



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 15th September 2023



New Senior Leadership Team

We would like to introduce you to our new Senior Student Leadership Team. We are so proud of their efforts and hard work they have shown during their time at St Joseph's and also within the application process. They will be supporting all aspects of the St Joseph's experience and helping to develop the school further. We wish them every success this year.

**Head Boy = Chiadikaobi
Emekwu**

Head Girl = Nichole Osei-Agyarko

**Deputy Head Boy = Cameron
Martin**

**Deputy Head Girl = Adrianna
Wroblewska**

Megan Shea

Alexander Kulczykowski

Hamda Hussain Jama

Zachery Mynett

Esther Owusu-Ansah

Steven Anamanya

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

Please find below the link to this weeks video to view my message:

[\(3\) Headteacher Message NEWSLETTER 15 09 23 - YouTube](#)

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

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

Have a fantastic weekend everyone.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

Theme of the Week – You Must Forgive

Have you ever had to forgive someone when they have done something wrong to you? Sometimes it is hard to forgive others. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that if we want God to forgive us then we must first learn to forgive each other.

Peter in the Gospel two weeks ago is rebuked by Jesus for not truly understanding what it means to follow him. In today's Gospel, Peter starts with a question in order to know what it takes to be a follower of Jesus. In this question Peter is trying to seek reassurance in what he must do (how many times must he forgive someone) in order to be a true follower of Christ.

Many of us may have asked a similar question but for other things, examples being; if I am to follow Christ how many times should I pray? If I am to follow Christ how many times should I go to Mass? Peter asks this question 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?'

Today in our lives we may ask something to our parents, friends or even to ourselves when we say 'why should I always have to forgive when they keep hurting me?'

From the first reading on Sunday, the words on forgiveness are underlined by the Gospel today, and the second reading on Sunday calls for our behaviour to be modified by our call as Christians. In the letter to the Romans (2nd Reading) St Paul says "if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord." Many of the things Jesus taught directly opposed the norms of behaviour of the day, and of human nature in general. Today's Gospel continues this call to rise above mediocrity.

Forgiving someone seven times, as Peter was advocating, was a generous effort at mercy. But Jesus demands a higher standard for his followers, and illustrates it with this story of the unforgiving servant. The king forgives the impossibly enormous debt of one of his officials out of compassion, but the forgiven man refuses to match this treatment when dealing with the debt of another. He resorts to violence, and so loses the mercy that has previously been offered him. Notions of fairness are challenged as Jesus leads his listeners to the understanding that God's treatment of us correlates with our treatment of others.

Forgiveness always sounds very holy and pious, but when it comes to being wronged ourselves we can find that our feelings get in the way. Can you recall a time when you have experienced this? How did you respond, and what happened? Were you able to forgive? When you consider this, think about how you forgive and experience forgiveness in school, your home, your community. Does this story help you to move past an initial response into a place where God's mercy can be manifest towards other people?

During the week, work on the things that need healing and reconciliation in your life and *forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us*; it's something we say most days – let's live it!

You must forgive

Weekly Reflections
17th September 2023



A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (18:21-35)

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Prayer for the Week

Compassionate Father, in prayer I ask you for your forgiveness for my faults and transgressions. Instil within me the spirit of forgiveness to others, so through my own actions and words, I can truly live out the message of Christ in all I do.
Amen.



Feast Day – St Matthew the Apostle 21 September 2023

Matthew was a Jewish tax collector at Capernaum employed by the Romans when he was classed to become an Apostle by Christ. In his own Gospel, Matthew describes the event pithily:

"... [Jesus] saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at a receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him." Matthew likely continued to spread the word in the Holy Land after the Resurrection until the persecutions of Herod Agrippa (42 AD), and then evangelised in either Parthia, Persia, or Ethiopia.

Matthew the Apostle was:

Learned and Wise

Day 1

Forgiveness can be a difficult thing to do, especially when someone has done us harm.

- Why do you think Jesus put such an importance on us to forgive one another before we are able to seek forgiveness from God?

Day 2

Peter puts a number in his question on how many times we should forgive before we have done enough in God's eyes.

- Why do you think he does this?
- Have there been times where you have done something similar?

Day 3

The act of forgiveness can be a really difficult thing to do. However in the Lord's Prayer we say 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'

What act of forgiveness can you show to another this week?

House Charities

Over the course of this week, students in form time have been discussing different House charities they can support during this academic year. Please can I ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the Teams form sent out today (Friday) in order for students to give their thoughts on what charity they would like to support. Next week the top three charities for each house will be put to a class vote in order to select one per house for the year.

Prayer intentions for our website and school community

As a Catholic school, we feel it's always important that students, staff and parents/families have the opportunity to share their prayer intentions so as a school community we can come together in prayer to support one another. If you have any prayer intentions you wish for us to pray for please feel free to send through to chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk During the school year, students will come together as a collective group (as a class, year group and as a school) to pray for your intentions. These prayer intentions will also be put on our website (prayer corner) to share so as a whole school community we can prayer for one another.

Word of the week:

Abhorrence

Meaning: This is a noun that means 'a feeling of revulsion or disgusted loathing'. It can be turned into the verb, 'abhor'.

Idiom of the week:

To turn one's stomach

Meaning: It is a reflexive verb. If something you have seen or heard about turns your stomach, it makes you feel very shocked because you feel it is morally wrong. It can also refer to a substance that makes you feel nauseated or disgusted.

Traffic Announcement

As you may be aware, there are roadworks along Shaggy Calf Lane and Stoke Road. These are ongoing and will cause disruption for the foreseeable future.

Therefore, please ensure that you/your child leaves enough time to allow for this. If your child is late, an X will be awarded. Please be aware that there will be no exceptions to this. Please ensure that your child arrives by 8.20am.

Reading and Progress Tests

On the week commencing the 9th of October, we will be holding baseline Reading Tests for Years 8-13 (Year 7 are already complete) and Progress Tests for English and Maths for Key Stage 3. We will hold a Progress Test for Science in Year 7 only (Year 8 and 9 will be at the end of the Year).

These are baseline tests to measure where students are in their learning and reading at this point in the year and the summer test serves as a measure of progress against this. This is the reason why we do a summer test and then a test straight away again in autumn (the autumn test being at a higher level than the previous summer).

The tests are hugely important to the student experience at St Josephs because we can provide high quality feedback to students to improve their reading, English, Maths and Science and we gain cohort strengths and areas for development that we use to improve our curriculum.

Parents and students will receive their reading ages, reading reports and progress reports along with their first school report.

Students will receive all information needed to complete the test in the week before the tests during form time. They will receive a timetable, log in codes and information as to how to conduct the test.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me (Mr Stack-Clark) via email g.stack-clark@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

STUDENT VACCINATIONS – 7th NOVEMBER 2023 – FLU VACCINE

The student immunisation team will be attending St Joseph on 7th November 2023 for the flu vaccine for Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Please see separate letter attached with the newsletter with further details and to provide E-Consent. It is essential all parents respond. If you do not wish for your child to be vaccinated completing the consent form is still required.

Any questions please contact the school office.

Year 7 News

We have had an amazing week this week! As a Year group we received 1499 positive points which is a staggering amount! Students are starting to really involve themselves in the St Joseph's family with many of the Year 7s attending after school clubs this week across the school which was truly lovely to see.

We have some fixtures coming up in a variety of sports so if any Year 7s would like to partake please make sure that you make your way down to club. The PE extra-curricular timetable is up in each of their form rooms and outside of the PE office.

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 9 News

Congratulations to all of year 9 on a fantastic full week back. As a year group, Year 9 achieved 1493 positive points! Keep up the good work. Just a reminder for all students to make sure that they have all their equipment for the day with them in their linen bags and tutors will be checking journals on Wednesday morning so please could they be signed by Tuesday night for the week before. Have a lovely weekend! Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Sports News

The Year 9 Football team kicked off this year's fixtures with a trip to Ditton Park Academy.

The team showed Great Spirit controlling the game for the majority of both half's. The final score finished 5-4 to St Joseph's with DPA levelling up the score to 4-4 very late on in the game. A moment of magic from Jean-Marie to score his second of the game and clinch the opening day win. Man of the Match: Andrius T
Goal Scorers: Alex B x2, Jean-Marie T x2, Kasper G

Year 11 News

Thank you to everyone who came to the year 11 Welcome evening last Thursday, it was great to see so many familiar faces there. Year 11 have had an excellent start to the year. It is really important that standards are upheld every minute of the day. As I am sure you are aware Year 11 goes extremely quickly and we need to focus on academic studies. Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Pupil Nominations of the Week

