



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 10th November 2023



Year 8 Athletics

This week the year 8's took part in sportshall athletics competition. They competed in a variety of events including shot put, standing broad jump, relays and an 8 lap Paralauf. The boys team came 4th overall. Congratulation to the girls team who came first overall.

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.

Link to the latest video is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m91CS9Bo1YI&feature=youtu.be>

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!"



"Stay Awake"

Weekly Reflections 12th
November 2023



A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (23:1-12)

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

"No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. The others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us. But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Prayer for the Week

Lord, As we remember all those souls who went before us, help us make our lives worthy in thought and action of your final judgement and eternal Kingdom at the end of time. We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen

Saint of the week

St Didacus of Alcala



12th November 2023

St Didacus was a hospital porter who lived as a hermit priest for years. In the Jubilee Year of 1450 thousands of people flocked to Rome but an epidemic broke out and everyone had to lock down in the city. He came to Rome and remained in the city for 3 months caring for all the sick - gaining a reputation for miraculous healings of those who visited him. He was compassionate and loving.

Day 4 Facing Judgement.
Dear Lord, Prepare me for the honesty I need in facing my actions before God. May I be worthy of your favourable judgement. Amen

Day 1

November is the month when we turn to remember those who have passed away before us. It's a time when we turn to the chapel and write their names in the book of remembrance so that we not only evoke their time spent with us but we pray for their soul in heaven and that they might be able to intercede for our concerns. This week, starting today - let's take time, silence, to pray for all those in our families and loved ones who have passed from this world and ask them to look over us, guiding us to be worthy of the judgement of Christ at the end of time.

Day 2

Almighty and Eternal God, in whose marvellous orderings of things the weak of this world are singled out to shame the strong, grant, we pray, that by imitating the humility of St Didacus we may be raised to the eternal glory with him in heaven. St Didacus, Pray for us.

Day 3 Humility

Dear Lord, Help me to be humble enough to put others first in everything I do. Help me find patience in service, love in helping others and understanding by listening. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

Reflection on the parable of the week:

Waiting for the Messiah – and the end of time for Christ's judgement




The theme of the week is about preparation for the final judgement of Christ which could happen at any moment – so we need to be prepared for it at any point. Jorge Cocco, was born in Argentina in 1936. He calls his own style of painting sacro-cubism, because of the sacred subject matter he paints and because he borrows some stylistic elements from Cubism. Cocco reduces his subjects to simple, geometric shapes which allows us as viewers to focus our attention on the essential and most holy subject matter, rather than an elaborate style of painting distracting us. We see the group of the foolish virgins on the left. Their expression is passive and they look rather bored. The group of the five wise virgins is in the foreground on the right. They are lively, interacting with each other and joyfully expectant. The bridegroom is painted in the background, walking towards the virgins in rays of sunlight


The parable today is that of being watchful as we wait for the return of the Messiah. Weddings are great occasions, but as we all know, there is a lot of waiting to do: both parties waited a lifetime to find a partner, the planning of the wedding takes time, on the day itself guests wait for the bride and groom to arrive, etc... So Jesus uses the context of a wedding to make his point about 'waiting'. The preparation Jesus wants us to do during our own time of waiting for His second coming, is one of spiritual preparation. Waiting is hard though. Especially in our society which emphasises the instant. All ten bridesmaids were waiting. They all had the same opportunity and same oil lamps. They all could have gathered the oils in time. They all were preparing and waiting for the same wedding. They all had the same bridegroom coming to them... but only five of them were taking the long-term view and came fully prepared.


Faith in Action

Saturday 18th November between 10:30am-2.30pm Cafod are holding an online event with some of their overseas partners to discuss how, rooted in faith, we can fight for a better world. This event is free of charge and if any students are interested please ask them to see Mr Gibbons so he can register them for this event.

