtful service in which the Bishop talked about diocese as an extended community which we were all part of. Towards the end of the service, each school received a candle lit from "Year of Catholic Education" candle in the cathedral. After the mass, drinks and biscuits were served downstairs.

Celebrate Conference

Celebrate 2011 - faith and fun for the whole family: a non-residential family conference at St Bede's Catholic College, Bristol, 22nd and 23rd October. Speakers include Charles Whitehead and Ros Powell; there will be workshops, children's groups, worship and mass. To book/ find out more go to www.celebrateconference.org

Pilgrimage to Nympsfield

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Nympsfield as it gave me the opportunity to take part in a variety of new activities. We began the day by celebrating Mass with Bishop Declan. It was a really rewarding experience and we had received lots of advice and guidance. After the Mass, we began our Pilgrimage. The aim of our walk was to get to know more people by comparing aspects of our lives with theirs. We felt we got to know many more people. At the end of the day, we took part in Benediction which was a new religious experience for me. I enjoyed the calm and relaxed atmosphere. Overall, this trip taught me a lot about myself and my religion and shone new light in the deeper meanings of our faith; spiritually strengthening me.



Year 9 Science

In Year 9 we run three courses side by side,

BTEC Applied science, GCSE Core and Additional Science as well as GCSE Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

It is anticipated that students in 9X/Bi and 9Y/Bi will study the BTEC Applied science course, Students in 9Y/Se, 9X/Se and 9X/Sb will study core and additional science, whilst students in 9Y/Po, 9X/Po and 9X/Sb will study GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

We will constantly monitor students progress and move them to a more suitable class if appropriate over the next three years.

Experiments you can try at home

A Non Newtonian liquid acts like a liquid when being poured, but like a solid when a force is acting on it. You can grab it and then it will ooze out of your hands. Make enough of it and you can even walk on it!

It is really easy to make.

Put a few tablespoons of custard powder into a glass bowl, then add a few drops of water. Stir in thoroughly, adding just a few drops of water at a time until the mixture looks like slime. If you pick some up in your hands it should be easy to grab and behave like a solid, but if you're not quick it will behave like a liquid and run through your fingers!

Y7 Flexible Friday

Year 7 students recently took part in a Flexible Friday activity where they learnt to use some of the equipment in the science labs, as well as developing skills needed to be a good scientist.

I really like science as you do cool stuff. On Flexible Friday we learnt how to use the Bunsen burners and the safety equipment.

I enjoyed doing the experiments like custard (making it a solid and a liquid) and the collapsing can and lots more. I learned how to use a Bunsen burner on Flexible Friday.

Did you know...

A thimbleful of a neutron star would weigh over 100 million tons.

Fleas can jump 130 times higher than their own height. In human terms this is equal to a 6ft. person jumping 780 ft. into the air.

The Earth spins at 1,000 mph but it travels through space at an incredible 67,000 mph.

One million, million, million, million, millionth of a second after the Big Bang the Universe was the size of a ...pea.

There are 60,000 miles of blood vessels in the human body.

