

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020



# ST JOSEPH'S *NEWSLETTER*



THIS WEEK AERIAL FILM AND PHOTO HAVE BEEN IN SCHOOL FILMING FOR OUR VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

## From The Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for the support in getting the children back to school. It's been a great start to the term and the children have settled far better than we'd anticipated given the circumstances.

Wednesday proved to be exciting when we began filming a video for the virtual Open Evening. This included the use of a Drone taking birds-eye shots of the school and impromptu lessons on technology and filming by the production company, Aerial Film and Photo. The company will be back on Monday to complete the basic footage before the editing happens and we aim to launch our new website on the 28<sup>th</sup> September with it.

***'Unlocking Belief in All'***

## **We're a Nut Free School**

Particularly for the new students joining us this year, can I gently remind all students that we've several students who have potentially fatal allergic reactions to nuts. We have to be a nut free school. Please do check the contents of the food you bring in and check that traces of nuts are not in the ingredients of the delicious lunches I've jealously eyed on the playground.

## **Life under CV19 and Supporting those at home**

With a *safety first* mantra, parents are quite rightly being cautious when the inevitable colds and coughs manifest themselves. I'm delighted to say that although attendance is inevitable lower than previous years, it is the strongest in the Trust and very high when compared to the national current figures. So far there have been no positive cases of CV in the school.

We're trying to ensure that despite the unusual circumstances, no one is left behind so we're doing 3 things to help to this end:

1. Work that is completed in class will be uploaded onto each class' Microsoft Team on line. Typically this will be a PowerPoint but other resources and homework may be placed there. That means students can pick up their work if they aren't in school for reasons such as being tested or in quarantine.
2. We've equipped students in Year 11 with text/workbooks from the appropriate exam boards in a number of subjects including Science, Maths and English where they are available so that, in the event of a lockdown they have the syllabus and the correct sequence of the course to work from at home. If your son/daughter has one of these please ensure they look after it – it's theirs to keep and work in but they aren't cheap and we won't be able to replace them.
3. Children that *have to be* at home can still remain in contact with us with a specific individual to help them get everything they need to continue learning should they be at home. Miss Euden is one of our Learning Support Assistants (LSA) who will act as a contact for those students who are having to isolate and/or await results, and hopefully help to ease any anxieties around continuing learning whilst at home. Miss Euden will contact those children via Microsoft Teams to check that they are getting the work set for their timetabled lessons so they can stay on track alongside their peers. More specifically, she'll act as a link between your child and specific teachers - if there is an issue about a certain lesson they are doing where they are struggling she'll be able to ensure that the tutors get back to you. If there are any technical issues she will her best to help sort those out as quickly as possible.

## **Pre-Public Exams from 5<sup>th</sup> October (for those students preparing for public exams this school year)**

It's earlier than usual but we're preparing those students who are undertaking public exams (Years 11-13) for the first set of PPE (Mocks) assessments. The reason why we do any assessment is primarily to capture a sense of; where the students are in terms of what they have learned, diagnose any gaps in learning and lastly set up a personalised learning plan (PLC) for them in each of their subjects.

There are 2 driving factors in our decision to move these earlier. Firstly, with the last 6 months of disrupted learning there is the need to get more than just anecdotal evidence to assess students' current state of knowledge in each subject. Additionally we need to think wisely about potential future disruption. Although summer exams are being finalised by the Exam Boards as you read

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this, there's still every possibility centre assessed grades (CAGs) or some kind of accreditation based on the school evidence might be required if national or *repeated localised* lockdowns present a situation where summer exams become unfair or simply inoperable. If that does happen we'll most likely be required to offer proof of grades or a trail of evidence upon which we might predict a final outcome. To that end we'll prepare the students with ample opportunity to do their best and we've built revision time into the schedule so they can show themselves in the best light with material they've already covered up to this point.

Have a restful weekend.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Ciran Stapleton

## **Theme of the Week – Selflessness**

The message behind the parable of the workers in the vineyard can often be difficult to appreciate. The workers who arrive at the eleventh hour receive the same payment as those who have worked all day.

I am sure there are many of us who have taught pupils who have worked like Trojans throughout the year. Then a pupil who does not normally put any effort in, suddenly has a change of motivation. We praise that pupil. And as a result, the other pupil feels a great sense of injustice. However, we recognise that our praise is not restricted for certain pupils; it is open to everyone.

This is the same with our faith. If someone complains or grumbles because someone else didn't come to saving faith until late in life, then they truly don't understand the grace of God. Everyone who is saved should be eternally grateful for the grace of God that spared them; even if it was early in life. **We should rejoice as heaven does when one sinner, no matter what time that is, comes to saving faith.**

Selflessness involves "putting someone else's needs before your own". Rejoicing when somebody succeeds, or ensuring they are well and looked after are good ways of demonstrating this act. I am sure we all remember Captain Tom Moore, the man who walked 100 laps of his garden before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; raising over £39 million for *NHS Charities Together*.