Faith in Action - Cafod







**Faith in Action
online event**
Join us on Saturday
18 November!

From climate change to the global food crisis, the world is currently facing numerous challenges that stand in the way of each person reaching their full potential. By putting our faith into action, and raising our voices together, we can bring actual change. So we need you! At this online event you can:

- Hear from CAFOD's partners in Bolivia on how Pope Francis' teaching inspires their work with indigenous communities
- Look ahead to the upcoming UN COP28 climate talks in the United Arab Emirates, and discuss what urgent outcomes we need
- Find out what happened when we took our Fix the Food System campaign to the World Bank meetings in Morocco
- Learn about our plans for working with the Catholic Community during next year's General Election

Be inspired to be one of many CAFOD campaigners across the country!

**If you are interested please let Mr Gibbons know so he can register
you for the online event**

Unlocking Belief In All

hopeful
curious
wise
grateful
discerning
compassionate
active
truthful
intentional
eloquent
generous
faith-filled
attentive
loving

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>

"35% of our A-Level grades achieved by students were A - B and 63% of our A Level Grades achieved by students were A* - C – Summer 2023"*

"Staff take the personal development of pupils seriously. They are committed to ensuring that pupils are fully prepared well for the future" (Ofsted, 2022)



St Joseph's Catholic High School

The Directors of this successful, thriving, top performing and over-subscribed Catholic Academy invite prospective parents and pupils to our

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 16th November 2023

6.00pm – 7.30pm

Shaggy Calf Lane, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 5HW

The Headteacher, Mr Stapleton and Mr Rob Dann, Head of Sixth Form, will address parents at 6.00pm in the main hall, followed by a subject fair. For more information please email Emily Stagg at:

e.stagg@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk



Year 7 News

The first week back after a 2-week holiday can be difficult, but the Year 7s have come back and demonstrated the high standards that they were prior to the Half Term break, the Year 7 team and I are massively proud!

A gentle reminder that Parents Evening is on Thursday 30th November. All Year 7 Students were given a paper copy letter explaining all the details regarding Parents Evening. Students can begin to book their appointments with teachers, the expectation is that all students see all of their teachers. If you have any questions regarding Parents Evening then please ask the form tutors and they will be happy to assist.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 Athletic Competition

This week the year 8's took part in sports hall athletics competition. They competed in a variety of events including shot put, standing broad jump, relays and an 8 lap Paralauf. The boys team came 4th overall. Congratulation to the girls team who came first overall.



Year 8 Basketball Game

The Year 8s played Ditton Park Academy on Monday and came away with a 35 Point Victory with the score being 41-6. It was a magnificent display of Basketball by the boys. A massive well done to them all.

Man of the Match - Jared Fida

Year 9 News



Well done to all the students who have gained positive points this week. Year 9s have had a positive start to the new term; please keep up the high standards. Can I remind you to have ALL of your books for the day in your linen learning bags as it saves time when preparing for lesson and learning time. Another request, as the winter months grow colder can I remind you that dark coats are in line with our uniform policy. Today we had a remembrance service for all who served our country. The pupils conducted themselves with pride and respect.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Badminton Tournament

On Monday a group of Year 9 girls and boys went to Cox Green for a badminton tournament. The students played very well against some tough opponents. The boys ended the tournament coming 4th and the girls won all 10 of their matches convincingly and came 1st overall! Well done to Oliver, Bleu, Oliwer, Lucas, Ava, Natalia, Mikah and Abi.



Year 11 News

Well done to all of Year 11 who have conducted themselves brilliantly (despite the rain) at the beginning of their PPE's this week. Can I ask that this may continue for the next two weeks. Make sure that you are revising nightly for your exams. Today we had a remembrance service for those who have fought for our county in war. I had the privilege of teaching both Luke McColough (who sadly lost his life in Afghanistan) and Josh Boggi. It is a really important service where we reflect on those we have lost.

Next week the PPE's continue, let's hope the weather stays bright.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Year 11 Battlefield Trip

A polite reminder that this trip has been cancelled due to lack of uptake. If you have not already contacted Ms. Weir or Ms. Stagg about your refund, please do so.

Year 10 and Year 11 Badminton

On Tuesday the Year 10 Badminton team travelled for day two of the cox green tournament. Unfortunately low on numbers only the girl's team managed to get a full complement of 4 athletes. The managed to win each match up against other school and came out of the tournament retrospective winners.

