



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 6th October 2023



Worth Abbey Retreat

We aim to offer a wide variety of Faith Formation opportunities for all our students. To embrace this, pupils in year 9 went to Worth Abbey in West Sussex as part of the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Association (CSYMA) program.

Please watch this lovely video of our students who attended, link below:

[\(2\) Worth Abbey Retreat - Friday 5th October 2023 - YouTube](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,
Hope you are all safe and well.

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

[\(2\) Headteacher Message - 6th October 2023 - YouTube](#)

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.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

VACANCY: TRUST LEADER OF CHAPLAINCY (2 DAYS PER WEEK)

Job description: To bring children in our Catholic schools ever closer to God.

The St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust serves 3 schools in Slough and works in close partnership with all 5 schools. The Trust is seeking to appoint a Trust Leader of Chaplaincy to work mostly with primary schools in the area for two days each week. The role will include providing rich experiences for children that draw them closer to God - surely the best job in the world! Uniquely, we want this to be done in a way that helps the children make connections across schools in Slough and beyond, ensuring they understand that they are part of a great mission. You can find out more about this role and more roles in our Trust on our website: [Trust Vacancies - St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust \(stcat.co.uk\)](https://stcat.co.uk)

CONFIRMATION 2024 ENROLMENT

CONFIRMATION 2024 ENROLMENT - Our Lady of Peace & St Andrews: If you are interested in your son/daughter receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next year and they are in the academic Year 8 or above, then please register your interest to confirmationolop@gmail.com. Registration will close on 5th November 2023.

The Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Rosary so throughout the next three weeks, students in year 7 and 11 will be coming to the Chapel to pray the Rosary. All other year groups will be praying the Rosary in form time.

Prayer intentions for our website and school community

As a Catholic school, we feel it's always important that students, staff and parents/families have the opportunity to share their prayer intentions so as a school community we can come together in prayer to support one another. If you have any prayer intentions you wish for us to pray for please feel free to send through to chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk During the school year, students will come together as a collective group (as a class, year group and as a school) to pray for your intentions. These prayer intentions will also be put on our website (prayer corner) to share so as a whole school community we can pray for one another.

Theme of the Week – Produce Fruit

Jesus came to share the Good News and to bring God's message to all people. He wanted them to learn how to live in the love of God and one's neighbour, and to know what mattered most in life. Many people did not listen, so Jesus told them that he would give his message to others.

In the 1st reading on Sunday, Isaiah writes an allegory (a poem or story that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning) for the people (Judah) of the time. Judah turns a deaf ear to the pleadings of the prophets for moral reform. Judah does not choose what is right to do but does what is right for them.

Paul's letter to the Philippians (the 2nd reading from Sunday) is drawing to an end, and the fear of persecution is always close – even for Paul, who urges his readers to pray and not worry. In Paul's letter, we see the idea that even in struggles, God is the answer and whom we should trust. These two readings add some richness to today's Gospel.

The Gospel offers a blunt allegory or parable of the blindness of those who have been appointed leaders of God's people. Aimed at the chief priests and scribes who do not carry out the will of God, the ones who will later cause the execution of Jesus just as the renters kill the land – and the owner's son! Jesus again uses the vineyard to consistently portray the kingdom of God, and listeners understood the intensive long-term care that was required to be fruitful and profitable. Walled, to discourage grazing animals, well appointed, but needing constant work, pruning, thinning, supporting the vines, irrigating etc. This is the Kingdom of God and the renters took this land for themselves, just as Judah in the first reading did when they did what was right for them.

Jesus later in the Gospel goes further in his teaching when he speaks of the most important stone that the builders (the chief priests and scribes) have rejected. This refers to the keystone, the one at the very top of a Roman arch, which held all the other stones in place. The implication of the Gospel is clear: the kingdom will be taken from those who refuse to accept God's messengers and son, and given to those who have faith in Jesus. The renters have taken the land for themselves and go on to kill the landowners son. The chief priests at the time are those who are controlling God's kingdom for themselves and later go and execute his son, Jesus! What does Paul say – even in struggles, have faith in God.

