

Friday 4th September 2020



ST JOSEPH'S *NEWSLETTER*



THIS WEEK WE WELCOMED OUR YEAR 7 AND YEAR 12 STUDENTS

From The Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! A special word of welcome to our new recruits in Year 7 and our returning glorious Year 12s after their terrific set of results in the summer. The GCSE results of St Joseph's are among the top 5% in the country for *Progress of all schools* and the A Level Results are amongst the top 10% in the country *of all schools and post 16 institutions* in terms of progress. We saw a record number of students going on to study Law and Medicine including Cambridge University and a record number going to Russell Group Universities. Congratulations to them and to all the parents and guardians who deserve every word possible of praise for their encouragement and support.

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Return to school

The latest update of government deadlines last Friday posed some extra logistics for us and it became apparent we were going to have to allow some time for the year groups to know new routines before we get the entire school back together as a whole. So, to clarify the return to school is (as it was on the letter sent out last week) for returning years is as follows:

Monday Years 8 & 9 only (and Year 7 EHCP)

Tuesday Years 10 & 11 only

Wednesday All years in (including Year 13)

If you have any questions around the schedule please don't hesitate to phone us.

Measures we are putting in place to prevent the spread of Covid.

The measures we have put into place to prevent the spread of Covid are laid out in a document called '*Continuing Education: September Opening Arrangements 2020-21*' which is on our website. This document also outlines planning in the event of a local Tier setting by the Local Authority or National Government partial/ full lockdown scenario. We're planning on opening up more entrances and exits to the school for specific Year groups but given the timing of the guidelines these are subject to approved risk assessments. It follows that this document is likely to be updated over the first week - we'll let you know when that happens by email.

Uniform

I know that although the children might leave home in a pristine condition before school, sometimes by the time they have arrived there may have made a few alterations to their appearances. Can I ask you to remind the children about the following uniform policy. Thanks in advance.

- Skirts – knee length
- No varnished nails, acrylic or shellac gel nails.
- Shoes to be worn.
- No trainers, hoodies or scarves other than blue /black solid colours
- Ear rings – simple studs only (in the lobe)
- No make up
- No extreme haircuts/ shaved eyebrows
- PE: Students who have PE will need to come in in their PE kit on the day as there are restrictions around the proximity of students in the changing rooms. Tracksuits are allowed for those coming into school on these occasions.

St Joseph, Pray for us.

Have a great weekend.

Ciran Stapleton

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Theme of the Week – Listen

Whenever people come together for a gathering, there is always the risk of conflict and disharmony. The challenge of the Gospel is a personal one, and the restoration of relationships is paramount to our call as Christians. **It may well be useful to reflect on the ways in which you resolve conflicts in the different areas of your life – family, workplace, faith community.**

How are things managed differently in these areas?

Have you ever turned a 'blind eye' to wrong-doing?

How do you react when people criticise you?

Reconciliation is at the very heart of Christian living, and it is a responsibility to all who are part of the Church to be called to restore relationships with each other when these are broken.

Making time to attend a Rite of Reconciliation this week would certainly give you guidance on how to practically restore a relationship that may have broken down.

These relationships will remain broken if we do not make an effort to improve them. It is easy to wait until the dust settles and ignore the issue at hand. However, will this make you truly happy? Or will that annoyance remain ingrained in your head? The key to improving any relationship is to **listen**. You might be surprised at what this person has to say.

Make an effort this week to find someone who has wronged you. **Listen** to what they have to say, and begin the conversation with a desire and eagerness to restore your relationship.

St. Joseph's No Nut Policy

Please can we remind parents that St. Joseph's is a nut free school. Students **must not** bring any food in to the school environment that may contain nuts, this includes chocolate bars such as Snickers, cereal bars and peanut butter sandwiches and extends to any food product that lists nuts as one of its ingredients. Thank you for your ongoing support with this procedure.

Safeguarding at St Joseph's

Your child's happiness and well-being is very important to us at St Joseph's Catholic High School. If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding and child protection of any child at St Joseph's please do contact Miss Cheston or Miss Buchanan via the School Office.



Miss Cheston
Designated Child
Protection
Officer



Miss Buchanan
Deputy Designated
Child Protection
Officer

Debating Society

Debating society will return on Wednesday 16th September....but we are going virtual!!! It will be from **4:00pm** till **5:00pm** and on **Microsoft Teams**. Do **send me an email** (j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) **of your school email addresses** (to be added to the Teams group) if you are interested. Looking forward to seeing some new faces and our old very dedicated faces. Any issue kindly let me know 😊.

