



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 17th March 2023



St Joseph's Book Day 2023

A massive thank you to all students and staff for the huge amount of effort that everyone has made in making today a real success! Lots more photos inside the newsletter, don't miss out!

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

My weekly message is in video format. Please do take a listen and let us know what you think, any feedback is welcome.

To watch the video follow the below link to our website and click on the most recent dated Head teacher Message.

[Newsletters - St Joseph's Catholic High School \(st-josephs.slough.sch.uk\)](https://st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

Please find below the link to our website to view my message:

St Joseph, pray for us

Mr Stapleton



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

Healing

Weekly Reflections

19th March 2023

A reading from the Gospel of John (9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38)
As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man, 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus, come to us who are blind because of our sins, open our eyes and create us anew by the power of the Holy Spirit. That we may live and work as new creatures, and follow you wherever you lead us. Amen

Saint of the Week

St Joseph of Nazareth

Spouse of the B.V. Mary and
Foster-father of Jesus



St Joseph found himself in a very difficult situation, with a mysteriously pregnant fiancée, and then pursued by angry king Herod and forced to become a refugee in Egypt. Nevertheless he trusted God, who revealed to him in dreams that he had to play a key role in a great plan. He nurtured and defended Jesus as his own son. He was

Faith-filled & Hopeful

Day 1

The Gospel tells the story of a man who was born blind who is healed by Jesus, but we know that the Gospel of John is theological and must be read in terms of the message it wants to convey. What do you think is the deeper meaning of this story?

Day 2

Both the man born blind and the Samaritan woman last week had no name. Do you think that was just an oversight of John, or do you think he did it on purpose? If so, why?

Day 3

Why do you think Jesus used spittle and dust from the ground to heal the man? Do you remember another place in the Bible where God does something with dust from the ground?

Day 4

The people around the healed man, including the religious crowd, rather than being happy for him, give him a hard time and insult him. What does that tell us? Have you ever faced criticism for changing your views on something?

Theme of the Week – Healing

As we said before, John writes his gospel not so much to give an account of events, but rather to convey a message to believers of all time, helping them to live their faith in a deeper way. The context of the events in our reading is the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), or harvest. One of the ceremonies of this feast was the Illumination of the Temple, when the high priest lit four great golden luminaries. In our gospel, Jesus spiritually enlightens a man who could not see, and his healing signifies **the passage from darkness to light of every person who encounters Jesus**.

In a sense we are all born blind as we naturally seek all those things which are necessary to our life, but often make them the very purpose of our existence, and **the means becomes the goal**. Our food becomes gluttony, our necessity for money becomes worship of wealth, our survival instinct becomes greed and violence etc. This is the reason why, just like the Samaritan woman last week, the blind man has no name. **We are all blind before God reaches us**.

Interestingly, Jesus takes the initiative without the blind man asking anything; **we have a God who, in Jesus Christ, seeks us and is willing to heal us before we even ask him**. The reference to a paste made with spittle and dust for healing may sound a bit gross to our delicate ears, but carries an important theological meaning. Saliva in the Jewish culture of that time was considered the concentration of one's breath, and breath was the very life of a creature. The dust of the earth on the other hand is the symbol of our humanity (the word human comes from the Latin *humus* = soil). **Jesus is making a clear reference to the book of Genesis, where God created humankind by moulding dust from the ground, and then breathing life into its nostrils**. The action that Jesus performs on those who are healed of their blindness, is that of a completely NEW CREATION. This is what St Paul refers to when he wrote: ***if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come*** (2Cor 5:17). The man, moulded again in the image of Christ, is then told to go to the pool of Siloam and wash, and it is at that point that the healing is complete. **Jesus comes to us and stretches forth his healing hand on our blindness, but unless we accept his work and decide to begin the journey, we will never be completely healed**. The washing in the pool is also a reference to the **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**, where, through the water and the Spirit, we are born to a new life in Christ.