Prophets are often unpopular because they bring messages that are uncomfortable and challenging. Who are the prophets of the present age, and what are they telling us? How have we received their messages and what have we done about them? What is the message the world most needs today? The message of today's Gospel too is blunt and we should reflect on how we have received it, Jesus calls himself the 'keystone' or most important stone that supports the rest of the building. What have been the 'keystones' in your life in the past and the present? What are the things which you have rejected, and why? Think about being fruitful in your life, and think about three specific ways you can be fruitful during the week. Jesus is the messenger and he brings us the good news. Let us act out this good news with others around us.

Produce fruit

Weekly Reflections
8th October 2023



A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (21:33-43)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

Day 1

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses yet another parable to outline how we should care for the Kingdom of God and have faith in him.

Why do you think people of the time turned away from Jesus and did not accept the message of what mattered most in life?

Do this happen today?

Day 2

Why is the keystone so important? What will happen if it is taken away?

Why is Jesus and the message he gives us so important and what will it mean if we don't follow the word of Christ?

Think about how you can be fruitful to others but ensuring the keystone (Jesus) is at the centre on those decisions - see the fruit you can bear from those decisions and how much joy will come of these

Day 3

The Mysteries of Light

During this day please pray the Rosary as we enter the Lord's public life through his teaching and miracles

Prayer for the Week

Dearest Lord, Not only have you given us your kingdom, you have also given us the Keystone in your son and the sacrifice of his death for our salvation. Continue to allow us to deepen our faith and show it to others so they too can grow in faith

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Feast Day - Denis and Companions



9th October 2023

In the 3rd century Denis was sent as a Christian missionary from Italy to Gaul. He set out with his companions, Rusticus and Eleutherius for Roman Paris and settled on the Ile de la Cite, an island in the Seine. Denis, known as the first bishop of Paris, made many conversions among the Gauls, but the pagan priests were alarmed by his success. The three Italians were taken to the highest hill in Paris, now Montmartre and beheaded. Legend declares that Denis picked up his severed head and walked two miles, preaching all the way. It is believed the name - Mount of Martyrs - derives from this event.

He was

**Intentional and
Prophetic**

A Sandwich and Prayer for those most in need

One example of how our students serve those most in need is our **'Sandwich for the homeless campaign'**. Over the course of the school year, every student at St Joseph's will make a sandwich and write a prayer which will be passed on to a homeless person to ensure they know they are cared for and so we all do our bit to help those most in need in society. Well-done to 11 Cecilia, 11 Teresa and 11 Jerome who made theirs this week. Please see the link to our Youtube video of this. We have recorded two fantastic videos please do watch. Links below:

[\(2\) Headteacher Message Sandwich for the Homeless Campaign - YouTube](#)

[\(2\) Sandwich for the Homeless Campaign - YouTube](#)

Thank you to all students and staff for your efforts with this project.



Free school meals

Am I eligible for free school meals?

You will be able to claim free school meals for your child if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have a net income from employment of no more than £7400 per year). For more information on how the government calculates your earnings from employment whilst claiming Universal Credit, please check the "Eligibility under Universal Credit" section below.
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please give on the link below to apply. If entitled, Slough Borough Council will inform you and the school of this. <https://www.slough.gov.uk/xfp/form/244>

Support at St Joseph's

At St Joseph's we are aware and understand that the current cost of living crisis causes worry and concern for many. As a Catholic School, we always have the well-being of our school community at the heart of everything we do and as a result, we want to help as best we can. We are putting together fortnightly food parcels that will be delivered to families most in need in order to support them over the next few months. A typical food parcel will contain the following:

Food items	Cereal/Pasta Soup/Rice Tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce Lentils, beans and pulses Tinned meat/Tinned vegetables Tea/coffee Tinned fruit Biscuits UHT milk Fruit juice
Non-food items	Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes, hand sanitizer Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons

In order to receive a food parcel each fortnight please can you email chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk where you will be invited to come into St Joseph's to discuss the needs of your family and the food parcel that will not only meet your family's dietary needs but also how we as a school can support further.

KS3 and KS4 Student Prize Winners

This week we awarded some of our KS3 and KS4 students who picked up the most positive points this week they won chocolate and a postcard home!