Some of us might be familiar with Sir Nicholas Winton. Often dubbed 'Britain's Schindler', Winton rescued 669 children, most of them Jewish, from Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II. He found homes for the children and arranged for their safe passage to Britain. Here is a video of the immense gratitude he received for this:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_nFuJAF5F0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_nFuJAF5F0)

Those children, who are now adults, and the families that they have established, will be eternally grateful for the selfless act of Sir Nicholas Winton.

This week, **make time to have a conversation with someone who you do not normally get a chance to speak to.** I am sure we can all appreciate how busy life currently is. Particularly when we are required to move classrooms every lesson as we navigate the new Covid normal. Though this is exactly why the gift of time is one of the most precious gifts you can currently give someone.

## Music Mark School



We are delighted to announce that we have been nominated as a Music Mark School. The Music Mark is awarded to schools who value music and show commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum, and who are actively engaged in improving music education provision within their school community. Congratulations to all of our students who are actively involved in music both inside and outside of the classroom.



## Debating Society

Debating society will continue on Wednesdays virtually!! It will be from **4:00pm** till **5:00pm** and on **Microsoft Teams**. The motion will focus on who is to be blamed for the virus.

Do **send me an email** ([i.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:i.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)) **of your school email addresses** (to be added to the Teams group). 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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### Solution to last Week's Puzzler

If the first number was a 1 then you could have 1, 3, 3, 3, 10. Then, working systematically, I added one to the penultimate number and subtracted one from the final number. Using this way, I know that the average will always be 4 and that the mode and median will stay the same as long as I keep at least two 3s.

1, 3, 3, 3, 10

1, 3, 3, 4, 9

1, 3, 3, 5, 8

1, 3, 3, 6, 7

Then, continuing with this method, I replaced the 1 at the beginning with a 2. I got these answers...

2, 3, 3, 3, 9

2, 3, 3, 4, 8

2, 3, 3, 5, 7

*2, 3, 3, 6, 6 is not included because it isn't clear whether the mode is 3 or 6.*

Once again, I replaced the first digit and made it into a 3. I got the answers...

3, 3, 3, 3, 8

3, 3, 3, 4, 7

3, 3, 3, 5, 6

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- B** Since  $2 + 0 + 1 + 9 = 12$  and by inserting brackets only + or – signs are possible between the numbers, no value greater than 12 may be obtained. Also,  $2 - (0 - 1 - 9) = 2 - 0 + 1 + 9 = 12$  and hence a result of 12 is possible. Therefore the largest possible value that can be obtained is 12.

Congratulations to: Alex Chappell (10J), Piotr Basinski (8T), Annabel Lysiak(8C). For correct answers.

### Problem of the week

Pegs numbered 1 to 50 are placed in order in a line, with number 1 on the left.

They are then knocked over, one at a time, following these rules:

- Starting with the first standing peg on the left, alternate pegs are knocked down, until the end of the row is reached.
- Each time the end of the row is reached, repeat the previous rule.

What is the number of the last peg to be knocked down?

## **Break time Teaser:**

Four of the following coordinate pairs are the corners of a square.  
Which is the odd one out?

A (4, 1)

B (2, 4)

C (5, 6)

D (3, 5)

E (7, 3)

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

## **MFL News / Noticias / informations**

Lots of great work in French and Spanish this week!

8 Veronica have had a great attitude to learning and were actively participating in their Spanish lesson.

Adrian Konstantyn in Y8 French for his excellent participation!

Special mention to the Year 9s who have started their GCSE course with great motivation and work: particular shout out to Bara Allababidi, Shiman Singh, Daniel Rada, David Najdo in 9D/Fr1 for their effort in class.

For homework completed to the highest standard and well in advance, Joel Tabil, Giselle Da Silva-Reis and Oliwia Kuptel in Year 11.

Shout out to Steve Sibanda (11 Cecilia) who has been completing extra work to ensure he is challenging himself.

Bela Lamelo de Souza (11 Veronica) for her independence in completing past papers and getting ready for her Spanish exam.

## **Sixth Form News**

### **Year 13 Parents and Students**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to bring your attention to the high level of truancy that is occurring in the year group especially with private study lessons. These lessons have specifically been included on the timetable for students to have an hour to work in a silent environment in order to help them complete any work that has been set. These lessons are mandatory for students to attend and any truancy will result in a detention afterschool on a Monday from 3-4 pm. Any repeat or persistent offenders will have their 6<sup>th</sup> form privileges removed and they will have to be in school every day from 8.15 to 4 pm. Further occurrences may result in a fixed term exclusion.

I greatly appreciate your support with this moving forward.

Best Regards

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Mr Matthews  
Head of Year 13

### Year 12 Parents and Students

**Year 12 Welcome Video:** a huge welcome to all of our Year 12 parents and students (some familiar faces and some new!). To support the students with their start to Sixth Form study, we usually hold a Welcome Evening – this covers the day to day of sixth form life, how to support students with their study and what resources are available to students and parents alike (and more!). However, this has had to go online this year and so you can access it here:

<https://www.loom.com/share/f477b184f40f4ace9ffa7997930be8b7>

**CV19 compliance with local businesses** – I would like to remind all of our sixth form students that they must comply with CV19 regulations in the local area (such as Tesco, who have a mandatory face covering rule). Students are representatives of our school community and should conduct themselves accordingly in the wider community. I know that our sixth form students are held in high regard in the community, and this is well-deserved. I believe our students will continue to represent us well.