All the best,

Mrs Ossei-Brainoo



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Year 8 News

Dear Year 8,

All of us here at St Joseph's are beyond excited to welcome you back on Monday. We have put in plenty of measures to keep you safe upon your return. When you arrive on Monday, please go to the lower school playground to catch up with your friends before we have assembly together at 8:30am. Please remember a full pencil kit, but do not worry about bringing in your planner or books from last year, you will be issued new ones. I am expecting smart and neat uniform, mobile phones away and smiles at the ready. I cannot wait to see you all and have a happy and successful academic year.

Love, Miss Wellesley-Davies

Year 9 Start of Term

Hello Year 9!

I hope you are looking forward to being back in school as much as we are looking forward to seeing you. This is going to be an amazing year!

I just wanted to send a message with some answers to questions I have been asked by many of you.

- Monday 5th September is your first day back. Tuesday 6th you will not be in school. From Wednesday 7th we will be back as normal.
- On the first day we will be lining up in the upper school playground at 8:30am before we go to form rooms.
- The first week back will be 'Week 2' on your timetable.
- You do not need to wear masks. If you would like to, you can wear them when travelling between lessons. You must take your masks off in all lessons.

If there is anything you are worried about before Monday, please email me on c.robinson@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

See you soon!

Mr Robinson

Year 13 Parents and Students

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you're well and the children are refreshed after the Summer Holiday.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your child's new Head of Year- my name is Mr Matthews and I was the Head of the previous Year 13 year group. I am looking forward to speaking to and/or meeting as many of you as possible over the next few weeks so I can support

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your child's journey through this year. However, if you would like to contact me with any questions or worries you may have about Year 13, then please do not hesitate to call the school office and ask for me. Alternatively, please feel free to email me at r.matthews@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

Year 13 students are expected to return to school on Wednesday 9th September and should arrive for registration at 8.15am in full school uniform. Year 13 is an incredibly short year and it is over before you can blink so it is very important for the students to have excellent attendance, a positive attitude and to be working at 100% effort from day one.

I look forward to seeing you all soon

Yours sincerely

Mr Matthews

Geography News

The Geography Department are excited to welcome you back to school this week!

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It's hands on, relevant, and fun. **Geography** is a broad based academic subject which will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see **geography** as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding.

To get you back in the zone, our final summer competition is to design and create your own rock with a Geographical concept/Idea on it. Entries are to be given to a member of the geography department. Follow us on Instagram @stjosephsgeography for more news and current events! #stayexcellent



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Solution to the last Newsletter's Puzzler

In Miss Quaffley's class, one third of the pupils take a teddy bear to school.

Last term, each boy borrowed 12 books from the library, each girl borrowed 17 books, and each teddy bear borrowed 9 books.

In total 305 books were borrowed.

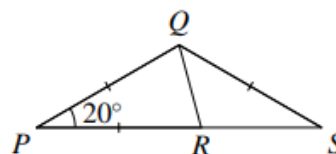
How many girls are there in the class?

There are 7 girls in the class.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

In the diagram, $PQ = PR = QS$ and $\angle QPR = 20^\circ$. What is $\angle RQS$?

- A 50° B 60° C 65° D 70° E 75°



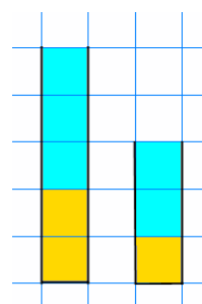
The answer is B, 60°

Problem of the week

I mixed up some lemonade in two glasses.

The first glass had 200ml of lemon juice and 300ml of water.
The second glass had 100ml of lemon juice and 200ml of water.

Which mixture has the stronger tasting lemonade?
How do you know?



Break time Teaser:

What is the value of $2 - (3 - 4) - (5 - 6 - 7)$?

- A 11 B 9 C 5 D -5 E -7

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. The first full complete answer will get epraise points and a prize.

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History News

The History Department would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Year 7 students, and welcome back our older students from Years 8 - 13. We are very excited to see you all next week!

Below is a brief synopsis of what we will be studying in the first half-term:

Year 7 - Migration

Year 8 - British Empire

Year 9 - The Weimar Republic, 1918-29

Year 10 - The origins of the Cold War

Year 11 - Revision of historical skills and content

Year 12 - The changing political environment of the USA, 1917-80, and the quest for civil rights in America, 1917-80

Year 13 - Revision of historical skills and content

The History Department has also set up a new Instagram page for students to follow - @stjoseph-shistory - which will be used to enhance students' cultural capital, marking anniversaries of significant events in history, as well as providing recommended reading, documentaries, and films, and most importantly, showcasing some of our students outstanding creations!

Looking forward to seeing you all next week!

Ms. Weir.



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Year 11 News

Hello Year 11, I hope you have all had a restful summer and you're raring to go for the new year. A few quick things from me following on from what some people have been asking. On Tuesday, please arrive in correct school uniform (not PE kit). Please check your e-mails regarding the high standards of uniforms I'm expecting.

