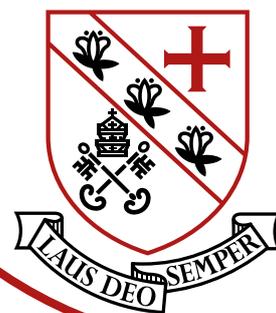


St. Joseph's Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The new academic year began well as we welcomed Year 7 student and said hello again to students who have been with us for many years.



We have been delighted with how the Year 7 have settled in during the first month. In fact, all students have made an excellent start. We also welcomed new members of staff to St Joseph's and greatly value the gifts they bring to our community.

As a college we were pleased with many of the exam results this summer. Year 11 secured some excellent results, including really significant achievements in the core subjects of English and Maths.

Changes in these subjects this year meant they were dramatically different to all previous exams in the level of challenge, the structure of the course and the grading system using numbers instead of letters.

Our A level students showed an improved overall average grade on the previous year. It is fascinating to see the diverse choices made by our students for their futures. The vast majority of students chose to go on to university including one student gaining a place at Oxford. Some chose an apprenticeship or employment route. Further studies at undergraduate level include English Literature, aeronautics and astronautics, astrophysics, cybersecurity, performing arts and nursing.

We wish all of our former students the very best as they embark on the next exciting phase of their lives.

We are always looking at ways to improve what we offer our students at the college. This year you will be aware of a major change to our enrichment programme. Enrichment activities allow students to navigate group environments and build social skills. Studies show that participation in enrichments boosts self-confidence and self-esteem, helping our young people to build resilience over time.

Students also learn to collaborate with others by working in groups, whether that is participation in a team sport, in a group project, or learning a group dance. They are better able to resolve any personal conflicts and to empathise with others. They may also build friendships they might not otherwise have the chance to make.

The enrichment we offer in St Joseph's will give students the chance to explore their interests, which will open up more options for careers and hobbies as they grow older. They will learn skills and reap a variety of advantages. So please do encourage your child to participate in some of the enrichment opportunities this year.

Another change this term has been to lunchtimes. By adding more lunchtimes with smaller groups we have been able to create a much calmer atmosphere with the added bonus that the students can get through to eat much faster using the new cashless system. This gives students a greater opportunity for social interaction (without the use of mobile phones!).

Paul Hughes, Principal



COLLEGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 18
OCT | Last day of Term |
| 30
OCT | School Reopens |
| 13
NOV | Anti Bullying Week |
| 16
NOV | Sixth Form Kintbury Trip |
| 22
NOV | Year 11 Parents Evening (Pop X) |
| 29
NOV | Year 11 Parents Evening (Pop Y) |
| 4
DEC | Year 11 Mock Exam Week |
| 11
DEC | Year 13 Mock Exam Week |
| 13
DEC | Christmas Service |
| 15
DEC | Last day of Term |
| 2
JAN | School Reopens |

Change of Address

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.

Cashless System

The College has moved to a cashless system for the canteen this year and there is a cash converter machine to move cash on to lunch cards. Lunch cards or Biometric fingerprint are the only method of payment accepted at the tills.



Queues for the cash loader may be very long at break and lunch times. Parents and Carers are reminded that the best way to ensure that your child's lunch card is in credit is to use the ParentPay website to top up the cards: www.parentpay.com. Students may not have time to queue for the cash loader and then queue for lunch/break.

Lockers!

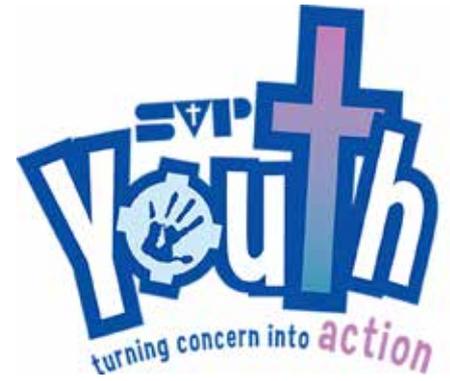
Reminder to all parents and students that student lockers need to be emptied at the end of each term, including before half term holidays.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Well done to the 150 Year 6 students who participated in our annual Summer School.

