

# 19th December 2025



## St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

### Head Teachers Message

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is: [Head Teachers Message 19th December 2025](#)*

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

*St Joseph, pray for us.*

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*Mr Stapleton*

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## 12. Theme of the Week Sheet



**Love**

**From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (1:18-24)**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Emmanuel' —

which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

## Prayer for the Week

**Heavenly Father,**

**May we, like Joseph, have the faith and courage to listen to you; In the reading of the Scripture, the singing of carols, the offering of prayers, and the sharing of fellowship; convey the wonder of your love.**

**Through Christ our Lord**

**Amen**



### **Reflection on the Gospel from Sunday:**

What a fitting Gospel to read on Sunday; One where our Patron Saint, Joseph, is central to the reading. A just man, who thought he was doing right to Mary when considering to send her away when she revealed she was pregnant before marriage. Only to be guided in doing the right thing when spoken to by the Angel. Knowing what the right thing to do and when to do it, can sometimes be hard to know and understand. But be like our Patron Joseph, listen to God. Whether through prayer, your conscience or through a dream. God will always speak to you in how and when to do the right thing to those around you. Imagine how Mary was feeling before Joseph's dream? How this Christmas can you do the right thing to someone who is alone and afraid.

Have a Holy, Blessed and Merry Christmas.

## Year 7 News

We would like to wish all of you a very happy Christmas. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year thus far. We hope the Christmas Break brings you joy, rest and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year. Remember on the 5th of January we have Academic Review Day, students will only need to come in for their 15 minute slot that was organised with their tutors.

Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

## Year 8 News

Year 8 had an exciting and eventful week! 8V celebrated winning the House Competition with a fun screening of Home Alone 2. The students' dedication and hard work across all subjects were formally recognised during the Rewards Assembly, highlighting outstanding achievements and contributions to school life. The festive cheer continued with the Christmas dinner, bringing students and staff together for a joyful celebration. The week also held a very special moment as the whole school gathered for Mass, which was Mr. Stapleton's final Mass as Headteacher. We are deeply grateful for his years of leadership, guidance, and commitment to our school community.

We wish all students and families a peaceful and joyous Christmas holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January for Academic Review Day.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

## Year 9 News

Year 9 have rounded off a delightful term. On Wednesday, we celebrated our annual Christmas Dinner Day, and what a wonderful occasion it was. It was truly heartwarming to see students enjoying time together while sharing a Christmas meal.

Thursday, it was a pleasure to present the Most Progress and Outstanding Achievement certificates to our Year 9 students yesterday, along with the Pupil Profile badges.

Today, the whole school also gathered for a very special Mass to mark **Mr Stapleton's final Mass at St Joseph's** and the end of the term.

Finally, please note that **Academic Review Day** will take place on **Monday 5th January**. We kindly ask that appointments with tutors are booked in advance.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all students and parents for their continued hard work and support this term. Please take care of your loved ones, and I wish you all a delightful and peaceful Christmas.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9



## Year 10 News

What a great term, our first term of GCSEs has seen strong momentum and real progress across the year group. Thank you for your support at home; it makes a clear difference.

Overall behaviour sits at 92% positive: well done, Year 10. Next term, we're aiming for 95%+, and we're confident we can get there together.

Our biggest push after Christmas will be homework completion and punctuality. These are currently the two biggest contributors to Xs. Please help by checking ClassCharts regularly and reinforcing evening routines so students arrive prepared and on time.

A reminder that Academic Review Day is the first day back after Christmas. Attendance with your child is mandatory. If you don't yet know your appointment time, please email me at [c.whiteside@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:c.whiteside@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) or contact your child's form tutor.

Have a brilliant Christmas, Year 10. God bless and enjoy a well-earned break.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

## Year 11 News

It has been a wonderfully busy and memorable final week here at St Joseph's!

Congratulations to 11V, who triumphed in the House Competition and celebrated with a screening of *Home Alone 2*. Year 11 also gathered for their Rewards Assembly, where students were recognised for their hard work, dedication, and achievements across lessons. Well done to all who received awards!