After being healed, the man is so inwardly transformed that the people who saw him every day begging **struggled to recognise him**. When we open up to the grace of God and allow Jesus to open our eyes, our lives will be so much different from the life we lived before, that people around us will hardly recognise us. The Christian has a radically different way of seeing things: They are **attentive to the needs of those around them** in a way they were not before when they were closed in their selfishness. They **see love and affection as a total donation to another person** rather than simply a way of satisfying physical passions. The Christian knows that life is something greater than biological existence and **lives every day free from fear, and filled with joy, hope and that deep peace of those who know that their destiny is eternal**.

The second part of the story tells us what **social consequences those who are healed must face** from those who decide to remain blind. Not only are they not recognised, but are often **insulted and persecuted for failing to conform to the way of thinking of the world, and for rejecting its false values**. Christianity has enjoyed for many centuries a privileged position in our western world, but we now live in very different times and those who live their faith authentically will face increasing misunderstanding and persecution in a world which is actively promoting anti-Christian values. When the blind man declares that Jesus 'is a prophet', i.e. that he has a divine message from God, the Pharisees insult him and drive him out of the

Synagogue, which meant social isolation and complete exclusion. The healed man, though, doesn't care. **He has seen the true light and no insult or difficulty can dissuade him.**

In the last paragraph, Jesus hears that the man was driven away for his testimony, and goes to find him. The question he asks is beautiful: *Do you believe in the Son of Man, that is, do you believe in and embrace the true humanity that I represent and are you willing to live your life with me?* Jesus is always beside us when we suffer for the sake of his name, **to comfort us and to remind us that if we want to live as authentic human beings, we have to model our lives on him, living the same life of love and service that he lived.**

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 office@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.

Lent 2023

Lenten Fundraising – ‘Access to Shine’ Project and Cafod – Syrian and Turkey earthquake appeal

During this period of Lent, not only do we mark this period traditionally by fasting and by other acts of penance. At St Joseph’s we also give this period to fundraising in as many ways as possible to help support those who are less fortunate. This year money raised through fundraising will be donated to our school charity, the ‘Access to Shine Project’ and to Cafod to support with their current aid appeal for the recent devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Please see attached our charity poster with more information.

For students, we want them to take part in as many events as possible and try and raise £10 per person through fundraising. All students have received a sponsorship to complete and any money raised can be given to the school office or can be paid on ParentPay for your child. A poster outlining ways to fundraise and some activities happening during lent can also be found attached. Please can parents/guardians during Lent continue to promote charity and really push your child to try and do all they can to raise as much money as possible.

LENT CALENDAR					
WEEK COMMENCING ON THE 19 th March 2023					
DAY	Monday 20/03	Tuesday 21/03	Wednesday 22/03	Thursday 23/03	Friday 24/03
Theme	Rest	Say Hello	Charities	Sorry!	Good Samaritan
Activity	<p>Among the commandments God gave to his people, was taking regular time to rest.</p> <p>Take five minutes to switch off your mobile phone, TV etc. and enjoy a simple moment of rest.</p>	<p>It is normal to prefer the company of some people to that of others, but we must remember that each individual is <u>loved</u> by God and a vital part of our <u>School Community</u>.</p> <p>Today try to say "Hi" to all the people in your form</p>	<p>Charities around the world do a lot of good for the poor, sick and disadvantaged</p> <p>Pay a visit to the School Chapel and say a prayer for all those involved in charitable work, and for our own designated charity Access to Shine</p>	<p>We are weak and often get things wrong. Sometimes we hurt people around us without realising it.</p> <p>Spend a moment thinking of the people you may have been unkind to this week, and find the courage to say "Sorry!"</p>	<p>If you have a Bible read the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37</p> <p>If you don't, you can listen to an audio file by googling 'The Good Samaritan BBC Teach' (and ask Orazio to give you a Bible!)</p>



The Cook-Off

Thursday 23rd March
Lunch time
FoodTech
50p to enter

House Competition
points to all who take part

Contestants create their best dishes and people pay to taste and cast their votes
And prizes for winners!!!!!!!
Please give your name to your form tutor or email Ms Ura to enter



