



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 5th May 2023



Coronation Day Celebrations

Today at St Josephs all staff and pupils got in the patriotic spirits celebrating King Charles Coronation.

Activities included Great British Bake off, Selfies with the Royals, Coronation Poem Competition and best of British singing.

See lots more exciting photos within the newsletter....

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

My weekly video messages can be watched on our new YouTube channel @SloughStJosephs. Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.

Link to our YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/@SloughStJosephs>

Please find below the link to this weeks video to view my message:

<https://youtu.be/ahOkUqRTQQQ>

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

Theme of the Week – Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life

Our Gospel is part of the long discourse Jesus addressed to his disciples on the last night before his passion. Even though he had never hidden the fact that he was going to die on the cross, they still hoped until the very end that something would happen to prevent it. When Jesus told them that the hour had come, they were understandably disheartened and sad. This is why Jesus consoles them with some of the most beautiful words in the Gospels. “Do not be troubled (or better ‘agitated’ like a boat in rough sea)...trust in God and in me...in my Father’s house there are many rooms”.

When we hear these words, most of us imagine a white castle in heaven with nice en-suite rooms with names on each door. This is not what Jesus meant. In the Old Testament the “House of the Father” was the Temple of Jerusalem, but one day Jesus went in and said that this temple made of stones would soon be destroyed, and that the New Temple, the real Father’s House, was Jesus himself (John 2:19-20 *Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body*). **JESUS IS THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER, he is the only temple through which all can offer sacrifices of praise to God, and in this house there is a place for all those who want to be there.** Jesus also says that he is going to **PREPARE A PLACE** for us. What place? **THE CROSS, intended not so much as suffering, but as donated life.** Jesus went before us to give his life for the life of others, thus showing us where we need to follow him, to the **CROSS**, the miracle of a life spent for love.

Thomas too hearing these words imagines a physical place and asks for directions to get there, to which Jesus replies: ***I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE.***

Jesus is the **WAY** that leads to the Father through his Word. He opens our hearts and prepares us to journey through the cross to the Father. Interestingly the first Christians in Antioch were known as the “**People of the Way**”. He is the **TRUTH**, because he shows us the true face of God. Sometimes we put on God different masks to suit the way we imagine him: an angry, judging god, an indifferent god, a permissive god who condones sin etc. Jesus shows the real face of God who is love, forgiveness and embrace IF we come to him with sincere hearts. (SINCERE come from the Latin *sine cera* = ‘without wax’. When Roman builders cut a block of marble for construction, sometimes cracks or holes in the stone appeared. These were then filled with wax and painted over. **Sincere** therefore means that we show ourselves to God and one another for who we are, without trying to cover our defects and cracks).

In our society we either dismiss the idea of sin as something of the past and not in line with modern life (I’ve got to be free, I’ve got to be ME and do MY thing!), or we focus on it so much that we bring ourselves down in a vicious circle of guilt. What is God’s take on it? Here’s what the book of Wisdom (11:23-24) says: *You overlook men’s sins so that they may repent, for you love everything that exists and abhor nothing that you have created.*

Do you, like Philip, want to see what this loving God is like? **LOOK AT JESUS CHRIST!**

Jesus is also the **LIFE** because only in him we have a life of such quality that even biological death will not be able to extinguish it. A life free from fear and anxiety, a life of perfect fulfilment and peace.

Those who believe in him will be able **to do the same works Jesus did and more.** What are these works? We think straightaway of miracles and things that make people say “wow!” but, actually, the works he performed were: healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, restitution of dignity to the poor and discriminated, care for those in need...and ultimately, the giving of his life for his brethren’s sake.