The school came together for Christmas Dinner Day, a joyful occasion filled with festive spirit. For some of our Year 11 students, this may have been their last Christmas dinner at St Joseph's, making it even more special to see everyone enjoying the celebration together. The week concluded with a whole school Mass, marking a poignant moment as it was Mr

Stapleton's final Mass as Headteacher. We thank him for his leadership and service to our community.

As we close the term, I want to wish all students and families a restful and joyful Christmas break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January for Academic Review Day, followed by the start of the January PPEs on Tuesday 6th January.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! :)

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11



## Year 12 News

As we bring this term to a close I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your continued support. The Year 12's are an awesome group of students and they have really made me proud with all the hard work they have put in over the last 14 weeks. Not only have they dedicated themselves to their studies but so many of them have given up time to benefit the school community and this was no more evident than the amazing support they gave to the canteen staff in helping to set up and run the Christmas dinner on Wednesday this week. They truly are a credit to not only themselves but their entire families.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 5th January for our academic review day.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!!

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

## Year 13 News

As this term comes to a close, I just would like to take a moment to celebrate our amazing year group! They have worked so hard this term on their studies, their future plans and their

commitments to the wider life of the school. Monday morning was an opportunity to recognize such achievements as we held our regular awards assembly.

On Wednesday 13 Mark, worthy winners of the House Competition for Sixth Form, enjoyed the treat of a Christmas movie in the hall for periods 3 and 4 (you're never too old for Home Alone 2!)

On Thursday the Student Leadership team were out in full force to support throughout the whole day with many sittings of our annual Christmas dinner. The students were an amazing help to staff and great role models to the rest of the students, getting stuck in and working hard to clean up, making sure that everyone had a good time and quite literally not being afraid to get their hands dirty! I send a massive heartfelt thank you to every year 13 student that was involved in this.

Friday marked the beginning of a real time of change for us as we celebrated Mass and said farewell to Mr Stapleton who will be greatly missed.

Term begins on 5th January with Academic Review Day and examinations for Year 13 will commence the day after. We wish them all a productive break, but also a restful one where possible!

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 13

## **Students of the Week**

**Year 7:** Eliza Bellamy & Joshua McGuirk for excellent weeks

**Year 8:** Oliwia Dzienniak & Fabian Grudziecki for an excellent week.

**Year 9:** Diana Dragomir & Matthew O'Brien

**Year 10:** Kuba Telezynski and Siem Tekle for a great end to the term with lots of positives

**Year 11:** Benjamin Dobos and Lucie Connolly for receiving the most positive points this week

**Year 12:** Rosa Bavington for excellent work in Core Maths and Hayley Mohammed for her generous spirit in making donations for the Jamaica appeal and the Christmas Hampers

**Year 13:** Joel Manalody and Julia Pytel for the most positive points on Classcharts

## Homework Superstars



Joshua Lama 9 Cecilia

Mikhayla Dzumbunu 9 Mark

Munachi Okafor 9 Peter

Well done to our Homework superstars of the week!

## Martial Arts Competition

On Saturday 13th December St Joseph's attended our the first-ever martial arts competition. Our Year 7 & 8 students finished the competition undefeated. We were the number 1 club with 2 gold medals, 2 silvers and 4 bronzes. Look at our kids fighting! The sky is the limit!

















## 8 Veronica would like to share

**8V Hampers!** The girls in 8V have been busily wrapping the Christmas Hampers with kindness and joy. We hope all of the children enjoy our gifts and have a happy and healthy Christmas holiday. Big shout out for Alexandra, Michalina, Nicole, Amanda, Rosbel and Oliwia for their help and enthusiasm from Ms Shaw (Form Tutor 8V).