This year we had a range of choices including Swindon Town Football in the Community coaching, a cake factory, forest school at Richard Jefferies Museum, Sensational Science, Sporting Fun and Music Workshops.

Many thanks to the staff who led the sessions with such enthusiasm and to our current and former students who came and helped our new students settle into our college community.



The RE department is interested in setting up our own **Youth SVP** group at St Joseph's and want you to be involved!

Youth SVP works to put faith into action and to serve the disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised of society.

What's involved?

- **Weekly meetings**
Wednesdays 3-4pm in G02
- **Voluntary activities to include weekly visits to a care home in Rodbourne**
- **Combating isolation through listening, games, and cups of tea**
- **Planning a Christmas event for the community**
- **This is also a great way to fulfil your volunteering obligations as part of Duke of Edinburgh.**



Post 16 Information Event

In September, St Joseph's hosted a Post 16 information event for KS4 students, parents and carers.

The College was awash with local colleges, sixth forms, universities and alternative training providers.

For students interested in apprenticeships, there was representation from many local businesses as well as the Armed Forces.

We were delighted that the event was so well received and that our young people left feeling better informed about the choices available to them.

"So many really engaged and interested students and, most pleasing of all, how many girls were interested in Engineering as possible future careers. Students were interested, polite and a credit to St Joseph's."

Nigel Jobbins - Honda

For further Post 16 Information please contact Miss Green.

Christmas Services 2017

This year we have combined the Enrichment Drama Sessions with the Christmas Services 2017.

Students will be collaborating and producing a service that will not only entertain, but will remember the true meaning of Christmas.



SAFE DRIVE STAY ALIVE

On 28th September, Year 11 were taken to the cinema at Greenbridge to watch a presentation given by professionals from the police, fire and medical services.



The presentation is shown to Year 11 students from many Swindon schools, as this group has a high risk of being involved in a road traffic collision. Many will already be travelling as passengers in cars driven by new drivers, or will be learning to drive in the next twelve months.

Safe Drive seeks to provide an educational experience that teaches young people not only the dangers, but also the consequences, of poor and dangerous driving.

A video reconstruction of a road traffic collision links with on-stage personal testimonies left the audience fully aware of both their vulnerability and accountability as new drivers.

Serving members of the police, fire and medical services gave real life accounts of local incidents they have witnessed. They are followed by the victims of road traffic collisions, people whose lives have been changed irrevocably.



This is why the show was successful: it is delivered by real people with real stories to tell and, as such, it's a highly emotional experience.

Our students were very attentive throughout, and several were visibly moved by what they had seen and heard. Their behaviour was attentive and respectful, which was commented on by a policeman on the way out. A successful and thought-provoking outing for all.



BOULOGNE-SUR-MER

July 20th saw the annual Year 7 invasion of Boulogne-sur-Mer and a great day was had by all! The traditional visit to the hypermarché, the trip around Boulogne old town including the visit to the cathedral and the ever-popular picnic on the beach were some of the highlights of the day. *À l'année prochaine!*

YEAR 7 ART COLLAGE



Year 7 worked with the Art Department to create a collage for Swindon Town Football in the Community's Junior Reds' Room as part of their Activities Week.

Thank you to Mrs Wiltshire and Mr Rutter for their vision and hard work. We can't wait to see the finished articles!

ACTIVITIES WEEK



Swindon Bowls Club



Thanks again to our friends at Swindon Bowls Club for hosting us during the Activities Week.

Students received instruction on the fine art of lawn bowls - we all had a wonderful time learning a new sport and look forward to working with them again in the future.

Thank you to both Holy Cross and Holy Rood Schools who very kindly agreed to help with providing some Community Service for our Activities Week for Year 7.

It was lovely for some of our students to go and help their old schools and teachers whilst representing St Joseph's.

Enrichment activities in the Maths Dept

We have three different enrichment activities in the Maths department. All of them are suitable for anyone from Year 7 to 11. They run on a Wednesday from 3pm to 4pm.

LOVE MATHS IN Y02 RUN BY MRS LALL AND MRS JAMES

This will be an opportunity to tackle problem solving activities, build structures, make origami, construct impossible shapes, learn new Maths tricks, prepare for different external Maths challenges to represent your school, compete with other students and a lot more.