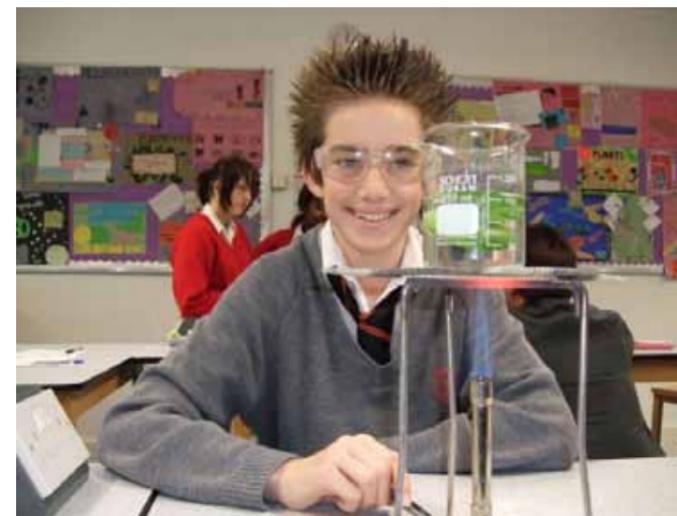
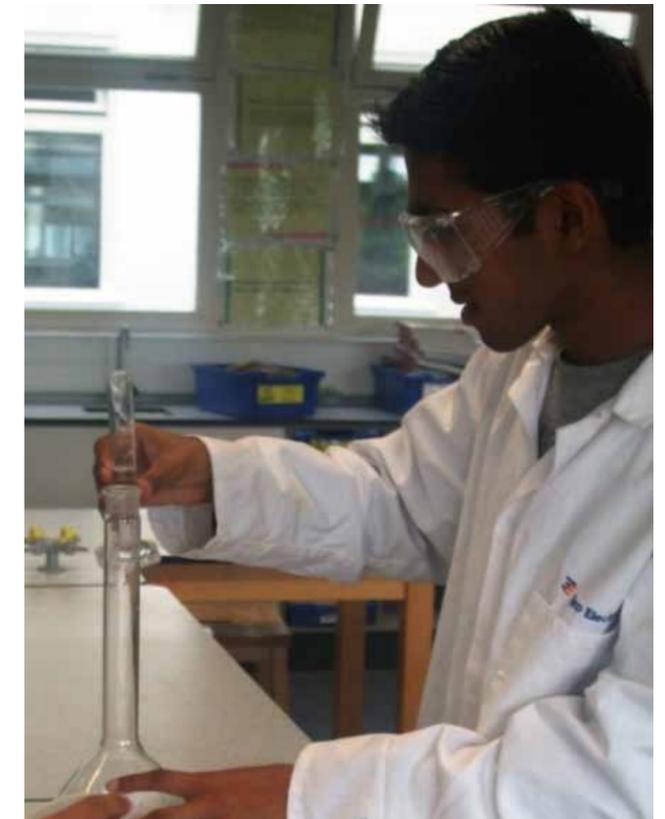
Year j10 GCSE Science

Students in Year 10 studying GCSE Core and Additional science, or the GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses have a new element called a Controlled Assessment. This replaces the old coursework tasks and has to take place in College under exam conditions. There are 3 parts to the Controlled Assessment.

Part 1 involves the student being given a question or a hypothesis. They then need to complete some research in order to answer this question. You are allowed to help your child with this part of the controlled assessment. The final part of the first section involves the students writing the answer to the question in exam conditions at College.

The second section requires the student to plan and carry out an experiment to find the answer to a new question. This part needs to be carried out in class under the supervision of the class teacher.

The third section needs the students to complete some exam style questions based on the experiment they carried out. This part of the controlled assessment must be carried out in exam conditions in class.



Back to the Future?

Congratulations to David De Souza who recently won the award for Physics in the Sixth from awards ceremony. David's achievements included the essay he wrote for the EPQ qualification 'Is Time Travel Possible?' Congratulations also to the winners of Biology, Rinata Farah and Chemistry, Hans Dias.u

Forthcoming events

- 19th October 2011- Year 13 BTEC Science trip to the University of Bath
- 2nd December 2011 - Year 10 Trip to the National History Museum in London
- 13th Jan 2012 – Year 8 meet the Bug Man
- 12th March 2012 - National Science Week
- 30th March 2012 - Year 7 visit to Bristol Zoo

Mmm...Milkshake

On Friday 16th September Year 7 students took part in the Milkshake Challenge. Working in groups, the challenge was to create a magnificent milkshake, so yummy it could knock the socks off the competition in other tutor groups.

Only the most delicious shake from each tutor group could go forward to represent the group in the 'Grand Taste Finalé'. As if this wasn't pressure enough, the teams were also competing against our Principal Mrs Harries.

Prizes and certificates were awarded to 7C and 7W whose milkshakes were considered the overall tastiest. Certificates were also awarded for the best cup and poster designs.

Here is what one student thought of the event:

I was fortunate to be the roving reporter during the challenge and I caught up with Mrs Harries after the judging. She remarked that she had enjoyed making her shakes, however, she thought the judges were a bit harsh on the marking of her second shake. She also said Year 7 had put a lot of effort into the challenge and it was a fantastic introduction to Enterprise at St. Joseph's.



Parents ePortal

On ePortal at the moment, parents should be able to see a noticeboard, attendance, timetables, reviews, targets and assessment information. They can also see personal contact information for their siblings. (If any of this at any stage needs updating please let us know).