Little Green Change

The October newsletter is out now ([see separate attachment with the newsletter](#)) from Little Green Change- a programme that St Joseph's are now working with. It contains information about our recent bulb planting event at Weldmar Hospicecare's Inpatient Unit, our knowledgeable Schools' Programme Advisers, our Grow a Tree Challenge, and our expert speaker talks - 3 of which are now available to watch on our new YouTube channel. <https://littlegreenchange.com/news/>

You can also watch the event video created by Weldmar Hospicecare here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-zPf61eTHQ>

Everything they offer will be free for members of the public and state-funded UK schools to take part in thanks to the hard work and dedication of Clare Matheson.

We look forward to spending time on Saturday planting bulbs at Thames Hospice to brighten up their spaces- thank you to everyone that signed up.



Black History Month – House Competition

In the UK, the month of October is dedicated to celebrating Black History. This year, the History Department have selected the theme of Black Women – each day in lesson, students are introduced to a significant black women in history, and a song by a female artist.

To continue this theme, the History Department invites you to create a fact-file, poster or presentation on any significant black woman in history. To enter, please bring your poster to any member of the History Department by the end of Thursday 19th October. Alternatively, you can send your entry to a member of the department through Teams or email. As well as house points, you're in with an opportunity to win a book based on Black History.

Winchester Christmas Markets Trip

We are excited to propose a trip for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to the Winchester Christmas Markets on Friday 8th December. On the day, we will depart St. Joseph's at 8.45am and aim to return by 5.30pm. Throughout the day, we will visit the Cathedral, and explore the first capital city of England. We will then continue our day exploring the Christmas Markets which are recognized internationally as one of the best.

There are 36 spaces for this trip which is offered on a first-come-first-served basis, however is also dependent on student behaviour. The price of the trip is £19.86 to be paid by ParentPay – this includes the return coach fare only, and so we ask students bring money to buy a lunch. Students who avail of Free School Meals will have their lunches provided.

Year 11 Battlefields Trip

A gentle reminder to any Year 11 interested in the trip to the WWI Battlefields that it has been postponed to take place, between 2nd – 4th February 2024 at the price of £320. For anyone that has already paid the deposit, if you are happy for your child to attend this trip, there is nothing you need to do at the moment, however please be aware that new payment dates have been added for ParentPay:

16th October - £75 (deposit)

20th November - £90

4th January - £155

For anyone that can no longer attend, please contact me directly in writing and I will arrange for a deposit refund.

Please note that once we get 40 entries for this trip, the deposit will be paid and will no longer be refundable. This will be paid on 16th October.

Any questions, please do get in touch and let me know.

Ms. Weir - E.Weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Shout-out: Over the past few weeks, we've had some fantastic work produced by our students, particularly in KS3, with several entries into the fishbowl competition to win the prize of a family dinner out!



An example of this is from Bruno Valek who made this pie for his presentation on the Renaissance. Bruno worked together with Filip Kozak and in their presentation on a Renaissance artist, they also wanted to show what life was like during this period. This pie was to show what people ate and was shared with the class to give a greater understanding and bring the Renaissance period to life!



House Competition

In addition to the House Competition the History department is also hosting a movie night on the 23rd of October after school at 3.30pm. To fit in with the theme of celebrating women, we will be watching “Hidden Figures”. This film is a true story about three amazing African American women that were the brains behind the launch of astronaut John Glenn into space during the 1960s Civil Rights era. There are only 25 spaces available, so if you are interested in watching the film, and enjoy some snacks please do let Miss Mawokomatanda know.

Football news

Two match reports this week:

Y7

The Year 7 football squad hosted Churchmead school football team at Arbour Park, Home of slough Town FC. The team showed great spirit and positivity. They managed to score 7 goals over the game. The team shows quality and a potential bright future in every position.

Final Score 7-2 win to St Josephs

Goals - Chibs x2, Wiktor x2, Allan x1, William x1, Alex x1

Next fixture: Thursday 12th @ Wexham (Cup Game)

Y11

“The Year 11 football team travel over to Upton Court Grammar School to play their first cup fixture of the year. The team showed a solid display of defence and the goalkeeper Dawid holding a clean sheet for the game. With two long range efforts from Filip and Oskar L securing the 2-0 win.

Goals - Filip x 1, Oskar L x1

Next Fixture: Monday 9th @ Beechwood

French & Spanish News

AFTER SCHOOL FRENCH HIGHER GCSE INTERVENTION SESSIONS are open for French Higher candidates every Friday Week A from 3.30 - 4.15pm in T5. The first session for French is Friday 06 October 2023. Please come with your notebook. Merci!

