



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 8th March 2024



World Book Day

On Monday 4th March we held World Book Day at St Josephs, many students and teachers all got involved.

Year 9 also had a fascinating talk with Matt Dickenson about his adventures in Everest and subsequent career as an author.

Just to say a huge thank you to everyone for their £1 contributions on ParentPay. Lots more fantastic photos within the newsletter!

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

Link to the latest video is:

[Headteacher Message NEWSLETTER - 8th 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!"

Theme of the Week – The Light has come

Jesus in the Gospel this week gives some very powerful statements that really illustrate the love of God and the relationship we should have with Him. Firstly, Jesus makes this statement: ***“God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life”***. Examine the importance of the word gave! Not sent his son, or choose his son, but the word gave. God gave his son over to be tried and suffer death because he loves us. The greatest sacrifice that could be made was done because of love. In return, God asks us to believe. Believe in this love for us, believe in his son so we then are not lost, believe in Him so we are not condemned.

Jesus then goes on to say ***“For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved”***. Jesus was sent into the world to teach the Good News so we can learn how to be true followers of God. So we can LEARN! God, when sending his son Jesus, He is allowing us the opportunity to better ourselves, to live our lives in the way He intended. Not to judge others, not to cause hurt or anger to others, not to live a life of sin. God, due to His everlasting love for us is giving us a chance; in fact He gives us many chances to be saved! In the Lord's Prayer we say, ***“Forgive our trespasses”*** we ask the Lord not to condemn us for what we have done wrong. However, the Lord then asks us to do something ***“As we forgive those who trespass against us”***. The Lord teaches us to be Christ through one another so we can save one another and ourselves from despair.

Finally, Jesus says, ***“that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil”***. Sadly, how true is this statement! When we look around the world today, we can see acts of evil and people choosing to do this, to hurt others for their own greed, desires or needs. In addition, many of those who choose to commit this hurt to one another never choose to have Jesus in their life, never choose to follow the light! ***“but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God”*** How lucky we are to not only have Jesus in our lives but also be given the opportunity to follow that light. And the beauty of God's love for us is even in times where we actually possibly blow out the light when we commit sin and don't follow the teaching of Jesus, God immediately illuminates himself again in his forgiveness of us; So that the light of Jesus is shown to us again, and again, and again in his everlasting love. In return, all he asks us is to follow the light!

This week, how can you show your love to God in a way that he has shown his love for you?

The Light has come

Weekly Reflections
10th March 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St John (3:14-21)

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Prayer for the Week

Dearest Lord, we pray.

Look upon us who call to you, O Lord, and sustain our weaknesses; by your unfailing light, you allow us to walk with you always. Bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen.

Feast Day – St Patrick – 17th March



St Patrick is credited with the conversion of Celtic Ireland, an island never colonized by Rome. The patron saint of Ireland alongside Sts. Columba and Brigid.

Patrick was born a Christian in Britain (Wales or Scotland), and at 16 abducted by Irish raiders and carried to Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, in the process he discovered a latent spirituality. After fleeing slavery in Ireland, he travelled to France, where he was ordained and performed missionary work before Celestine I made him a bishop and sent him to Ireland to "gather the Irish into the one fold of Christ".

St Patrick was:
Active and Curious

Day 1

What does the word love mean?

How does God show his love for us when sending his Son to suffer and die?

How do you show your love to God?

Day 2

Why do you think Jesus is referred to as the light?

How has Jesus shown the light to you?

How can you show the light to others?

Day 3

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

Station 7: Jesus carries the Cross

Station 8: Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene

Lenten Gospel Reflections for each week of Lent

Bishop David has written and recorded a series of Lenten Gospel reflections for each week in 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=OwuZ-ETQesw>



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>

Year 7 News

It has been a full week this week with even more House Competitions, students have been competing in the Spelling Bee and House Competitions within PE. Students have done amazingly well and made a huge impact to the overall standings. Currently Peter House is sitting at the top of the pile.

A remind Journals must be signed each and every week on time, lots of students did not have them signed. Please avoid this moving forward.

Have a lovely weekend!
Mr Cooper-Santos – head of year 7

Year 8 News

What a fantastic week ... starting with World Book Day on Monday, an opportunity for some of our students to show their love of reading and their creative minds with their costumes. This week we are now 2.5 weeks away from Easter Break and with rewards being given at the End of Term we as a pastoral team are focusing on lates and homework.

