



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 1st December 2023



Christmas is coming to St Josephs!

The festive fun has already started for us now that our beautiful Christmas tree is up in the school hall and the Science Department have a their festive Chemist-tree up! More Christmas decorations to follow and we plan on taking lots of photos so we can spread the Christmas cheer! Ho Ho Ho!

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

My weekly video messages can be watched on our new YouTube channel @SloughStJosephs.

Link to the latest video is:

[Headteacher Message - 1st December 2023 - YouTube](#)

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!"

Theme of the Week – Hope

On Sunday, we marked the start of Advent and the word advent derives from the word *'adventus'* which means *'coming'*. During the time of Advent, we wait and expect the coming of Christ at his birth on Christmas Day. So as we start the season of Advent, we also see in our Gospel from Sunday of being told by Jesus to be ready for him. However, this is not in reference to his birth; today's Gospel Jesus tells us to stay awake and be ready for when he returns at the end of time. Just as we prepare for Advent, Jesus tells us to be prepared for when he returns.

In the first reading on Sunday, Isaiah (who some call the Christmas Prophet - A prophet is someone who speaks in the name of God and has been allowed by God to know and share a part of his plan for mankind) tells his people that they are to be known for their faith and hope in God. The hope that God will return to his people and save them. *'Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!* Even when not knowing or being in fear, they should continue to have faith and hope in God.

So with this in mind, reflect on how you usually prepare for a celebration, event or occasion. You may look forward to the event with some excitement; however, as the event draws nearer your feelings may start to morph into some nerves or fear as you hope that all goes well. Why do your feelings change as the time draws nearer? Usually it is because we want to make sure all goes to plan. We become scared as we think we have forgotten something, or have not prepared enough and something is to go wrong. Jesus in Sunday's Gospel tells us to always be on our guard, to always be expecting the end of things, as we know them. There are some things during a time of waiting that we can continue to do to ensure Christ is at the forefront of our lives. Here we can look at the Second reading from St Paul who continues to thank God. But what about us, what can we do? We can join St Paul in prayer, by full and active participation at Mass and in the Eucharist and by participation as an active member of our school community, illustrating Christ in our actions and words with others. It is important to keep that feeling of hope alive and active in our lives and to let others see it. As we face daily struggles we look to Christ for hope, others around you do the same. In our school mission statement of *'Unlocking Belief in All'* we hope to be a beacon of light to others, just as Christ is to us. Unless we live as people of hope, we are stopping others the chance to see our faith in our redemption and in the redemptive teachings of Christ.

We know that Jesus will return at the end of time, but only God knows exactly when that will be. What did Jesus tell us to do? To keep ourselves ready for the time when he will come again. How can we do this? Just as we prepare our homes and put them in order for a visitor, we can prepare our hearts and put our lives in order for Jesus. Advent is a good time to reflect on our own lives! To make things good, and move away from our bad habits so that we can make a fresh start for the coming of Christ. By living each day as Jesus taught us, filled with goodness and love, we will be ready to welcome him when he comes again.

Hope

Weekly Reflections
3rd December 2023



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (13:33-37)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Prayer for the Week

Lord God, our light and our salvation, we praise you for your gifts of life and faith.

Help us to meet you in prayer, to walk in your ways, and to speak to others of our hope and consolation in your presence.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Feast Day – 8th December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin. Mary was:

Learned and Wise; Loving and Compassionate, Trustful and Filial, Humble and Modest, attentive and discerning, faith-filled and hopeful, curious and active, grateful and generous.

Day 1

As we start the season of Advent, what are you hoping for? What are your expectations? How close is Jesus to these expectations?

Day 2

If someone important is coming to visit you and your family, how do you prepare for this? Do you: - tidy your room and the rest of the house; dust and clean; prepare a meal?

It is easy to be ready for a visitor when you know the time to expect them, but sometimes they arrive unexpectedly and surprise you! Would you find it more difficult to keep everything just as it should be if you did not know when your visitor was coming?
If so why?

Day 3

How this week can you turn bad habits into good?
Try to put Jesus at the centre of our actions so others can have the same hope as we do.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



DECEMBER 6 WEDNESDAY

STARTING AT 7 PM

Festive Songs, and seasonal cheer.