We too, if we believe in him and his word, will be inwardly transformed and be able to follow him to the donation of ourselves. We will not only be freed from that fear and agitation that we so often experience, but also be empowered to be “little Christs” to all those around us. St Theresa of Calcutta was once asked how she managed to convert the thousands of people she collected from the dirty city streets. She replied that when she was taking care of the sick she would ask them whether they wanted to hear about Jesus. They often asked: *Is this Jesus like you?* To which she would reply: *No, **but I try to be like Him.*** This was sufficient to make them desire to be Christians; they saw the love of Christ in her and wanted to be his!

All we have to do is to allow Christ to shine in us to be able to do the same works that he did!

Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life

Weekly Reflections
7th May 2023



From the Gospel according to John (15:1-12)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Prayer for the Week

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Saint of the Week

St John of Ávila (1499-1569)
Patron of Andalusia, Spain



John was one of the most charismatic preachers of 16th-century Spain. Descendant of a family of converted Jews, he became a lawyer, philosopher and theologian, before being ordained a priest. He was convinced that the Church needed reform and to detach itself from the love of worldly goods. The Archbishop of Seville persuaded him to abandon his original plan of going to Mexico as a missionary, and instead preach across Spain. His sermons attracted crowds of thousands, as people were drawn by the passion of his preaching and his mysticism. John is a wonderful example of learning at the service of the Gospel. He was

LEARNED & WISE

Day 1

In our Gospel Jesus addresses his friends the night before his trial and execution. They are aware of what is going to happen and are 'troubled', so much so that Jesus feels the need to console them. Put yourself in their shoes for a moment.

- What do you think their feelings might have been as they were about to lose their master and friend?

Day 2

Jesus mentions the House of the Father, where there are many rooms, and that he has gone to prepare a place for us, that we may be wherever he is.

- What do you think this House of the Father is?
- How has Jesus prepared a place for us?

Day 3

Jesus claims to be the **WAY**, the **TRUTH** and the **LIFE**.

- What do you think each of these words mean?

CSYMI UK

Yesterday in CPD, staff at St Joseph's were led by a team from Northampton Diocese and Worth Abbey in launching CSYMI UK in Slough. St Joseph's has been chosen to pilot the programme from September 2023 where we will work alongside Worth Abbey in developing our curriculum as well as offering more prayer and spiritual opportunities to our students. We are all looking forward to this so we can enhance and develop the Catholic Faith of young people within our school and parishes. We will be using programs such as ACU Spiritus and the Catholic Leaders Formation Network.

Encounter

Next Saturday 12th May, a retreat day titled 'Encounter' will be held at St Andrews Church in Cippenham. Please find attached a poster with more information

Faith Formation and training

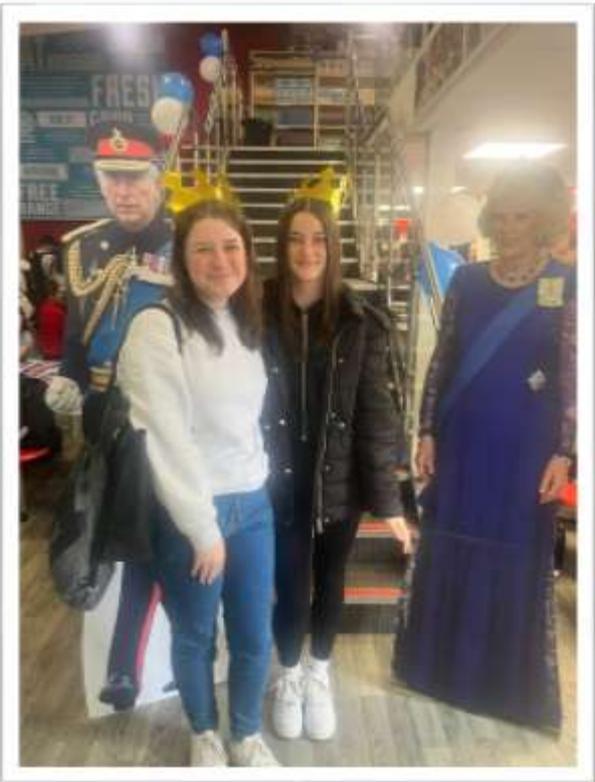
Northampton Diocese are holding Faith Formation and training opportunities and have a number of different events/courses taking place. Please find attached a poster with more information.

