



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 13th October 2023



Football News

The Year 8 boys played Lynch Hill on Tuesday, the boys controlled the game throughout with each player playing a pivotal role in the game against our next-door Neighbours. The score finished with us being victorious by 5 goals to nil. David G grabbed himself two goals. Freddie, Tobi and Thomas each grabbed themselves one goal. A truly great result which will keep their confidence high going into our next game on Wednesday the 18th.

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

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

[\(1\) Headteacher Message - 13th October 2023 - YouTube](#)

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

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

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton

Attendance Policy Update

Please be aware that the **Attendance Policy** at St-Josephs Catholic High School is changing. With immediate effect, all absences in the week beginning or ending any term or half term will be marked as an unauthorised absence unless this is accompanied by medical evidence. This can be in the form of a named, dated & stamped appointment card, letter or text from a medical practitioner.

Y11 & Y13 PPE 1 and November 23 Resit Exams

Please see separate attachment alongside newsletter to view the Timetable for this November Series.

Parent Survey

Please use the link below to complete our termly survey. Your responses would be very much appreciated. The window for completion closes at 3pm on Friday 20th October.

<https://forms.office.com/e/n3rmyWUzm9>

Regards,

Mr Dann – Deputy Headteacher

Theme of the Week – Invite Everyone

The wedding banquet is a commonly used image for the kingdom of God in both the Hebrew and the Christian traditions. The feast symbolises abundance provided by God for all who accept the invitation. Jesus is teaching that the Kingdom of God is open to everyone not only the Jewish people.

Can you remember your favourite birthday party? Did you help get things ready? Was it lots of work? Imagine how you would feel if, after all that effort, the friends you invited didn't turn up? Jesus tells us this story today about a wedding banquet that the invited guests were not interested in.

A banquet is a big feast. You would need to do a lot of work to prepare a banquet for all your guests. A Jewish wedding celebration would often last as long as a week. The King in the parable is spending lots of time and effort in preparation for this wonderful celebration. However, for those invited, the commitment to give such a length of time to have to participate in may make their refusal a little easier for us to understand. Having to give a week over to celebrate a wedding might be too big a commitment for some, so for the guests they decide not to commit. Once the King sees that no one is interested he sends the servants out once again with the message, **"Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet."** Still the King was ignored – some went instead to their farms and businesses and others seized the servants, mistreated them and killed them. **The Jewish people of the time were the first guests. When we reflect on this part of the Gospel, we must pose this question – do we always acknowledge what is given to us and do we show how grateful we are for this?** The reaction of the king was rather extreme, however it relates to the Gospel we read last week where the servants and the land of the vineyard were killed and destroyed by the tenants. The Kingdom of God was abused by the tenants and they had no respect for the owner even when the keystone was presented to them!

The invitation issued in today's Gospel is one from God to the Jewish people of the time and is one of rejoice and celebration in the Kingdom of heaven but it was ignored and taken for granted. This wedding banquet of today's Gospel is only extended to all (the gentiles) once the elect have lost their chance to participate. The reference to the *'cross roads in the town'* in the Gospel where other guests are invited from indicates the places where people traditionally gathered and worshipped. However, in the theme of the week for generosity a few weeks ago, it was also the place where the landowner went to find more workers. *'Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage"'*. Those same people were those who were either not Jewish or did not believe in God – the market place had anyone in it but they were still invited!

The wedding feast and the symbolism of the meal are significant for Christians because of the Eucharistic connotations. The meal of bread and wine that Jesus shared with his disciples, and which we share in the Eucharist, is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet where there will be an abundance for all who accept the invitation. Recall instances when you have refused invitations and the excuses you have used to avoid going somewhere you did not want to. What excuses do you make today for not doing things that you ought to do? Can you identify what invitation God extends to you today? What sort of commitment is required for your acceptance? What are the things that prevent you from responding fully to this invitation?

Remember, *'For many are called, but few are chosen.'* How will you answer your invitation this week to live out the word of God?