Christmas Hampers

Over the course of the next three weeks all tutors groups are asked to make up a Christmas Hamper for the St Vincent De Paul (SVP) charity to support those less fortunate over Christmas. Please can parents and guardians support this and encourage their child to bring in at least one item for their form hampers.

Please see the poster below outlining more details

SVP Christmas Hampers

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done (Proverbs 19:17)

Help families and vulnerable people in Slough this Christmas- donate to your forms Christmas hamper!
All forms are asked to put together at least one hamper. Hampers should include non-perishable food, toiletries and Christmas items

Please ensure items donated have a use by date of no earlier than February 2024

Your hampers should include:

- Christmas card or festive message	- Tinned fruit
- Christmas pudding, biscuits or cake	- Fruit juice
- Christmas selection boxes	- Instant mash potato
- Cereal	- Noodles
- Soup	- Sugar
- Pasta/Rice	- Shower gel
- Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce	- Shampoo
- Lentils, beans and pulses	- Soap
- Tinned meat	- Deodorant
- Tinned vegetables	- Toothpaste
- Tea/coffee	- Toothbrush
	- Flannel
	- Towels
	- Scarf/Gloves/socks

All hampers to be completed and delivered to the school hall (under the tree) for Friday 15th December

Thank you!

Year 7 News

It was a magnificent evening at Parents Evening last night so thank you to all of those who attended it was a really enjoyable night. It was lovely to see many of you again and to meet a lot of you for the first time.

Please be aware that on Thursday the 4th of January we will have Academic Review Day, your child will receive a paper copy of a letter explaining all of the details regarding the day. Thank you!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 7 Basketball News

The Year 7s had their first two games this week in the JNR NBA. The first game we unfortunately lost 4-0 but the second game we played extremely well winning 8-6. A successful first run out for the new St Joseph Basketball Players.

Player of the Match: David Bialek

Year 8 Basketball News

The Year 8s had their first JNR NBA game of the year also on Tuesday. The game was very tight throughout, but we could not hold on for the win. We narrowly lost with the final score being 30-27.

Player of the Match: Nikodem Marciniak

Year 9 News

Well done on another positive week! We only have 2.5 more weeks until Christmas holidays so keep up the good work! This week 9C and 9P have made sandwiches for the homeless in tutor time. Currently in the lead to win Krispy Kreme donuts at the end of term for the least amount of homework x's are 9M and 9T. Remember it is essential that all homework is completed and handed into your teachers on time! Now that the temperature is changing dramatically, please can we remember to wrap up warm!

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Year 11 News

Well done to the GCSE food students this week. I went into the food room yesterday and the standard was amazing. Next week we are entering advent. It is a time for thinking of others. May i remind you all that hampers are now being assembled. Please make sure you contribute and bring in as much as possible. Next Wednesday there will be Carols by Candlelight in the chapel. It would be amazing to see as many of you there.

In the meantime have a great weekend.

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Year 11 Taster Day

Our **6th Form Taster Day** on **Tuesday 5th December**. What your child will need for the day is the following:

Pupils are to wear business dress for the day. (**6th Form Uniform Policy overleaf**).

The day begins with a brief assembly in the hall. Pupils can drop their bags and coats off in the Sixth Form Study Centre and then proceed to line up in the Quad for **8:25am**.

They will then go to their Taster Lessons from **Period 1 – 4**.

They will be informed about the lessons they have been allocated to, several days beforehand, via Classcharts. There will then be an assembly during **Period 5** where I will be speaking to the year group about the application process and providing them with careers advice.

Applications for 6th Form will officially open from **Thursday 4th January – Friday 9th February 2024**.

We are very much looking forward to seeing them all on this day and are confident that they will greatly benefit from the occasion. Mr R Dann - Sixth Form Lead

Year 12 Geography Trip



Year 12 Geography students spent the day in High Wycombe learning and enquiring about the effectiveness of regeneration projects. Students took part in completing Environmental Quality Surveys (EQS) and footfall counts to determine the improvement and popularity of the area. We visited the museum in High Wycombe and saw a chair from the 1700s that was manufactured in Slough! Here students learnt about the history of High Wycombe so that they could comment on the changes made within the town. Students from St Michael's Catholic School also joined us to take part in collaboration between schools in the trust, so that students could improve their team work and collaborative personal skills. A great day was had by all!