King Charles Coronation Celebrations – 5th May 2023

As detailed as front page news this week, at St Josephs all staff and pupils got in the patriotic spirits celebrating King Charles Coronation. Activities included Great British Bake off, Selfies with the Royals, Coronation Poem Competition and best of British singing. Please take a look at lots of lovely photos below.







King Charles Coronation

Below are some suggestions of ways you can get involved this weekend or add some more interesting activities to your already planned royal celebration! Remember this is a once in a lifetime historic event!

Downloadable materials in the Coronation toolkit

On the Coronation website you'll find the Coronation toolkit - a range of downloadable materials to help with your Coronation celebrations, including homemade bunting templates, recipe inspiration and fun activities such as word searches and colouring pages.

The [Coronation Creative Challenge](#) is also live - from making bunting to designing a royal invitation, there are lots of ways to get involved and showcase how you are getting creative, for a feature on the Coronation website.

To enter the challenge, share your photos by tagging DCMS on social media (Twitter, Facebook or Instagram) or submit via email to coronation@dcms.gov.uk with the subject line 'Coronation Creative Challenge'.

https://coronation.gov.uk/coronation-creative-challenge/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Volunteering opportunities with the Big Help Out

The Big Help Out is a national day (8/05/2023) of volunteering to mark the Coronation coordinated by the Together Coalition on Bank Holiday Monday 8th May. It will give everyone the chance to take part in a huge range of volunteering activities organised by well-known voluntary organisations in their communities, including the Scouts, National Trust and Guide Dogs.

https://thebighelpout.org.uk/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Resources for blind and visually impaired children

Living Paintings charity have provided free sensory Coronation gifts for blind and visually impaired children and young people, to help them experience the Coronation through touch and sound.

Their gift includes tactile-audio resources of key elements of the Coronation such as the St Edward's Crown, as well as the profile portrait of His Majesty King Charles III that will become the iconic image of his reign.

https://livingpaintings.org/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Any questions do get in touch with Mrs Ossei-Brainoo at j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

TVLP News

Please complete the student questionnaire about raising awareness of the TVLP.

The information will be analysed, with recommendations being made to increase the awareness of the TVLP, our events, competitions and actions across all 11 TVLP schools.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=XN7vxi-BKEePctvBoUB1AHNZh1xGAtJxspTjC1-IY9UNExaUU9PRjVcVjBRWUFxQzdIRk5NWE5iVi4u>

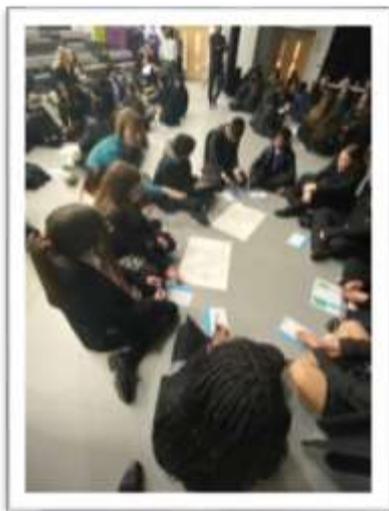
TVLP Make a Difference Environmental Day

On Wednesday 3rd May, 15 students from Year 10 took part in the TVLP Make a Difference Environmental day. The day begun with students listening and engaging in talks with Adam Flint, who is the educational director for Eco-Schools, and Kate Merry from the Butterfly Conservation. The students were given plenty of ideas during these talks which allowed them to proactively engage with students from other schools to brainstorm ideas for how our school could become more sustainable. Our students did us proud and worked well with others from: Hershel, Lynch Hill, Eton College and Holyport College to create some brilliant ideas! All of our students then got up to present their ideas in front of a large crowd and presented great academic courage and oracy. Well done to all involved and we look forward to implementing your great ideas to make our school more sustainable!

