



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 15th March 2024



Year 11 Drama Exam

Our Year 11 Drama students completed their GCSE Drama exam today and did exceptionally well, we are so proud of each and every one of them.

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is:

[Headteacher Message NEWSLETTER -15th March 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

Mr Stapleton was on BBC Breakfast story this week to discuss the lockdown incident that happened a year ago. Full interview in the following link:

[Ciran Stapleton on BBC Breakfast 14th march 2024 720p \(youtube.com\)](#)

You can also read all about the news article here:

[How a head teacher saved his pupils from a knifeman - BBC News](#)

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 – Grain of Wheat

The Gospel from Sunday marks the time where Jesus realises he is close to his purpose; his ultimate suffering and then death. In doing so Jesus also states the reason behind, the reason today that we all are reflecting on this and other themes of the week, Jesus came to glorify God's name and make us glorify his name, for us to believe in God and live our lives in accordance to his will. Today we listen to the Gospel because of the life of Jesus!

Over the course of the last few weeks, we have seen in multiple Gospels people astonished by Jesus. Whether it is when Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law and then others bring their sick to Jesus; Peter and James in astonishment of the event of the Transfiguration or when Jesus' disciples are in the temple where he drove out the traders and the disciples remembering what he had said and how it related to scripture. And the Gospel from Sunday starts with people being in awe, coming to see Jesus because they had heard about him and his ministry. Jesus was different, is different, will continue to be different! Someone does us an ill will to you, we anger; Jesus says we are to forgive. We do all we should to look after ourselves but others do not; Jesus does not say well done for what we have done, he says go and help those others. People may not live their lives as we think they should; Jesus says love thy neighbour. Jesus goes against our instinct of how to behave and we, like the Greeks who came to see Jesus in the Gospel, should be in awe of Jesus. Jesus speaks and when we all listen and act out his teaching, we can all be Christ in one another.

Later in the Gospel Jesus teaches and this resonates with his upcoming Passion. The single grain of wheat falling on the ground remains a single grain of wheat. However when it dies it turns into a harvest. 2000 years ago, Jesus came to teach and he could have gone on to teach for many years. However, imagine if Jesus carried on what he was doing for the rest of his life, became old and died a quiet death, not the one we remember on Good Friday. Would we be saying Jesus' name today? Would we know the ministry of Jesus? Jesus in his death creates the harvest, the harvest that in his death and resurrection, others will see Jesus as the Son of God. Others will proclaim his word, others will pass their faith on to others, and so today we too can proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

Lastly, let us reflect when Jesus says, *"Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour."* Here we can reflect on Jesus at the start of his passion and being in the Garden of Gethsemane praying to his father. Jesus knows what is going to happen to him but still prays to see if something else can happen. In this year of prayer, we too will pray for certain things, our families, our friends, our studies. Remember, there will be times when things do not go right for us, where we too may feel abandoned. Just always remember, God is with us, more so in our time of need than any other. We too have a purpose, God too loves us and we too can harvest his Word.

Grain of wheat

Weekly Reflections
17th March 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St John (12:20-33)

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, we pray.

Lord Jesus, enlighten us with your presence and the sure knowledge that your death allows us to witness the harvest of your love. Grant through you grace that we too can harvest our love for one other through acts of kindness and generosity.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen.

Feast Day – St Joseph 19 March



The husband of Mary and Jesus' foster-father, Joseph appears in the Gospels of St Matthew, Luke and John. The divine pregnancy of his betrothed was revealed in an angelic vision, and he humbly accepted his future role. After Mary gave birth, he was warned by an angel to flee, he took his wife and son to Egypt. When they returned he was a caring and nurturing father, Joseph raised Jesus and trained Him as a carpenter.

Joseph was:

Loving and Compassionate

Day 1

Why do you think the Greeks at the time wanted to see Jesus?

In what ways has Jesus asked you to look at something differently i.e. if someone has done you wrong, how do you feel? How does Jesus teach us to feel?

Day 2

How is Jesus like a grain of wheat that dies and harvests?
How can we harvest the Word of God?

Day 3

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

Station 9: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
Station 10: Jesus is crucified

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=kD-VtUQFAio>

St. Joseph's take on the CADOD Big Lent Walk

Calling all pupils, parents and staff! The previous instructions, I now see, didn't allow you to log your walks. Instead, please send me (Miss Crabtree c.crabtree@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) some pictures of you/your walks and the distance you have gone! I can log it. It all contributes towards our 200km target.