As a year group the number of XH's has decreased 3 weeks in a row which is fantastic, please can you make sure that journals are being signed and being brought into school. Thank You for another great week Year 8!!

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Another exciting week for Year 9s. This week both the X and Y side have competed in the first round of the inter form netball and football fixtures.

On Wednesday the Royal British Army held a careers talk where the students were able to ask as many questions as they liked which they took full advantage of!

GCSE option deadline is today. Please contact Mrs Wilson in the office if you are having trouble logging onto the system. Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Natural History Museum Trip

On Tuesday 5th March we took 26 of our Year 9 Geographers to the Natural History Museum in London as a reward for their hard work, and to learn more about our restless Earth. The students completed a workbook about tectonic hazards, and created an exhibition of their own from the specimens within the museum. The highlights for many was definitely seeing the Blue Whale in the main hall!



Year 9 & Year 10 Football News



The year 9 team travel to Windsor boys to face the hardest competition they will face all year. After suffering a slow start, the team discovered a purple patch in the middle and seemed to control the game before half time and after half time.

Unfortunately multiple goals came in quick succession at the start and end of the game. Finishing in a 9-1 defeat.

Men of the Match: David G, Jean-Marie T, Andrius T



The Year 10 team continued their good performances with a trip to Churchmead School. A controlling display from everyone who played, the final score finished 3-0 but could easily have been 5 or 6.

Man of the Match: Mathew R
Goals: Emmanuel x3

Year 10 Parent evening

We are delighted to inform you that Year 10s Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 14th March 2024, from 4.15pm until 6.45pm. Please confirm your space on parent pay. Attendance is compulsory please speak with Mr Romero if you have any questions. A reminder to all that students will be making the appointments with the teacher, we aim for meetings to last around 5 minutes each. We look forward to see you all for an informative evening.

Year 11 News

Can I remind you that interventions have started and it is imperative that your son or daughter attends when they are needed. There is a board opposite Lab 1 where the students check where they are needed. There will also be Easter sessions in the mornings and the afternoons (timetable to come out soon). All of these extra sessions are to ensure that the students are fully ready for their GCSE's. A reminder that blazers are a compulsory item of the school uniform. Finally there will be a drama rehearsal tomorrow (Saturday) in preparation for their exam next Friday (15th).

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Sixth Form Trip - Snapchat HQ

We had a blast at Snapchat HQ in Farringdon with twelve Sixth Formers last week. They had a alumni panel from the Snap Lens Lab, a workshop on the skill of empathy and all took part and spoke wonderfully at a SuitUp business competition where they each had to pitch an idea for a new app within Snapchat that would foster greater connection. Working with students from other schools and speaking on stage, our St. Joseph's students did us proud, with our very own Victoria Palczewska winning the competition and winning a set of limited-edition Snap 'spectacles'!



Homework Superstars of the Week



Adam	Luzynski	7 Jerome
Joanna	Balasa	8 Mark
Benedito	Quadros	10 Jerome
Klaudia	Abramowicz	11 Cecilia



Word of the week**'Oscillate'.**

This is a verb that means to move or swing back and forth in a regular rhythm.

Idiom of the week**'Teaching one to suck eggs'.**

This means to presume to advise a more experienced person

La Chandeleur

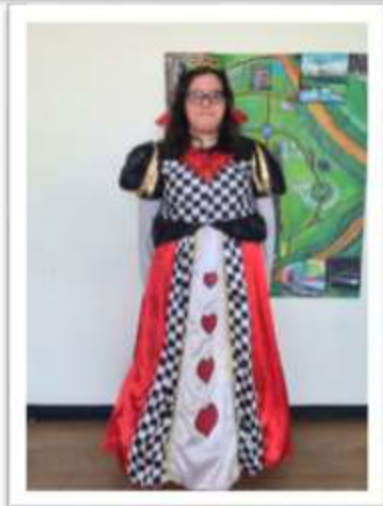
Our KS3 French students have been celebrating 'La Chandeleur' over the past few weeks. In the Christian tradition, 'La Chandeleur' marks the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. This event is also known as Candlemas because of the candles that were lit in the church in honour of the occasion.