TVLP Environmental Event

See fantastic photo of a small group of our students, specifically Kacper Goraj , Grace Hall Orourke and Aedan Sharp who presented great ideas on eco schools at Eton.

Please see additional attachment alongside the newsletter for further information.



Word of the Week

‘Occur’. This is a verb that means ‘to happen’ or ‘take place’. It can also describe a thought or an idea coming to your mind.

Example: “When does the meeting occur?”

OR

“It didn’t occur to me that the Union Flag is a combination of the English, Scottish and Northern Irish flag”

Idiom of the Week

"It's raining cats and dogs". This idiom means to rain very heavily.

Example: I got soaked at King Charles’ coronation last weekend. It was raining cats and dogs!

Year 7 News

Dear Year 7's,

This week we had a basketball tournament, well done to everyone who took part in that. Today we celebrated the coronation day where there were various activities going on throughout the day. A big well done to Jessica and Amber who sang.

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

It has been an exciting few weeks with lots of whole school activities happening recently. Last Friday year 8 thoroughly enjoyed the activities in school and our faith walk for St Joseph's day.

Today it has been lovely to see so many students dress in red, white and blue for our coronation celebrations. It has been great to see so many of you participate in various ways throughout the day. Coming up soon we also have another celebration day in school for Multi- Cultural day on Friday 19th May. This will be a chance to dress up in clothes that represent your culture and to share that with others in school.

I hope you all enjoy your long bank holiday weekend, and look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday.
Mrs Miller- Head of Year 8

Year 10 News

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10,

We are delighted to be hosting Peer Productions Theatre Company at St Joseph's on Tuesday 13th June with a production of their play "Losing It", as part of our Relationship and Sex Education programme at school.

Founded in 2006, Peer Productions is a pioneering arts charity specialising in peer education through theatre. Their plays are developed with and performed by DBS checked young actors (aged 18 to 24 years), and they use a mixture of humour and hard-hitting drama to educate young audiences about important social and health issues.

This musical play has been supported by The Community Foundation Surrey and the High Sheriff Award, and tells the story of a group of 18 year-olds as they look back on their 7 years at secondary school. Developed in partnership with young people from a range of schools, this frank and inclusive, large scale 90-minute production addresses the questions young people really want answered.

The play includes stories which explore:

- Healthy/unhealthy relationships
- Same sex and difference sex relationships
- A transgender character
- Sexting
- Internet grooming and child sexual exploitation
- Internet pornography
- Consent and Rape
- Contraception and STIs

Please complete the on-line consent form on ParentPay for your son/daughter to attend the play. If you would like to discuss the production or withdraw your child from this session please contact Mrs Ossei-Brainoo on j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

We very much look forward to Peer Productions' visit and hope that your son/daughter finds the play informative as well as entertaining. Mr Walsh-Head of year 10

Year 12 News

Year 12 Parents Evening – a date for the diary

We have moved the Year 12 Parents Evening to 8th of June. This will aim to prepare students for the upcoming PPEs, which will inform their UCAS predicted grades as well as providing essential feedback to steer their progress going into Year 13. We look forward to seeing you all there.

For Year 12 - Amelia Grigg - Selwyn College Cambridge Visit 27th of April

Amelia Grigg and Dr Joe Organ from Selwyn College in Cambridge came this week to run a session for Year 12 students on preparation for Oxbridge application. The following students attended and so a huge well done to them! *Jakub Brukalo, Steven Anamanya, Christopher Boyle, Aiden Daliling, Jakub Olszanski, Rheanna Ramos, Max Ishchuk, Reuben Jaques, AL Patrick Pereira and Danica Amon.*

Dr Joe shared this opportunity with the students and I would like to share this with the remainder of Year 12: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/selwyn-college-summer-schools-2023>

Year 12 Work Experience



Last week, Year 12 spent two days working with local business leaders, gaining critical work experience insight to prepare them for the world of work. On Tuesday they met with business leaders and worked through a number of work-based scenarios and on Wednesday the students attended a conference at Windsor Racecourse, where they worked on their CVs, interview skills, personal branding and

networked with local business leaders (such as those from Aston Bond, O2, DHL and Mars). The students were excellent and the leaders commented on how impressed they were with their engagement and insight.

