



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 17th November 2023



Y12 Go Ape Trip

On Wednesday 15th November our Y12 students enjoyed a fantastic day trip to "Go Ape" at Black Park. Reaching exhilarating new heights in the trees team building and being active.

This trip was part of the Sixth Form induction programme. Lots more photos are within the newsletter....

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

My weekly video messages can be watched on our new YouTube channel @SloughStJosephs.

Link to the latest video is:

[Headteacher Message - 17th November 2023 - YouTube](#)

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

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

The Faith of the woman of the Canaanite Woman

Weekly Reflections 20th -24th November
2023



A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (15:14-25; 19-21)

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed.

Prayer for the Week

Lord, help us to be attentive to the needs of others and the situation they find themselves in. When we meet you finally face to face in Heaven may we be able to say when we saw those in need we gave of ourselves for them without question. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

Day 1

Sometimes we are given responsibilities, duties or asked to go things under the guidance of friends, families, coaches or teachers. We can do these tasks well when under their guidance but if they weren't there – how would you feel about continuing them to the same (or better) level of intensity or quality? To do so is difficult because in the first place they aren't there to help us or reassurance that what we are doing is the right thing. So we need to summon up the desire for strength, courage and intentionality to do complete those tasks by ourselves under our own motivation. We also need faith in our actions and the optimistic hopefulness that everything we do can be achieved. For your prayer today – take some silent time to reflect on the things we have to do that can only be done by ourselves to change ourselves to make us closer to Christ.

Day 2

Lord God, Source of all love, in St Cecilia you gave us a model of faithfulness and hopefulness. Grant that, enlightened by her actions we may remain faithful followers of Christ who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen. St Cecilia, Pray for us

Day 3 Strength under pressure

Both Jesus and St Cecilia were persecuted for what God asked them to do.

Lord, Give me the strength when my faith is put to the test – help me to see your vision of the Kingdom to come and my place within it so I can be true to your call. Amen.

Day 4 Service

Let us pray for all those families under the stress and strain that life sometimes places upon us. Lord, help them find, in you, an oasis of and support where all worries and concerns can be placed into your hands. Amen

Saint of the week

St Cecilia



22nd November 2023

St Cecilia heard heavenly music when she was married and sang to God when she dying. She converted her husband, Valerian and her brother to the faith. Under a time of persecution when her brother and husband were executed under the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. She used her home as a church and when Roman officials found out they tried to kill her over 3 days and used methods such as trying to suffocate her in a steam bath and other means of torture. She was faithful & hopeful.



The drawing above is from Rembrandt from about 1650. You can see the point where the woman walks over to Jesus who doesn't seem to be answering her. His disciples are – however.

Have you ever tried to get someone's attention who is engaged with other people? What did it feel like and what were the problems you found trying to get their attention?

Do we expect people to behave in certain ways – and then find out later that they don't? Which can surprise us. At this point in the gospel story, Jesus retires away from the Jewish areas of Palestine – to the area of Tyre and Sidon which, by virtue of the people there, wouldn't have been faithful to God. But this woman genuinely surprises them all by having faith in him as the Messiah.

Have you ever experienced it when someone is troubled – it can impact on all those around them? Although her daughter is troubled she also asks for him to take pity on her as well– it looks as if the family as a whole was in trouble of some kind and they were greatly stressed by it all. Sometimes it seems, that the people we think we should keep furthest from might just be able to teach us something new about ourselves, the world and therefore something of who God is and who God acts in the world.

Are we genuinely open to being surprised by new things – and God?

Maybe we should allow ourselves to be open to be surprised by God just a little bit more.

Holy Family Youth Mass

On the Feast of Christ the King, 26th November 2023, Father Kevin and representatives of the Holy Family staff would love anyone with a connection to Holy Family Catholic School to join us in the celebration of Mass at 11.30am, at Holy Family Church. Current school staff will welcome you and present you with a commemorative Holy Family Catholic School enamel badge; current and past pupils, staff and governors will lead various parts of Mass and refreshments be will provided after Mass. Our aim is simple: to stay connected, so that you will always feel a sense of belonging to Holy Family Catholic School and Parish community. We especially hope to see our 2023 Leavers to hear how you are getting on in Year 7. We hope to see you there.


Regards, Holy Family Staff.




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






Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

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


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

Remembrance service – Monday 20th November 3.30pm-3.45pm

On Monday 20th November at 3.30pm, there will be a remembrance service in the Chapel to remember loved ones who have passed away. This is for any student or staff who wishes to attend. There is also an intentions book in the Chapel where your child can go and sign the name/s of those who have passed so we can remember them in this service.

Remembrance Service





When: Monday 20th November

Time: 3.30pm-4.00pm

Where: Chapel

November is the month where we remember those that have gone before us. A service of remembrance is open to staff and students on Monday 20th November. Please feel free to attend and if you want, please go to the Chapel before hand to sign the intentions book so your loved one can be remembered during the service.

Retreats

This week form groups in year 7 have been going on retreat to Holy Family Church to deepen their faith understanding and to learn about what it means to be part of St Joseph's Catholic High School. Students and staff have learnt lots about one another and it has been a great way to develop long lasting relationships. Well done to all students who have attended so far. These retreats will continue next week.



More Retreat Photos...



Homework Superstars

Joshua Lama – 7 Cecilia
Michalina Branska – 8 Jerome
Ben Bull – 8 Jerome
Myah Halligan – 8 Jerome
Dominika Marczuk – 8 Jerome



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.

