



St Joseph's Catholic High School

# Newsletter

Friday 14th July 2023



## Chaplaincy Trip

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, fourteen members of our Chaplaincy Team went on a fantastic trip to Westminster Cathedral and Caritas St Joseph's. More photos and details about the trip are within the newsletter...

## Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please do read the letter attached concerning the timings of school day starting in September following the consultation period (now that the Covid19 recovery period has ended). In short, we will be returning to a finish time of 3.15pm for all year groups. The return dates for all year groups are all in the video newsletter.

**My weekly video messages can be watched on our new YouTube channel. Please find below the link to this weeks video to view my message:**

[\(1\) Headteacher Message NEWSLETTER 14 07 23 - YouTube](#)

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

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

Have a fantastic Summer Holiday everyone.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

## Results Days

### A Level Results

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### GCSE Results

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Reminder that students are expected to attend results day, if you are not able to attend the school require advance notice. Please email Miss

Euden [a.euden@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:a.euden@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk).

## Theme of the Week – Sowing seeds

In this week's Gospel Jesus tells the famous parable of the seed that falls on different kinds of ground. What is a parable? The Cambridge dictionary defines it as a **short, simple story that teaches or explains an idea, especially a moral or religious idea**. The disciples themselves in our gospel asked Jesus why he spoke in parables rather than plainly, and we may ask that question ourselves. For a long time people explained this saying that Jesus' listeners were illiterate and he needed to use a story to make them understand his teaching, but that was not the case, as he spoke in parables even to the learned, the scribes and Pharisees. Why parables then? Listen to this story taken from the Second Book of Samuel (chapters 11 and 12).

Israel was engaging war against the Ammonites, but King David stayed in Jerusalem. One day he saw from his balcony a beautiful woman bathing, her name was Bathsheba and she was married to a soldier called Uriah the Hittite, who was fighting for King David. The king sent for Bathsheba, showed her the palace and then, in the words of Ven. Fulton Sheen, *they loved not wisely but too well*, and Bathsheba found herself pregnant. When she told David, he called her husband Uriah back from the battlefield and sent him home to his wife (in order to blame paternity of the child on him!), but Uriah refused to go and slept by the king's palace door, because for Jews war was a sacred enterprise during which husbands had to refrain from marital relations. David tried again to send him home after getting Uriah drunk, but he refused again. In the end David lost his patience, sent Uriah back to the battlefield and instructed Joab, the general, to put him in the first line in battle so that he may be killed by the enemy, and killed he was!. David then took Bathsheba as his wife and brought her to the palace. Everything was sorted...or so he thought.

One day God sent the prophet Nathan to the king, and he told David this story. In a city there were two men, one extremely rich, one very poor. The former had all sorts of flocks and herds, while the poor man only had a ewe lamb which was very precious to him. One day the rich man stole the poor man's lamb, killed it and fed it to a visiting friend. When David heard this, he was filled with rage and asked Nathan: *Who has done this? He shall be killed for doing this and repay four times for the lamb he has taken, because he showed no pity!* Nathan replied: **YOU ARE THIS MAN**, you had everything and yet decided to take Bathsheba from Uriah, his only consolation. **David suddenly realized what evil he had done**: he had coveted and committed adultery with another man's wife (commandments 6 and 9), lied to conceal his guilt (8th commandment), and killed Uriah (5<sup>th</sup> commandment). Now suppose that Nathan had gone into the presence of the king and rather than the parable of the two men, had addressed David saying: *You are a cheating, covetous and adulterous murderer!* What do you think the king's reaction would have been? **He would probably have had Nathan executed for defying the king, and would have tried to find a thousand justifications for what he had done**. On the contrary, by hearing the story David was forced to take the side of one of the two men, to realise that he had committed great sins before God, to repent, and to write the beautiful Psalm 51: *Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; In your compassion blot out my transgressions...*

