



St Joseph's Catholic High School

# Newsletter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024



## Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

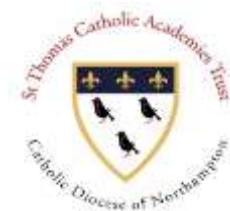
Link to the latest video is:

[Headteacher Message NEWSLETTER - 1st March 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

**Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.**

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

## Living Rainforest Trip

On Tuesday 27th February we rewarded 14 of our star geographers in year 8 with a trip to the Living Rainforest in Newbury! We explored the plants and animals there and learned about how they have adapted to be able to survive in the rainforest environment. The students also completed a fact-file on a species of their choice to find out how it has adapted. Of course, most did theirs on Cinnamon the Sloth!

## World Book Day!

We are delighted to celebrate World book day at St Joseph's with the students on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. This is a day on which we celebrate reading for pleasure and all things literary. Back by popular demand is our literary character dress-up for staff and students (i.e. famous characters from literature such as Willy Wonka, Harry Potter, Sherlock Holmes, Pip, Katniss Everdeen!). There will be prizes for the best!

We kindly ask that all students make a suggested donation £1 – this will be on parent pay and will go towards charity.

## Theme of the Week – This Sanctuary

Today we enter the third week of Lent and we will start by looking at the most important words from the first reading, “I am the Lord your God.... You shall have no gods except me”. Our God has a passionate love for us, but our human hearts are often so easily distracted and carried away by the ways of the world and the present. Thus as we move to half way through Lent we should remind ourselves of the cry of Lent *“Turn away from sin, turn back to God”*. Stay faithful, be faithful, return to the Word of God for your sustenance and ignore the call of others in the world.

In the Gospel on Sunday, we see Jesus angered by traders and the merchants who had turned God’s house into a marketplace. We know Jesus has a special place for the temple in his heart. Forty days after his birth he was presented at the temple by Mary and Joseph. Around the age of twelve in the Gospel of Luke, we hear of Jesus remaining in the temple whilst Mary and Joseph looked for him. When found, Mary questioned him about why he had made them worry with Jesus replying, *“Why did you have to look for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be in by Father’s house?”* Therefore, for Jesus, the temple is a privileged place for an encounter with God, the place of his Father, a house of prayer. The rough commerce of the traders and merchants was offensive, sacrilegious and blasphemous.

In a letter from St Paul to the Corinthians, Paul says our bodies, a gift from God, are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) and God’s will is that we too are cleansed so they can be pure for God. As Jesus in the Gospel rid the temple of the traders who were not there for God, we too should look at our conscience and mind, rid ourselves of our sins and do what is right for God. Through an examination of our lives, sincere repentance, contrition and God’s mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are healed and cleansed.

On Friday, Fr Chris, Fr Kevin and Fr Pius will come into school during both lunches and offer all Catholics the Sacrament of Reconciliation and for non-Catholics a blessing or simple chat. Take this time as we mark the middle part of Lent to prepare ourselves more fully, to lose the excess baggage that does not relate to God and allow our conscience to be cleansed.

# This Sanctuary

Weekly Reflections  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024



## A reading from the Gospel of St John (2:13-25)

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

### Day 1

Why do you think it is important during the middle of Lent to reflect back on those words given to us on Ash Wednesday "Turn away from sin, turn back to God"?

How has Lent been for you so far?

### Day 2

When told by St Paul that our bodies are temples, what do you think this means in relation to the Gospel? How does the Sacrament of Reconciliation allow us to cleanse our conscience?

### Day 3

Each day three of each week in Lent will be given to pray two Stations of the Cross:

Station 5: Jesus is judged by Pilate

Station 6: Jesus is scourged with a crown of thorns

## Prayer for the Week

Dearest Father, we pray.  
Help us to do your will with  
hearts of faithfulness, and  
in your kindness grant us  
your servants this grace:  
that abiding in the love of  
you and our neighbour, we  
may fulfil the whole of your  
commands

Through Christ our Lord

Amen.