Invite everyone

Weekly Reflections
15th October 2023



A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (22:1-14)

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Prayer for the Week

Dearest Father, in prayer you have invited me to be in your presence. Allow others to experience your presence through my kindness and words so we are always surrounded and permeated by your everlasting love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Saint of the week

St Teresa of Avila



15th October 2023

Teresa of Avila was one of the most remarkable saints of the 16th century, a Spanish Carmelite nun and mystic who raised devotion and poverty, centred on absolute obedience to God, to a new extreme. She not only founded the Discalced (or barefoot) Carmelites but also established 17 convents across Spain. She was:

Faith-filled and Hopeful

Day 1

How did the king feel when the guests didn't turn up? (furious) What did he do? What do you think Jesus meant when he told this story? (Jesus wants us all to be with him and **celebrate together**. There is a place in heaven for each one of us.)

Day 2

The invitation to the banquet was extended to everyone – we are all invited! How this week can you show Christ in you and accept God's invitation of living out the word of God?

Day 3

The Sorrowful Mysteries

During this day please pray the Rosary as we enter the mysteries of Christ's suffering and death which he had to undergo for our salvation.

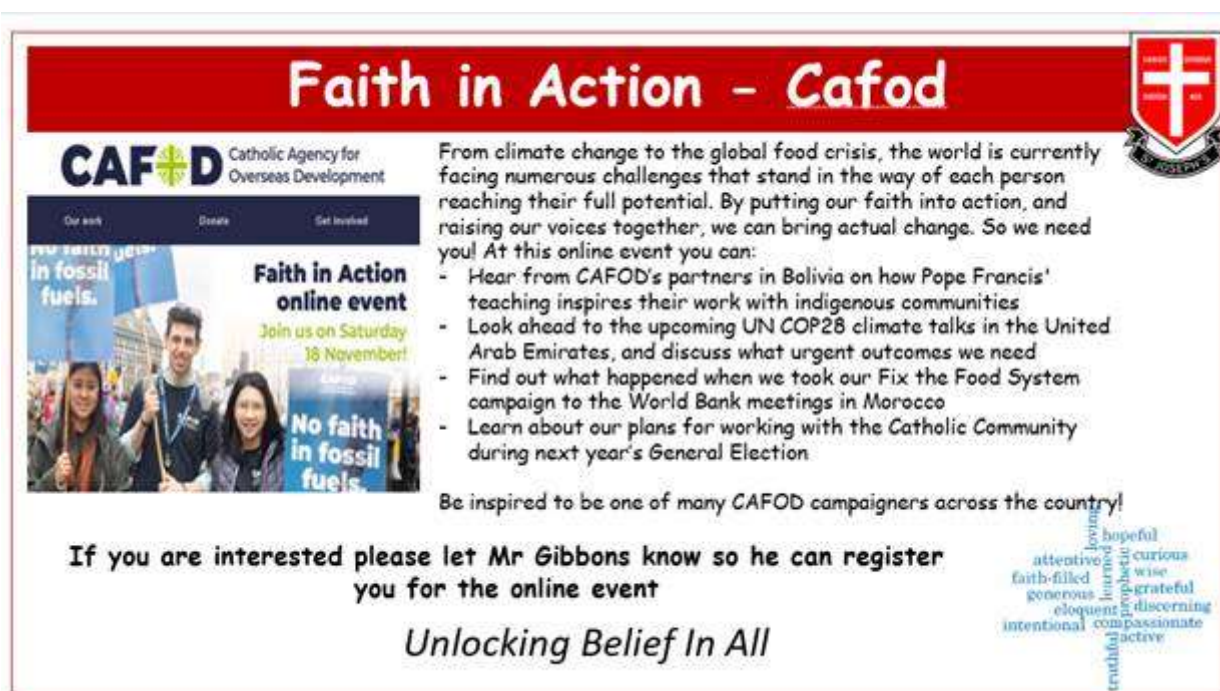
VACANCY: TRUST LEADER OF CHAPLAINCY (2 DAYS PER WEEK)

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.

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

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Our work | Donate | Get involved

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

No faith in fossil fuels.

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, attentive, faith-filled, generous, eloquent, intentional, curious, wise, grateful, discerning, compassionate, active, truthful, loving, joyful, inspired

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.

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.