Please see the QR code below to donate. Your giving is very much appreciated.



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

The Year 7s have had another jam packed week with even more House Competitions and even an out of school Curling Tournament which we won!

A little bit of information, tutors as of next week will be setting a Homework for the students as a reminder each week to get journals signed.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 7 Football – St Joseph’s vs Grove Academy

The Year 7 football team hosted Grove Academy at the home of Slough Town. The team boasted a large number of high quality players, making up almost two different full strength teams for each half.

Following their hard work at training Tuesday after school, the team showed great footballing ability to control the first half 4-0. With an almost new line up 2nd half the boys took control of the game and spending almost all of the game in the Grove half.

The final score finished 6-0 to St Josephs.

Goals: Allan x2, Wiktor, Alex P x2, Brendal B

Man of the match: Brendal B

Year 7 and 8 Brentford Football Trip

Last Friday a group of Year 7 and Year 8 girls went to Brentford football club for a football festival. The girls were able to take part in a few practical sessions, have a Q+A with Anita Asante (ex lioness, Arsenal and Chelsea player), play in some matches and finished the day with a tour around Brentford football stadium.

Year 8 JNR NBA Basketball

The Year 8s had a big game in the JNR NBA this week against ACS Cobham who are an American Private High School, the boys did really well but unfortunately lost. We look forward to our next game in the JNR NBA. As it stands we should be making it through to the next around.



Year 8 News

Only 2 more weeks to go till Easter and what an exciting couple of weeks they are with rewards assemblies, Lenten fundraisers and House competitions coming up. We have had a great week as a year group with 90% of behaviour being positive. Please can we make sure that we bring all our equipment required for our learning kits including journals!! Have a fantastic weekend and see you bright and early for another great week.

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 8

History News: Year 8 Hampton Court Palace Trip

On Tuesday 19th March, thirty-five Year 8 students will be visiting Hampton Court Palace. This is an opportunity for students to enhance their knowledge of the Tudors and Elizabeth I which they are currently studying. Students will attend a session entitled “Global Influences” which will focus on the impact and influence of Elizabeth I on Hampton Court and the wider world.

Some key points to note about this trip:

- Students are to go to line-up to register as normal. From line-up, students should then make their way to the canteen for 8.30am where they will be met by a member of the History Department.
- We will depart the school by coach at 8.50am.
- We aim to arrive back to school for 3.15pm however this will be traffic dependent.
- Students need to bring their own lunch with them. Free School Meals will be provided to the relevant students.
- Any student who has allergies, should ensure they have their medication, inhalers, epi-pens, etc. with them on the day. This will be checked by a member of staff before departure. Failure to do so will mean that students will be unable to attend.
- Students should be in full uniform, however should wear sensible and comfortable shoes (i.e. trainers) as we will be exploring Hampton Court grounds.
- There is a gift shop on site for students to purchase items. We recommend that students bring no more than £10 spending money with them.

Any further questions please email Ms. Mawokomatanda:

C.Mawokomatanda@St-Josephs.slough.sch.uk

Year 9 News

Well done on another positive week! This week we have accumulated 890 positive points! Hopefully by now everyone has picked their GCSE options and will be hearing back soon about what GCSEs they will be studying next year.

On a side note, I have loved watching all 6 forms competing in their interhouse competitions in their PE lessons. Well done to everyone involved.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Design and Technology

Exciting news for our year 10 designers! As part of their curriculum our Year 10s took part in a national design competition called Design Ventura. They had to work in groups to design a product for the Design Museum, which they then had to present to the class. The teachers used judging criteria to select a group to enter from the school. Last week we were informed that our entry has been shortlisted in the top 10 schools entering the competition. The winning team will travel to London with Mr Silver to pitch their idea on Tuesday 19th March. We look forward to hearing about their experience. Well done to all involved! Good luck for Tuesday!

Star Pupils: For being intentional and prophetic in their work efforts: Nathan James, Matilda Kemp, Evie Leonard-Finn, Oliver Mahoney, Lionel Mascarenhas

Year 11 News

A huge well done to the year 11 that sat the food and drama exams this I'm extremely proud of you all, on Tuesday we will have a PPE results assembly and this is a chance for students to reflect on the last set of grades can I remind you its only 8 weeks until the real exams. We will have Easter revision sessions taking place over Easter break The letter will be sent shortly to parents.



Well done to Nathan J and Esynam for most positive points this week!