**Saint of the week** - Katharine Drexel  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March



Katharine Drexel put aside her privileged life to be a pioneer in providing education and justice for Native Americans and African Americans in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Katharine used her wealth to found, staff and support nearly 60 schools as well as orphanages across rural areas and inner cities in the Deep South at a time where African Americans did not have access to a basic education. Katharine was:

**Intentional and  
Prophetic**



# 2024 is the Year of Prayer

The year 2025 is a Jubilee year in the Church for Pilgrims of Hope. As such, His Holiness, Pope Francis, has asked us to prepare for this by designating 2024 as the year of Prayer.

**“Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity. ”**

## Pope Francis

During the season of Lent, students will be reflecting on different types of prayer and ways to pray in order to prepare them for the sacrifice made on Good Friday and the celebration of the Resurrection at Easter. We encourage all, students, parents, staff and parishes to send in their prayers to [chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) so over the course of Lent and throughout the whole year we can come together as a school community to pray for our intentions and allow us all to deepen our relationship with God.

### Light up Lent 29<sup>th</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> March

Light Up Lent is our diocesan week of Accompanied Prayer, a retreat in everyday life. Begin or deepen your prayer life, get to know the Scriptures better, and above all, grow in faith and in love for the Lord who loves you. With one-to-one support each day for a week, via Zoom, from an experience prayer guide. Find out more and sign up here <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/event/lightuplent/>

### Lenten Gospel Reflections for each week of Lent

Bishop David has written and recorded a series of Lenten Gospel reflections for each week of Lent. In the video and audio version you can listen to the Gospel of the day and the reflection by Bishop David. You can watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFLOhTA6INl>

### Lenten Fundraiser

During the season of Lent, there will be a variety of fundraising events in and out of school to try and raise as much money as possible for our school charities. Please can parents/guardians encourage your child to take part and support us in our mission. Please see attached to the bulletin some events that have already been organised with more information



### How to take part in the Big Lent Walk

1. Create a JustGiving account (free)
2. Log in through this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-joes-takes-on-the-big-lent-walk>
3. Scroll down and click on 'log fitness'
4. Enter the details of your walk completed
5. Add an image/message about your walk!
6. Ask for friends/family to donate via the link above

There are prizes on offer for students who walk the most this Lenten period.

Any questions – ask Miss Crabtree!



### Free school meals

#### Am I eligible for free school meals?

You will be able to claim free school meals for your child if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have a net income from employment of no more than £7400 per year). For more information on how the government calculates your earnings from employment whilst claiming Universal Credit, please check the "Eligibility under Universal Credit" section below.
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please give on the link below to apply. If entitled, Slough Borough Council will inform you and the school of this.


<https://www.slough.gov.uk/xfp/form/244>

## Weekly Canteen Menu


WEEKLY

MENU

St Josephs Catholic High School - Week 3



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Tikka Masala served with Rice	Beef Bolognese Pasta served with Parmesan Cheese	Chilli Con Carne served with Rice & Sour Cream	Spanish Style Chicken served with New Potatoes	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips
Chickpeas & Sweet Potato Enchilada	Chinese Style Quorn & Vegetable Fried Rice	Quorn Sausage served with Mashed Potato & Gravy	Mozzarella & Tomato Pasta Bake	Cheese & Vegetable Frittata served with Chips
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad
Chocolate Chip Cookie	Iced Chocolate Cake	Sticky Toffee Pudding with Toffee Sauce	Apple Turnover with Custard	Jam & Coconut Sponge
Pasta with a Ham & Cheese Sauce	Teriyaki Noodles	Pasta with a Tomato & Chilli Sauce	Pasta with a Cheese & Chive Sauce	Pasta with a Tomato Sauce