Mr Clark

## **Homework Timetables 2020-21**

In order to assist your child in being organised with their independent studies as well as enhancing clarity in communication, each year group has a homework timetable. This illustrates the days in which subjects will be setting homework each week. Homework timetables for Years 7-11 are attached. It is your child's responsibility to be writing their homeworks into their planner. We would appreciate your support in checking that this is being completed during planner-signing. Such habits embedded at this stage truly do reap their rewards in their overall academic and personal development.

If there are any queries regarding your child's homework please do not hesitate to get in touch with their Head of Year.

### **Library – Opening Hours**

Due to DofE guidelines the usage of the Library has been adjusted. As such, there can only be one year group of max. 15 pupils at a time in the Library. As such the Library is going to be used on a rota basis;

- Monday-Friday (break & lunch): Year 7/8
- Monday-Tuesday (afterschool): Year 9
- Wednesday – Friday (afterschool): Year 10/11

Sixth form students need to receive a pass from Mr Clark to use it during their study periods.

The LRC is open from 8am to 4pm everyday.

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**Returning books** – Please do ensure your child has returned any library books that were taken out from last year. We understand that a number of books had been taken out before Lockdown therefore it would be greatly appreciated if these were returned in due course.

## **English Information for Parents and Guardians of Year 7, 8 and 9 Students**

### **Bedrock Vocabulary**

You will have received by post, or will be receiving from your child, a letter explaining how to create a free parent account for Bedrock Vocabulary to enable you to track your child's activity and progress on. This online programme helps students learn the increasingly complex language they will encounter in text books, lessons and exams.

Each week students will need to complete a minimum of two Bedrock lessons. Please read the following guide which should contain all the information you need. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's English teacher.

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://bedrocklearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Parents%25E2%2580%2599-guide-to-using-Bedrock-at-home-parents-of-school-users-5e9c7ef847935.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwi5g5DTm\\_LrAhXJURUIHcv6C-YQFjAAegQID-RAC&usq=AOvVaw1Ow8yuX1snBWjFEZMYwy99](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://bedrocklearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Parents%25E2%2580%2599-guide-to-using-Bedrock-at-home-parents-of-school-users-5e9c7ef847935.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwi5g5DTm_LrAhXJURUIHcv6C-YQFjAAegQID-RAC&usq=AOvVaw1Ow8yuX1snBWjFEZMYwy99)

## **Music Instrumental Lessons at St Joseph's**

Individual lessons provided by Slough Music Service are planning to restart next week. If you received lessons last year, the music service will be in contact with you shortly about continuing lessons.

If you would like to start lessons on a music instrument/singing, please complete the application form via the Slough Music Service website.

<https://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk/For-Pupils/Lessons-in-School/Apply>

Any queries please contact Miss Ure.

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## **Art News**

In Year 8 we are studying the History of Art. Matthew Kosiba, 8 Teresa created a wonderful Cubist portrait in the style of Pablo Picasso.

Excellent work Matt!!

Miss Irvine



## **Year 7 News**

Again a fabulous week for Year 7. They have really thrown themselves into school life and their lessons. They have loved direct numbers in Maths, learning about continents in Geography and writing a literacy short in English. I was even told homework was great!

Mrs Dunleavy



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## **Pupil Nominations of the Week**

### **Year 7**

Mia Ramanathan for her generosity towards her peers and Zac O'Brien for his curiosity in lessons.

### **Year 8**

Jakub Roginski 8P for excellence in Geography and Barbara Siotor 8T for being helpful towards her teachers.

### **Year 9**

Padraig Vaughan for an excellent monologue task in English and Mariska Sicad for outstanding work and participation in Geography

### **Year 10**

Christopher Boyle for always having a great presence in the classroom and for his contributions in PSHE and Alfred Clark for always stepping forward to lead us in prayer in form and for his positivity in PSHE.

### **Year 11**

Trewayne Lake for his excellent approach to all of his lessons and Cinera Mathew for her excellent attitude to MFL.

### **Year 12**

**Lucia Mourato** – for an outstanding start to sixth form, for being **autonomous** in her sixth form study.

### **Year 13**

Alisha Sharma for showing an excellent attitude to learning by emailing teachers to ask for support in completing work before it is due to be handed in and Eron Holloway for showing incredible resilience in the face of adversity.

**O'Tega Ayoma** – for a strong start to the year and showing a mature attitude (**autonomous**).

## **Trust Finance Assistant Vacancy**

We are looking for an energetic Finance Assistant to join us in our ever growing family of Catholic Schools. For more information please click the link below:

<https://www.mynewterm.com/school/St-Thomas-Catholic-Academies-Trust/320797/EDV-2020-STCAT-66193/Trust-Finance-Assistant>