A big well done!

Music New- Eurovision Contest



It is once again time for my personal favourite week (and day) of the year- it's Eurovision Song Contest week! This year's contest holds special significance for our country as for the first time since 1998, It's being held in the UK!

In the music department I have created a display board giving more information about this year's contest. For the students, some of the country information flags have a green box that says, 'QUESTION TIME!!!'. In the box is a music related question that applies to the country the box is in. If they can answer the question correctly by saying the answer to myself, they will earn a positive point! There are 4 of these in total to have a go at.



Additionally, all Year 7, 8 and 9 Music lessons next week will have a Eurovision focus (in addition to their regular lesson content) to promote the contest.

These are the dates of the various shows and when/where they can be watched:

- Semi Final 1- Tuesday 9th May, 8PM, BBC 1
- Semi Final 2- Thursday 11th May, 8PM, BBC 1
- Grand Final- Saturday 13th May, 8PM, BBC 1

Hope you are able to tune in and GO UK!!

Year 8 & Year 9 Students - Student Immunisation School Visit – 16th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have upcoming visit from the student immunisation team on 16th June 2023 for Year 8 and Year 9 students.

Please find as a separate attachment to the newsletter two different parent/carer letters regarding the upcoming HPV vaccinations and details on how to access our electronic consent form system.

Please note the consent form system, for your school, will close to parents/carers 24 working hours (at 09:00am) prior to the school immunisation session.

If you do not wish for their child to be vaccinated, please complete a consent form as a non-consent pupil.

www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

www.berkshirecommunityhealthservices.nhs.uk

PE News

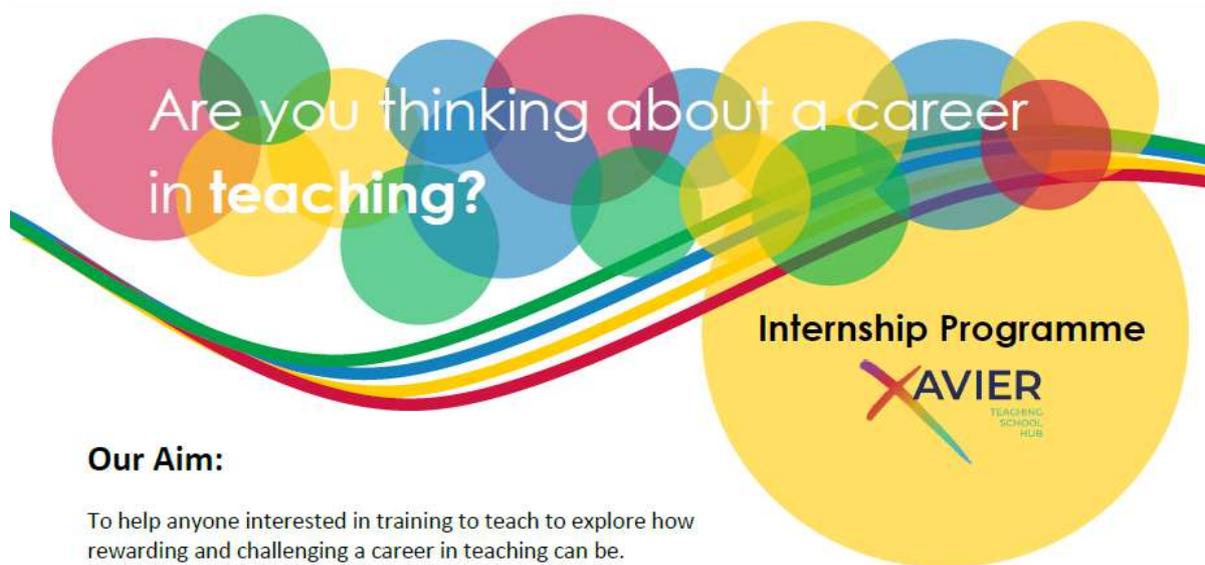
7 of our students from Year 7 and 8 competed in the Slough Borough 3x3 Competition. The Winners were to be rewarded with a spot in the County Championships. The boys and girls played extremely well only losing two games by only 1 point in the whole competition. Unfortunately, they lost in the Final by 1 point. Well done to all of those who played, especially the girls who had never played a competitive game of Basketball! We will get the Win next year!