Sandwiches, Baguettes & Wraps,  
Jacket Potatoes & Fillings, Pizzas & Burrito,  
Fruit, Yoghurt & Dessert Pots

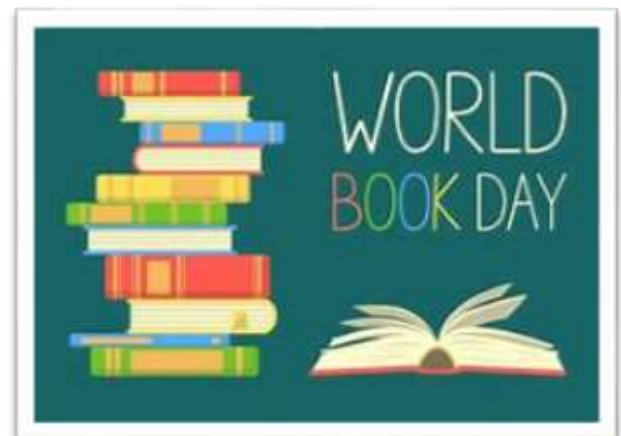
HARRISON

food with thought

### World Book Day!

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We kindly ask that all students make a suggested donation £1 – this will be on parent pay and will go towards charity.



**Year 7 News**

Hello All,

Please be aware that a 'Journal not Signed' Negative Point has been added to the system. Can we please ensure that you are signing your child's journal ready for the dedicated day, this is massively important and part of one of the many checks that tutors do on a weekly basis. If you are unsure when the dedicated day is then please ask your child's form tutor.

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

**Year 7 Sport News**

Congratulations to the year 7 netball team who came 3rd in the Slough Schools Netball tournament this week!

A special mention to Florence the team captain for some excellent interceptions in the centre third and to Coco and Leila for great teamwork in the semi-circle. Well done to all who played you should be really proud of your achievement.



### Year 8 News

Our priority this week has been Year 8 Parents Evening and it was great to see so many parents attend and many students leaving with smiling faces after glowing reports from their teachers. Year 8 is a talented year group and there is much to be praised across all lessons. Next week the 4th March is World Book Day a day where we promote and encourage the reading of different books and students will get the opportunity to express their love of reading by coming in dressed as their favourite book characters. It is St David's Day this Friday and being Welsh I want to wish you all Happy St David's Day.

Thank you for another great week and have a brilliant weekend.

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus 🐉

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 8

### Year 9 News

Well done on another positive week- 883 positive points! 9 Jerome are currently in the lead with the least amount of lates and are in with a chance to win a box of Krispy Kremes.

This week Year 9 were shown how to choose their GCSE options online. All students have now been given their log in details and should know how to make their choices. If you are having any issues with logging onto the system, please let me know.

Monday is World Book Day, dressing up as your favourite book character is encouraged!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

### Peer Productions play Masking with Year 9s



On 29/02/2024 Year 9's had the opportunity to reflect on various mental health and well-being topics by watching the play Masking. This will be critically explored further in their PSHE classes. The feedback from pupils have been great with pupils citing how relatable and personalised they found the themes.



### Year 10 Basketball

The boys went away to Beechwood on Wednesday, the game was a very close one but some clutch shots and good plays ensured that we came away with the win! 29-28. Great game for the boys and this keeps them unbeaten for the Year.

### Y11 News

Well done to all of Year 11 throughout the PPEs, you have all conducted yourselves amazingly.

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

### Y12 and Y13 SnapChat Trip

Small group of Sixth Form students were selected to attend a very special trip to the Snap Inc. (Snapchat) headquarters in Farringdon, London. The event is part of Empathy Week, an organisation that develops the skill of empathy in students across the world through film, storytelling & events & is an exclusive workshop that very few pupils in the UK will experience this year, it truly is a very special insight into careers & one of the world's biggest tech companies. The purpose of these events is to give students a chance to understand the role of empathy in a business setting & an insight into careers & the world of work.



