

12th December 2025



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Head Teachers Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is: [Head Teachers Message 12th December 2025](#)

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

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton

KS3 Badminton



Well done to all of those who participated in the KS3 Slough Badminton Competition, it was a hard fought battle in each and every game. Despite this we came out with some winners so well done to all of those involved

15. Theme of the Week Sheet 14th December 2025

Theme of the Week – Joy

Around our school, the seven Catholic Social Teaching principles remind us how to live out our faith in everyday life. One of these is **Human Dignity**—the belief that every person is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with love, respect, and joy. Joy is not just a feeling; it's a choice rooted in faith. It's a response to knowing that God is with us, even in difficult times. We are called to bring joy to others by including them, encouraging them, and helping them feel seen. Joy is a gift we can give freely, and it reflects the dignity of every person.

In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist, imprisoned and uncertain, sends his disciples to ask Jesus "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" Jesus doesn't answer with words alone—he points to the signs of joy and healing: the blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear good news. These are signs that the kingdom of God is near, and they bring joy to those who receive them. Jesus reminds us that joy is found not in wealth or comfort, but in the presence of God and the transformation of lives. Even in moments of doubt, we are invited to look around and see the signs of God's love at work. Joy is a response to recognising God's action in the world.

This week, can you be more **faith-filled** in your attitude and more **hopeful** in your actions? Can you make a conscious effort to bring joy to someone who needs it—through a kind word, a helping hand, or simply by being present?

Ask yourself:

- How can I reflect the joy of God in my choices today?
- What can I do to make someone feel seen, valued, and loved?

Let us be joyful stewards of God's love, and let our joy be a sign of His presence in our school and in our lives.



Joy

Weekly Reflections
14th December 2025
3rd week of Advent



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus Christ,

You brought sight to the blind, strength to the weak, and hope to the poor. In times of doubt, you reminded us to trust in what we see and hear—signs of love, healing, and truth. Help us to be faith-filled when life feels uncertain, and hopeful when the path ahead is unclear. May we, like John, seek you with open hearts, and prepare the way for your presence in our lives.

Amen.

Day 1

Why do you think John the Baptist, who had previously proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah, now questions whether Jesus is truly "the one who is to come"? What does this tell us about faith, doubt, and the human experience—even among spiritual leaders?

Day 2

Jesus responds to John's question by listing miracles and acts of compassion. What do these signs reveal about the nature of Jesus' mission and the kingdom of heaven? How do these actions challenge or affirm people's expectations of what a Messiah should be?

Day 3

In moments of uncertainty or challenge, how can you choose to be faith-filled and hopeful like John the Baptist, even when answers aren't clear right away?

Year 7 News

Year 7s have had a cracking penultimate week! They have picked up well over 1000 Positive Points just this week and the X's are massively down so well done to everyone for such hard work!

Only have one more week to go before the Christmas Break, please remember it is a 12.30 finish on the 19th! We are then back on January the 5th for Academic Review Day. Remember, each parent and student only need to come in for a 15 minute meeting with your form tutor, please make sure the slips that were given out earlier this week are returned by Monday so that form tutors can book in appointments for everyone

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Year 8 have had a good week, achieving an impressive 90% positive ratio, a huge well done to everyone for your fantastic effort and positive attitude to learning!

With just one week left before the Christmas break, please remember that school finishes at 12:30pm on Thursday 19th December. We return on Monday 5th January for Academic Review Day. These meetings are essential for reviewing progress and setting clear targets for the remainder of the academic year. If you haven't already returned your appointment slip, please do so as soon as possible, so tutors can book in times for everyone.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

What a fantastic week it's been for Year 9, we hit an amazing **94% positive ratio!** Well done to everyone for the brilliant effort you've been putting in.

It was also wonderful watching the House Competition yesterday. The energy and encouragement between everyone was amazing.

In PE, we've now started our Inter-Form competitions, which will continue into next week. Please remember to **bring your house T-shirt**. If you've outgrown yours, just bring it in and we'll happily swap it for the right size.

Next week is our final week of term, and it's going to be full of festive fun. Keep up the great work as we head into the end of term.