So, **WHY DID JESUS SPEAK IN PARABLES?** Because rather than overwhelm us with the reality of our sinfulness, he wants us to be interiorly challenged through the parable and let the truth spring from within ourselves, without resorting to all those defense mechanism that we put up when we are confronted by our flaws. In the parable of the seed, Jesus is talking about the Gospel (the seed) which is generously scattered, but falls on different kinds of hearts (grounds). Some hearts are like **STERILE GROUND**, closed in themselves and reject it straightaway, other hearts are like **ROCKY GROUND**: they welcome the Gospel initially, but because they don't deepen their relationship with God through prayer, sacraments and reading of Holy Scripture, as soon as the heat goes up, the plant (their faith) withers and dies. Some hearts are **POTENTIALLY GOOD GROUND**, but once the plant of faith has sprung up, the thorns –**that is the worries, anxieties and fears of this life** – choke it, and it dies. Finally, some hearts are **FERTILE GROUND** in which the Gospel is able to put down roots, and our faith flourishes and produces abundant fruit according to the talents given to each one of us (some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty). Jesus tells this parable to us today, in order that, as we read it, we may begin to reflect on our own faith experience and on how we live our Christian discipleship.

**WHAT KIND OF GROUND IS YOUR HEART?**

## Sowing seeds

Weekly Reflections  
15<sup>th</sup> July 2023



### From the Gospel of Matthew (13:1-11; 18-23)

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them ... 'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

### Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus, you came to sow the seed of your Good News. Soften our hearts when they are hardened. Give them depth when they are superficial. Remove the weeds of our anxieties, and make them the fertile ground where your Gospel puts down roots and produces abundant fruit. In your name we pray. Amen

### Saint of the Week

#### St Macrina the Younger (327-379)



Macrina was born into a leading religious family in Cappadocia. Two of her siblings will become the great Saints Gregory of Nyssa and Basil the Great. Her father arranged her marriage when she was 12, but her fiancée died and she decided to pursue the religious life and became a nun. A leading holy woman, scholar, and religious instructress, she is regarded as one of the most prominent women in the Eastern Church. Her brother Gregory wrote a biography of Macrina where he mentioned that she had a great influence on their family, and would often engage in deep philosophical discussions with him and Basil, providing a rigorous critique of their ideas. She was

#### LEARNED AND WISE

#### Day 1

- What is a parable? Why did Jesus use them so much in his teaching?
- What do you think this particular parable of the seed is trying to teach us?

### Chaplaincy Team

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, fourteen members of our Chaplaincy Team went on a trip to Westminster Cathedral and Caritas St Joseph's, a charitable institution which care for those with intellectual disabilities aged 21 to 80. On the day we went to Westminster Cathedral and attended Mass in Latin. This was a new experience for us all and we all enjoyed it; we were all able to learn something new about the Mass and hear it celebrated in the official ancient language of the Catholic Church. After Mass we were privileged to go on a mini-tour of the Cathedral led by Doreen, one of the volunteers, who meticulously told us the interesting history of the Cathedral. Given that St Joseph is our school patron, it was particularly meaningful for us to be able to visit the Chapel of St Joseph and the Holy Family, where we took a nice picture of the Team.

After the tour we went to St Joseph's Caritas centre in Hendon, where we were welcomed by two staff members, Paul and Laura. They offered us squash and apple cakes in their lovely orchard (which was very nice of them on such a hot day!) and we were able to join in with some activities, like learning basic Makaton to communicate with those with disabilities. Some of us took part in a music session; it was interesting to see how different people take music in and experience it. We clapped and played some rhythms, and did some dancing and stretching to the music with the guests; it was edifying to see them enjoying the music and having a good time! We were also able to go and help in an Art session where students helped make pipe liner coasters! We all enjoyed sharing time with these lovely people and learned much about the great potential of people less fortunate than ourselves. As a nice finishing touch we were taken to the sensory room, a calming and relaxing area with stimulating activities that involve visual and tactile aids for those with hearing and visual impairments. We must confess that we too had a lot of fun playing games in it! Thank you, Caritas St Joseph's, for having us!

The Chaplaincy Team would like to thank Miss Weir, Orazio, and Nick for accompanying us in this lovely visit to the Mother Church of English and Welsh Catholics, and for the eye-opening experience at Caritas St Joseph's. We all came back enriched!