AFTER SCHOOL SPANISH HIGHER GCSE INTERVENTION SESSIONS are open for Spanish Higher candidates every Friday Week B from 3.30 - 4.15pm. The first session for Spanish is Friday 13 October in T5. Please come with a notebook. Gracias!

*Could you kindly confirm as soon as possible, if you are able to attend your session - and can arrange to get home safely! Please talk to your MFL Teachers: Ms Toro Sanchez (Head of MFL Dept), Mrs Rodriguez/Mr Stack-Clark or Ms Shaw/Miss Dannatt.
(MFL Teachers).*

Year 7 News

Lots of groups to praise from this week. A massive well done to the Year 7 Boys Football team for winning their first league game 6-2! The Year 7 Netball team also had a successful game so well done to them all. 7 Peter had their Pizza party on Thursday for having the best attendance in the Year group. The next challenge for the Year group is the form with the lowest number of Xh's.

All of the Year 7s were given a linen learning bag this week. They must have all of the equipment in the bag for each and every day, including all books for that day. Please see the equipment page within the student journal for what should be in there.

Have a lovely weekend all! Thank you!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 9 news

This week the Year 9s went on a retreat to Worth Abbey. The students had a lovely time and enabled them to take part in moments of reflection and prayer at a beautiful venue.

9 Veronica is still in the lead to win the Krispy Kreme donuts at the end of this half term. Keep working hard and getting those positive points! Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Joseph- Head of Year 8

Year 11 News

It has been a real privilege this week to see 11C, 11T and 11J in the food room making sandwiches for the homeless. They were all so enthusiastic! Well done to 11V who had Pizza on Thursday to celebrate getting the least lates, and finally well done to the year 11 football team who were victorious last night with a 2-0 win against Upton Grammar well done boys. Next week there will be more sandwich making for the remaining forms. Can I remind you that as the weather gets colder winter coats need to be of a dark colour.

In the meantime have a great weekend!

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Music Department News

Practice Rooms are open to students who would like to practice music of their choosing. They are open before school, breaks, lunchtimes and afterschool on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. **Singing Club** Tuesday morning before school. 8am-8.20am.

Suggestions and recommendations welcome, singing club is singing for the love of singing. It would be great to see you there!

Total Vocal Singing Trip: November 2023

Students who are interested in spending a day singing should see Miss Ure.

Slough Youth Orchestra: Grade 4 and Above

Students who can play any Strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass), Brass (trumpet, baritone, euphonium, French horn, trombone, tuba), Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophones) and Percussion (Timpani, Xylophone, Drumkit, Handheld/Additional/Auxiliary Percussion) to a **Grade 4** standard and above are invited to join the Slough Youth Orchestra for rehearsals and a concert on the following dates:

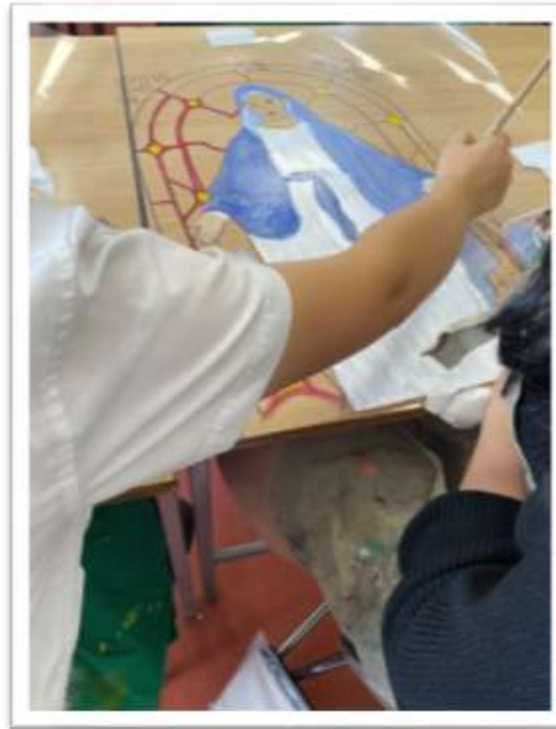
Tuesday 31 st October	9.30am – 2.30pm:	Rehearsal
Wednesday 8 th November	9.30am – 2.30pm:	Rehearsal
Friday 10 th November	1:30 – 5pm:	Rehearsal
	6:15pm:	Performance

Any students interested in taking part should collect a letter from Miss Ure a.s.a.p

There will be a Training orchestra (Beginners, Grade 1-3) in the spring term.