Faith Formation Programme 2023

St Joseph's Faith Formation programme 2023-2024 outlines all the experiences we wish our students to live out during their time at St Joseph's. Catholic Life is at the centred of everything we do at St Joseph's and our wider school community. Our aim is for our students to take their faith into the wider world in everything they do, say and believe. Please see the attached Faith Formation booklet 2023-2024 which outlines our ethos, values, beliefs and stories which make up the Catholic faith of the school. Whether you are new or old to St Joseph's, very familiar with the Catholic Church and its rituals, or a bit out-of-touch with your local church, we hope you find something of interest in this booklet

The Chaplaincy Team and some of our students being commissioned by Fr Kevin in this morning assembly as Eucharistic ministers.



Little Green Change

On Saturday, St Joseph's staff and students visited the Thames Hospice in Maidenhead to partake in their annual charity bulb planting. This was run by Clare Matheson for Little Green Change and students were thrilled to gain knowledge on the planting and development of bulbs. Thank you to everyone that came and got involved for a good cause!





Homework Superstars

Viki	Cieslak	8 Peter
Macayla	Silva	9 Mark
Isabelle	Stacey	9 Mark
Mikhaella	Mendoza	12 Peter
Kismat	Randhawa	13 Mark

Year 7 News

One week to go! We are entering our last week of school next week, the Year 7s have moulded well into St Joseph's life. Please can we be aware that school finishes for Half Term on Friday 20th at 3.15PM.

We have had a Homework Challenge starting last Monday until today. The winning team will receive a free Ice Cream from an Ice Cream van that we will be coming in to say well done! Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 9 News

Another positive week for Year 9s achieving 921 positive points- keep up the good work going into the final week of school! 9 Veronica are still holding top spot for the most positive points this half term to win a box of Krispy Kreme; last little push to get as many points as you can. Well done to the students of the week Jake Wood and Csege Bodor for getting the most positive points this week out of the whole of year 9. Enjoy your chocolate bars! Have a lovely weekend 😊



Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Year 11 News

Another successful week of sandwich making for the homeless. It was a real pleasure to see 11 Mark getting stuck in today, well done. Linen bags are now in. Can I ask if your son or daughter does not have one they can be paid for on Parent Pay and collected from the office. Next week is the last week before October break and it has gone so quickly. The PPE 1 exams will commence after half term so it is time to start revising. Can I remind you that as the weather gets cold dark coats are required. Have a great weekend!

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 1

Year 8 Students of the Week



Year 11 Students of the Week



Fencing Festival

On Wednesday a group of Year 8s went to Grove Academy for a fencing festival. The students took part in different circuits which tested their footwork, accuracy and tactics which they were then able to put into fencing matches.



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. This week is the last call for entries. Should you wish 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!



Football News



The Year 8
played

boys
Lynch Hill

on Tuesday, the boys controlled the game throughout with each player playing a pivotal role in the game against our next-door Neighbours. The score finished with us being victorious by 5 goals to nil. David G grabbed himself two goals. Freddie, Tobi and Thomas each grabbed themselves one goal. A truly great result which will keep their confidence high going.

The Year 11 football team to a short trip to Beechwood for another league game. Battled hard and with some new faces managed to perform well. At the half St Joseph's where 2-0 down but by full time and two goals from Emmanuell they level it to 2-2. With opportunities to win the game with a missed penalty, striking the cross bar from Matty. **Full Time Score: Beechwood 2-2 St Joseph's. Goals by Emanuel x2**

Next Fixture: Tuesday 7th Nov @ Langley Academy

The year 9 football team traveled to Churchmead School. The team struggled with a depleted squad and fought hard but unfortunately in vein. Final Score Churchmead 4-0 St Joseph's

Next Fixture: Monday 16th Oct @ St Bernards

For their second fixture of the year, the year 7 squad traveled to Wexham School in the first round of the district cup. With high excitement in the air for their first away game. The team out on a stellar performance. Showing control of the game excellent footballing knowledge and understanding.