Reindeer Run for Year 7, 8 and 9



Students in Years 7-9 have been excited this week by the Reindeer Run – an amazing opportunity to raise money for the Thames Hospice. Your reindeer will be coming home with a sponsorship form – please support them in seeking donations for their run. They are going to set themselves a challenge of a number of laps to run within an hour of a PE lesson. If your reindeer is able to raise just £25 they would be able to fund an hour of vital nursing care.

Please see the video here for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3J0tvHbW9VM>

Many thanks for your support - Miss Crabtree

Jenny Claessen Visit

It was a pleasure to be visited by Jenny Claessen this week, an author of some famous novels on witches. We were inspired by her stories of publishing and even got to write our own in lesson



Modern Foreign Language GCSE

Each year we offer our students the opportunity to achieve an additional GCSE or A Level in a Modern Foreign Language. If your son/daughter is fluent (including being able to competently read and write in another language), you may wish them to have the opportunity to gain a qualification within this area. These exams will take place in the summer of 2024.

Please see attached letter for more information. Miss Euden – Exams Officer



Drama News - Shrek

The school Shrek Production will take place at 7pm in the school hall for 3 nights only!

Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December. Limited Availability!

Tickets are on sale NOW via ParentPay. Limited availability so please book your places early!

Please tell Miss Crabtree if you want to get involved in this competition by the end of next Monday. It will be as an elective during next term.

POETRY BY HEART

Poetry By Heart is a national competition in which young people aged from 7 to 18 choose one or two special poems they love, learn them by heart, practise and perfect them and perform them in school poetry speaking events. The best go on to represent their school in the regional and national rounds of the competition. Every year the best contestants from every key stage and in every region in England are invited to perform their poems in front of top UK poets at Shakespeare's Globe and the new Poetry By Heart national champions are crowned.

TVLP News

Firstly I would like to thank everyone that took part in the TVLP Art Competition this autumn. There were some outstanding entries and it was difficult to judge.

The TVLP received some amazing entries from across the partner schools and the level was very high. Jeanette Kemp, the Coordinator, would like to pass on her congratulations to all students and she will deliver certificates to the school for all that took part.

She is pleased to announce the following winners from the TVLP schools:

First Prize Younger Years:

Arianna Lacson - Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo at St Josephs School Slough

First Prize Higher Years:

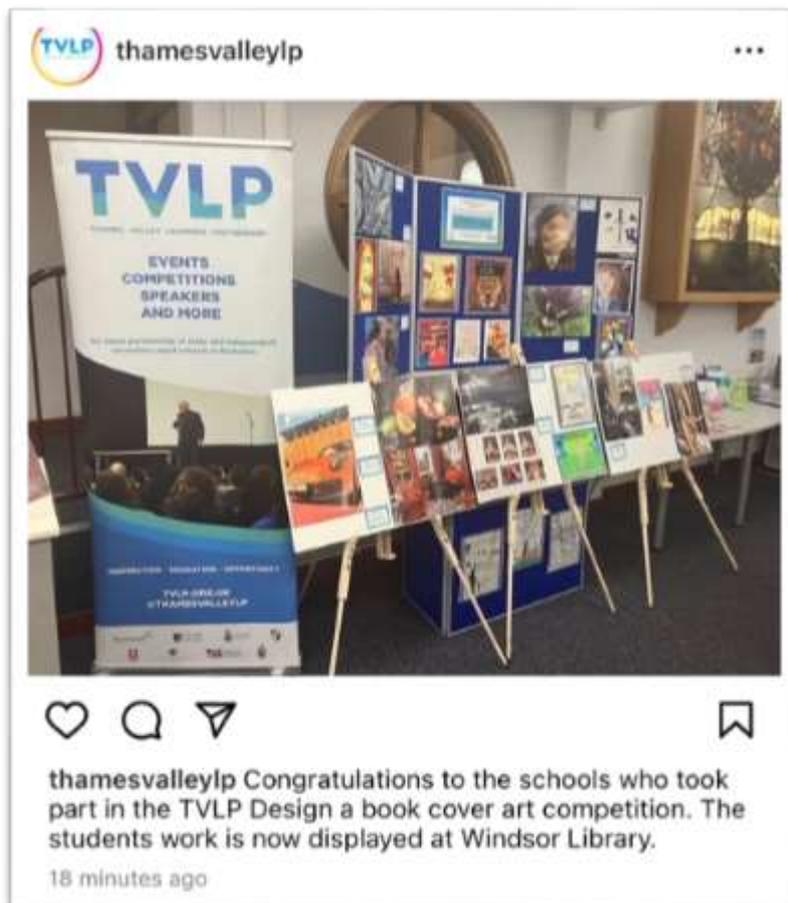
Iris M- Moby Dick by Herman Melville at St Marys school Ascot