Finally, **end of term finish:** School will finish at **12:30 pm on Friday 19th December. Return in. January:** We are back on **Monday 5th January** for **Academic Review Day**. Please make sure you have made appointments with form tutors before the end of next week.

Look after your loved ones, have a great weekend.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

As we head in to the final week before Christmas, here are some important pieces of information for year 10:

A quick punctuality reminder: a number of students received late Xs this week for arriving after line-up. Please ensure your child is on the Upper School playground by 8:20am. Prayer begins at 8:25am; anyone arriving after 8:23am will receive a late X.

Academic Review Day is on **5 January**. Please return the reply slips with your preferred times by Wednesday next week so tutors can confirm appointments. These meetings are essential for reviewing progress and setting targets for the rest of the year. If there are any issues, contact me at c.whiteside@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

Next week's schedule:

Tuesday: Mufti for students with **no XH, XL or Uniform X's** this term.

Wednesday: Christmas Dinner Day.

Thursday: After-school detentions will run.

Friday: Early finish at 12:30pm for the Christmas holidays.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's finish the term well.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

With just one more week until we break up for Christmas, we want to remind Year 11 of a few important points:

- **Line-up punctuality:** This week, a substantial number of students have received X's for being late to line up. Please remember that line-up begins promptly at **8:25am**. To avoid being marked late, ensure you are on the Upper School playground by **8:23am**.
- **End of term finish:** School will finish at **12:30 pm on Friday 19th December**.
- **Return in January:** We are back on **Monday 5th January** for **Academic Review Day**. Please make sure you have made appointments with form tutors before the end of next week.
- **PPE Exams:** These will begin on **Tuesday 6th January**, so please use the holiday wisely to prepare.

Have a lovely weekend :)

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

As we approach the end of term I just want to say how proud I am of our Year 12 students. This first term has been a adjustment for them and they have taken to life in the sixth form with great enthusiasm. Their hard work and dedication to their studies has not gone unnoticed.

The last week of term is always quite a busy one and there are a few things to make note of:

Wednesday - Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday - Winter Wonderland Trip for those students who are going. It is a normal school day for those who are not going

Friday - Early finish at 12:30pm with a whole school mass during the day

When we return to school on the **5th January 2026** we will be holding an Academic Review Day. You child should have made an appointment with their form tutor for you to come in and discuss their progress across all subjects. This is an important day as it gives you an opportunity to discuss any areas of concern and also work alongside the tutor to set targets for improvement. In order for your child to be successful in their studies they need support both inside and outside of school and academic review day gives a great opportunity for that collaboration between school and home.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend!

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

It has been another busy week as we continue to process our last few UCAS applications with an impressive 77 accounts created so far.

The students are all working hard on their revision in preparation for their PPE exams in January.

Next Thursday we will be running our annual trip to Winter Wonderland, for those who choose to attend, as a well-deserved reward for all of their hard work.

Next Tuesday will also be a Mufti Day for those who have received no Xs for Lates, Homework or Equipment this term and on Wednesday we will have our annual Christmas Dinner day.

Academic Review Day will take place on Monday 5th January where you will have an ideal opportunity to discuss issues such as progress and grades with form tutors. Please make sure that you book an appointment asap.

Have a great weekend!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 13

Students of the Week

Year 7: Nathan Ighboue & Martyna Balasa for having such great weeks!

Year 8: Kasper Paczek & Eliana Menezes for receiving the most positive points this week

Year 9: Suela Zefi & Noel Kavalakkat

Year 10: Aoife Comfort and Charlotte Mapanzure, for high positive points

Year 11: Sam Albalate and Mateusz Szymczak for receiving the most positive points this week

Year 12: David Bialek for good work in Geography and Jerusha Gill for working hard in all subject areas

Year 13: Adrian Konstantyn for the most positive points on Classcharts and Amelka Zak for academic progress

Absences and Medical Evidence

We would like to kindly remind you that as we approach the end of term, we will now require medical evidence for any and all absences that are for illness or medical reasons. Without this, the absence will be unauthorised. This is in line with our attendance procedures. This will also be in place for the first week back after the Christmas break, including Academic Review Day. If you are travelling, please put this request in writing to office@st-Josephs.slough.sch.uk. This will ensure that the correct coding is put on the register. Thank you in advance for your support.