### Homework Superstars of the Week



Tamara	De Jesus	7 Teresa
Jessica	Lysiak	8 Cecilia
Aidan	Vaughan	9 Jerome
Shenali	Palihawadana	11 Jerome



### Little Green Change

We currently subscribe to Little Green Change- an Eco Community that brings opportunities for us to be more sustainable!

I am currently on the look out for students to write content for their 2024 environmental magazine. They already have students from a number of schools in Devon, Dorset and Berkshire signed up, but would like more.

Examples of possible content include:

- An article focusing on a specific environmental topic like micro plastic pollution, energy saving, water pollution, etc.
- A school or business case study showcasing some of their eco actions to date. Supporting imagery/photos are encouraged.
- An interview with a high profile individual or business leader in the environmental/sustainability sector.
- Environmental career information.
- An eco quiz aimed at secondary-aged students.

An electronic copy of the magazine will be made available on their website in the summer, with a number of printed copies on recycled paper being made available for the students and schools featured.

If you would like to write for this magazine and take part in this opportunity, please send Miss Boland your article via email or MS Teams and the best will be selected for publication by the Easter half term.

### Year 9 Meningitis ACWY & Td/IPV Immunisations

The Berkshire Immunisation Service will be visiting St Josephs on 12th March 2024 for the Year 9 Meningitis ACWY & Td/IPV Immunisations.

Parent/carers are required to complete a consent form as soon as possible if you would like your child to receive their vaccination at school. If parents/carers do not wish for their child to be vaccinated, please advise them to complete the form as a non-consent. The consent letter is a separate attachment along with the newsletter.

## St. Josephs High Pi Day 2024

The St-Joseph's Maths Department presents Pi( $\pi = 3.14 \dots$ ) Day which will be held on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It's the 3<sup>rd</sup> month and the 14<sup>th</sup> day (Kool, isn't it!). 😊

The day will be celebrated with a competition called "Memorizing Pi" or (Memorizing digits of  $\pi$ )

This means, on Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2024, students will go to **M1/M6 at break or lunch time** where they will get a chance to write-from memory as many digits of Pi( $\pi$ ) they can remember. We hope to have a winner for each **House**, **Year group** as well as an overall **St Joseph's Champion**.

Here's a [link](#) to get you started!

### Pi Web Sites

Pi continues to be a fascination of many people around the world. If you are interested in learning more, there are many web sites devoted to the number Pi. There are sites that offer thousands, millions, or billions of digits, pi clubs, pi music, people who calculate digits, people who memorize digits, Pi experiments and more. Check this [Yahoo page](#) for a complete listing.

## Memorization of pi

Haraguchi holds the current unofficial world record (**100,000 digits**) in 16 hours, starting at 9:00 a.m. (16:28 GMT) on October 3, 2006. He equaled his previous record of 83,500 digits by nightfall and then continued until stopping with digit number 100,000 at 1:28 a.m. on October 4, 2006.

His previous world record of 83,431 was performed from July 1, 2005, to July 2, 2005.

In the endless pursuit of Pi's post-decimal values, most couldn't get farther than Rajveer Meena — who memorized and recited, officially, an unfathomable **70,000** digits in about 10 hours. **13 Mar 2023**

### A Brief History of Pi

Ancient civilizations knew that there was a fixed ratio of circumference to diameter that was approximately equal to three. The Greeks refined the process and Archimedes is credited with the first theoretical calculation of Pi.

In 1761 Lambert proved that Pi was irrational, that is, that it can't be written as a ratio of integer numbers.