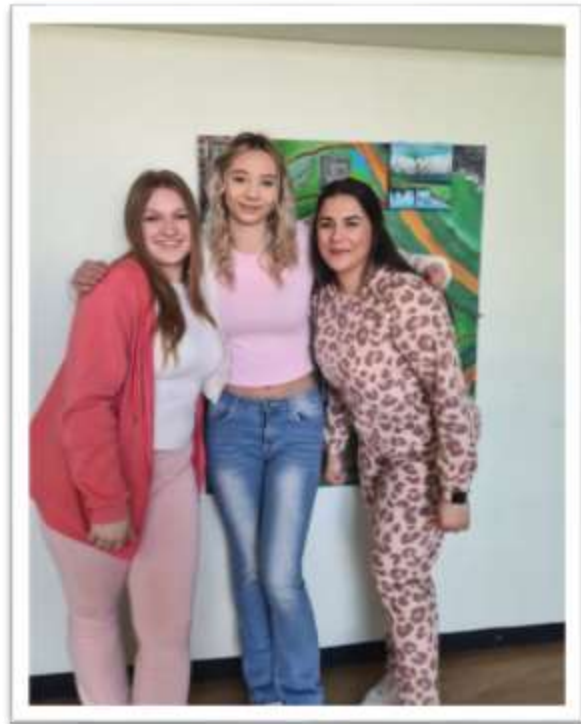
Our students have loved decorating and eating their crêpes!



World book Day

Following on from the front page... lots more fantastic photos!





Spaghetti Slurping!

Last Friday saw this year's inter house spaghetti slurping competition; an old favorite with the students. Competitors from every house challenged peers from their year groups to eat a plate of spaghetti fastest to the cheers and encouragement of their class mates.

It was a great event showing real house spirit from the competitors and their supporters.





Today, Friday 8th March, marks International Women's Day. This is a day which aims to celebrate and empower women, with the UN calling for the world to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030".

The History Department invites students to create a presentation or poster on ONE significant woman in history of your choice. Consider her achievements and why the world should remember her.

To enter, send your entry on Teams or bring it to the History Department by Wednesday 27th March.



TVLP Creative Writing Competition

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 were awarded to the students on Monday in assembly during World Book Day.

Well done to everyone that took part and represented St Joseph's proudly.



Year 7 Netball News

Well done to the year 7 netball team who played a netball match against St Bernard's unfortunately they lost 2-1. Well done to Florence, Eva, Leila, Coco, Mia-Grace, Rachel, Thea, Michalina and Millie.

Year 8 Netball News

Well done to the year 8 netball team who beat St Bernard's 9-6 well done to Myah, Elis, Joanna, Victoria, Karoline, Annabel and Michalina.

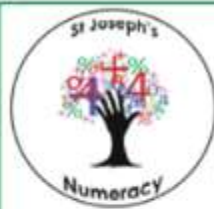


Science Club

Students prepared supersaturated solution of sodium acetate (also known as sodium ethanoate). They poured it on watch glass after adding a crystal of sodium ethanoate to activate it. Sodium acetate releases heat as it solidifies. Application- Used in reusable hand warmers.

Students were able to observe the mini volcanic eruption complete with sparks and ash!





#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- A The amount of topping required is $2\frac{1}{2} \times (100 + 50 + 50) \text{ g} = 2\frac{1}{2} \times 200 \text{ g} = 500 \text{ g} = 0.5 \text{ kg}$.

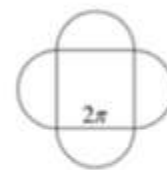
Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- A 40% of 50% of 60 equals 40% of 30 = 12. Also, 50% of 60% of 70 is 50% of 42 = 21. So the required difference is $21 - 12 = 9$.

Puzzler of the week

A semicircle is drawn on each side of a square, as shown.
The square has sides of length 2π .
What is the area of the resulting shape?

- A $2\pi^2(\pi + 1)$ B $\pi^2(\pi + 2)$ C $2\pi^2(2\pi + 1)$ D $\pi^2(\pi + 4)$
E $2\pi^2(\pi + 2)$



Break time Teaser:

Which of the following has the largest value?

- A 2^6 B 3^5 C 4^4 D 5^3 E 6^2

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

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?

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www.teachsoutheast.co.uk

e.bertolone@xaviercet.org.uk | 01932 578 682



Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Marta Gadziala and Kacper Tomaszek for receiving the most positive points

Year 8

Coco Janot and Michalina Branska for achieving the highest positive points

Year 9

Samantha Abalate and James Mpungu the highest amount of positive points

Year 10

Alexander Horot and Gabriel Konarski for highest number of positive points

Year 11

Dhembher and Oskar B for the most positives this week

Year 12

Aleksander Jozwiak and Dominika Lichosyt for the most positive points on ClassCharts.