POETRY BY
HEART

Poetry Open Mic Night Tuesday 21st March 3:30-4:30pm in the Chapel

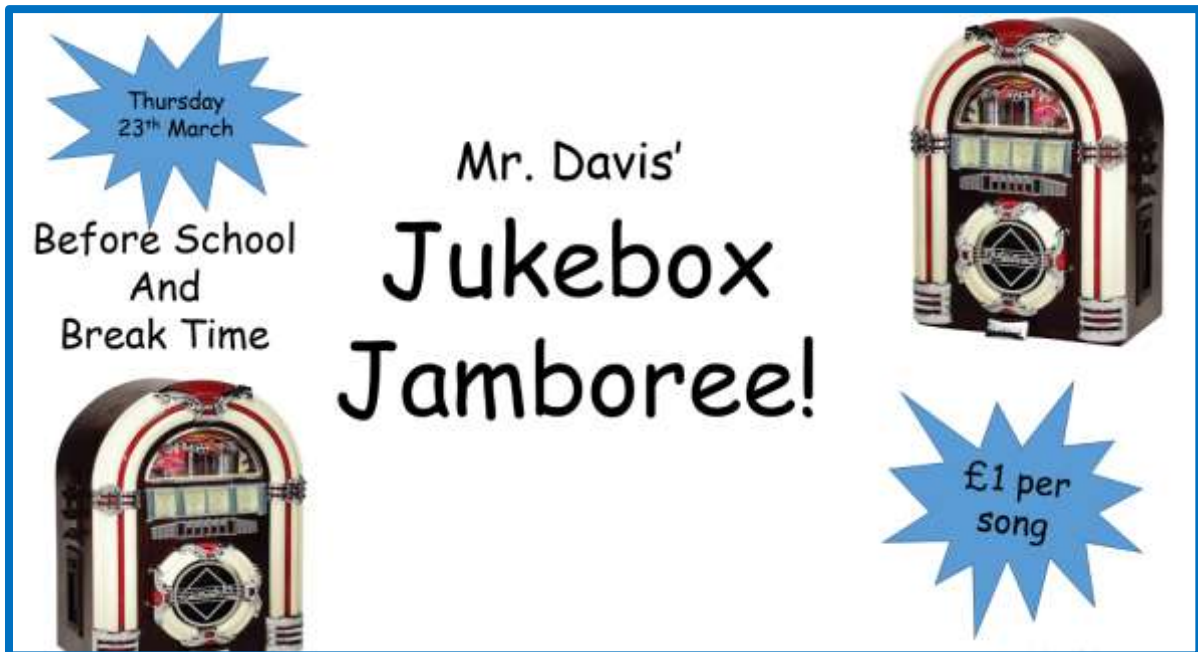


£1 entry plus any additional donations for our Lenten Fundraiser - 'Access to Shine' Project

Snacks and refreshments available ☺

Come and support some students who are entering a Poetry competition to perform at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre this summer.

Teachers, students, attendees: feel free to bring a poem of your own to read on the night, or one by your favourite author!



Thursday
23rd March

Before School
And
Break Time

Mr. Davis'
**Jukebox
Jamboree!**

£1 per
song

Word of the Week - Incorporate.

Word of the Week is 'Incorporate'. This is a verb meaning to take in or contain (something) as part of a whole or part of a company city or organization or if used as an adjective, it means to embody something.

"Let's incorporate our compassionate and loving spirit into our Lenten fundraising activities."

"St. Joseph's values are incorporated into our daily lives."

"I will incorporate the teacher's feedback into my Go Green response."

In Spanish: Incorporar. In French: Incorporer.

Idiom of the Week - To run around in circles.

Meaning: To keep doing or talking about the same thing without achieving anything. To proceed indecisively or aimlessly; a fruitless endeavor.

Origin: This American colloquialism dates from the first half of the twentieth century. Patricia Wentworth wrote in Pursuit of a Parcel, 1942, "He had been rushing around in circles."