Full time Score: Wexham 1- 13 St Joseph's

Goals – Wiktor B x4, Allan L, Chibs E x2, Tomaz D, Aleks P x3, Dawid T, Luka T

Next fixture: Monday 13th Nov @ Beechwood

Winchester Christmas Markets Trip

Thank you to everyone for your interest in the trip to Winchester Christmas Markets. Please note that this trip is fully booked out.

Year 11 Battlefields Trip

This is the last call for deposits for the Year 11 WWI Battlefields Trip. A gentle reminder 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 due to the amendment of dates, we will need to request your bank details to process a refund. I appreciate you may be uncomfortable with contacting me directly about this, in this case, please do contact the school office.

Please note that at the moment, we only have twenty-five students that have signed up. Should we not get enough students for this trip, we will need to cancel as the price will increase significantly per student. However, should we have 40 students on Monday 16th October, this deposit will be paid to NST, the company we're travelling with, and no payments will be refundable thereafter.

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

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

Student Vaccines

The school Immunisation team will shortly be providing your school with an initial visit to offer the flu vaccination to all pupils from year 7 -11 in November 2023.

If you have not already provided consent please complete online form.

Please find attached a Question-and-Answer information leaflet containing information for both the Nasal Flu vaccination and Flu injection.

We have also attached three leaflets including an easy read leaflet.

Flu Heros Video - <https://youtu.be/1jHWwm8NQUw?si=E4HaEbdddzMRcUjOE>

We would be grateful if you could share this with your students via their school email.

School-aged Immunisation Team



flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid lost opportunities

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

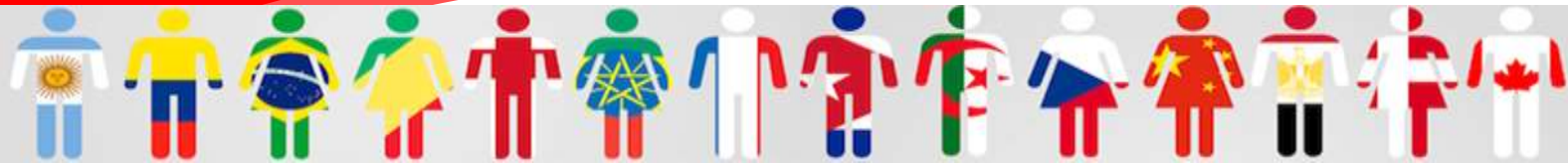
For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu  **immunisation**

Helping to protect you against flu

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EAL NEWS

The Importance of Mother Tongue Language in Education



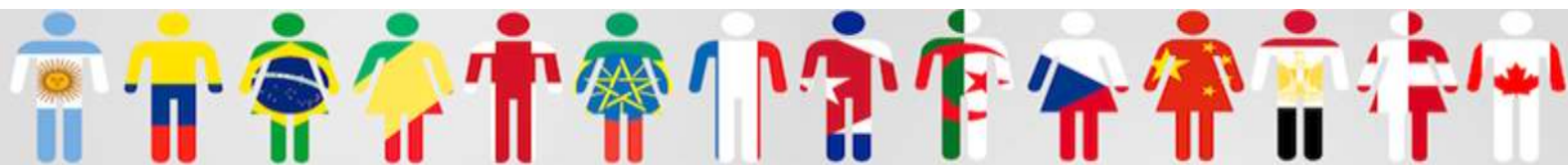
Research indicates that having a strong mother tongue foundation leads to a much better understanding of the curriculum as well as a more positive attitude towards school, so it is vital that children maintain their first language when they begin schooling in a different language.

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.





Maidenhead Catenians Invite you to join us at our annual musical evening, to be held at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th November 2023 at Claires Court School, 1 College Avenue, Maidenhead, SL6 6AW.

The evening features four professional Opera performers singing a selection of operatic arias followed by a lighter medley of non-classical popular songs.

The performers have performed with various British companies including the ENO, WNO and Opera North as well as foreign opera companies.

The accompanist, Janet Haney, has performed with such singers as Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. The hall gives an intimate setting, allowing for a wonderful rapport between the singers and the audience.

Tickets are £25.00 per person.

Please contact Jonathan Holder- on manorcott@outlook.com to purchase tickets.