Media Studies A Level trip to the British Film Institute.

Last week, our A Level Media Studies students enjoyed an inspiring and insightful trip to the British Film Institute. The day began with a series of engaging educational seminars designed to deepen students' understanding of key media concepts, filmmaking techniques, and industry contexts that will be invaluable as they prepare for their upcoming exams.

A highlight of the visit was a live interview with renowned British feminist film theorist and filmmaker **Laura Mulvey**. Students had the rare opportunity to hear her discuss her groundbreaking ideas, including the influential concept of the “male gaze,” as well as her experiences working within the film industry. Her perspectives offered students a deeper appreciation of feminist film theory and its ongoing relevance in contemporary media.

The trip provided an enriching learning experience, strengthening students' subject knowledge and offering fresh insights that will support them throughout their Media Studies coursework and exams.



1 - Media Studies A Level trip to the British Film Institute.



2 - Media Studies A Level trip to the British Film Institute.



3 - Media Studies A Level trip to the British Film Institute.



4 - Media Studies A Level trip to the British Film Institute.

Media Studies A Level Leaders



5 - Year 13 Media Leaders



6 - Year 12 Leaders

SVP Christmas Hampers

We would greatly appreciate your help in creating Christmas hampers for those in need. Please ensure all hampers items are delivered to the school hall, under the Christmas tree, by December 17th. Your generous donations make a meaningful difference – Thank you for your support!



SVP Christmas Hampers

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done (Proverbs 19:17)

Help families and vulnerable people in Slough this Christmas- donate to your forms Christmas hamper!

All forms are asked to put together at least one hamper. Hampers should include non-perishable food, toiletries and Christmas items

Please ensure items donated have a use by date of no earlier than February 2023

Your hampers should include:

- Christmas card or festive message
- Christmas pudding, biscuits or cake
- Christmas selection boxes
- Cereal
- Soup
- Pasta/Rice
- Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce
- Lentils, beans and pulses
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tea/coffee
- Tinned fruit
- Fruit juice
- Instant mash potato
- Noodles
- Sugar
- Shower gel
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Flannel
- Towels
- Scarf/Gloves/socks

Celebrating Our Amazing Students on the Iceland Trip!

We are thrilled to share the incredible success of our recent Geography trip to Iceland! Our students truly shone throughout the journey, embracing every challenge and opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity.

From exploring the geothermal wonders of the hot springs and geysirs to witnessing the power of nature at Gullfoss waterfall and the Northern Lights, the trip was packed with unforgettable experiences. These sites are not only breathtaking but also vital for understanding the unique geology and renewable energy resources that make Iceland a global leader in sustainability.

Students stood in awe at Thingvellir National Park, where they could literally walk between two continents along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. This was a powerful moment that brought classroom learning to life, showing the real-world impact of tectonic processes.

We also visited volcanic landscapes and glaciers, highlighting the dynamic forces shaping our planet and the importance of studying climate change. Seeing these features firsthand deepened students' appreciation for the fragility and resilience of Earth's systems.

Throughout the trip, our students demonstrated outstanding behaviour, teamwork, and curiosity. They asked thoughtful questions, supported one another, and represented our school with pride. Their engagement made this journey not just educational, but truly inspiring.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this trip possible—and to our students, who reminded us why experiential learning is so powerful. Iceland gave us lessons we'll never forget!









Mufti Day on Wednesday 17th December 2025. (Christmas lunch day)

We have a Mufti Day on Wednesday 17th December 2025. (Christmas lunch day) when pupils can wear their own clothes to school. We ask for a donation of £1.00 for this which goes towards Access to Shine. You can submit this on Parent Pay. Access to shine are a Not-For-Profit Organization working to promote the education of young people in the UK and within deprived communities in Nigeria for the public benefit.. Thank you.

[To read more about Access to Shine, click here.](#)



Design and Technology News

Year 7 Chefs

Year 7s have been making delicious Apple slices. They proved very popular with the pupils, if the slices did not make it home the year 7 chefs should be able to recreate them..... hopefully you will be able to enjoy one soon.