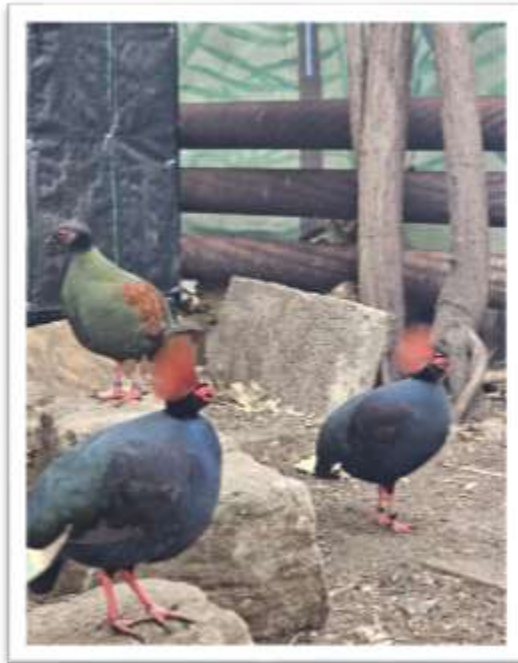
#### **How many digits are there? Does it ever end?**

Because Pi is known to be an irrational number it means that the digits never end or repeat in any known way. But calculating the digits of Pi has proven to be a fascination for mathematicians throughout history. Some spent their lives calculating the digits of Pi, but until computers, less than 1,000 digits had been calculated. In 1949, a computer calculated 2,000 digits and the race was on. Millions of digits have been calculated, with the record held (as of September 1999) by a supercomputer at the University of Tokyo that calculated 206,158,430,000 digits.

**Extension task: Can you write the number 62,831,853,071,796 in word**

### Year 8 Living Rainforest Trip

On Tuesday 27th February we rewarded 14 of our star geographers in year 8 with a trip to the Living Rainforest in Newbury! We explored the plants and animals there and learned about how they have adapted to be able to survive in the rainforest environment. The students also completed a fact-file on a species of their choice to find out how it has adapted. Of course, most did theirs on Cinnamon the Sloth!





### **Sandwiches & Prayer for the Homeless**

Our campaign continues and today our Year 7s made some fantastic sandwiches for a wonderful cause.



## Design and Technology Department



### KS3 Food

Some fabulous thumbprint buns, Chow Mein and butter chicken were on the menu this week for key stage 3 chefs. Year 7 and 8 parents should please check Parent Pay to find out how to make contributions. Year 9 pupils will continue to bring in their ingredients. We thank you in advance for your support in enabling our pupils to develop their cooking skills.

### DT Make It Elective



As part of the D&T Makelt elective this term the group have turned their enterprising hands to fundraising. They have started designing and making a range of small items including keyrings, badges, magnets and earrings which are available to buy. Please come to A3 (DT room) with a couple of pounds to make a purchase. All proceeds will go towards the Lenten charities. Keep a look out for further sale events.





### D&T Stars

Matilda Kemp Y10 For continued great efforts and being active and intentional to create high quality work in Design & Technology

Patrycja Szczepanska, Oli Stacey for starting the sales of the Makelt elective Lenten fundraising at Year 8 parents evening. Thankyou for being faith-filled and hopeful and generous with your time.

### DT social media STJOSEPHSDT



We try to post updates and points of interest on our Instagram page we also share some of the great work being done by the D&T pupils in the department....

### House Completion

On Friday Lunchtime, House Competitions came back with the 'Press Up Mash Up!' Students came to try and win House Points by completing challenges including ice buckets, eggs and press ups! Students gathered to watch their friends compete head to head on stage, with Mark house taking the top spot after each year group had competed. Next up, Spaghetti Slurping!