Keep up the fantastic work and have a great weekend!

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Year 11 Prom

We are delighted that the Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday 27th June 2024 at Stoke Place, Stoke Green, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, SL2 4HT. The Prom will start at 7pm. Tickets will cost £45.00 which includes the venue, sit down buffet and the DJ. Costs may reduce as more people sign up and this will be fed back into the Prom e.g. for decorations or towards a photo booth.

All payments should be made via ParentPay.

If you have any problems logging in to your ParentPay account please contact the school office, either via the main school phone number or by email office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

The word of the week: 'nefarious'.

This is an adjective meaning wicked or criminal (typically of an action or activity).

The idiom of the week: 'you can't twinkle a turd'.

This means that it is impossible to beautify something that is already unpleasant.

Slough New Age Curling Competition

On Wednesday this week 8 students took part in the Slough New Age Curling competition. They had great time and enjoyed trying something new. Both teams worked well together and demonstrated tactical play and resilience. Well done to Elena for the A team and Martyna for the B team who were the first players to land their stones in the middle of the target area. Dean demonstrated some excellent tactical play as he meticulously planned out where each stone should be placed and he was able to knock the opponents away from the target area.

A massive congratulations to the St Joseph's A-team who finished the competition in first place. They are now going to represent Slough in the Berkshire Games in July. We are all very proud of you all!



Y7 History Castle Presentation

A very well done to Michalina for her fantastic castle model for her history lessons.

TVLP Author Talk

On Wednesday we took 12 Year 9 Girls to Windsor Girls School for a TVLP author talk and book signing with Holly Bourne on her new book, 'You Could be so Pretty'. Her speech was informative on feminist theory, current media representations and empowering young girls. It was a really eye-opening and forward-thinking visit!

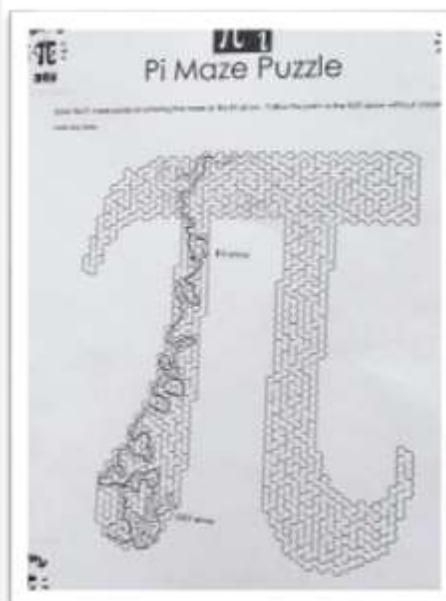


PI Day

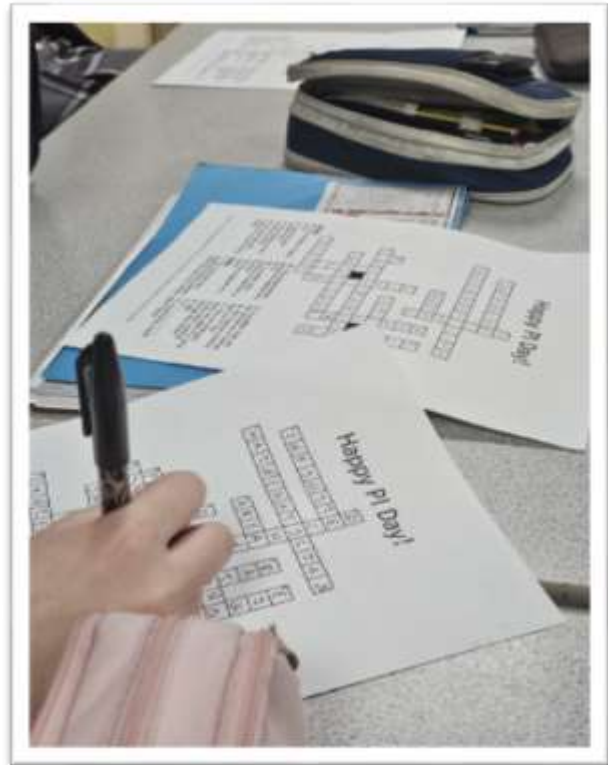
This week the maths department in conjunction with the other departments in the school celebrated PI DAY. The environment was buzzing and the energy was remarkable.

Here are some pictures highlighting the day.