Examples:

"The discussion kept going around in circles."

"I've been running around in circles trying to explain my point of view to my friends."

In Spanish: « Corre en círculos. » In French: « Tourner en rond. »

Year 7 News

Well done to everyone who has made an effort today to dress up for World Book Day, it was fantastic to see such an array of costumes. Well done to everyone who took part in the Easter Egg treasure hunt this week.

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 7

Year 9 News - Hampton Court Palace Trip

Year 9 students went to Hampton Court Palace on Thursday and engaged in two sessions exploring the religious division during Tudor England and the Elizabethan links to the wider world. The pupils were active and engaged with excellent behavior demonstrating true St-Josephs values



Year 9 News - Peer Productions Play - Masking

On 23rd March the play, Masking will be in the school hall. Consent (via Parent Pay) is required to allow pupils to view the play. This play is part of the school's Health and Wellbeing programme. If you have not already done so consent is required to participate via ParentPay. Any issues contact the school office.

The play asks young audiences to consider how they can build connections and find joy in this uncertain world as well as how they can know when they need to ask for help.

Y10 News – Parents Evening 23rd March 2023

Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 23rd March 2023, from 4.15pm until 6.45pm. This will take place in the assembly hall.

The purpose of the evening is to meet with your child's subject teachers to discuss their attainment and progress to date, as well as any concerns you may have. It is essential that you attend this evening with your child to help fully prepare them for their Mock GCSE Examinations in June.

We ask for parents to confirm their attendance on ParentPay. If you are having any issues with using ParentPay, please contact the school office.

Your child will be given an appointment booking sheet this week during form time. Each appointment will be 5 minutes long. All students are required to attend Parents evening in full school uniform with their journal.

If you are unable to attend for any reason, or have any further questions, please contact Mr Walsh.

Mr Walsh - Head of Year 10

Y11 News

Dear All,

I hope you've had a good week. This has been a fantastic week for Year 11 where we have been working hard on coursework and on exam feedback. Results will be with us in a short while but the key message is that hard work will pay off in the long term. If we can keep the habits we have built during these sets of PPEs and recall regularly, we **will** make progress.

I was blown away with the participation for World Book Day today. There have been some amazing costumes from Year 11 and I am so glad we could celebrate this day together.

Please keep reading the newsletter as we will have lots of important and exciting plans in the coming weeks.

Mr Robinson - Head of Year 11

Y12 Biology & Chemistry Students

Applications for the free online London Med Schools Summer Programme 2023 are now open. This programme is for Year 12 students living in England (outside of Greater London), who have only attended non-selective state schools since age 11 and are currently studying A-level biology and chemistry. For more details on student eligibility, you can [visit our website](#) or access [the application form here](#).

Funded by Health Education England, the London Med Schools Summer Programme brings together four of London's medical schools (King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, St George's University of London, and University College London) to give 75 Year 12 students from across England an opportunity to find out what it is like to study medicine in London. Working with patients and student ambassadors, participants will gain a greater understanding of the realities of being a doctor and the skills needed to succeed.

The main summer school programme takes place from Monday 17th July to Friday 21st July on Zoom. There will also be additional events delivered in conjunction with the summer school which are detailed on the application form.

For more information and to apply, [students should follow this link](#). The deadline is 9am 27th March 2023.

This programme is part of a series of events run with the Medical and Dental Schools Council. Please see here for a [full list of the programmes available](#) across England.

Hampton Court Palace Trip 22nd March – Year 8

On Wednesday 22nd March 35 year 8 students will be visiting Hampton Court Palace. This is an opportunity for students to enhance their knowledge of the Tudors and Elizabeth I which they have recently studied.

Reminder to students attending:

You will be participating in two workshops during the trip. The first session will be **Henry to Mary: a religious rollercoaster**; in this session you will analyse the impact of religion in the key place where the decisions were made. Session two will be **Global Influences**; you will look at the impact and influence of Elizabeth I on Hampton Court and the wider world.