In preparation for Year 11, please can you make sure that before we come back to school on Tuesday you have access to your e-mail account (Outlook) and Microsoft Teams. These are two platforms that will be used a lot this year, and I will need to know if you're struggling accessing them. Your password should be the same for both.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, if you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me on c.oakley@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

Stay Excellent,

Mr Oakley

Year 10 News

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 8th September (week 2).

Please go to the Lower school playground when you arrive, Year 11 will be meeting in the upper school playground.

Once everyone is back in school on Wednesday your area will be the Upper school playground. We have assembly at 8.30 so do not go to your form rooms.

Your break times will be: after lesson 1 -9.50-10.50 and after lesson 3- 12.15-12.50.

Year 10	Tutor time 8.30-8.50	Period 1 8.50-9.50	Break 9.50- 10.10 (Upper Playground)	Period 2 10.10- 11.10	Period 3 11.15- 12.15	Lunch 12.15- 12.50 (Upper playground)	Period 4 12.55-1.55	Period 5 2.00-2.55	2.55 Departure
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You will need a full set of equipment, including your own Calculator and maths sets, in a named pencil case as equipment cannot be leant out.

Please make sure you have a reading book with you at all times.

You DO NOT need to bring, or wear, your PE kit on the first day.

When you do have PE on your timetable you will wear PE kit all day as you will come to school in PE kit.

Masks can be worn between lessons and at break times but not in lessons, masks are not compulsory.

If you have any questions let me know.

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Take care and see you on Tuesday (in perfect uniform please-no fancy nails, nose studs, hoodies, trainers, short skirts etc!!).

Miss Cheston

Sixth Form - Beginning and End of the School Day

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our Year 12 students into the Sixth Form, they have had a very positive first day!

Further to the school opening plan and in order to comply with good practice around social distancing, students in Year 12 and 13 will not have to arrive to school until their first lesson of the day. If they have a lesson period 1, then they must be in school on time for registration.

If students have a gap between lessons they are welcome to use the study room in school. Students must go home when their lessons finish.

The exceptions to this are if students are taking part in a sanctioned school activity or if there is a specific need that must be met and we can cater for this on a case by case basis. Please contact Mr Clark and we can arrange this for you g.clark@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

Students must attend all of their timetabled Private Study lessons and we expect all students to be on time to school and wash their hands on entry.

Structure of the day:

Sixth form will have break (10.55-11.15am) and lunch (1.20-1.55pm) at the normal times and will use the quad **only** at these times if they wish to be outside.

iPad payments - these are payable on ParentPay only and not via cash or cheque at the office.

Pupil Premium

All students who receive Free School Meals, are looked after or have parents in the Armed Forces are eligible to apply for the Pupil Premium. This is extra funding to support them perform well in their education. Please let us know if your family circumstances have changed over lockdown and we can send an application form to check eligibility.

All students are welcome to join us for Breakfast every morning from 7.30am. This is free of charge and means that all students are fed and ready to start the day.

If you have any queries about the above information or if you have any problems with uniform or stationery please contact Anna Stockings. a.stockings@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

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Year 11 English News

Dear Parents and Guardians

I wanted to write to you all to explain a couple of developments within English/Literature affecting all students entering into Year 11 this term.

I am sure you will have heard lots of talk in the press over the last 4 weeks about how there are some changes for the Summer 2021 Literature exam. At the time of writing and based on the most recent information available, Ofqual have not yet confirmed the precise content requirements of the AQA Literature exam but I have been informed by the exam board that an announcement should be following very soon.

What I can confirm is that we will continue to study and prepare the Literature texts *Macbeth*, *An Inspector Calls* and *Jekyll and Hyde* alongside the wider English curriculum. Regarding poetry, Ofqual (and our board AQA) are yet to finalise the plan for the poetry element but we will be informing students as soon as we receive confirmation.

Additionally, and separately from any Governmental decision, we are very fortunate to be able to expand the number of teaching sets from 6 to 8 going into Year 11. This allows for smaller class sizes and even more focused teacher:pupil interaction and support with a view to maximising all students' chances of success. Inevitably this has meant a review of the setting therefore in several cases there will be movement into a different set. This sometimes raises questions and I would like to reassure all parents and students that these decisions are always made with the students' best interests at heart.

Significantly, I would also like to clarify that both English and Literature are 'single tier' subjects – the content and grading structure is the same for **all** students and no one is limited to the grade they can achieve. Furthermore, the content and skills practised are also common across **all classes**. The only difference therefore is in the style of delivery but as our recent track record shows, this has only strengthened the quality of the students' outcomes.

Finally, my English department colleagues and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for how you supported, in whatever capacity eg. in preparing, engaging with, recording etc. the Speaking and Listening activity under lockdown conditions back in the Summer Term. Your efforts have lightened the workload of our wonderful Year 11s before entering what I am sure will be both an exciting but challenging year ahead.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Nicol
Head of English

a.nicol@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk