



Newsletter

Friday 25 June 2010

News from the Headteacher

On Thursday evening this week we welcomed the new Year 7 students and their families into the St Joseph's Catholic Community. Starting secondary school for any youngster is an important milestone in their lives and we do our best to ensure that the transition from primary school to St Joseph's is as smooth and positive as possible. I would like to thank Miss Phillips, Head of Year 7, for her efforts this term in ensuring a happy and successful start for all our new Year 7 students in September.

You will be aware that we offered students the opportunity to leave school early on Wednesday for a small fee in order to watch the England World Cup match. Miss Payne, who leads the S.A. Partnership, organised this very well and managed to raise over £400 through this event. Thank you to all the pupils and parents who supported our fundraising and thank you also to Miss Payne.

I would like to give a special mention to our extremely talented 11 Creative and Media Diploma students in Year 10. On Tuesday evening, as part of their course, they did very professional individual and group presentations to the Senior Leadership Team and the Arts Management Team. We were all very impressed with their confidence and talent.

Tonight is the Year 11 Leavers' Prom at Baylis House at 7.00 pm. It promises to be a very enjoyable evening. Thank you to Miss Bisset, Head of Year 11 and the Form Tutors for organising such an event.

Next week Year 10 students take their end of year Mock Exams starting on Tuesday 29 June. Also on Tuesday, we will celebrate the Feast of St Peter and St Paul with a Mass in school at 11.15 am. Sports Day for Years 7, 8 and 9 will take place on Monday 28 June at Thames Valley Athletics Centre.

Finally may I remind all parents of current Year 7 students that it is the Year 7 Parents' Evening next Thursday, 1st July, at 4.15 pm. Please contact your child's Form Tutor or Miss Phillips if there is any problem with attending this.

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day takes place at the Thames Valley Athletics Centre on Monday 28 June. All pupils from Year 7 - 9 are involved in the event. They are expected in school at the normal time and will be transported by coach to and from the stadium. Pupils will return to school for 3.00 pm. **Pupils need to come to school in full P. E. Kit** and bring a packed lunch, plenty of water to drink, and a hat and suncream (depending on the weather). A packed lunch will be provided for any pupils who get free school meals.

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

As we are nearing the end of this academic year I thought it would be a good time to give staff, parents, pupils and governors a quick update on the progress so far concerning the future of our school.

1. Proposed Slough Catholic College

The Diocese have issued a statement recently regarding the proposed amalgamation of St Joseph's and St Bernard's:

"The Expression of Interest for the proposed Catholic College, having been submitted prior to the election, will soon be considered by Ministers. The delay has been due to the General Election and formation of the new Government. As soon as any further information is available, it will be communicated openly. Our prime concern continues to be the assured provision of Catholic secondary education for the young people of Slough."

Monsignor Kevin McGinnell
Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation

2. Building School for the Future (BSF)

St Joseph's is one of the schools included in Slough LA's bid to join the BSF programme. We are currently awaiting news from Slough LA regarding this.

3. New Academies

As you are aware, the government has recently offered all schools judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted to become academies. I have recently received a note from the Catholic Education Service which states that they are looking into the implications of this for all Catholic schools. I await further information regarding this.

Please be assured that I will endeavour to keep all members of our community informed of any further developments regarding the progress of all the above three strands.

Mr K Jones
Headteacher

Important Dates For Your Diary

Friday 25 June	Year 11 Prom
Monday 28 June	Sports Day
Thursday 1 July	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 7 July	New Year 7 Induction Morning 9.00 - 12.30
Thursday 15 July	Achievement Day. School closes at 1pm
Friday 16 July	End of Term. School closes at 12.30 pm
Wednesday 1 Sept	Advice Clinic for Exams Results and 6th Form <u>only</u>
Thursday 2 Sept	Start of Term. Years 7 and 12 <u>only</u>
Friday 3 Sept	Start of Term. Years 8 - 10 and Year 13
Friday 22 October	Inset Day (school closed)
Mon 25 - Friday 29 Oct	Half Term
Monday 29 November	Inset Day (school closed)
Tuesday 21 December	End of Term. School closes at 12.30 pm

Please ensure the school has your up to date contact details (mobile number, home phone number and address) in case we need to contact you at any time. Any changes can be dropped into the school office or emailed to office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

Thank you.

Please ensure your child comes to school with plenty of water to drink during this hot spell. They should also bring sunscreen and a hat if necessary.



If you have been in school every day on time this week you are automatically entered into a weekly 'lottery'. One winner will be randomly selected each week and will be the proud winner of a weekly prize.

The lucky winner this week is: JACK BRENNAN in 10 Simon.

Congratulations to Jack for 100% Attendance and Punctuality this week.

Please come to the office to collect your **£10 Cash Prize!**

News from Year 7

The Year 7 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 1 July from 4.15 - 6.45 pm. Letters about the evening have been sent home this week. Please keep the evening free to discuss your child's progress.