Fantastic Work

Fantastic work has been happening this week in our stain glass and art electives this week.



Netball News

Year7 had their first fixture this week against Ditton Park Academy. And after some great teamwork we came out victorious with a 9-0 win! The girls showed great determination with coming to terms with the rules in a more competitive scenario and we're really proud of the progress they've been making. Specific mentions to Leila and Lara who were a fantastic shooting pair.

All pupil are welcome to Netball club, Tuesday after school. Well done!

Slough Town Football Club

Slough Town Football Club are delighted to offer your school's community free tickets for this Saturday's fixture vs. Weymouth. We would be extremely grateful if you could share with your staff and families.

The tickets can be redeemed by presenting the voucher at the turnstile digitally or a printed copy.

If you have any questions on how the football club can be of assistance please let me know.

Regards, Ashley Smith, CEO - Slough Town Football Club



The flyer features a photograph of Slough Town players in orange and blue kits celebrating a goal. Below the photo, the Slough Town F.C. crest (a circular emblem with a lion and the motto 'SERVE WITH HONOUR') is shown next to the 'VS' and the Weymouth crest (a shield with a ship). The match details are listed: 'SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER 15:00 KO'. A large yellow banner reads 'FREE ENTRY' and 'THIS FLYER ADMITS 4 PEOPLE'. Below this, a dark blue banner says 'JOIN THE REBEL FAMILY' and 'ADULT 23/24 MEMBERSHIPS FROM JUST £195'. A link is provided: 'VISIT SLOUGHTOWNFC.NET/MEMBERSHIPS TO PURCHASE'. A small note states: '*U14s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.'. At the bottom, it says 'Proudly Sponsored by' followed by logos for Thames Slough, FIAT, and Jeep FIAT, along with the website 'www.thamesmotorgroup.co.uk'.

SLOUGH TOWN F.C.
SERVE WITH HONOUR

VS

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER 15:00 KO

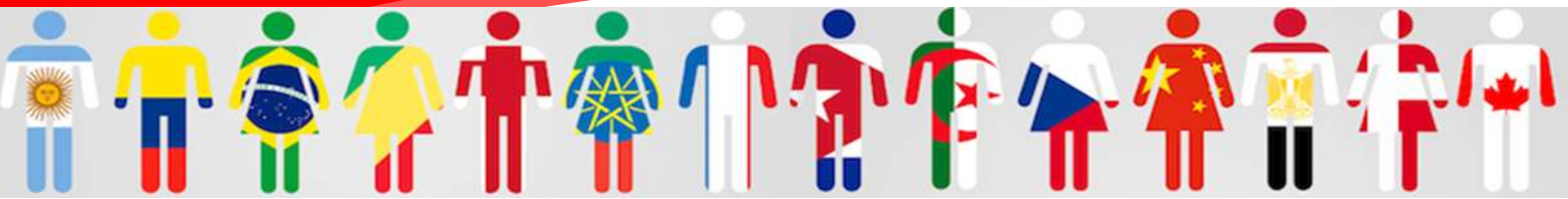
FREE ENTRY
THIS FLYER ADMITS 4 PEOPLE

JOIN THE REBEL FAMILY
ADULT 23/24 MEMBERSHIPS FROM JUST £195
VISIT [SLOUGHTOWNFC.NET/MEMBERSHIPS](https://www.sloughtownfc.net/memberships) TO PURCHASE