Finally on Wednesday day the Year 11 Badminton team travel to Cox Green School for the final day of the tournament. The girl's team battled hard and won many of their match ups sealing second place. And the boy's team again played some elite badminton but unfortunately could only manage 3rd place."



Remembrance Day

Tomorrow, 11th November, marks 105 years since the signing of the armistice 11am on 11th November 1917 between the new German government, the Weimar Republic's leader, Friedrich Ebert, and the Allies. This brought fighting to an end and paved the way for peace talks, and ultimately led to the Treaty of Versailles.

It is as a result of this event that Remembrance Day is marked tomorrow in the UK as World War I was the first total war of its scale with casualties from both sides reaching approximately 41 million, leaving approximately 20 million dead.

Below are recommendations of some books and films to check out if you're interested in this topic:

Private Peaceful (book and film – rated 12).

All Quiet on the Western Front (available on Netflix – rated 15).

1917 (rated 15).

For more recommendations of books, films and virtual tours, please do check out the History Department's Instagram highlights - @stjosephshistory

Drama News

Shrek the Musical is approaching and rehearsals are well underway. Tickets will be available on Parent Pay and the dates of the show are 12th-15th December. Keep an eye out for when they are released



Harry Potter Studios Trip - Tuesday 21st November

Thank you all for your interest in the Business Department trip to Harry Potter Studios. Please be reminded that students are to come in uniform and will attend lessons 1, 2 and 3. We will leave at approximately 1.15pm and students will be allowed to have an early lunch (packed lunch as the canteen will be closed) during P4. We will aim to be back at school at 6.30pm.

Students are reminded to please bring a pack lunch or money to spend in the food hall during the trip.

Thank you once again and please contact me if you have any queries! Miss Akintokun

Homework Superstars of the Week



Joshua	Lama	7 Cecilia
Dominik	Sobczak	7 Jerome
Julia	Wojciechowska	7 Cecilia
Filip	Ozdoba	9 Peter
Altaire	Ricalde	9 Peter
Darragh	O'Connor	10 Teresa
Alex	Ellner	12 Peter



Total Vocal Singing Trip - 7th November

On Tuesday, 23 of our Key Stage 3 students attended the Total Vocal workshop at St Mary's Church in Slough. Along with 7 other schools, our students joined **The Soul Sisters** in singing in 3 part harmony, which is very challenging. As well as learning warm up exercises and Lean On Me by Bill Withers, and a protest Gospel song against Racism and segregation, we also learned about Gospel music and the Civil Rights movement. We were also treated to an amazing performance by **The Soul Sisters**

Our students were a real credit to our school, and sang really well.