PE After School Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1 Year 8,9,11		Badminton and Basketball AAN	Badminton and Basketball AAN	Badminton and Basketball AAN	
Lunch 2 Year 7,10,12,13	Badminton and Basketball THU MJO	Badminton and Basketball THU MJO	Badminton and Basketball AAN	Badminton and Basketball AAN	Badminton and Basketball THU MJO
Afterschool	Volleyball (until GCSE exams start) HMC THU Badminton JCO MJO (until GCSE exams start)	Rounders MJO Softball/Cricket THU Golf JCO	Basketball JCO Athletics AAN THU MJO HMC		Girls and boys Football @ Slough Town Football Club All year groups THU, EED, MJO Year 10,11,12,13 Basketball CWH

Please see the below flyer. If any parents/carers know of anyone interested in teaching experience/internship to pass it on to them:



Our Aim:

To help anyone interested in training to teach to explore how rewarding and challenging a career in teaching can be.

The Programme:

- A three-week programme
- **Paid scheme:** secondary maths, physics, chemistry, modern foreign languages and computing undergraduates (£300p/w)
- **Unpaid scheme:** all other secondary subjects and primary teaching.
- Placements in Surrey, Sussex, Berkshire and Hampshire

As part of the programme, interns will have the opportunity to get involved in all aspects of school life,

Including the following:

- A bespoke centralised training programme;
- Working closely with a mentor in a placement school to observe and teach lessons;
- The chance to meet with NQTs and SCITT trainees;
- Fast-track interview for a SCITT place with us.



Why take part?

- To gain a true understanding of what a career in teaching involves;
- To receive high quality training from outstanding teachers in outstanding schools;
- To meet other interns in a similar position to you;
- To accelerate your interview process for our SCITT;
- To gain valuable and unique work experience for

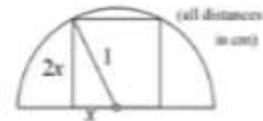
Find out more: k.middleweek@xaviercet.org.uk Tel: 01932 578682 [Visit our website](#)



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- A Let the length of the side of the square be $2x$ cm. Then, using Pythagoras' Theorem in the triangle shown, $(2x)^2 + x^2 = 1^2$. So $4x^2 + x^2 = 1$. Therefore $x^2 = \frac{1}{5}$ and the area of the square is $4x^2 \text{ cm}^2 = \frac{4}{5} \text{ cm}^2$.



Solution to the Break time Teaser:

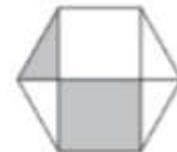
- D Consider options B to E: $1.354\dot{2} = 1.354222 \dots$; $1.354\dot{2} = 1.35424242 \dots$; $1.354\dot{2} = 1.3542542 \dots$; $1.354\dot{2} = 1.35423542 \dots$. These are all greater than 1.3542 , so option A is not correct. The other four options have the same units digit and the first four digits after the decimal point are the same in all. So the largest option is that which has the largest digit five places after the decimal point and this is $1.354\dot{2}$.