High Commended All years:

Lexie B- Her Fearful Symmetry by Audrey Niffenegger St Marys School Ascot.

The winners have also been announced on the TVLP social media page, and Jeanette will be meeting with all of them to present their certificates and prizes on Monday 11th December. The entries are on display at Windsor Library and are free to go and view- please see attached a photo of this wonderful display of work.

Once again, an amazing congratulations to Arianna Lacson who won first place- this is a great achievement, and we are very proud. Plus, well done to all other entries which showcased some superb artistic talent at St Joseph's.



Homework Superstars

Claudia	Burakowska	7 Jerome
Joanna	Balasa	8 Mark
Emma	Powell	9 Peter
Nathacia	Mendonca De Jesus	10 Veronica
Wiktorcia	Trzos	11 Teresa
Nathaniel	Basa	11 Veronica



Yr13 Future Festivals Career Event: Pinewood Studios

Some of our Y13 students were given a fantastic opportunity to gain relevant insight of careers within the film industry in preparation of their next steps. This included an exclusive guided tour around a popular film set, talks with senior members of staff, Q & A with employers And.... meeting some of our favourite film characters. More fun photos are inside the newsletter.



Science Club

Students enjoyed making coloured solutions by using different indicators to make Christmas Chemistree!





Design and Technology Department

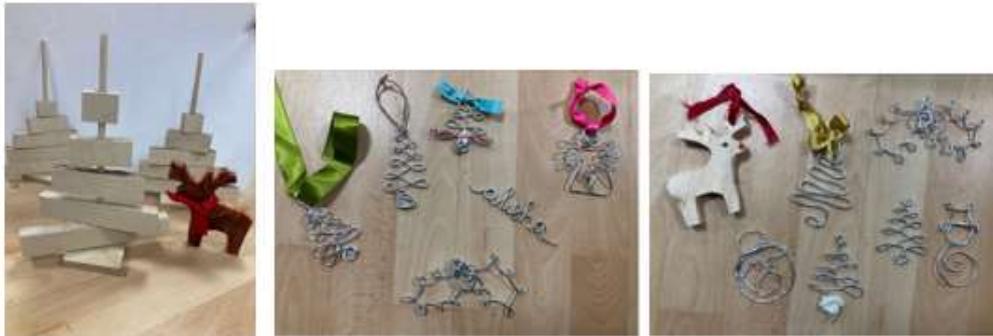
Year 12 have been analysing and investigating existing products. They have investigated and researched the methods and materials of manufacture and looked at the details that go into designing real products. Their investigations have made for some interesting displays which we hope to showcase on display in the D&T department.



We love to see what you've been making at home, a particular shout out to Lena who in preparation for her food practical made these delicious looking profiteroles. Can't wait to see them made in school, they look especially tasty!

DT Make It Elective

This terms Makelt elective makes have taken on a Christmas theme, our makers have worked with a variety of materials to manufacture some really interesting and rather lovely decorations..... Well done!



Class logo winners

Thankyou to all the pupils who sent their class logos for consideration The following were particularly impressive and earned extra positive points and should expect a small reward for their brilliant efforts. Well done!

Ria Basil, Matthew Wynne, Emilia Duczek, Eva Henriquez, Iga Karasinska, Max Maican,

Kacper Smigielski, Jaydon De Costa, David Fedorowicz, Luka Haury Zuzanna Makar, Afonso Jose Reis Gomez, Csenge Bodor, Vanessa Temrowska, Laura Gruczykowska, Patrick Lopez, Dominik Szczepan|



Competition Time.