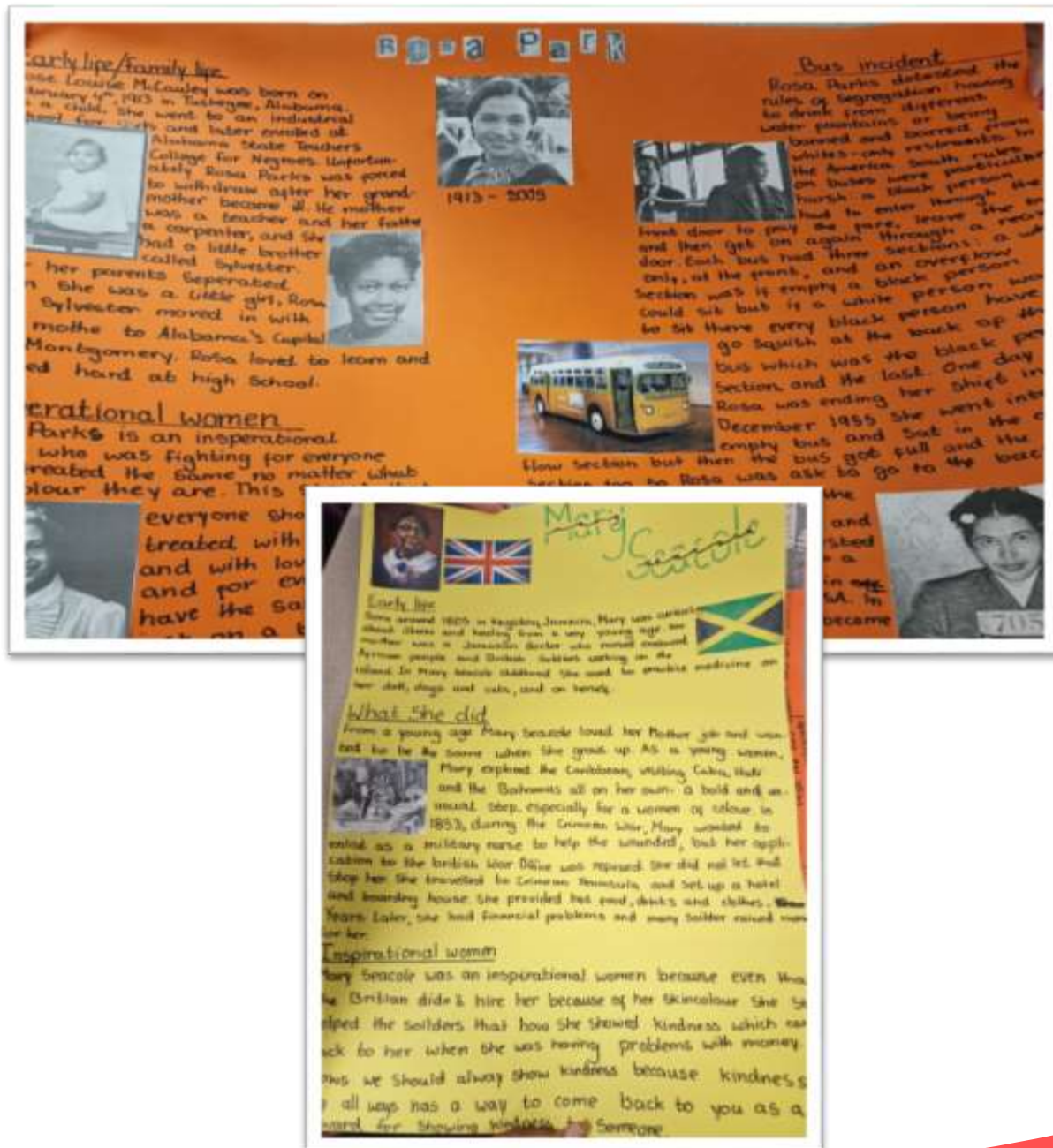
Music Clubs

Tuesday Mornings - Singing Club (8am-8:20am) everyone welcome, singing for fun!

Friday Afterschool - Band Jam (3:15-4pm) For students who want to jam independently, working together as a band, learn guitar, drum kit, voice keyboard or bass guitar in a group.

Black History Month – House Competition

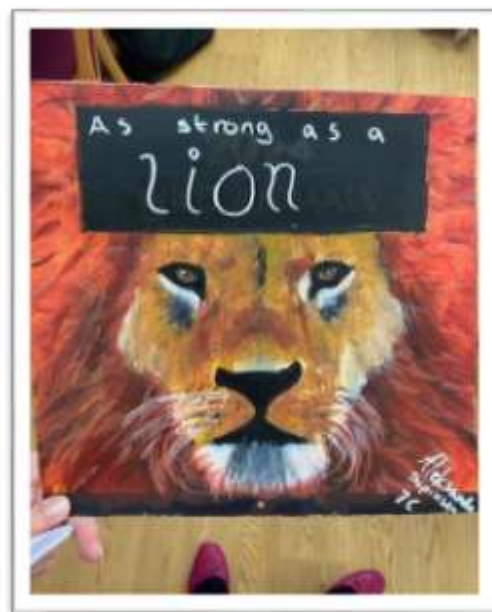
October marks Black History Month here in the UK. To celebrate this, the History Department ran a house competition asking students to research a significant black woman in history. Thank you to everyone that entered – a member of the History Department will catch up with each of you next week, and you will receive positive points also. A huge well done in particular to our winner, Michalina Pieczak in 7V, who entered twice and produced amazing pieces on Mary Seacole and Rosa Parks – well done, Michalina! Your prize of a book on Black History is coming your way!



