

12th November 2021



ST JOSEPH'S *NEWSLETTER*



From The Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

If you take a look at the photo above of the England U-16 Football Team, you'll see that No. 14 is our very own Jayden Maghamo. He has done particularly well in being part of the winning England U-16 team that competed in the recent Val de Marne International Tournament, France. Congratulations to him.

Another highlight of the week was that we also had a chance to meet as a whole school where we had a solemn and prayerful Remembrance Service yesterday in light 11th November. Please do look at some of the photos of this event in the following Newsletter.

'Unlocking Belief in All'

12th November 2021

We are a Listening Community

Over the last half term, we have spoken to a large number of the children, and looked into where they were at with their learning. We read a lot of research and analysed the trends...

We are a Learning Community

What we learnt most significantly was that some of our children were not getting involved in lessons as much as they should be when it came to thinking aloud and responding to questions. All our Heads of Department and Heads of Year have come into school on Wednesdays at the break of dawn, purely to work at a strategic level around issues of assessment, the curriculum and, of course, teaching and learning. A number of Heads of Departments researched proactive methods of engagement and presented their findings and collectively arrived at an Oracy strategy actioned through a *hands down method* when asking questions (Assessment for Learning) for addressing the issues we have uncovered around learning. What this means is that we will be trialing a method where teachers will ask students directly (even strategically), in class rather than being reliant on just those that offer a response with their *hands up* in class. All of this sums up a more research led and data driven approach to improving the student experience of learning. We have already seen some notable gains through the literacy strategy we introduced at the beginning of the year, where each Form Group reads a challenging text before lessons start. First impressions appear to be that the students are reading faster, confidently and more fluently than they were in September.

Some other exciting news concerning our school. The Diocese and St Michael's Catholic School (High Wycombe) approached The Trust for assistance in running their school as they are in need of a Head Teacher. I am pleased to say that The Trust turned to St Joseph's, and Mr Sindall has taken on the challenge on as a *secondment* and will be starting there in January 2022 whilst still being employed by us here in Slough – he is, needless to say, one of us! We wish him the best of luck for this future venture in advance.

Actions in place to mitigate the spread of Covid: Face masks

Following on from the Newsletter last week – the safety of the children is paramount; the last thing we wish to do is to end up with a situation where students have to isolate as they approach their PPE exams or the public Examinations in the summer.

Can I ask that parents please, with the exception of those medically exempt, ensure the students bring in facemasks with them to school. From now, until a review of the practice at Christmas by The Health Security Agency we will consider them as an essential part of the uniform.

Additionally, please do continue to use the home testing LAT flow tests. If you do contract Covid please let us know either by phone or via cv19@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk . Students were provided with 2 weeks of home tests last week.

Thank you again for all your on-going support. Have a cracking weekend.

St Joseph, pray for us

Ciran Stapleton

Theme of the Week

A GOD WHO SPEAKS

In our Gospel reading this week, Jesus uses the image of a fig tree that shows the summer is near when it's leaves come out, such a simple image, and one we can relate to. We can see in nature the seasons changing. Jesus is teaching us that there will be signs for us to see when He comes again in His second coming. We must be aware, to keep a look out, to be ready for Christ to come but not just in His second coming, but in His coming to us in our lives each and every day. We can experience Jesus in our lives now, we need only to be open. **Where can we experience Jesus in our every day?** Our theme gives us a little clue, in the scriptures. But not just in scripture, in our churches especially where we have the Blessed Sacrament reserved, and in each other too.

Where will you experience Jesus today?

Do these images that Jesus uses of the sun, moon and fig tree help you to understand what He is saying?

When you think of Jesus Himself, how do you imagine Him to be like?

Jesus says in the Gospel; "my words will never pass away". The word of God is so powerful. You could read a piece of scripture one day and get one message, and then the next time you read it, it says something completely different to you. Jesus' words will stay with us, we have access to the word of God in the Bible, we can get advice from His words, we can come to understand Jesus through His words. Perhaps today, find a Bible and spend some time reading a passage from it.

What is it saying to you today?

Read it again tomorrow, what is it saying to you this time?

12th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to alert you to a new approach to questioning which we are bringing into all of our lessons, as of Monday, consistently across the school.

In response to research and student voice, from next week we will be introducing a consistent 'no hands up' answering approach to questions within our lessons. This means, in practice, that staff will be questioning all students during the course of every lesson with a clear purpose of raising student participation, developing their oracy skills and ensuring that all students are following - and able to demonstrate their understanding of - the content of each lesson.