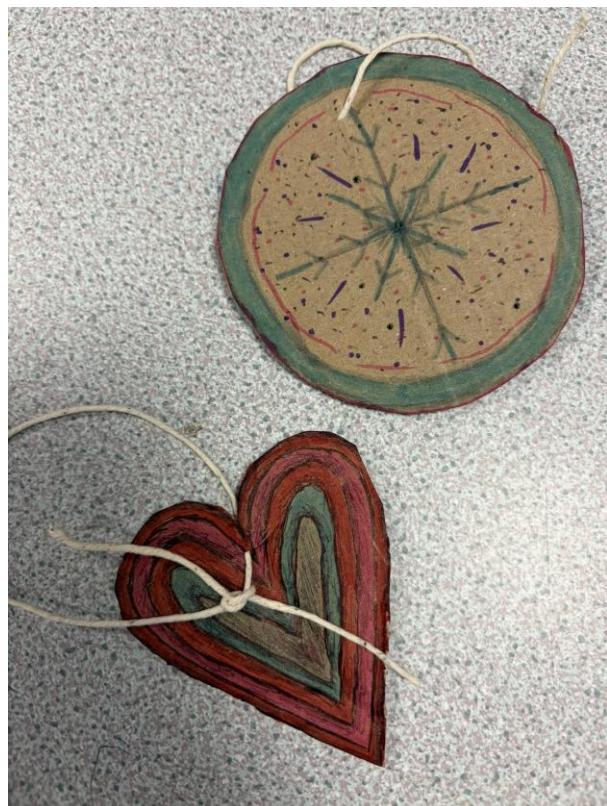


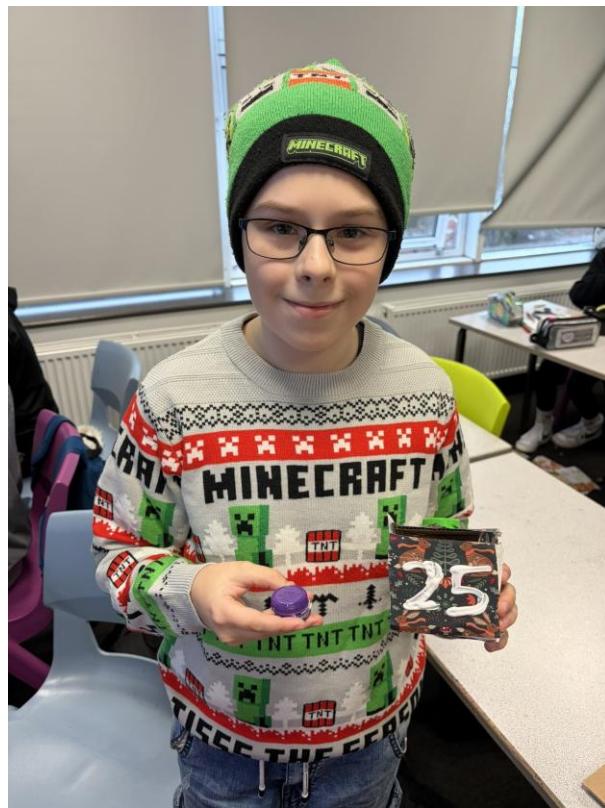
## Sustainability Elective

Students in our Sustainability classes got creative this Advent by turning recyclable materials into festive Christmas decorations. Using items that might otherwise end up in landfill, they upcycled with imagination and care, showing how small, practical actions can make a real difference.

This hands-on project connects naturally to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), reminding us that sustainability starts with everyday choices. It also reflects key ideas of Catholic Social Teaching, such as stewardship of creation and care for our common home, encouraging students to see environmental responsibility as part of how we live out our values.

The result was a collection of unique, meaningful decorations—and a simple reminder that celebrating Christmas can also be an opportunity to think creatively, act responsibly, and care for the world we share.







## Design and Technology News

### *Santas....St Joes workshops.....*

Santa and his Elves could well recruit from our workshops in the future. This week our year 12 Product Design pupils donned hats and an air of creativity for their final lesson of the year. It took them just 40 minutes to design, plan and make a set of Christmas decorations. Our year 9s completed some lovely textile decorations, and some of the food groups designed or made Christmas treats. Year 7 have been busy modelling their trophies ready to start making in the new year.