You will look at Maths ideas from a different perspective in a more relaxed way and learn by sharing and discussing ideas with other Mathematicians.

BOARD GAMES CLUB IN Y03 RUN BY MR GUERRERO, MR SHAKLES AND MR HANDY

If you're looking to ease the stress of the school term, board games may be the answer! It's been scientifically proven that you can relieve your stress by simply playing a board game.

Board game novices have nothing to fear as there are always people willing to show how to play the games.

MATHS HOMEWORK/CATCH UP CLUB RUN BY MRS COPESTAKE IN Y07

These are designed to support students in different ways; those who want somewhere to complete maths homework or help with particular topics or piece of homework. It can also be used as a catch up class, where students can bring along class work/revision work and ask any questions that they might have.



Week of Inspirational Maths

All students in Year 7-11 spent their first week in Maths doing activities in lessons based around the Week of Inspirational Maths.

The idea of these lessons is to do open, visual and creative mathematics. Each lesson started off with a growth mindset video, teaching students about important values to have in Maths as well as about brain science. These positive values are: 'Everyone

can learn Mathematics to the highest levels', 'Mistakes are valuable', 'Questions are really important', 'Maths is about creativity and making sense', 'Maths is about connections and communicating', 'Depth is more important than speed' and 'Maths class is about

learning not performing.'

Some of the activities students took part in involved teamwork, problem solving, practical activities and pattern spotting. One of these can be seen here where students had to work in their team to make 2D and 3D shapes using a circle of string.

How you can support your child with their Maths

Parents often ask what they can do to support at home: the answer is, loads!

All students get set homework three times a fortnight for Maths, and the first and most important thing parents can do is check their child's planner as a matter of routine, and make sure there's a quiet space at home where children can do their homework without interruption.

Many parents worry that they might not be able to understand the Maths itself and therefore won't be able to give the support that their children need. There are several things your child can do if they get stuck on their Maths homework, and so whatever your own level of knowledge, you can always point your child in the right direction.

Sources of support include websites such as BBC Bitesize, MyMaths and, for GCSE students, Corbett Maths. Also don't forget that homework is rarely set the day before it's due so parents can also suggest their child seek a teacher's help.

For Year 11 students, who have mock exams coming up at the end of October and then again just before the Christmas holidays. As well as keeping up with homework it's a good idea for students to be doing the five-a-day questions found on the Corbett Maths website. If there are any questions the student doesn't understand this website also provides short video tutorials to fill in the gaps.

A number of students have been selected for Maths intervention classes. This takes place for 25 minutes each week, and during these sessions students are able to practise skills and highlight topics they might be struggling with. This is a great opportunity for students to catch up.

English Intervention 2017-2018

Building on the proven success of our previous English Intervention programme, our 2017-2018 strategy has begun with our key focus on English Language and improving writing skills.

Sixty Year 11 students are attending intervention lessons, with attendance being closely monitored to ensure students are able to benefit from this crucial programme. In preparation for the term two mock examinations in December, we are concentrating on imaginative writing including: planning and structuring ideas, using imagery and sensory descriptions, narrative voice, sentence types and punctuation for accuracy and effect. In the examination, students are required to write a narrative, description or monologue in 45 minutes and these skills are targeted at particular areas of improvement for our students.

Write about a time when you ~ or someone you know ~ had an exciting day out at a theme park.

Pacing towards the exhilarating theme park, my eyes gazed upon the bright, dazzling rides as tall as skyscrapers. There was an instant feeling of the never ending maze in the sky about to engulf me into a black hole at the end of it. The serpentine queue convoking me to relish the mouth-watering, honeyed candy floss and I felt goose bumps rapidly mountain on my skin.

Rachel, Year 11

'In English intervention, I have learned useful writing techniques and skills to help me in class and in my exams. We are currently doing imaginative writing... We have been practising answering exam questions and then we are told how we can improve.'

Charlie, Year 11

'Going to intervention has really helped me with my mock preparation as the creative writing work we have been doing has widened my choice of vocabulary. Intervention has also increased my confidence in class, encouraging me to include all I can in mock questions.'