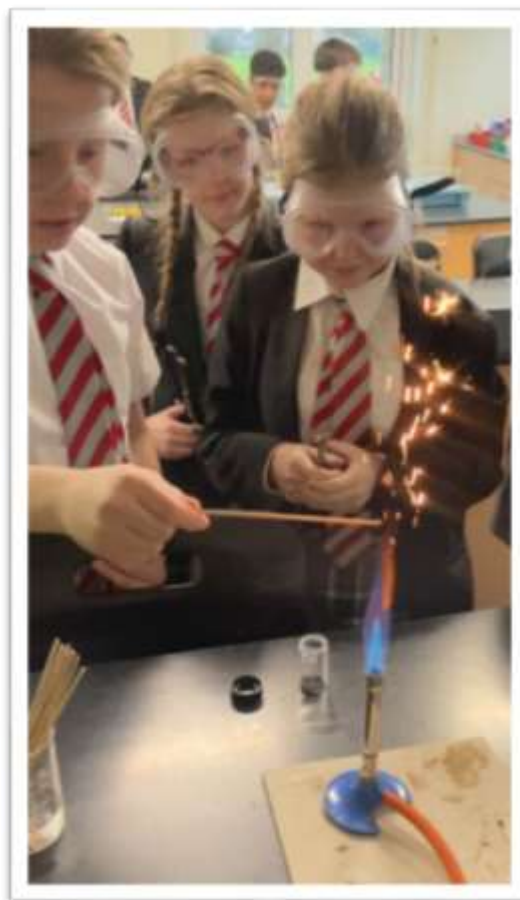






## Science Club

Students had an amazing time doing fun chemical reaction experiments and observed the formation of different products.



# INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2024



At Xavier Teach SouthEast, we are proud to offer an internship programme which provides those interested in teaching with the ideal opportunity to explore life in the classroom.

## NON-FUNDED AND FUNDED PROGRAMMES

- **Funded internship** for **secondary chemistry, computing, languages, maths and physics undergraduates** (£300pw)
- Non-funded internship for non-undergraduates and **all other secondary subjects and primary teaching.**
- **Aim:** to help undergraduates in all subjects, as well as those considering a career change, to explore how rewarding a career in teaching can be.

As part of the programme, you will:

- Get involved in all aspects of school life
- Receive bespoke training
- Work closely with a Mentor to observe and teach lessons
- Meet regularly with fellow Interns, ECTs and SCITT trainees
- Be given an opportunity to accelerate your interview process for our SCITT

*"The internship was a brilliant hands-on experience that gave me a wealth of knowledge about life as a primary school teacher. The programme gave me the best opportunity to gain first-hand experience teaching, observing and helping to plan lessons."*

Intern 2022



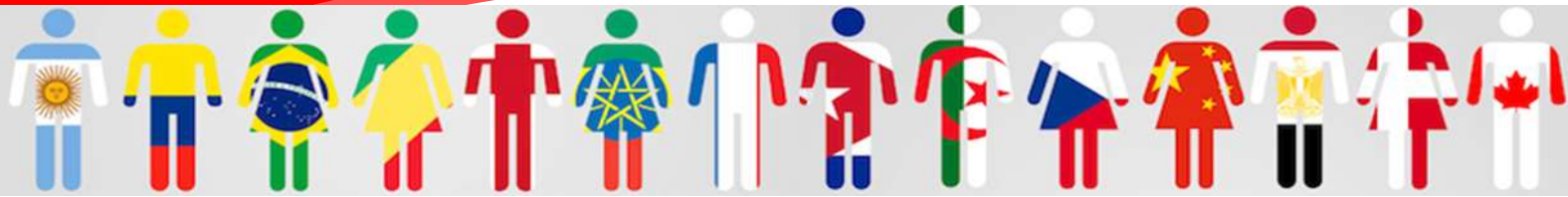
## INTERESTED?

Scan the QR code for the application form or visit  
[www.teachsoutheast.co.uk](http://www.teachsoutheast.co.uk)

[e.bertolone@xaviercet.org.uk](mailto:e.bertolone@xaviercet.org.uk) | 01932 578 682







## EAL NEWS

### (English as an Additional Language)

Here are some educational apps, websites, and online resources that parents can use to reinforce language skills and support their child's learning at home:

**1. Starfall (Website):** [Click Here](#)

- Starfall focuses on phonics and early reading skills. It includes interactive games, songs, and stories to help children build a strong foundation in language and literacy.