Wishing all pupils a joyful and Happy Christmas, we look forward to seeing you again in 2026.



1 - Santas workshop with year 12 elves



2 - Our year 12 elves



3 - Christmas cookies



4 - Textile decorations



5 - St Joseph pupil profile trophy models by year 7.

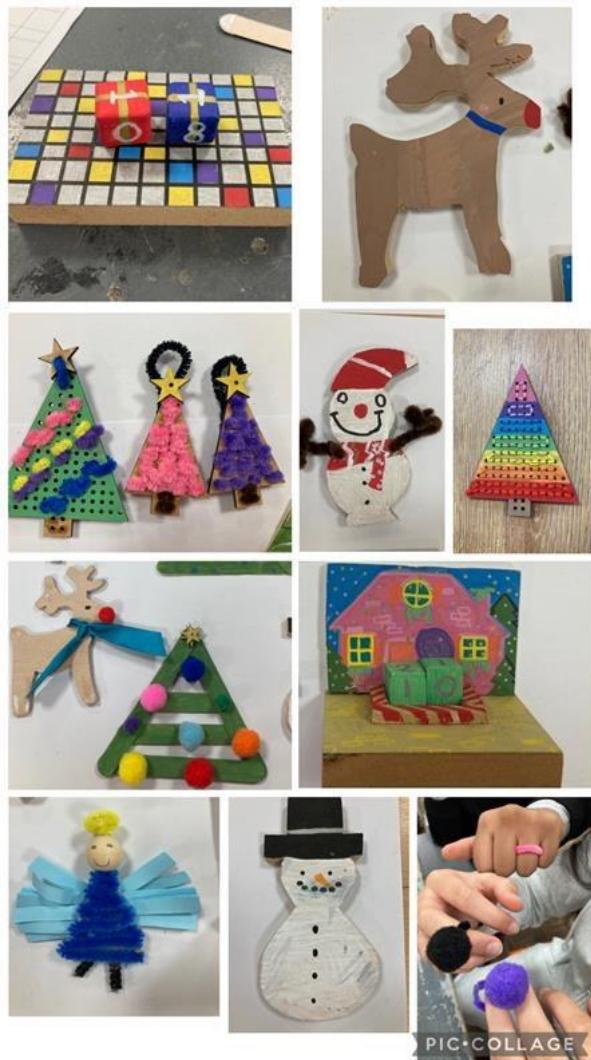
### DT Club

It has been lovely to spend an hour afterschool on Make it Mondays with the Designeers. This week the pupils finished off their Christmas trees. If you enjoy making things and solving problems you would be very welcome to join us in the new year.



### Make It Elective.

This week saw pupils finish off and make their final Christmas decorations of the term. What a colourful and fantastic mix to end the year on.



## D+T Stars of November

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*Well done to the Design and Technology stars this term.*

*Year 7: Eliza Bellamy and Marcel Witkowski*

*Year 8: Elisabetta Staffiere and Elizabeth Popa*

*Year 9: Tamara De Jesus and Hanna Nowicka*

*Year 10 food: Wiktoria Wrobel and Izzy Bown*

*Year 10 D+T: Bruno Valek and Dean De Guzman*

*Year 11 Food: Abigail Samar and Julia Kryger*

*Year 11 D&T: Natalia Zaworska and Karolina Kosowska*

*Year 12: Evie Leonard Finn and Oliver Mahoney*

*Year 13: Warrick Passos-Wiggs and Oliwia Mroz*

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

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## **Creative Media Crew Elective**



6 - <https://statics.teams.cdn.office.net/evergreen-assets/safelinks/2/atp-safelinks.html>

Have a look at the first edition of the Creative Media Crew's online magazine!

## **Science Club**

Wishing you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## Dates for the diary

January 05th 2026: Academic review day!