### Water Safety Message

The highest risk group for drowning deaths is young males aged 16-30. We have the hot weather starting and exam season coming to an end when more young people will be enjoying the outdoors and we want them to be safe while they do so.

We are really excited to share the water safety resources with you for this summer's campaign.

**Message from RBFRS:** [Emergency services across the Thames Valley join forces with local Olympic swimmer to share important water safety message | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](#)

**Video made by local young people in Slough with Together as One:** [Float to Live - YouTube](#)

**Video with Olympic Gold Medallist swimmer Tom Dean:** [Be #Waterwise this Summer - YouTube](#)

**Video by the friends and family of Michael Scaife who lost his life in the Jubilee River:** [Safety on the Jubilee River - remembering Michael Scaife - YouTube](#)

**These resources have been shared on our Frimley Health and Care website:** [Be safe around water | Frimley Health and Care](#)

### Free school meals

For all parents of students entitled to Free School Meals you will have received a voucher today via huggg.me for meals over the summer holiday. In the event it has not arrived in your inbox please can you check your junk mail.

### 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 use the link below to register. Slough Borough Council will inform the school if you have been successful

<https://www.slough.gov.uk/xfp/form/244>

## Summer activities

If you are struggling to find some activities for your child to be doing over the summer holidays then Slough Borough Council are providing football tournaments at Herschel Grammar School (11-14 year olds) and Powerleague (14-16 year olds) between Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August. These events are free to attend and if you are interested in your child taking part then please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for more details.

Slough Family Services also have holiday activities and food (HAF) programmes running throughout the summer. Please see the link for more details. [Slough Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme | Slough For You \(sloughfamilyactivities.org.uk\)](https://www.sloughfamilyactivities.org.uk)

**SPORTS**  
INC

Slough  
Borough Council

**Football Tournaments**  
**Summer Junior 5 a side**  
**Mon 24 July - Thurs 17 August**  
**10:30am-2:30pm**  
**Mon-Thurs (no Fridays)**

**11-14 years old: Herschel Grammar School, Whitby Rd, Slough SL1 3BW**  
**14-16 years old: Powerleague, Ragstone Road, Slough, SL1 2PU**

**FREE 5 A SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS**  
**BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME**

***It's all about getting involved.***

To register go to [www.sportsinc.org.uk](http://www.sportsinc.org.uk) and click the **sign up** button to fill out the registration form.

Spaces are limited so register early to secure your spot.

*Healthy Hot Lunch and snacks available each day.*

*Make sure to include your HAF number if you have one.*

Slough  
Holiday Activities  
and Food Programme

For more information  
Email: [info@sportsinc.org.uk](mailto:info@sportsinc.org.uk)

Department  
for Education

### Thorpe Park

"Congratulations to all students who got a place on the reward trip to Thorpe Park this week, we had really lovely days there. Keep up the hard work and remember to get lots of positive points to get a place on the reward events running through the next academic year!"



### Year 7 News

Well we are at the end of the year and what a year it's been with trips galore and many extracurricular activities throughout. This week we have had Year 7 SEGRO Careers workshop, the Thorpe Park rewards trip where everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Today we have had Academic Review Day where you would have found out about your child's progress this year. Can we remind you that it is imperative your child is in school right up until 12.30 Tuesday. May we take this opportunity to say well done to year 7 students and to keep striving for your best in Year 8. Have a great summer.

Mrs Dunleavy and Mr Cooper-Santos - Head & Deputy Head of Year 7

### Year 8 News

It has been a really exciting week with lots going on for year 8. We were blessed with some lovely weather on Wednesday for the Thorpe Park reward trip and it was excellent to see so many happy and excited students throughout the day.

Today I have been listening to many supportive and informative conversations during Academic Review day. This has been a really valuable and educational day for all students and I hope parents have also found it valuable.

Mrs Miller- Head of Year 8

### Year 12 News

A huge congratulations to all Year 12 students who received their PPE results this week. You have had a fantastic year and it really showed in your grades. Remember the hard work does not stop here and you need to remain focused if you are going to achieve the results you will no doubt duly deserve next year. If you didn't quite get the results you were hoping for remember that exams are a process and it's about what you do now to fill in any gaps in knowledge you may have. Also thank you for your enthusiasm during the interview day this week. The business volunteers and the Learning to Work team were extremely impressed by your professionalism.