Shalini, Year 11

'In intervention this term, we have explored ways to improve our imaginative writing and good ways to revise. It has helped me create more imagery in my writing and make it feel more personal through use of the senses.'

Yasmina, Year 11

English Activities Week

In July last year, English put together a week of diverse activities for all year groups to increase engagement in 19th Century literature. It was a most enjoyable week, which saw students watching and taking part in drama, art and even using their detective skills!

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Creative Writing Club is an exciting opportunity for all Year 11 students as part of the whole-school enrichment programme.

The aim of the course is to get students to find their voice through writing in an imaginative and engaging way. By attending this club, students are encouraged to create interesting storylines, descriptive settings and developed characters through a range of strategies and activities. The course intends to challenge the most aspiring future authors, but also, support students who are determined to improve their writing skills. By creating an informal and relaxed environment, students will feel confident to share their ideas with others and improve their work through the drafting and editing process.

Students will get an opportunity to express themselves through a variety of forms and styles, such as: dramatic monologues, description and narration. By doing so, their understanding of choosing a suitable style and register for a particular audience and purpose will grow. Writing is a powerful tool to express ideas and concepts that you are passionate about. Writers will reflect on the world around them to develop the

moral messages and thematic concerns within their texts. They will become reflective practitioners and critics of their own work, ensuring they plan, craft and redraft their work to the best standard.

Attending Creative Writing Club will not only help to prepare you for GCSE, but, more importantly, it will develop your awareness of social and cultural experiences and viewpoints. So if you have something to say, a voice worth listening to, or an inspiring mind, come along to Creative Writing Club!



**Creative Writing Club:
Wednesday from 15.00-
16.00 in Y12**

How to make the most out of Year 11

In preparation for mock exams in term 2, all students have been issued with a Literature revision workbook on either 'Jekyll and Hyde' or 'A Christmas Carol'.

See your English teacher if you do not have one.

Do you have all your Literature examination texts?

See Mrs Ash if you are missing any of the texts below. You should have the following:

1. 'Macbeth'
2. 'An Inspector Calls'
3. 'Jekyll and Hyde' or 'A Christmas Carol'
4. Conflict Poetry Anthology

After College revision sessions

Our after College revision sessions will be starting in January 2018 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students will be issued with a calendar in term 2.

Watch this space!

Last year, the sessions were extremely well attended and made a significant impact on final grades for those students who attended.

Writing Skills Club

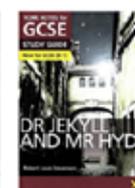
Writing Skills Club (Year 11 only)
- Every Wednesday 3:00pm to 4:00pm Y12 with Miss Curran and Mrs Ash.

REVISION GUIDES

Details of revision guides and workbooks below that we recommend:

This may be purchased online yourself, but please see the ISBN numbers for these texts. The first one is for revision guides and the second one is for student workbooks.

- Edexcel English Language Revision Guide 9-1 ISBN 9781447988083/978-1447987895
- Macbeth York Notes for GCSE 9-1 ISBN 978144982203/978-1292100814
- Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde York Notes for GCSE 9-1 ISBN 9781447982180/978-1292138084
- A Christmas Carol York Notes for GCSE 9-1 ISBN 1447982126/9781292138077
- An Inspector Calls York Notes for GCSE 9-1 ISBN 9781447982166/978-1292100791
- The Edexcel Poetry Anthology: Conflict - the Student Guide 9780993218330 (Note - Ignore the version of 'War Photographer' which is a different version of the poem.)



ACTIVITIES WEEK

YEAR 7 ACTIVITIES WEEK: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

During Activities Week, Year 7 creatively designed stage puppets, successfully portraying characters, which we then used to perform a part of Dickens' Christmas Carol.

This particular experience helped us in English due to the fact that it showed the actions/emotions of the main characters. It connected us to the subjects: English, Drama as well as History.

The most enjoyable part of the task was when we joined with other parts of our year group as well as appreciating the creative aspect of the activity.

Milrona Rodrigues and Megan Fernandes

YEAR 9 ACTIVITIES WEEK: MURDER MYSTERY

During activities week, Year 9 spent half a day on a 19th century murder mystery task, to solve who killed Scrooge.