January 06th 2026: First full day back for the students

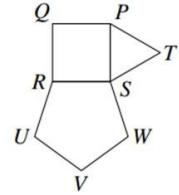
## I Can do Maths

### Solution to last Week's Puzzler

**E** The four angles at point  $S$  include an interior angle of each of an equilateral triangle, a square and a regular pentagon. These are  $60^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ$  and  $108^\circ$  respectively. As the sum of the angles which meet at a point is  $360^\circ$ ,  $\angle TSW = (360 - (60 + 90 + 108))^\circ = 102^\circ$ .

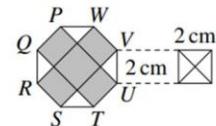
The equilateral triangle and the square have side  $PS$  in common and the square and the regular pentagon have side  $RS$  in common, so the triangle, square and pentagon have equal side-lengths. Therefore  $SW = ST$  and hence triangle  $SWT$  is isosceles.

So  $\angle WTS = \angle TWS = \frac{1}{2}(180 - 102)^\circ = 39^\circ$ .



### Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

**C** The diagram on the left shows regular octagon  $PQRSTUWV$  and the shaded rectangles,  $PQTU$  and  $RSVW$ . The right-hand diagram shows how the four unshaded triangles fit together to form a square of side-length 2 cm. So the total area of these four triangles is  $4 \text{ cm}^2$ .

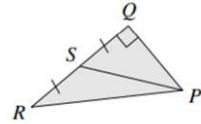


### Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows a right-angled triangle  $PQR$ . The point  $S$  is the midpoint of the side  $QR$  and  $\tan \angle QPR = \frac{3}{2}$ .

What is the value of  $\sin \angle QPS$ ?

A  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$       B  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$       C  $\frac{1}{2}$       D  $\frac{3}{5}$       E  $\frac{4}{5}$



### Break-Time Teaser

Four of the following six-digit integers are always divisible by 7, regardless of the values of the digits  $P$  and  $Q$ .

Which of the following is not necessarily a multiple of 7?

A 'PQQ PQQ'      B 'PQP QPQ'      C 'QPQ PQP'      D 'PPP PPP'      E 'PPP QQQ'

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

**Menu:** To see the dinner choices and price list please click [HERE](#)



## Clubs

### DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15

**KS3 D&T CLUB**

**Make it Monday!**



If you love a challenge: enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making: consider joining our D&T team!

Please see or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams**

Join us in A3 for DT Club on **Monday afterschool. 3.20-4.15.**

This week we are planning a bit of CAD/CAM

DESIGNEERS

 **Ham Radio Club**

Most Fridays 15:15-16:15, at the top of the Tower Block,  
An interesting club for everyone.  
For any questions, please message Mr Allinson

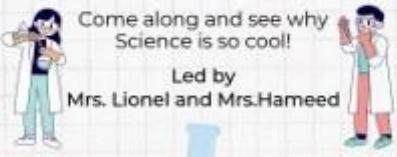


 **Radio Society of Great Britain**  
Advancing amateur radio since 1913



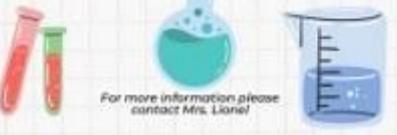
**KEY STAGE 3  
AFTERSCHOOL  
SCIENCE CLUB**

WEDNESDAYS FROM 3:15PM TILL 4PM



Come along and see why  
Science is so cool!

Led by  
Mrs. Lionel and Mrs. Hameed



For more information please  
contact Mrs. Lionel!

**Welcome to Geography Club**



**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.**

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



## Term Dates

### School Year 2026- 2027

Autumn Term	
Inset Day	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026
Whole school returns	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2026
Inset Day	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
Half Term	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2026
Term Ends	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026 (12:30pm finish)
Spring Term	
Term Begins	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2027 to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2027
Term End	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2027 (12:30pm finish)
Summer Term	
Term Begins	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2027 to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2027
Term Ends	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2027 (12:30pm finish)

# Term Dates

## School Year 2025 - 2026

### Autumn Term

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

### Spring Term

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

### Summer Term

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