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

Year 7 News

We are now into our second week of our second half term and the Year 7s continue to do amazing things! We have had record numbers at clubs around school and continued our impressive run of positive points.

We have also had 7P, 7C and 7J away for their retreats to Holy Family Church, the students were a massive credit to the school.

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

The Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place at St Joseph's School on Thursday 30th November 2023, from 4.15pm until 6.45pm.

If you have not already RSVP'd already, can we ask for parents to confirm their attendance on ParentPay.

The meeting for Parents' Evening will take place in person in the Main Hall on Thursday 30th November from 4.15pm until 6.45pm- Your son/daughter will need to book their appointments with each subject teacher beforehand, recording this in their journal- Appointments will take approximately 5 minutes- Students are required to attend Parents evening in full school uniform with their journal.

Year 9 News

Well done on a positive week; as a year group we have accumulated 652 positive points.

Remember my half term competition is the tutor group with the least amount of homework x's will receive a box of Krispy Kreme so continue to complete all of your homework on time!

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Year 7 Sports News

"The Year 7 football team travelled to Beechwood School in an attempt to keep their unbeaten run going. It wasn't a double figures win like last game but still an excellent performance with the game finishing 5-0 to St Joseph's.

Goals! Wiktor x 1, Aleks x2 & Chibs x2

Man of the Match! Alek



Year 9 Careers Talk on Apprenticeships in Law

This week we had guest speaker Kate Doyle speaking to our Year 9 pupils about Apprenticeships in Law. Kate works for a Law Firm in London 'Stephensen Harwood' where she runs graduate training programmes. The Year 9 pupils excelled themselves in the Q & A session following the talk, asking some extremely well thought out questions. In addition, our aspiring Law candidate Clinton (Year 13) got an additional one to one session with Kate, to help him with his application to pursue his desired career.

Mr Dann



Year 11 News

Year 11 have continued their PPE's this week and have done themselves proud. Well done to the Food tech students who had their practical exam on Tuesday. They had to make two breakfast dishes, and I can confirm they looked great and tasted delicious. Yesterday was the Sixth Form information evening. There was a great turnout from the Year. We offer a wide variety of subjects at sixth form and it is a great place to study. PPE's continue next week so keep revising.

In the meantime have a great weekend.

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Drama News



The school Shrek Production will take place at 7pm in the school hall for 4 nights only 12-15th December.

Tickets are on sale NOW via ParentPay. Limited availability so please book your places early!

Year 8 Sports News - Basketball

The year 8s played Beechwood on Wednesday, this was the boys second fixture in the Slough Basketball League and they came away victorious, making it two wins from two. The score was 26-6. Pawel K came away with 16 points!

Player of the Game! - Pawel K

Year 8 Sports News - Football

The Year 8 football team looked to bounce back from their previous game. The game followed a pattern of The Langley Academy scoring and St Joseph's equalising. Unfortunately St Joseph's couldn't get the final equaliser and the full time results was The Langley Academy 4 – 3 St Josephs.

Goals! Tobi x2 & David x1

Man of the Match! David



Science Club

Science club-Students explored the density and the miscibility of different liquids and they made lava lamps.



Odd Sock Day!

On Monday 13th November we hosted Odd Sock Day to support anti-bullying week – to celebrate what makes us all unique.





Y12 Go Ape Trip – 15th November 2023





**GO
APE**





EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Frequently asked questions

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

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

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

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

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

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

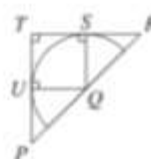




#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** The diagram shows the top left-hand corner of the original diagram. The centre of the semicircle shown is Q . Also, U and S are the points where the edges of the bigger square touch the semicircle shown. Therefore both QU and QS are radii of the semicircle and $\angle TSQ = \angle TUQ = 90^\circ$. Also $\angle UTS$ is a right angle as it is the corner of a square. Therefore $UQST$ is a square. Hence $QS = ST$.



Note that $TR = TP$ because P and R are midpoints of the original large square. Therefore $\angle PRT = 45^\circ$. So $QS = RS$. Hence QS is half the length of TR , which is itself half of the length of a side of the outer square, which is 48 cm. So the radius of the semicircle is one quarter of 48 cm = 12 cm.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- A** Note that $9 \times 11 \times 13 \times 15 \times 17$ is a multiple of 9. Therefore the sum of its digits is also a multiple of 9. The sum of the digits of '3n8185' equals $25 + n$. So $n = 2$, since 27 is a multiple of 9.

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows two rectangles and a regular pentagon. One side of each rectangle has been extended to meet at X . What is the value of x ?

- A 52 B 54 C 56 D 58 E 60



Break time Teaser:

The angles of a quadrilateral are in the ratio 3 : 4 : 5 : 6.

What is the difference between the largest angle and the smallest angle?

- A 30° B 40° C 50° D 60° E 70°

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year7

Albert Garniewski and Hanna Caffarena for receiving the most positive points in the Year group.

Year8

Coco Janot, Bruno Valek, Bartosz Dera, Zofia Waraksa for getting the most positive points

Year9

Rosie McGrory and Dominic Szczepanek for getting the most positive points

Year 10

Nathacia Mendonca De Jesus and Artur Chudziak for most positive points

Year 12

Acklee Pereira and Anand Kaur Khalsa for resilience and great participation at our Go Ape teambuilding day on Wednesday.

Nikola Wietchy and Gabriel Nycz for the most positive points on ClassCharts

Year 13

Rhys Wilder for volunteering to manage the Year 7 football team and Jakub Olszanski for excellent work in computing.