We had to work in groups of four and were given a booklet of suspects with information about each one. We had to make a poster about what we knew so far and what evidence we had. We did this task to help us with our English and look into things with more depth but in a fun and interesting way.

We enjoyed finding pieces of evidence to solve who killed Scrooge because it was really engaging and we enjoyed finding out who the killer was in the end.

Megan Cole-Smith and Megan Stallard

YEAR 10 ACTIVITIES WEEK: MACBETH



During Activities Week, Year 10 were given the opportunity to watch a performance of Macbeth by the "Rubbish Theatre Company".

Macbeth is one of the GCSE texts you must study, so to be able to watch it in performance is excellent for understanding the play's themes, characters and plot. However, the theatre company did not perform the Shakespearean play in the traditional way, instead they made the show fun and engaging.

The actors used humour and audience participation to make it a memorable performance. It was an incredibly beneficial experience as it brought the play to life, in an interesting and unique way.

Seeing Macbeth performed in this unconventional way made me realise that the Shakespeare can be made interesting and engaging.

Megan Neely and Alicja Jankun

CHAPLAINCY



Week Commencing 25th September, the Staff Chaplaincy Team were invited to lead the weeks assemblies, accessing all students on the theme of Chaplaincy.

It was a fantastic opportunity to reach all the students and tell them about the exciting opportunities available to them by joining the Student Chaplaincy Team.

The students that join the team will be asked to be involved in a number of key events, such as CAFOD, Fairtrade, Residential trips to Kintbury, leading prayers and reflections, within their tutor group and whole school assemblies.

The sign up on 2nd October, was a huge success! Listed are the students who signed up!

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Cazia Borges | Isabella Smith | Monifa Rodrigues |
| Mezia Camelo | Archer Fernandes | Viola Fernandes |
| Rheana Camelo | Mariza Fernandes | Nyssa Goes |
| Achel Costa | Keefer Gonsalves | Milrona Rodrigues |
| James Gomes | Keira Harvey | Mary Adekunle |
| Elizabeth Hannigan | Charlize Sevilla | Rezel Barreto |
| Sancho Lopes | Maddison Worrall | Lucia Beggan |
| Lincy Mendes | Kaetlyn Gunning | Alivia Bunn |
| Indee-Mae Worrall | Erica Potes Martins | Camila de Souza |
| Eshwella Almeida | Georgia Wright | Veronica Fernandes |
| Vania Baptista | Tia O'Keeffe | Cindy Kleinewegen |
| Zia Cunha | Olivia Price | Carrie Martins |
| Messi D'Sa | Bailie Connolly | Shenoia Cunha |
| Aniela Lewkowicz | Sarah Duffy | Chrysilla De Sa |
| Oliver Montout | Mia Gauld | Hamilton Gonsalves |
| Alexandra Ogwemoh | Cameron Little | Shefali Fernandes |
| Annabelle Serrao | Marie Petrova | Dagny Rosario |
| Lizanne Vales | Moses Qumar | Joshua Adelantar |
| Louise Briana | Ahmad Salama | Anthony D'Sa |
| Bebey Bena | Alice Fitzgerald | Sofia Bell |
| | Dezaine George | |

We are looking to a positive and exciting spiritual journey. Chaplaincy takes place Monday Week A – 1200-1300 with Mrs Croft and 1300-1400 with Mrs Mobey.

CAFOD FAST DAY

Friday October 6th

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Students are asked to help make a difference to people living in poverty.

Pizza is sold for £1.00 during lunch break, with 50p donated to CAFOD.

CAFOD boxes are placed around the college for any donation that students may wish to make.

KINTBURY RETREATS St Cassians

Year 11 Retreat 25th–28th January 2018

Year 10 Retreat 26th–29th April 2018

Year 9 Retreat 17th–20th May 2018

St. Cassian's is a safe and welcoming place for young people, it allows them to take time to reflect on their lives. Details of the retreats will be emailed to parents after half term.