Whilst this is already practised across the school in several subjects, we are pushing for consistency in all areas so that students are given even greater opportunities to develop their confidence in each of their subject areas.

For the sake of clarity this does not mean that students can't put their hands up to ask questions, instead it simply means that the number of students who are answering questions will increase. Oracy and developing students' skills in clearly articulating responses are a big focus for us this academic year in order to boost our students' confidence and abilities in articulating their learning clearly and concisely.

For many of our magnificent St Joseph's students this won't be hugely different from some of their existing day-to-day experiences in class and for some it may simply mean that they are being asked more questions and being required to provide more answers than they have previously been used to. In the long run it means their understanding, learning and ability to express themselves more clearly will become even more secure.

Whilst this information will be shared with students via their tutor time on Monday, it would be greatly appreciated if you would take a moment over the weekend to explain this development to them.

With best wishes

Mr A Nicol

12th November 2021

Year 8 News

Yesterday we had a reflective service commemorating Remembrance Day well done to the year 8 liturgy team who laid poppies and to the whole year group who conducted themselves with decorum and respect.

This week in lessons:

In Geography they have been using I Pads to research world cities

Drama: Naturalism

English: Twelfth Night

PE; Basket ball

History: Slave Trade

It is great to go round lessons and see all the learning taking place.

In the meantime have a restful weekend

Mrs Dunleavy

Year 9 News

Dear Year 9,

On Thursday was our Remembrance Service, and Year 9 spent the time reflecting in silence on those who lost their lives for our futures. This week in lessons Year 9 have learnt about atomic structures in Chemistry with Triple Science students investigating crude oil. In music they have been looking at the music of Queen and in Child Development students have been learning about antenatal care.

Please may I ask you to remind your children of the importance of speaking kindly to each other. Our theme this week was Generosity and we discussed the question "How should we treat people?", in assembly students discussed treating each other how they would want to be treated, with kindness and respect. For us to be the loving Catholic community in which we are, we need all students in Year 9 to play a part in speaking kindly to each other.

Happy Birthday to our Deputy Head of Year Miss Pisavadia!

Have a great weekend,

Miss WD

Year 11 News

Well done on completing another week. Assessments start on Monday so please ensure you are on time to the Sports Hall on Monday morning so the exam can start on time. Try and get some down time this weekend, if you have prepared well over the last month you won't need to spend all weekend working.

See you all Monday

Mr Cudmore

'Unlocking Belief in All'

Sixth Form News

Centre assessments begin on Monday 15th November. Good luck to all students! Please line up behind the sports hall in silence at 8:25 for exams starting at 8:30 or 11:20 for exams at 11:25. Uniform must be perfect with blazers on.

On Thursday, students participated in a remembrance service. All were respectful during this time and it was a good opportunity to reflect as a school and year group.

Students who are applying to Oxbridge were very lucky to participate in a session with Joe Organ this week. They focused on critical thinking skills in law and medicine to help prepare for interviews.

The PSHE dates for the rest of this half term are:

Friday 19th November – Period 5

Thursday 25th November – Period 1

Thursday 2nd December – Period 3

Friday 10th December - Period 5

Tuesday 14th December – Period 1

Have a great week

Mrs Bray

Virtual Open Evening

The St Joseph's Virtual Open Evening page is now live! We are extremely excited to welcome our wonderful Year 11 students in our vibrant and successful Sixth Form. Everything that you will need to know can be found on the Sixth Form section of our school web page, here: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/joining-us/virtual-open-evening-2021/>

We have provided the following information and guidance for your son/daughter's application to our sixth form:

- The Main Presentation, split into the following five videos: Results & Successes, Info and Guidance in Subject Choices, The Process of Choosing Subjects & Entry Requirements, a message from our Student Leadership Team an Overview of the Application journey.
- A Subject Spotlight video from each, where each of our Curriculum Leaders talks about the curriculum within their subjects.
- The Sixth Form Prospectus – a booklet with all of the information and guidance capture in one PDF, downloadable document.

More information regarding the Taster Day will be given to students next week.

For more information, please contact Mr Clark: g.clark@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Literacy – Idiom and Word of the Week:

- Word of the week is to administer. It is an infinitive verb (the base for of a verb). It means to manage and be responsible for the running of (a business, organization, etc.). It also means to dispense or apply (a remedy or drug).
- Idiom of the week is **to throw the baby out with the bath water**, an idiomatic expression for an avoidable error in which something good is eliminated when trying to get rid of something bad, or in other words, rejecting the favourable along with the unfavourable.