Please bring your history books and a pen for these sessions. You should also be in full school uniform but with sensible and comfortable shoes (trainers). Also, **remember to bring a packed lunch**. Students entitled to free school meals will have this arranged by the school. Please remain in the playground after line up and we will proceed to the bus as a group.

You will also be expected to catch up on any work you miss on this day.

Reminder to parents/carers of attending students:

We will be leaving for Hampton Court Palace via coach at 8.50am promptly, therefore students should arrive to school at their normal time and we should be back at school at no later than 3.15pm. There is a gift-shop on-site for students to purchase items, however, we recommend that pupils take no more than £10 with them.

Any further questions please email Ms. Mawokomatanda:

C.Mawokomatanda@St-Josephs.slough.sch.uk

TVLP News

On Tuesday 14th March, Philosophy students in Year 12 and 13 travelled to Eton College to compete against TVLP schools in the Philosothon.

This was a friendly competition across schools where students were encouraged to debate philosophical issues in a series of rounds. Topics included: Would you be willing to enter a teletransporter if it split your soul or body?, Should we be open-minded, tolerant and sensitive to those who have other tastes?, Can knowledge depend on luck? What principles or criteria should we use to decide whether to believe someone?, Do people naturally tend to justice or injustice?. Students participated confidently in discussions and offered meaningful insight into debates.



The students were scored not on their intellect specifically, but their ability to hold a conversation and inter-personal skills- as such a student who did not participate would score equally 0 to a student that dominated the conversation! Each school had a winning student based on the marks given- a specific well done to Jude Arthur who scored highest for our school! Thank you to everyone that supported and took part in the trip- it was a memorable experience.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TVLP WORLD BOOK DAY WINNERS, WHO HAVE EACH WON A BOOK WRITTEN BY DR JANE GOODALL:

The Book of Hope.
Nimar Hayre,
Windsor Girls' School.

In the Shadow of Man.
Jack Nelhams,
The Windsor Boys' School.
Priyanka Gupta,
Herschel Grammar School.

Belatriz Lamelo,
St Joseph's Catholic High School.
Suha Rahimi,
Windsor Girls' School.



TVLP News

TVLP Student of the week!

Bela Lamelo De Souza. Bela won a world book day book from the TVLP competition she entered! 😊



Year 7 History News

In History, year 7s have started to do their castle presentations after learning about the Norman Conquest. We have seen amazing displays of castles so far showing the effort they have put in their projects. Well-done to 7 Jerome and 7 Veronica so far, and we are looking forward to the rest of the year group!



Y11 News - History Additional P6

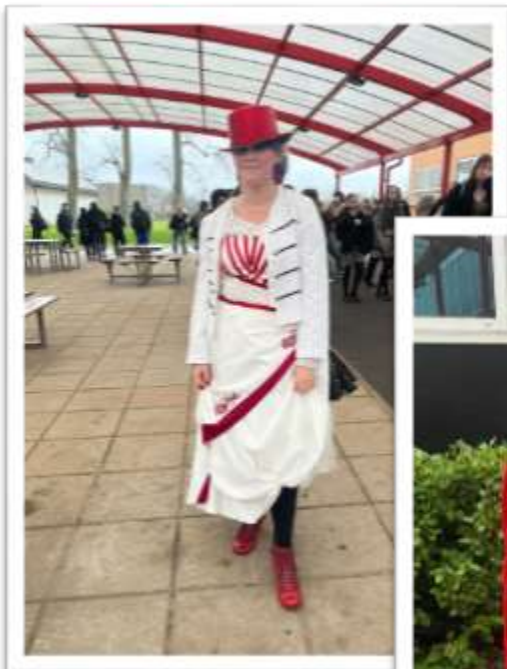
On Friday 24th March, Year 11 will have an additional revision session. This will start promptly at 3.30pm and finish at 5pm. This session is for students to watch a documentary, "Norman Conquest 2" which covers the majority of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman topic (Paper II Section B), covering the Normans in great depth. This session is compulsory for all historians as it is no longer available online and should not clash with any other interventions or Period 6. If, for any reason, it is a case that your child is unable to attend, please do let me know by email or a note in their journal before Thursday 23rd March. There will be pizza available for students on the night also.

Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on E.Weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

Ms. Weir – Head of History Department

World Book Day 2023 Continued...

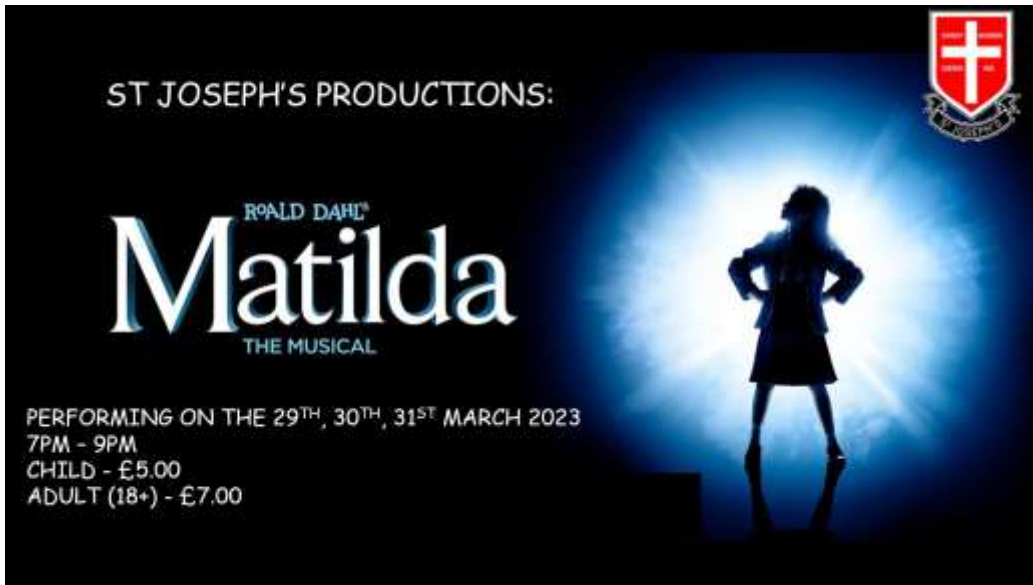
Following on from the front page newsletter news, we have included lots of fantastic photos of some of our students getting into the World Book Day spirits.





Drama News

Well done to my fabulous cast of Matilda today who treated the school to some excerpt for World Book Day. A reminder that tickets are on sale via Parent Pay. Please come and support. Do not miss what is promising to be a great evening's entertainment.



Music Department News - Music Practice Competition

This is a house competition which rewards you for Practising! Practise sheets are available with Miss Ure. Practise rooms are available for students before school, break, lunch and afterschool, just check with Miss Ure or Mr Richardson so if can be signed off. **Each minute earns house points!**

Lenten Fundraiser - Showcase Week

As part of the Lenten fundraising, there will be an opportunity for students to perform. This can be solo or group, as well as any instrument or style. If you are interested, please contact Miss Ure detailing what you would like to play.

Instrument Demonstrations:

We are eager to get more instruments going in school. If you have a specific instrument you are interested in learning in or want to find out more about, please contact Miss Ure.

**St Joseph's Music Department:
Practice Competition 2023**

Monday 6th March – Monday 27th March

Summary:

1. Collect a practice sheet from the music department.
2. Practise! This can be any instrument/voice, any style/genre.
3. House points are earned for every minute practised.
4. Winners are picked on how many minutes they practise for over the next 3 weeks and how often they practise.
5. Prizes include Gift Vouchers and treats.