For the foreseeable future this will continue to be the content on ePortal. We will inform parents of any future developments via the newsletter, website and ePortal noticeboard.

Certificate Collections

Certificates for exams taken during May/June 2011 can be collected from Reception from 28 November onwards for Years 11, 12 and 13. Please avoid breaks and lunchtimes.

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.

Art and Photography

Congratulations to all our GCSE and A-level students who achieved some fantastic results. Our GCSE once again did well with 82% of students achieving C or above. We also had 5 A* students, overall we achieved 22% A-A* grades. The A-Level Photography course also brought an A* to Doranne Fernandes and an A was also obtained in Art by Catherine Carroll. With 100% pass rate in all GCSE and A2 courses we congratulate all our students and the ones returning:

Notes for your diary and please check you have signed the consent form and returned with your contribution:

- Year 11 National Portrait Trip to London, 4th November and 18th November
- Year 8 Cross Curricular Trip with Geography to the Woods to make some Land Art, 14th October and 4th November

Many thanks to all parents for their continued support that enables trips to take place. Learning outside the classroom is a very valuable experience.

KS3 students may also like to attend KS3 club with Mr Rutter Session 8 on a Monday, where we are producing work for local and national competitions.

Maths Challenges

The maths challenges this year are as follows:

- Senior Challenge (Years 12 and 13)
Tuesday 8th November 2011
- Intermediate Challenge (Years 9, 10 and 11)
Thursday 2nd February 2012
- Junior Challenge (Years 7 and 8)
Thursday 26th April 2012

There is also a maths challenge club every Wednesday in Y05 with Mrs Lloyd for all years.

As a taster, try this one:

At a supermarket, I have a voucher which will allow me to get 10% off my weekly shop. I also work at the supermarket, which means I automatically get 25% off.

Should I hand over my voucher before or after my 25% gets knocked off? Why?

Leavers Yearbooks

Last year's Year 11 students had an opportunity to purchase a Leavers Yearbook, full of class and prom photos, College life photos and comments from students. They make a memorable souvenir of the people they met during their time at St. Joseph's.

There are some Yearbooks still available to purchase. If you are interested in getting a copy, please contact Mrs Rudnik at the College.

Student Investor Challenge

The *ifs* Student Investor Challenge is back once again! The *ifs* Student Investor challenge is the UK's premier investment competition for UK students aged 14-19 (and staff) that offers winners a whole host of prizes, including an all expenses paid educational trip to New York. Have you got the skill to invest £100,000 and produce a winning portfolio? Trading in the *ifs* Student Investor challenge runs from 31st October 2011 to 10th February 2012 after which the top teams go head-to-head in the live regional finals. Entering the competition is free for teams of 4. If you would like the chance to win some prizes then ask Mr McNulty for a log in.

More details are available at: www.studentinvestor.org



For any students interested in the Student Investor challenge, scan this QR code with your smartphone for more information.

GCSE Music and College Singers Concert

Tuesday 8th November 7.30pm
In the Main Hall
Tickets available on the door

Adults £3
Concessions £1.50

Girls P.E. Clubs

We have a variety of P.E. activities running at lunchtime and after College, just turn up, change into P.E. kit and come and play.

Tuesday

Lunchtime Badminton club
After College Year 7 and 8 Netball

Wednesday

After College Year 9, 10 and 11 Netball

Thursday

Lunchtime Girls get active in the sportshall

Year 13 Awards Evening

The Sixth Form Awards Evening has been running at St. Joseph's for many years. It is a great opportunity to reward the hard work and commitment shown by our students. The evening supports and motivates students to go on and achieve fantastic results. This is a contributing factor to our on-going improvement as a sixth form. This success can be seen in our average point score which has risen to 681 points per student in 2011, from 575 points in 2010.

Congratulations to each of our 35 winners and to all of the students who were nominated for subject awards.

Phil Burchall was Deputy Head, Head of Sixth Form and a teacher of maths at St. Joseph's. Phil was a well-respected and popular teacher with staff and students alike. In his memory we have dedicated the 'Phil Burchall Memorial Cup' which is awarded annually to a student who has excelled in both academic and extra-curricular activities.