Battlefields Trip

Unfortunately the proposed Year 11 Battlefields trip to Belgium and France next February has had to be cancelled. At the moment France are not allowing school trips to enter the country and with no guidance of when this will be changed we have decided it's in the best interest to cancel. The finance department at St Joseph's have reimbursed ParentPay accounts of all those who have paid the deposit. If anyone has paid the next instalment or full amount this has also be reimbursed. If there are any issues with this please email me at j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

I do hope you can understand the decision taken and it's not one that has been taken lightly.

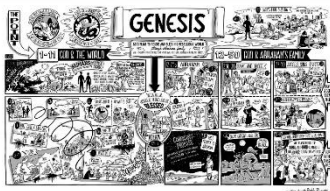
Monday Lunchtime Club

On Monday lunchtimes, we will be following a series of videos exploring the stories of the Bible. Created by the Bible Project, they explore and explain Bible stories in an easy and accessible way. Come and see!

12:40pm – Year 8, 9, 10

1:40pm – Year 7, 11, 6th Form

(notice the start time which allows students to eat some lunch beforehand)



Remembrance Day

We gathered together as a whole school community on Remembrance Day, to remember and to pray for all those who have lost their lives in times of war and conflict. We remembered all who died in our great world wars, but also in wars that continue to this day, especially those who have lost their lives in Afghanistan this year, praying for peace and reconciliation between all people.

We prayed too, for all who work on the frontline, especially during this time of pandemic, for those who have given their lives to serve others out of love and sacrifice, to bring peace and hope to our world, taking the example of Jesus.

Our Chaplaincy Ambassadors and students from across the school community read scripture from St Mark's Gospel as well as reflections and prayers; and placed poppy wreaths at the foot of the cross.

"They gave their tomorrow so we could have our today"



Year 7 Retreat Days

This half term, each Year 7 tutor group is spending a day at Holy Family Catholic Church, for a day of activities and prayer. They are thinking about their hopes, dreams and fears as they begin their time at St Joseph's, as well as joining the parish community for Mass and spending time in quiet prayer and reflection. This is a blessed opportunity for everyone, coming together and growing in faith.



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Geography Club

We have had another successful week in Geography club making ecobricks. This Tuesday Jayona and Romain gained their eco-school badges for participation in 5 sessions of environmental work towards a cleaner future. Well done to everyone involved. Please continue to bring plastic wrappers for the geography department to use. Together we can beat plastic pollution.



'Unlocking Belief in All'

Great Opportunity in Slough - Film Club and Script Saturday

Are you interested in the world of media and film? Do you want to improve your writing skills ?

Attached to this week's newsletter are 2 information leaflets for 2 new clubs taking place in Slough. This is a great opportunity to get into the world of film and script writing

Film Club

Where: YES shop, Queensmere Centre, Slough, SL1 1LN

When: Monday's from 5-6.30pm

Script Saturday

Where: YES shop, Queensmere Centre, Slough, SL1 1LN

When Second Saturday of the Month 11-3pm





Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- E First note that the triangular numbers less than 20 are 1, 3, 6, 10, 15. As we are looking for a sequence of consecutive integers which are respectively prime, even, and triangular, the required triangular number is odd. So it is 3 or 15. It is not 3 as 1 is not prime, but it is 15 as 13 is prime. So the required product = $13 \times 14 \times 15 = 2730$.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- A From the given information, the sum of Megan's first three numbers is -9 , the sum of her first four numbers is 16 , and the sum of her first five numbers is -25 .

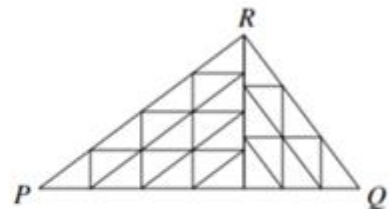
Therefore the fourth number is $16 - (-9) = 25$, and the fifth number is $-25 - 16 = -41$. The difference between them is $25 - (-41) = 66$.

Problem of the week

Triangle PQR has been divided into twenty-five congruent right-angled triangles, as shown. The length of RP is 2.4 cm.

What is the length of PQ ?