Creativity Day Trip to Whipsnade Zoo - 14 July. Please ensure you bring your reply slips and money to the school office as soon as possible.

Miss Phillips

NEWS FROM YEAR 10

Year 10 will go on study leave at 3.00 today, Friday. Please ensure your child has a copy of their exam and coursework timetable. It is very important that pupils attend all necessary coursework sessions.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Dunleavy

History Department

On Wednesday the Year 9's went to the Imperial War Museum in London. The students mainly focussed on the World War One and World War Two Galleries which helped them have a better understanding of the work that they have done in lessons this year. The highlight of the day for most students was the World War One Trenches which they were able to go into. It showed what the conditions were like for the soldiers in the trenches, including the smells, which was a big talking point among the students.

Mrs Chiappetta
History department

Touch Base

Life can present families at any time with tremendous difficulties. Unemployment, bereavement, divorce, overcrowding and loneliness- to name but a few.

We want to help families who may be having difficulty by offering them a chance to meet with professionals to discuss any issues giving them problems.

Children are the at the centre of our school and we want to ensure that they have every chance of achieving their potential. Sometimes home life can become all consuming and problems at home have an effect on the children's ability to study and learn in school.

If your child is presenting you with problems at home then perhaps by discussing it with a professional who may be able to signpost you to the right support network may make all the difference.

All discussions had in Touch Base are fully confidential and the professionals are completely separate from our school or the school schools that host them. They are there as a support for you the parents and indeed staff will also be eligible to make an appointment and have a confidential consultation. Pupils over 16 can also use the service with or without parental consent.

Touch Base is open for appointments.

For Tuesday appointments between 9.15 and 12.45 ring St Anthony's Touch Base on 01753 645828

For Wednesday appointments between 11am and 2.30 ring Slough and Eton's Touch Base on 01753 520824

News from Year 8

Don't forget to choose which activity you would like to do on Creativity Day (14th July) and return your slips to the school office as soon as possible.

Mrs Chiappetta would like to wish her form 8S Good Luck for Sports Day on Monday.

Lumos: Made Residential Weekend.

Lumos is a residential weekend for young people aged 11 -18, with a mix of talks, music, creativity, dance, sports, prayer and many more activities. It takes place on 23rd-25th July

Sleeping at the Holiday Inn Express Slough, with daily activities at St Bernard's. Cost for the weekend is £75.

For more information visit www.nymo.org/lumos

Or ring 01844 273 337



PGL La Fosca Trip 2011

The PE Department is again running the Mediterranean Watersports trip to La Fosca in Spain in June 2011. The trip is open to all pupils in Years 7 and 8. Dates of the trip are 11 June to 19 June 2011. Any pupils interested in the trip should collect a letter from the school office or see Mr Druce for more information.









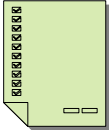
Please note this is a **WATERSPORTS** trip!!



PGL La Fosca 2010

Pupils who have recently returned from the PGL trip to La Fosca can obtain a CD of the pictures taken by staff on the trip for £1. Please see Mr Druce or Miss Greenhouse if you would like a copy.



	NEWS FROM THE EXAMINATIONS OFFICE
	PUBLIC EXAMS NEXT WEEK Monday 28th June 1.00pm – GCSE ICT
	<p>Next week is our last exam and I would like to say a big thank you to all the school staff and especially our invigilators for their help in running the examinations. We couldn't do it without their hard work.</p>
	<p>Pupils with morning exams should be in school by 8.30 to start at 8.45. Pupils with afternoon exams should be in school by 12.30 to start at 1.00.</p>
	<p>Well done to all pupils who have taken public exams this summer. A-level, AS and Level 3 BTEC results will be issued on Thursday 19th August. ELC, Level 1/2 Certificates, Functional Skills, GCSE, CIDA and Level 2 BTEC results will be issued on Tuesday 24th August. We will notify pupils about arrangements for collection of results before the end of term. Please make sure that we have up to date address and phone numbers for you so that we can contact you if there are any problems.</p>
   	<p style="text-align: center;">Problems During Public Examinations</p> <p>It is important that any pupil taking a public exam who has a problem tells the exams office as soon as possible. We are in the main school office and can be contacted in person, by phone 01753 524713 or email hotoole@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk Please call on the day of the exam if you are sick and unable to attend. Please tell us about any illness, bereavement or other issue that prevent you taking you exams or affects your ability to do your best in the exams. If it is a medical problem and you have doctors notes or appointment cards then it would be helpful if you provided copies. If you develop any illness or injury that prevents you from writing you MUST tell us as soon as possible. We can arrange a scribe and scribe room for you but it is very difficult to do this if you wait you're about to go into the exam to tell us. The more warning we have the better we can help you.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">JCQ Rule of the Week</p> <p>Special consideration applications should be submitted within seven days of the last examination in the series in each subject. Late applications may be accepted at the discretion of the awarding body. If any pupil has had any problem during their examinations such as illness, family upset / bereavement they must notify the examinations office immediately so we can make the necessary applications on their behalf.</p>