CHARITY WORK

St Joseph's will be helping several charities in the period up to Christmas. The charities are:

Threshold

A local, independent charity that works to positively tackle the homelessness issues. Each year sixth form students and staff take part in a 'Sleep Out' to raise money for the charity.

www.thl.org.uk

The Harbour

A refugee project who welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers in Swindon.

www.harbourproject.org.uk

The Medaille Trust

They provide safe houses for women who have been victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse.

www.medaille-trust.org.uk

Christmas Care

A Swindon charity that provides a temporary shelter with hot food, personal care and Christmas cheer for homeless and vulnerable people in the Swindon area over the Christmas period.

www.christmascareswindon.org.uk

St Joseph's Young Carers

Young carers are children who look after someone in their family. This may be a parent, brother, sister or other family member who has an illness, physical or learning disability, a mental health problem or misuse of drugs or alcohol.

A young carer usually takes on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

SCHOOL MASS

We are grateful to Canon John from Holy Rood for coming to St Joseph's to celebrate mass for our Year 7 and Year 10 students.

CAFOD YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Students from Year 10 will begin the CAFOD volunteer Course. This is a partnership between CAFOD, CAFOD Clifton and Clifton Diocese Youth Ministry. They will visit St Bede's college, Bristol to begin their CAFOD programme.

The programme brings together pupils from our catholic secondary schools and colleges, empowering them to be pioneers in social justice in their school and college community and beyond.

We use the CAFOD training model and examples of their work across the globe to inspire and educate the young people involved.

BATTLEFIELDS OF BELGIUM

15-17 September 2017 – remembering the Great War 100 years on

03:00 Friday 15 September – 40 students from Year 8 to 11 and 4 History teachers headed off to Belgium to take a look at the sites, museums and cemeteries of the First World War.



The destruction caused by four years of warfare from 1914-18 in this part of the Western Front was total: the city of Ypres was turned to rubble by German shells and the landscape became one of shell holes, swampy trenches, tunnels, barbed wire, blown-out tanks and concrete bunkers marking German defensive positions.

Today the city, villages and fields are peaceful and reconstructed. But we visited preserved sections of the battlefield and trenches. For example at Hooge Crater Museum we experienced excavated German trenches and at Sanctuary Wood Museum, after discovering rusting artefacts and 3D pictures of the trenches. We explored the best preserved trenches on the Western Front complete with muddy shell

holes and dark underground tunnels. I hope this gave everyone a real idea of life in the front line trenches.

In Ypres itself and at Passchendaele we were able to look at details of the terrible experiences of soldiers on both sides in the museums, although there was also time to enjoy the shops and chocolate on offer.

Everywhere you go in the area there are neatly kept cemeteries with burials of British and Commonwealth soldiers. They mark the sites of the battles of the War. Essex Farm cemetery with many burials from 1915 where the Germans used poison gas to try to win the War at Ypres (and where the poem 'In Flanders' Fields' was written). Polygon Wood Cemetery where the British launched attacks in the rain and mud of the Autumn of 1917. We were there almost exactly 100 years to the day when the battle was launched.

We visited a German cemetery at Langemarck with a mass burial ground for 44,000 soldiers. It was near here that my own grandfather went 'over the top' in battle against the Germans almost exactly 100 years ago. We also visited the largest British War cemetery in the World with over 12,000 burials at Tyne Cot on the slopes of

a hillside below where the German trenches were sited in 1917. Many of the burial head stones have the words 'Known Unto God' which means that although a soldier lays at rest in the grave, there is no way of telling who that soldier was. The names of the 'fallen' with no known grave are listed on the wall of the cemetery: 35,000 names.

Another 55,000 names of soldiers with no known graves are listed on the Menin Gate in Ypres. Every evening at 8pm there is a ceremony where the Last Post is played by bugle and sacred words are read out. Three of our students laid a wreath during this ceremony on Saturday evening as we stood with over 1000 people paying our respects to the Dead. Three of our students had relatives listed on the Menin Gate and they were able to pay their respects to members of their families lost 100 years ago.

I hope this tour was thought-provoking or memorable for all involved, after all even our hostel at the Peace Village in Messines was built right in the middle of what was a major battlefield of 7 June 1917, so that as we played football or volleyball in the grounds the trenches lay beneath the peaceful grass.