Design and Technology Department

Welcome to some of our year 7 mini-me wonderful work already, we look forward to seeing whole classes lined up.



Year 8 have been busy learning about polymers. They have formed and reformed recycled plastic to create small products. Great work year 8.



Year 9 have been working with Timbers, they know the different types of timber and how they are manufactured into stock forms, they have also learnt different ways to join timbers.



Food glorious food.

We are delighted to be back cooking with all pupils in the kitchen. Pupils will be expected to bring containers, aprons and in some cases ingredients to their lessons.

Year 7 completing their sensory analysis of their loaded baguettes, and year 9 pizzas fresh from the oven. Yummmmmmmmm!



D&T Stars



Mr Kacper Kozak- For being absolutely wonderful, intentional and prophetic, and giving up his time to help in KS3 lessons.

DT social media



We try to post updates and points of interest on our Instagram page we also share some of the great work being done by our DT pupils....



An **INVESTIN** charity competition:

RESILIENCE

The Young Photographer Challenge

In honour of World Mental Health Day on 10th October, we invite students aged 12-18 to enter our competition, The Young Photographer Challenge. Students should submit a photograph, along with a short caption, depicting how they show resilience. Creativity is highly encouraged!

The competition is free to enter and for each submission we shall make a donation to YoungMinds, the youth mental health charity.

DEADLINE : 5PM, 17TH NOVEMBER 2023

We all experience a great amount of physical and mental growth on a daily basis, as we are constantly faced with new situations and challenges. Being resilient gives us the ability to tackle these head-on and progress forward from any setbacks with confidence and a positive mindset!

Need Inspiration? Think - how do you show resilience? If you are faced with a difficult situation, what do you do to tackle it?

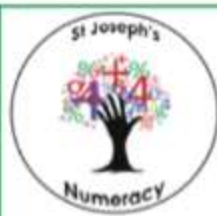
- Allowing time for fun outside of school, by seeing friends, enjoying nature and relaxing, so we can keep a positive mental attitude in harder scenarios.
- Practicing mindfulness, so we can understand when we are stressed and learn how to act on it.
- Recognising when you have overcome a difficult challenge and how you have learnt from it and grown as a result.

The winning photograph will receive an in-person place on a one-day immersive experience of their choice! Our shortlisted entries will also be shared across our social media and featured on our blog.

ENTER NOW



info@investin.org +44 (0) 203 488 5089 www.investin.org



#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 $4x^2 \text{ cm}^2 = \frac{4}{5} \text{ cm}^2$.

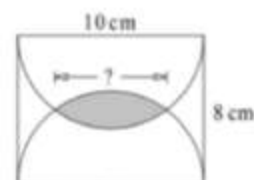


Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- C Bertie travelled 5.5 m in 19.6 s, which is just less than one-third of a minute. So his average speed was approximately 16.5 m per minute, which is equal to 990 m in one hour, as $16.5 \times 60 = 990$. Now $990 \text{ m} = 0.99 \text{ km}$, so Bertie's approximate average speed was 1 km per hour.

Puzzler of the week

- Two semicircles are drawn in a rectangle as shown.
What is the width of the overlap of the two semicircles?
A 3 cm B 4 cm C 5 cm D 6 cm E 7 cm



Break time Teaser:

A list of positive integers has a median of 8, a mode of 9 and a mean of 10.
What is the smallest possible number of integers in the list?

- A 5 B 6 C 7 D 8 E 9

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Adam Luzynski for his progress in multiple lessons and to Iga Karasinska for receiving the most positive points this week.

Year 9

Csenge Bodor and Jake Wood for getting the most positive points

Year 10

Gabriel Sobala and Daya Kumar for most positive points.

Year 11

Adrian Przybylski for his excellent effort and resilience this week in English
Christian Piscopo Evans and MJ Vistitacion for their excellent work this week

Year 12

Dilpreet Kaur and Kacper Kozak for the most positive points and great attitude to learning.
Special mention also for Adina Soper and Oliver Trepanowski for making sandwiches for the homeless.
Kacper Kozak- For being absolutely wonderful, intentional and prophetic, and giving up his time to help in KS3 lessons.