TVLP Art Competition

Thank you to every student that has submitted amazing entries for the TVLP Art Competition to design a book cover. A particular mention to Coco Janot and Aleksandra Sapinska for some excellent painted entries! We look forward to the judging against other schools in the Thames Valley Learning Partnership to see who the winners are! ... the competition will be judged by the manager of the RBWM public libraries in keep with the book cover theme.

In the meantime we have been given the very exciting opportunity to take part in the Windsor Art fair on the weekend of Friday 24th November at Windsor Race course. Please do come along to see these original entries! 'Amazing contributions, Team 7C! Miss Crabtree'





EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Frequently asked questions

1. **My English is not very good. Should I speak English with my child?**

It is better to use your home language because you will provide a good model of the language. Besides, your child has many opportunities to hear English and to use it, outside the home.

2. **What can I do when my child does not want to use the home language anymore?**

It is normal for children, especially teenagers to want to use English all the time because they want to fit in with their friends. It is not advisable to try to force your child to use a particular language.

3. **What are the advantages of being bilingual?**

- **Thinking power:** Learning and using more than one language can improve creative thinking, problem solving and expression.
- **Culture:** Speaking more than one language means that you experience more than one world: different ways of thinking, ideas and beliefs. The home language is very important for passing on values and traditions and maintaining cultural identity.
- **Language:** Bilingualism creates a better understanding of how language works and can make learning other languages easier.





#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- A The diagrams show one of the twenty-five congruent right-angled triangles and the two such triangles at vertex R.
Let the two acute angles in each of the triangles be x° and y° .



Note that $x + y + 90 = 180$, as the interior angles of a triangle sum to 180° .
So $x + y = 90$. In the second diagram, the two angles which meet at R are x° and y° , so we can deduce that angle QRP is a right angle.
Let the length of the hypotenuse of each small triangle be a cm.
Note that angle QRP is a right angle, PR has length $4a$ cm and RQ has length $3a$ cm.
So the lengths of the sides in triangle PQR are in the ratio $3 : 4 : 5$.
Therefore the length of PQ , in cm, is $5 \times \frac{24}{5} = 24$.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- C The values of the five options are 64, 243, 256, 125, 36 respectively.
Of these 256 is the largest, so 4^4 is the largest of the options.

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows two squares and four equal semicircles. The edges of the outer square have length 48 and the inner square joins the midpoints of the edges of the outer square. Each semicircle touches two edges of the outer square, and the diameter of each semicircle lies along an edge of the inner square.

What is the radius of each semicircle?

- A 10 B 12 C 14 D 16 E 18



Break time Teaser:

The result of the calculation $9 \times 11 \times 13 \times 15 \times 17$ is the six-digit number '3n8185'.
What is the value of n ?

- A 2 B 4 C 6 D 8 E 0

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

<p><u>Year7</u></p> <p>Ria Basil and Joshua Lama for receiving the most positive points this week, massive well done!</p>
<p><u>Year8</u></p> <p>Most Amount of Positive Points: Jayden DaCosta, Max Matuszewicz, Connor Jones, Abeni Abomide</p>
<p><u>Year9</u></p> <p>Taia Butler and Nikola Zulewska for their excellent attitude to work in English Mikolaj Ignatowicz and Licia Triumph for getting the most positive points this week.</p>
<p><u>Year 10</u></p> <p>Sydelle Vaz and Dove Ohol; Dominik Maslach & Maksymilian Oleszak. For their outstanding attitude to reading; respectfulness, calmness and listening skills. Sara Piasecka (10J) and Ace Kozluk for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week</p>
<p><u>Year 11</u></p> <p>Hannah Anaya and Aleksander Zabski; Serfine Ogosa & Freda Lourenco. Adrian Wrobel & Kanav Bara; Luca Gumbs & Emily Cripps For their excellent behaviour for learning, collaboration and focus on study skills. Julia Pytel and Chrisitan Piscopo Evans</p>
<p><u>Year 12</u></p> <p>Deborah O and Max C for the most positive points on classcharts Pawandeep Singh for excellent performance in Business Studies Finlay Gibbons for an engaging presentation on Dystopian Literature</p>
<p><u>Year 13</u></p> <p>Bobby Kadiri and Esther Owusu-Ansah for earning the most positive points this week</p>