This year's Award goes to Lewis Carney. Lewis studied five AS subjects in Year 12 and achieved fantastic results. Lewis achieved A grades in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and B grades in Chemistry and Geography.

Lewis is an outstanding student who, through our partnership with Villier's Park, has participated in mock interviews for Cambridge University. Interviewers at Cambridge commented on his superb performance and actively encouraged him to apply to Oxbridge. Lewis is applying to Oxford to study Earth Sciences and we wish him every success in his application.

In addition to his academic work Lewis is participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Gold level, has represented the college by volunteering to run a water station on the Swindon Half Marathon and is also a keen drummer.



Extend

The Extend Project

The Extend Project runs over the summer holidays for one week for Year 6 students starting in September at St. Joseph's. The Project continues to go from strength to strength and grows in number every year.

Many thanks to all the staff and students that took part in such an excellent week.

Computer Animation

Students spent a productive five mornings producing animations and then hosting these animations on websites that they created using DreamWeaver. Students chose a number of mediums with which to produce their animations – some chose playdough, others lego and some used paper cut-outs. The whole group got together to experiment with human animations – they produced a tetris and a brick-out animation in the hall through the use of stop go animation. Parents came in at the end and were impressed by the progress made by the students and with the standard of their finished work. All the students work can be seen on the ICT area of the College website.

Mini Master Chef

Twenty four Year 6 students attended the week making a variety of recipes. All bought their own ingredients, having been provided with a specific ingredients list for each day. The ingredients list was given in advance to allow the parents to shop for the week.

On arriving to the Food Technology room, students were told the importance of food Safety and kitchen hygiene. They then watched Mrs Curran demonstrate the making of the recipe of the day. The students could see how it was to be made and look, plus ask all manner of questions. The safe use of equipment was highlighted during the demonstration.

The students enjoyed making new friends and learning new skills. Some students have made some of the recipes again since the summer school. Parents were also delighted with the outcome of their son/daughter's time on the course.

Drama

The group for Drama participated in a number of activities. The Year 6 students worked extremely well during the icebreaker activities and warm up games.

The most popular game ZIP ZAP BONG which focused on concentration and team participation was a huge success.

The rest of the week was focused on chorus work. We looked in particular at voice projection, interpretation of set script, mime and movement and facial expressions.

The overall performance, which was presented to a small audience, was received extremely well and the progression made by the Year 6 students was fantastic. The Drama course had really good feedback from both students and parents.

Technology

In technology we had a lot of fun writing and creating our own pop-up books. Students learned about collage, 2D Design on the computer and figure drawing to make their books come to life. There were plenty of imaginative ideas including a story about a mad scientist and a dragon hunter. Students then hardbound these stories to share with their brothers and sisters at home.

Sports Mad

The students (and teacher) had a fantastic week of sporting fun. We started the week with a range of new activities that no-one had ever played before. The favourites were Ultimate frisbee a cross between American football and Netball with a frisbee and Rock-it-ball a cool update of Lacrosse mixed with dodgeball, both are rapidly growing sports in the UK today. We also covered well established games like Basetball, Dodgeball, Football and some St. Joseph's favourites like Danish long ball and Benchball dodgeball. The students showed mountains of energy and enthusiasm all week for every activity we attempted. It was fantastic to see a group of sportsmen and women so excited and interested in physical activity and so up for taking on new challenges. It has also been really nice to see a lot of those faces turning up to our sports clubs and practices now term has started and they are now Year 7's. I look forward to tracking their progress over the coming years with interest.

Breaks for Carers

New regulations came into force on 1st April 2011, called the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011. These new regulations are designed to allow those who are a parent or carer for a disabled child a break from their caring responsibilities by giving the child the opportunity of a short break.

What are short breaks?

Short breaks also enable disabled children and young people to enjoy social and leisure activities.

Short breaks can include day, evening, overnight, weekend or holiday activities. They can be at home or away from home. This could range from taking part in a universal activity for all children, to a specialist service for more complex needs. For example, an after-school club, a holiday play scheme, a family day, a sports activity or an overnight break in a carer's home.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team on:

Phone: 01793 464080

Email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Web: www.swindon.gov.uk/aiminghighshortbreaks