<p>Year 7 Robert Slezak for being grateful and generous around form and to Lena Wilks for her impeccable reading during form time this week.</p>
<p>Year 8 Bartosz Dera for great work in French. Rio Moore Fleming and Nikodem Marciniak as students of the week for Year 8 please for achieving 30 and 22 positive points this week</p>
<p>Year 9 Paulina Konopka for great participation in Spanish. Patrycja Szczepanska- Most positive points</p>
<p>Year 10 Darragh O'Connor for outstanding knowledge recall in Spanish. Rowan Moore and Liza Pereira for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week.</p>
<p>Year 11 Jakub Roginski for excellent independent learning in Spanish.</p>
<p>Year 12 Patrycja A, Matty Skowera, Leah Walls for the most positive points on classcharts this week and excellent performance in lessons Luke Pleace – for embodying the St. Joseph's pupil profile values well in school.</p>
<p>Year 13 Megan Shea, Zachery Mynett, Hamda Hussian Jama, Alexander Kulczykowski, Esther Owusu-Ansa, Chiadi Emekwu, Adrianna Wroblewska, Steven Anamanya, Nichole Osei-Agyarko, Cameron Martin. Congratulations on being appointed student leadership roles this week.</p>

RDA – Welcome to Year 12

Our Year 12 Sixth Formers had a successful first week at St Josephs. It was brilliant to see lots of happy faces see the following photos....







#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- C Let the length of each edge of the rhombus be x . Then, as the rhombus and the smaller regular hexagon have an edge in common, the length of each edge of this hexagon is also x . So the length of each edge of the larger regular hexagon is $2x$. The two regular hexagons are similar. Therefore the ratio of their areas is the square of the ratio of their edge-lengths, that is $1^2 : 2^2 = 1 : 4$.

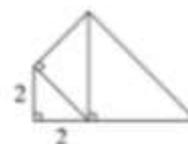
Solution to the Break time Teaser:

$$C \quad 2 - (-2 - 2) - (-2 - (-2 - 2)) = 2 - (-4) - (-2 - (-4)) = 2 + 4 - (-2 + 4) = 2 + 4 - 2 = 4.$$

Puzzler of the week

The shape shown is made up of three similar right-angled triangles. The smallest triangle has two sides of side-length 2, as shown.

What is the area of the shape?



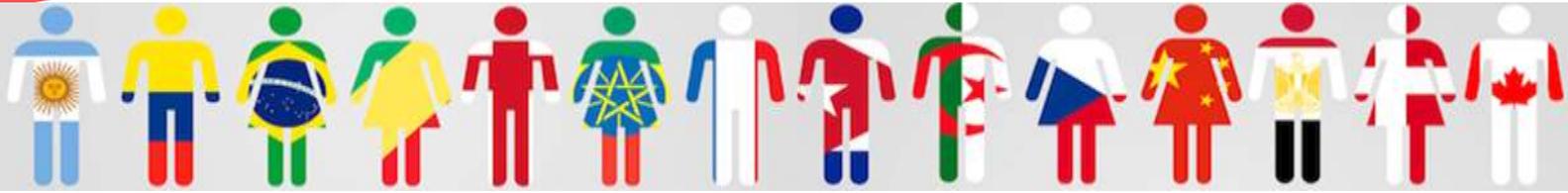
- A 14 B $12 + 12\sqrt{2}$ C 28 D $24 + 20\sqrt{2}$ E 56

Break time Teaser:

Which one of these is a multiple of 24?

- A 200 B 300 C 400 D 500 E 600

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



EAL NEWS (English as an Additional Language)

NEW ARRIVALS: Learning English as an additional language

The multilingualism of our EAL students enriches our school and our community. To become fully competent in the use of curriculum/academic English is a long process; students require long-term support. Having a home language other than English is not a learning difficulty.

Please inform us if your child has access to another language or if English is an additional language for them.

All new arrivals, including the Year 7 cohort, are assessed and assigned an EAL code to represent their competency in accordance with the statutory measure of English Language Proficiency as instructed by the DfE. This five-stage scale of English proficiency maps the progress from beginner to fluent users of English and the codes are as follows:

- **Code A.** New to English
- **Code B.** Early acquisition
- **Code C.** Developing competence
- **Code D.** Competent
- **Code E.** Fluent

By assessing students on arrival, we are able to put the necessary interventions in place as soon as possible in order to provide the best start for the student.

We will:

- Give students suspected of having language difficulties an initial assessment
- Provide small group English acquisition intervention where appropriate
- Monitor language acquisition and adjust the level of support appropriately.

For any further queries regarding English as an Additional Language please contact Ms Ura (EAL Coordinator) a J.Ura@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