Apple slice



Prepare

Aprons on
Hair up
Hands washed
Pre heat oven 200.C/Gas 6

Equipment:

Chopping board
Colander
Sharp knife
Peeler
Baking tray (lined)
(rolling pin- if using pastry block)

Ingredients:

1/6 sheet Pre-rolled puff pastry
1/4 an apple
Egg wash (beaten egg)
1 tablespoon apple sauce

Optional:
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp brown sugar#

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200 C.
2. Fold or score a crust into the puff pastry. (about 1cm from edge)
3. Spread the apple sauce onto the middle of the slice (keep in the frame).
4. Peel the apple then chop into thin, even slices.
5. Lay the apple slices on top of the apple sauce.
6. Glaze the edge of the pastry with egg wash.
7. Sprinkle optional ingredients on top.
8. Bake for 12-15 minutes.

Learned: To know and understand how to work hygienically and safely in the food room.

Wise: To independently follow a recipe to safely and hygienically create a dish.





Year 9 Textile decorations

Year 9 have been recapping their sewing skills, this term they have been learning and building their skills in different material areas working with woods and plastics and then textiles.







DT Club

This week on Make It Monday the Designers finished off and collected their CAD/CAM decorations. We then started with workshop tools and equipment to begin making some wooden Christmas trees.





DT Make It Elective









D+T Stars of November

Well done to the Design and Technology stars this week

Marcel Witkowski Y7 Hanna Nowicka Y9 and Ann Kavalakkat 6th form

Thankyou for your efforts in lessons and positive attitudes to your Learning. Keep up the good work.

Geography Club

The Geography Club – Emoji Country Quiz

The Geography Club held an Emoji Country Quiz, designed to promote global awareness in a creative and interactive format. Students interpreted a series of emoji clues and matched them to their corresponding countries. The activity encouraged critical thinking, cultural curiosity, and collaboration among participants.

The Geography Club invites all students to participate in our Photography Competition:

“Christmas Around the World.”

Christmas Around the World Geography Club Photography Competition



Photograph: Take a photo that shows how Christmas celebrations are recognised in different cultures around the world.

1) It must have a clear link to geography, such as: culture, place, globalisation, migration, landscapes, or celebrations from different countries.

2) The photo must be taken by you

3) You must include a short explanation (50–100 words) that answers:-

i) What does this photo show?

ii) Which place or culture is it connected to?

iii) How is it linked to geography?

Entries: All entries should be sent on TEAMS to Mrs Rodrigues in digital form. The last date to receive entries is 9th January 2026.

Prizes: 2 prizes in each year group



I Can do Maths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

C Let the length of each of the shorter sides of the triangle be x cm and the length of its hypotenuse be y cm. Then, by Pythagoras' Theorem: $x^2 + x^2 = y^2$. So $y^2 = 2x^2$. Also, $x^2 + x^2 + y^2 = 72$, so $4x^2 = 72$, that is $x^2 = 18$. Now the area of the triangle, in cm^2 , is $\frac{1}{2} \times x \times x = \frac{1}{2}x^2 = 9$.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

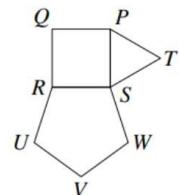
D Let there be g girls and b boys in Tegwen's family. Then, as she has the same number of brothers as she does sisters, $b = g - 1$. Also, each of her brothers has 50% more sisters than brothers. Therefore $g = \frac{3}{2}(b - 1)$. So $b + 1 = \frac{3}{2}(b - 1)$ and hence $2b + 2 = 3b - 3$. Rearranging this equation gives $b = 5$. So $g = 5 + 1 = 6$. Therefore there are $5 + 6 = 11$ children in Tegwen's family.

Puzzler of the week

In the diagram, $PQRS$ is a square, PST is an equilateral triangle and $SRUVW$ is a regular pentagon.

What is the size of angle WTS ?