It is December and the countdown to Christmas has officially begun. We have 2 exciting competitions,..... All entries will receive a positive point.

1. Design and make a Christmas tree decoration to hang on our D&T Christmas tree. Make sure you put a tag with your name and form on your decoration so you can have it back and we can give you a positive point before the end of term. Put your named decoration into the box in A4 to enter. The competition closes on Friday 15th December.
2. Design a small Christmas decoration using a 3D CAD program (for example Tinkercad or onshape) The decoration should be designed entirely by you and exported as a .stl file. Submit your .stl file to Mrs Stacey in teams chat, for a chance of getting it 3D printed. The competition closes on Wednesday 13th December.

D&T Stars



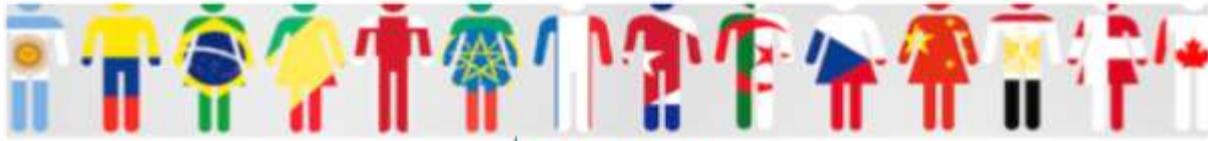
Lena Gaczowska Y9 Ola Sapinska Y7 for being curious and active in their efforts in and out of lessons

Jakub Przybylo Y11 for positive attitude and effort in DT and Food

DT social media



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....



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Practical Tips for Effective Home Learning:

1. **Establish a Routine:** Create a consistent routine that includes dedicated time for homework, reading, and language practice. Routines provide structure and help children feel more secure and focused.
2. **Make Learning Fun:** Incorporate enjoyable activities that make learning an exciting adventure. Games, educational apps, and interactive storytelling are great ways to make learning engaging for EAL learners.
3. **Celebrate Progress:** Acknowledge and celebrate your child's achievements, no matter how small. Positive reinforcement fosters a love for learning and boosts self-esteem.
4. **Stay Connected with Teachers:** Regularly communicate with your child's teachers to stay informed about their progress and to receive guidance on how to support specific areas of learning at home.

Remember, your involvement in your child's education is a powerful catalyst for their success. By fostering a supportive learning environment at home, you contribute significantly to your child's language development and overall academic growth.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your child's education. Together, as a united community, we can ensure the success of every EAL learner in our school.





#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** Since the total shaded area is half the area of the larger equilateral triangle, the area of that triangle is six times the area of each of the shaded equilateral triangles. Now when two similar figures have side-lengths in the ratio $1 : k$, the ratio of their areas is $1 : k^2$. In this case, the ratio of the areas is $1 : 6$ so the ratio of the side-lengths is $1 : \sqrt{6}$. Hence the length of the sides of the larger triangle is $\sqrt{6}$ cm.



Solution to the Break time Teaser:

C The fraction $\frac{3^9}{9^3} = \frac{3^9}{(3^2)^3} = \frac{3^9}{3^6} = 3^3 = 27$.

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows two congruent equilateral triangles whose overlap is a hexagon. The areas of the smaller triangles, which are also equilateral, are 1, 1, 9, 9, 16 and 16, as shown.

What is the area of the inner hexagon?

- A 68 B 58 C 48 D 38 E 28



Break time Teaser:

What is the value of $2021 - 2223 + 2425$?

- A 2122 B 2223 C 2324 D 2425 E 2526

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year7

Filip Maslach for an amazing report in the first round of progress tests and Victoria Podoba for receiving the most positive points this week.

Year8

Antoni Mielcarek and Amber Nunes for achieving most positive points this week.

Year9

Jayden Jonga and Sonia Wiaderek for getting the most positive points this week.

Emma Powell 9 Peter for student of the week for gaining 4 excellent homework this week.

Year 10

Year 11

Itohan and Nathaniel for an excellent week

Year 12

Phoebe Bryne for resilience in challenging circumstances
Patrick Whelan for the most positive points on classcharts
Special mentions also for Shaquille Michalewicz for excellent attitude to learning and Melanie Lukomska for being compassionate and loving