*U14s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

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(English as an Addition

The Importance of Mother Tongue Language in Education



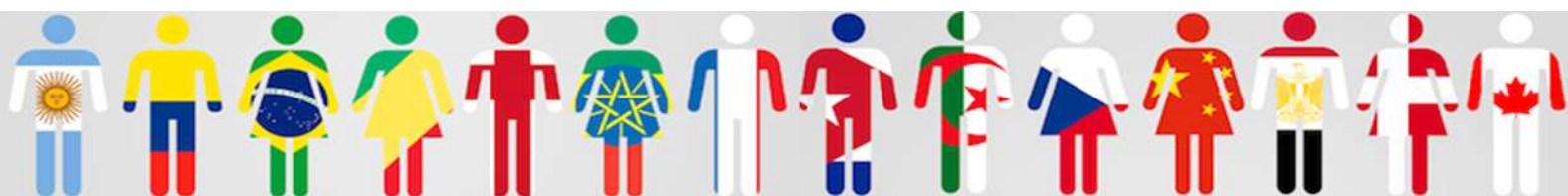
Research indicates that having a strong mother tongue foundation leads to a much better understanding of the curriculum as well as a more positive attitude towards school, so it is vital that children maintain their first language when they begin schooling in a different language.

Developing the mother tongue is very important because when children develop their mother tongue, they are simultaneously fostering a whole host of other essential skills, such as **critical thinking and literacy skills**. It is this skill-set that they take with them into formal education, and research tells us that any skills and concepts gained in the learner's home language do not need to be re-taught when they transfer to a second language. For example, if a child has developed the ability to guess the meaning of a word through its context or to infer meaning by reading between the lines, these skills are easily transferred when they begin studying in a second language.

It is much harder, however, to teach these abstract skills directly through a second language.

Language and mother tongue also play a huge role in the development of personal, social and cultural identity. Children with a strong foundation in their first language often display a **deeper understanding of themselves and their place within society**, along with an increased sense of **wellbeing and confidence**. Certainly, this flows down into every aspect of their lives, including their academic achievement.

It is crucial to note that it is through language we learn **about culture**, whether it is someone else's language or our own. To deprive children of their mother language literacy is to deprive them of understanding his or her **cultural identity**, and for children growing up in UK society understanding one's cultural identity can become compromised or changed inevitably. Children who become balanced bilinguals and develop mother language proficiency (ideally from an early age), in addition to acquire languages such as English, are equipped to become global citizens. In conclusion, Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for both people and the planet.





#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** When one third of the circle is shaded, the angle at the centre of the shaded sector is $360^\circ \div 3 = 120^\circ$. In diagram A, the sector angle is 90° . In diagram C, the sector angle is $90^\circ + 90^\circ \div 2 = 135^\circ$. So the correct diagram has a sector angle greater than that shown in A, but smaller than that shown in C. The only such sector angle is that in B.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

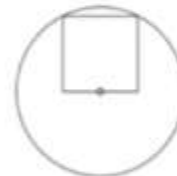
- C** Let g and s be the number of goats and sheep respectively. Then $s = 2g$ and $12 = s - g = 2g - g = g$. Hence the number of animals is $s + g = 3g = 36$.

Puzzler of the week

The circle has radius 1 cm. Two vertices of the square lie on the circle. One edge of the square goes through the centre of the circle, as shown.

What is the area of the square?

- A $\frac{4}{5} \text{ cm}^2$ B $\frac{\pi}{5} \text{ cm}^2$ C 1 cm^2 D $\frac{\pi}{4} \text{ cm}^2$ E $\frac{5}{4} \text{ cm}^2$



Break time Teaser:

The world's fastest tortoise is acknowledged to be a leopard tortoise from County Durham called Bertie. In July 2014, Bertie sprinted along a 5.5 m long track in an astonishing 19.6 seconds.

What was Bertie's approximate average speed in km per hour?

- A 0.1 B 0.5 C 1 D 5 E 10

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year7

Diana Kordaczka for taking the initiative during reading time and receiving the most positive points this week out of all of the girls and to Aleks Przybylski for receiving the most positive points this week out of all of the boys! Well done both!

Year9

Mikolaj Ignatowicz and Julia Kruger for getting the most positive points this week.

Year 10

Rowan Moore and Gracie O'Hara for fantastic work ethic and attitude to learning in Food lessons.

Year 11

Hannah Marie Anaya and Daniel Rossiter

Year 12

Liam Paes and Lena Bojarska for the most positive points on ClassCharts and excellent performance in lessons.

Kacper Kozak for his kind and helpful attitude in school.

Year 13

Jasleen Kaur and Aiden Daliling for earning the most positive points this week.