Problem of the week

The diagram shows a regular hexagon which has been divided into six regions by three of its diagonals. Two of these regions have been shaded. The total shaded area is 20 cm^2 .

What is the area of the hexagon?

- A 40 cm^2 B 48 cm^2 C 52 cm^2 D 54 cm^2 E 60 cm^2



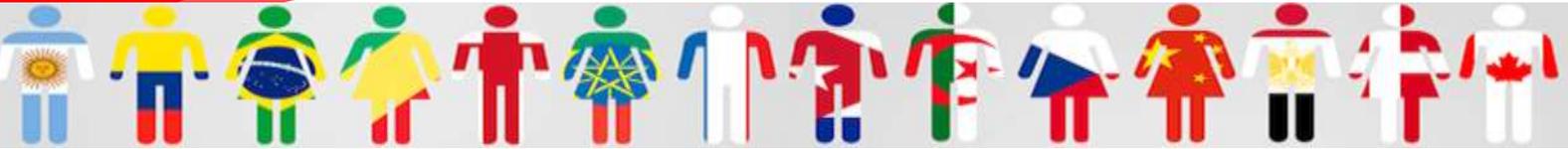
Break time Teaser:

The adult human body has 206 bones. Each foot has 26 bones.

Approximately what fraction of the number of bones in the human body is found in one foot?

- A $\frac{1}{6}$ B $\frac{1}{8}$ C $\frac{1}{10}$ D $\frac{1}{12}$ E $\frac{1}{20}$

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



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Do you know what a foreign accent is?

It is a sign of bravery. -Amy Chua

Tips to Improve Language Skills

1. **Create the need:** If kids do not have the need to speak the language, then why will they? Whether it be to talk to someone, or to play a certain activity or game, there must be a good reason for them to be **motivated** to use the language.
2. **Make One on One Time Priority:** Spend as much time together where possible, one on one. By spending one on one time where you are speaking **ONLY** your language, there will be less distractions.
3. **Talk a lot in the target language:** This seems obvious, but talk as much as you can with your child every day, and **encourage them to speak back with you.**
4. **Read aloud to your child every day:** I cannot stress enough the importance of reading to your child every single day. Whether it is with their bedtime routine, or just throughout the day randomly, installing a love of reading is one of the best things you can do for your children.
5. **Buy them gifts to help their language development:** For birthdays, or Christmas, buy your kids language learning gifts. Things such as books in the minority language, or puzzles and games that encourage them to talk and use the language.

Language Apps

Below you can find a list of the language apps with a variety of languages:

1. **Learn languages with Amy** is a new and exciting language app for kids who are learning English, Spanish, Polish, Dutch or Esperanto.
2. **Gus on the Go:** is a fantastic easy to use language app for young people.

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Jessica and Amber for their singing during the Coronation activities.

YEAR 8

Patrycja Szczepanska & Oliver Kroliczek (8 Teresa)
For achieving the most positive points this week.

YEAR 9

Kyle Simpson and Ace Kozluk for achieving the highest number of positive points this week

YEAR 10

Kacper Kostrakiewicz He has been amazing in analysing Power + Conflict Poetry this week.
Stefan Niculae, Adrian Konstantyn, Megan Connolly, Igor Szczepanik for most positive points.

YEAR 12

Cameron Martin, Natalia Kochanowska and Clinton Ganiste for an amazing start to their work experience. The feedback from the employers has been fantastic.

YEAR 13

Natasha Baron for receiving a midwifery offer to study at Oxford Brookes
Kacper Kolmetz and Joel Tabil for highest positive points

On Tuesday 30th May at 10:30am and Wednesday 31st May at 6:30pm

Jane Keyworth from FACE (facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

is delivering a one hour

Cannabis Awareness talk

Followed by a half hour Q&A session

Live online

Book Now online £12 per person

For more information contact Mrs Ossei-Brainoo at j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk (Head of PSHE)