A 35° B 36° C 37° D 38° E 39°



Break-Time Teaser

A regular octagon $PQRSTUWV$ has sides of length 2 cm. When I shade the rectangles $PQTU$ and $RSVW$, four small triangles inside the octagon remain unshaded. What is the total area, in cm^2 , of these four triangles?

A 1 B 2 C 4 D 6 E 8

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

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 16th December: Mufti for students with **no XH, XL or Uniform X's** this term.

Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Dinner Day. Mufti day

Thursday 18th December: After-school detentions will run.

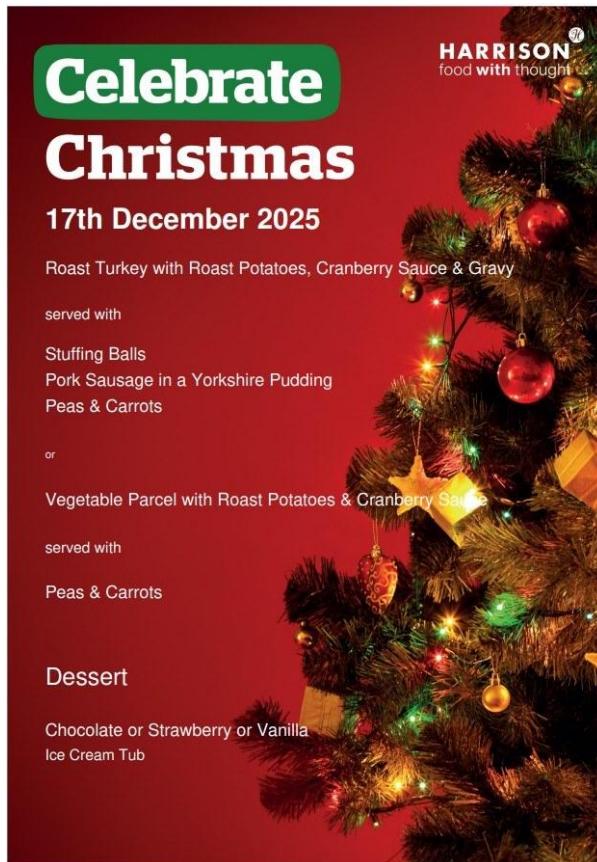
Friday 19th December: Early finish at 12:30pm for the Christmas holidays.

Upcoming PE Events for Next Week:

All week -PE interform (netball, football and dodgeball)

Tuesday 16th December- Hado Competition

Christmas Menu:



Clubs

DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15



Welcome to Geography Club



The first Geography Club meeting will be held on Friday, 3rd October 2025 in T-15 at 3:20 - 4:00 p.m.

Aims
 1) To appreciate nature and its resources.
 2) To create awareness of the environmental problems and adopt various measures to protect the earth.

Geography club meetings will be held every week after school on Fridays, 3.20-4.00pm. Open to year 7 to year 9.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (Waste out of Waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating coastal landform models and planting herbs.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and table tennis	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and table tennis	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN and MJO Football Year 7+8 boys FWA Volleyball/ Badminton Year 7-13 JRO Trampolining KBR Year 7-13	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Trampolining KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Football Year 9-13 THU, JCO Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO Dance Year 7-13 Creative Dance academy.		

Term Dates

Term Dates

School Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Monday 1 st September 2025
Inset Day	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Whole school returns	Thursday 4 th September 2025
Inset Day	Friday 19 th September 2025
Half Term	Monday 20 th October 2025 to Friday 31 st October 2025
Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins	Monday 5 th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February 2026 to Friday 20 th February 2026
Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Inset Day	Monday 13 th April 2026
Term Begins	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May 2026 to Friday 29 th May 2026
Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026 (12:30pm finish)

School Year 2026- 2027

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Whole school returns	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Inset Day	Friday 18 th September 2026
Half Term	Monday 19 th October 2026 to Friday 30 th October 2026
Term Ends	Friday 18 th December 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins	Monday 4 th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 th February 2027 to Friday 19 th February 2027
Term End	Thursday 25 th March 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Term Begins	Monday 12 th April 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 st May 2027 to Friday 4 th June 2027
Term Ends	Friday 16 th July 2027 (12:30pm finish)