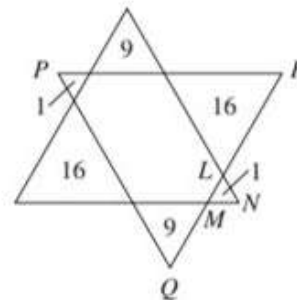
More information to follow in form time notices



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- D** The ratio of the areas of the three smaller equilateral triangles which have vertices at N , Q and R respectively is $1 : 9 : 16$. So the ratio of the side-lengths of these three triangles is $\sqrt{1} : \sqrt{9} : \sqrt{16} = 1 : 3 : 4$. Hence the ratio of the side-length of triangle LMN to that of triangle PQR is $1 : 8$ and the ratio of the areas of these two triangles is $1^2 : 8^2 = 1 : 64$. Therefore, as triangle LMN has area 1, triangle PQR has area 64. So the area of the inner hexagon is $64 - (1 + 9 + 16) = 38$.



Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- E** In ascending order, the first factors of 240 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 20. So the first numbers on Kai's list are 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19. Hence the sixth number on the list is 17.

Problem of the week

Dick Turnip sold his horse, Slack Bess, for £56. The percentage profit he made was numerically the same as the cost, in pounds, of his horse. What was the cost of his horse?

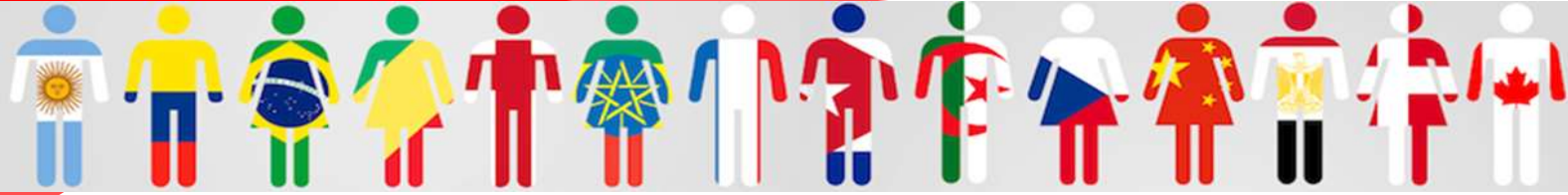
- A £36 B £40 C £45 D £48 E £50

Break time Teaser:

Which of the following has the same value as $10\,006 - 8008$?

- A $10\,007 - 8007$ B $100\,060 - 80\,080$ C $10\,000 - 8002$ D $106 - 88$
E $5003 - 4004$

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



EAL NEWS (English as an Additional Language)

Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer many opportunities for learning. Use the following tips to support reading at home:

<p>Questions</p> <p>Fill free to use your home language when talking about the book.</p>	<p>All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to'. Ask questions before, during, and after reading aloud. This can help your child focus attention on the ideas in the story.</p> <p>So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is happening? • Where is this? • Who is that? • When might this be happening?
<p>Ask your child to summarise what they have read</p>	<p>Model how to summarise the key events/facts in the book. Encourage your child to have a go using a proper sentence and relate the book to what he/she already knows or has experienced.</p>
<p>Maintain the motivation to read</p>	<p>Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Engage in conversations; offer a literacy-rich environment, even talk about school, magazines, or current events. Ask them what they are reading and discuss the books. Also, ask them about their reading age and appreciate their efforts.</p>

Pupil Nominations of the Week

YEAR 7

Liv Basquil and **Bruno** (7J) for their amazing costumes.

YEAR 8

Michal Kundys (8 Teresa) and **Lena Gaczowska** (8 Teresa) for receiving the most positive points this week.

YEAR 9

Gabriel Sobala and **Nathan James** for an outstanding week and achieving the highest amount of positive points.

YEAR 10

Jermaine Chatyoka, **Toby Slaney**, **Julia Pytel**, **Adrian Przybylski** for the most positive points.

YEAR 11

Marcel Temrowski and **Patrycja Raj** for the most positive points this week
Mikolaj Sycz, **David Redzimski**, **Alexandra Walerowicz**, **Nicholas Lewkowicz** and **Oskar Szafranski** for their outstanding external exam results in Creative imedia

YEAR 12

Christopher Szalajko for great work in Geography and **Maria Jakubowska** Excellent work in Computing