- A 3 cm B 3.2 cm C 3.6 cm D 4 cm
E 4.8 cm



Break time Teaser:

Which of the following has the largest value?

- A 2^6 B 3^5 C 4^4 D 5^3 E 6^2

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. The first full complete answer will get satchel points.



Design and Technology Department

Another busy week in D&T. The chefs this week, produced some delicious carrot muffins, some particularly well baked Harmantaschen, fragrant Jeera Aloo, and jam tarts. Year 9 and the DT club marked remembrance day by producing poppies that were available to buy for a donation to the poppy appeal. Examination groups are reaching a particularly interesting part of their NEAs which will see them design and develop products and dishes suited to their chosen contexts.

Year 11s nationwide continue making their plans for further study, we encourage you to look at the 6th form pages to see more detail. In Design and Technology we offer Product Design at ALevel, please do not hesitate to contact staff in the department for further information about this interesting and challenging course.

Plastics Challenge

Thank-you to those that have already brought in plastic bottle tops. Please do continue to collect and send them in to be put into the collection boxes in A4.



DESIGNeers- KS3 DT club

It was fabulous to see the workshop busy on Monday after school. The DESIGNeers had a very productive session, proudly displaying their finished poppies.

The club is currently at capacity, so sadly we will not be able to welcome any new members at the moment.



Poppies.

Year 9 Designers formed production teams to manufacture poppies which were then placed in reception to buy for a donation to the poppy appeal. Thankyou to anyone who purchased one.



'Unlocking Belief in All'

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D&T Stars of the week



Emma Kadiri for being **Autonomous** and having a Consistently **positive** approach to her studies.

Charlotte Appleby for her **proactive** and **Learned** independent work.

Drama News

Well done to everyone who auditioned for Sweeney Todd and congratulations to the cast. Rehearsals will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 until 4.30.

Mrs Dunleavy

Movember

Hello everyone,

I would like to promote in school the medical research against prostate and testicle cancer. Two of the most deadliest types of cancer despite the very little money scientist have for the development of new treatments or drugs. That's why the foundation "Movember" promotes during this month different activities that people can do to help those who suffer these horrible diseases. "Movember" movement also works in male suicide prevention which is in fact the first cause of death in young ages. There are many reasons to help and no excuse. How can you help?:

- Donating money: As a staff in St Joseph's my goal is to raise 500 £. Considering that there are around 1200 people in our school (students and staff) it would mean less than 50 p per person
- If you are a male, you can keep your moustache for this month to raise awareness about men's health issues
- Organise events
- Run 60 km this month

Any idea/suggestion or wish to collaborate in this initiative please contact with me. Here you have my donations page for now a bit empty but I am sure we will aim the objective: <https://movember.com/m/14718537?mc=1>

Sports News

Well done to the year 9 netball team who played against Khalsa and drew 3 all.



Well done to the year 8 netball team who won their netball match against Westgate 10-5.



The year 10 netball team had an amazing week winning all 3 of their matches against Khalsa (8-1) Westgate (10-3) and Upton Court Grammar (6-2). May the winning streak continue!

'Unlocking Belief in All'

Art Department News

Remembrance Day 2021 commemorations at St Josephs'

As part of our acknowledgment for Remembrance Day 2021, St Joseph's Art Department have been asking students to create their own interpretation of the symbolic red poppy. After spending time reading the poem In Flanders' Fields by John McCrae, penned from the trenches of WW1, as inspiration, students used their creative freedom with a choice of artistic materials to interpret their own poppy design.

Below is a collage of some examples produced by our young artists in the lead up to our Remembrance ceremony which was held on the 11th November.



Pupil Nominations of the Week

<u>Year 7</u> Sophiya Khan and Lena Kuczynska for their prophetic attitude, standing up for what is right. So proud of you!	<u>Year 8</u> Nathan James and Esi Deynoo for excellent ATL
<u>Year 9</u> Apollonia G 9 Mark for resilience this week and Kasey Woolley 9 Jerome for resilience and excellence in all subjects.	<u>Year 10</u> Charlie Timms and Grace Tully for outstanding effort on a difficult topic in Science.
<u>Year 11</u> Rhys Wilder for effort in Geography and Kilian Torok-Pena for great work in Maths.	<u>Year 12</u> Bibin Binoy for his hard work in chemistry
<u>Year 13</u> Karla Rencz working hard in media to get coursework to a high level. Ali Pereira and Laura Najdo for being proactive and committed to producing high quality work.	