Well done! Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

### Word of the Week

**"Integral".**

This is an adjective that means "necessary to make a whole complete; essential or fundamental."

e.g. Reading regularly is **integral** to making progress in all your studies.

### Word of the Week

**"Go the extra mile".**

This idiom describes people that are so committed to success and love for what they do (or who they're surrounded by) that they will do everything in their power to demonstrate success and love.  
e.g. My teacher really **goes the extra mile** to help me understand difficult concepts.

"A massive congratulations for Freddie, David, Myah and Eliza who made it through a tough selection process and have are representing the slough district football team. They look fantastic in their new kit!



### TVLP News

You'll be delighted to hear that the Slough Express have featured our student's fabulous eco changes on their website. Link: [Slough Express](#)



### Year 7 students visited Eton College

On Monday, a group of Year 7 students visited Eton College to enhance their Geography and History knowledge. They started the day in Eton's museum and discovered about the Tudors- an important topic that they will be studying in Year 8 when they return in September! Here they enhanced their knowledge about symbolism in Tudor portraits and got to design their own! They also got to learn 'secretary handwriting' from the Tudor period and used ink and quills to test their own skills. Afterwards, students were taken to the Natural History Museum where they learned more about geology and fossils which builds upon their learning in the Geography curriculum this year. The largest learning was the different types of fossils that exist: mould, cast, true form and trace fossils. Students then got to see an array of the fossils, have a go at drawing them and discovering puzzles within. Afterwards they got to look around the museum and explore more. This museum is open to the public every weekend for free from 2:30-5:30- so please do head there with your families and friends to have a look for yourself!

A great morning was had by all and we would like to thank Saskia at Eton College for accommodating us. Year 7 really made us proud and a great morning was had by all!



### Willow Sculpture

Last week a group of Year 10s went to Beechwood School to take part in a Willow Sculpture making workshop. Between them and students from other TVLP schools, including Holyport and Hershel, they were able to create 3 deer sculptures and 1 dolphin. These will be displayed in the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice in Maidenhead to brighten up the grounds and put a smile of the faces of children with illnesses. Clare Matheson from the TVLP commented that: 'It was brilliant to have your students present, working so hard to build the bodies of the animals. They did an amazing job, creating the body structures for the following students to work from. Top work by them! The hospice is delighted.'

I'm glad to say they would all recommend the session to other art students (100% response rate), and none of them had worked with willow before so a new skill has been learned by all. Well done Year 10!



## Pre-Loved Uniform

As of September St Josephs will be running a pre loved uniform Shop, uniform can be purchased from the office on a Wednesday from Miss Dalton at Reception for more information please email [h.dalton@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:h.dalton@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

## End of Year Mass - Rehearsal Afterschool Monday

We will have a rehearsal from 3:15pm-3:55pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Please attend if you are involved with the music or singing.

## Slough Holiday and Activities and Food Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provides free enjoyable activities and nutritious meals for primary and secondary school aged children who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals. Please see link below.

[Slough Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#) | [Slough For You \(sloughfamilyservices.org.uk\)](#)



**Athletics Holiday Camp!**

Trackstart is a fun and focused way for your children to learn all aspects of athletics, practising skills and techniques!  
Join Trackstart and give your children the perfect introduction to athletics!

Summer Dates	Activities
Week 1: 17th-21 July	Learn all three athletics disciplines and follow in the footsteps of Mo Farah, Jessica Ennis, and many more world-class athletes!
Week 2: 24th-28th July	Ages 5-13
Week 3: 31st July-4th August	Time: 09:00-15:00
Week 4: 7th-11th August	
Week 5: 14th-18th August	

**Camp Prices**

Price for the week - £137.50  
Price per day - £32.50  
For extended hours - £12.50

**EVAC**  
kidsactivities@deleisure.com  
www.deleisure.com



# #IcandoMaths

## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

2. 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  $90^\circ$ . 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 The smallest possible range of four positive integers is 3. Let these integers be  $n, n+1, n+2, n+3$ . For the mean of these four integers to equal 2017, we have  $\frac{n+n+1+n+2+n+3}{4} = 2017$ , that is  $n = 2015\frac{1}{2}$ . So the smallest possible range is not 3. However, note that the integers 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019 have mean 2017 and range 4. So the smallest possible range of the integers is 4.