**2. Storyline Online (Website and App):** [Click Here](#)

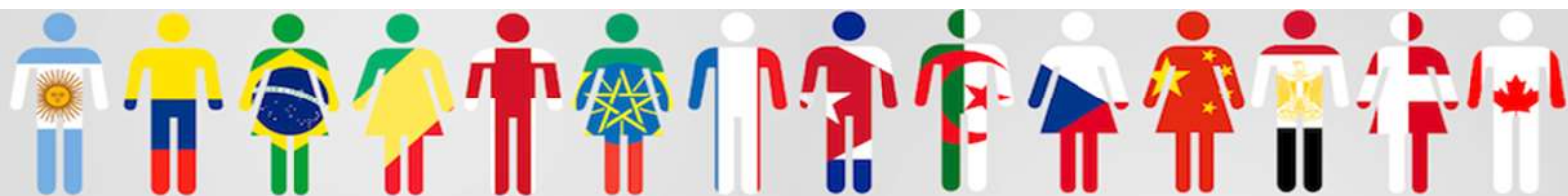
- Storyline Online features videos of famous actors reading children's books aloud. It helps enhance listening skills and promotes a love for storytelling.

**3. Reading Eggs (App and Website):** [Click Here](#)

- Reading Eggs is an online program that focuses on reading and literacy skills. It includes interactive games, lessons, and e-books to make learning to read enjoyable.

**4. National Geographic Kids (Website):** [Click Here](#)

- National Geographic Kids provides educational articles, videos, and games on a wide range of topics. It's an excellent resource to encourage reading comprehension and expand general knowledge.



## TVLP News

During the last term we saw the launch and submission for the TVLP creative writing competition. We had loads of entries and the standard was very high- author, Ali Sparkes, had a very difficult time judging! Across all schools, St Joseph's scooped up most of the prizes! Well done to Fifi Sindall and Sophie Nagorska-Bialecka who were runners up and will receive £20 Amazon voucher prizes. Plus, a congratulations to Filip Maslach and Joshua Lama who had commended entries and as a result won the £15 Amazon voucher prizes. These will be awarded with their certificates in assembly on Monday. Well done to everyone that took part and represented St Joseph's proudly.

TVLP CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

# Building Other Worlds Alternative Reality Competition Results

Winner!

First Prize Yusuf Mohammed

Runners up

Fifi Sindall  
Sophie Nagorska-Bialecka

Highly commended

Filip Maslach  
Joshua Lama





Congratulations  
to Herschel Grammar  
and  
St Joesphs school  
Amazing Writing.







## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

E The tetrahedron has 6 edges and 4 vertices, so the required product is  $6 \times 4 = 24$ .

## Solution to the Break time Teaser:

E The number of steps climbed per minute  $\sim \frac{1600}{12} = \frac{400}{3} \sim 130$ .

## Puzzler of the week

My recipe for apple crumble uses 100 g of flour, 50 g of butter and 50 g of sugar to make the crumble topping. When my family come for a meal, I have to use two and a half times each amount to provide enough crumble. In total, how much crumble topping do I then make?

A 0.5 kg      B 2 kg      C 2.5 kg      D 5 kg      E 50 kg

## Break time Teaser:

What is the difference between 40% of 50% of 60 and 50% of 60% of 70?

A 9      B 8      C 7      D 6      E 5

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts.

## Pupil Nominations of the Week

### Year 7

Tamara de Jesus and David Butkus for receiving the most positive points this week.  
All of 7V in the newsletter for their exceptional and authentic responses to poetry this week

### Year 8

Wiktor Dombrowski, Coco Janot and Jessica Lysiak for achieving the highest positive points

### Year 9

Oliwier Remfeld and Amelia Misiak for getting the most positive points

### Year 11

Adrian Konstantyn and Julia Lichosyt for achieving highest number positive points.