(Maths Department)



PI Day



PI Day





#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

Solution to the

- E The square has sides of length 2π , so its area is $(2\pi)^2 = 4\pi^2$. Each of the four semicircles has radius π , hence the sum of the areas of the semicircles is $4 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \pi \times \pi^2 = 2\pi^3$. Therefore the required area is $2\pi^3 + 4\pi^2 = 2\pi^2(\pi + 2)$.

Break time Teaser:

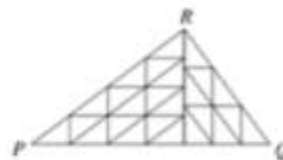
- C The values of the five options are 64, 243, 256, 125, 36 respectively. Of these 256 is the largest, so 4^4 is the largest of the options.

Puzzler of the week

Triangle PQR has been divided into twenty-five congruent right-angled triangles, as shown. The length of RP is 2.4 cm.

What is the length of PQ ?

- A 3 cm B 3.2 cm C 3.6 cm D 4 cm
E 4.8 cm



Break time Teaser:

The angles of a quadrilateral are in the ratio 3 : 4 : 5 : 6.

What is the difference between the largest angle and the smallest angle?

- A 30° B 40° C 50° D 60° E 70°

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

Science Club

Students enjoyed making bouncy balls!



St Josephs Catholic High School Inter House Chess Tournament 2024

The St-Joseph's Chess Club will be hosting our very own Inter House Chess Tournament which will be held during Lunch (both) next week Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (March 18th -22nd) in the main Hall (on stage).

Each tutor group is to select one boy and one girl to represent your form.

Please add these names the [spreadsheet](#) so we have a record of these students.

The game schedule will be in this week's bulletin.

Rules of Play

- 1) Let's have some fun.
(Being **Faith-filled**, **Learned** and **intentional**)
- 2) Each player will have 10 minutes per game. Clocks will be provided.
(Being **Attentive**, **Loving** and **Hopeful**)
- 3) If a team does not show, the opposing team will automatically win that game.
(Being **Curious**, **Prophetic**, **Compassionate** and **Eloquent**)
- 4) All games are knockouts so the winning team will move on to the next round.
(Being **Grateful**, **Discerning**, **Truthful** and **Wise**)

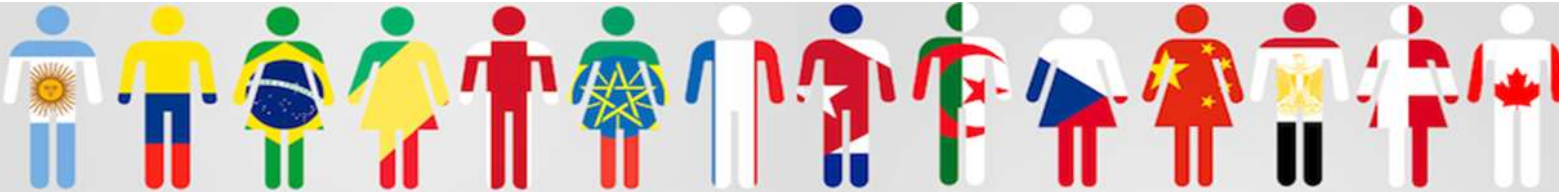


EAL NEWS (English as an Additional Language)

Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer many opportunities for learning. Use the following tips to support reading at home:

<p>Questions</p> <p>Fill free to use your home language when talking about the book.</p>	<p>All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to'. Ask questions before, during, and after reading aloud. This can help your child focus attention on the ideas in the story.</p> <p>So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is happening?• Where is this?• Who is that?• When might this be happening?
<p>Ask your child to summarise what they have read</p>	<p>Model how to summarise the key events/facts in the book. Encourage your child to have a go using a proper sentence and relate the book to what he/she already knows or has experienced.</p>
<p>Maintain the motivation to read</p>	<p>Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Engage in conversations; offer a literacy-rich environment, even talk about school, magazines, or current events. Ask them what they are reading and discuss the books. Also, ask them about their reading age and appreciate their efforts.</p>



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

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



Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Suela Zefi and Breindel Boateng for receiving the most positive points this week.

Year 8

Wiktor Dambrowski and Edzio Stacey for Highest Positive Points

Year 9

Declan Fagan and Evadne Vermeulen for getting the most positive points this week

Year 10

Year 11

Liam Recio and Emilia Pytel For receiving the most positive points this week

Year 12

Tafara Oguntoye for an excellent week with the most positive points on Classcharts and Melanie Lukomska for always being willing to help others