## Puzzler of the week

Five congruent triangles, each of which is half a square, are placed together edge to edge in three different ways as shown to form shapes P, Q and R.



Which of the following lists gives the shapes in ascending order of the lengths of their perimeters?

- A P, Q, R      B Q, P, R      C R, Q, P      D R, P, Q      E P, R, Q

## Break time Teaser:

How many two-digit squares have the property that the product of their digits is also a square?

- A 0      B 1      C 2      D 3      E 4

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



## EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

### *Food for thought over the summer*

Going away in the next couple of weeks? Whether you are going away or not, remember that children learn through play and curiosity. At the same time, playing with children is important for **supporting your child's literacy development, reducing stress and improving mental health among parents or caregivers**. Several studies suggest that learning is a major part of what occurs during play: Playing and learning are inextricably linked. For children, playing with adults is likely to be even more enriching.

Here are some fun games for all ages:

1. 20 Questions: [Click here to learn how to play this game](#)
2. Pass The Story: [Click here](#)
3. Scrabble: [How to play Scrabble](#)
4. Terraforming Mars: [Click here to Learn how to play](#)
5. Don't Eat Pete: [How to play](#)

Have a great summer!

### *Free Online resources*

Document about parenting and supporting teenagers

[https://worldwithoutorphans.org/\\_service/38803/download/id/562995/name/Parenting\\_Tips\\_Merged\\_16.pdf](https://worldwithoutorphans.org/_service/38803/download/id/562995/name/Parenting_Tips_Merged_16.pdf)





## Design and Technology Department

### Year 9 LIGHT UP!



We have been so impressed with some of your creativity..... Each pupil had the same starting point and basic frame design based on the iconic anglepoise lamp, which they skilfully manufactured; then came the challenge to design and make a lampshade element. Well done to year 9 on your creativity. We look forward to developing this unit of work further for next year ☺

### Year 7 marblerun

Year 7 have been learning the names of the 4 motions and putting their learning into action by coming up with solutions to the marble run challenge. Can they slow the marble whilst demonstrating the 4 motions



### KS3 food and nutrition.

Absolutely delicious crepes from year 9,



Surprisingly simple and tremendously tasty individual sponge puddings from year 8.



### D&T Stars



**Thankyou to Wojtek, Filip and Ela in year 8 for your help in preparing the plastic work for the year 6 pupils @ you are wonderful!**

### 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....

### CultureMix Arts - Reggae, Jazz Afrobeats Workshop

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July, a selection of our Year 8 students attended a workshop with the Youthsayers, a Reggae, Jazz, Afrobeats group from London.

This was arranged as a reward for their hard work, progress and resilience in music over the year. The Youthsayers performed some pieces and standards from the genres of Jazz, Reggae and Afrobeats, as well as some fusions. The band also got our involved playing instruments and asking questions about the music.

Robin, leader of the Youthsayers complimented on how rhythmic our students were.

### Well done Year 8!



## Pupil Nominations of the Week

### YEAR 7

Maya BS (7P) and Antoni M (7M) for being amazing all year.

### YEAR 8

Daria Mamczak (8 Veronica)  
Isla Slessor (8 Veronica)

### Year 10

Arthur Pantlin and Sara Zaczek in Year 10 for their amazing contributions to their GCSE English Speaking and Listening presentations.

Christian Piscopo-Evans, Stefan Niculae, Emilia Priya Augustyn-Sharma and Julia Pytel for most positive points.

All students in 10Y1 as student of the week for working very hard on Treasure Hunt on Wednesday P2.

All students engaged and work best they could to complete the treasure hunt and they have completed in such a quick 25 minutes.

### YEAR 12

Natalia Kochanowska for completing her 12 week work experience programme and receiving an amazing reference and Clinton Njoku who really impressed at the interview day this week, it was noted how well prepared you were for the interview itself.