



St Joseph's

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, 19 February 2022

NEWSLETTER



England Men's Under 16 Squad – Portugal

The England Men's U16 event that took place from 8th – 16th February 2022 in Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal. Our very own Jayden Meghoma was an integral part of the team.

"Unlocking Belief in All"

FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

With staff having to leave the site so quickly this morning we weren't able to download a video for this week – so it'll be brief and written but the video will be back after half term. Thank you for all your support today and help in getting today organized so quickly and efficiently and being so reactive to what could have been a difficult day. We finally locked up and left at 12noon and the tree branches were hitting the playground with some force, it was the right thing to shut.

It's been a great half term with over 46 000 positive reward points being awarded since January – that's 91% of all points recorded. Of all the 9% four fifths that weren't glowing with praise, they involved either homework or missing equipment issues– so a push from home with that would be really helpful – thank you for all you've done with this so far.

Next week we have Year 11 students coming in for Maths on Tuesday, Child Development on Wednesday and PE on Thursday with a small number of Drama in the week. Those children involved will have been provided with letters. Today's PPE exams will be re-scheduled for after half term.

Today we've said goodbye to Miss Street in English but in the meantime, Mr Romero is going to take on the role of (Acting) Head of Year 12. He's done a great job so far this year and I know you'll support him with this. We're also going to advertising for a full time History teacher and an extra Learning Support Assistant. If you know of any good teachers out there who might like to join us – do point them this way!

Have a great rest.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Ciran Stapleton

THEME OF THE WEEK

Repent & Believe

As we return from our half term break, we begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. This is a time of reflection, thinking about our faith and relationship with God. The Gospel from St Luke gives us three words; prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As Christians, throughout Lent, we traditionally spend extra time to praying, we fast from something whether that is food or something else, and we give to others. It can be challenging to give extra time to something as our lives are often so busy, but we hear in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday, that we will be rewarded for our actions.

Pray – Prayer is that connection, conversation, communication with God. This is something we should be doing every single day. How can you get to know someone if you never talk to them, never listen to them? St Therese of Lisieux once said; "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."

So how can you pray each day, and especially during this Season of Lent?

Fast – When we come to Lent, we often think about what we are going to give up, and it's normally chocolate or biscuits or something like that. There has to be a reason for us to fast; we need to think about those things that are distracting us or stopping us from becoming those people that God has created us to be.

What is holding us back from living a Christian life, living out our Baptismal call to witness to the love of God in the world?

Almsgiving – The third word we reflect upon during Lent is 'give' or 'almsgiving'. There are many ways in which we can give to others. It reminds us of what we have and to reflect on what others around the world do not have. We live in a consumer culture, often wanting the latest new thing whether that's clothing, shoe, phones etc. We can lose our appreciation for things.

How can we give this Lent?

Let us use this time well, re-kindling our relationship with God, and be ready to celebrate the great Feast of Easter.

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:

- 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

If you receive one of the above please log on to <https://www.slough.gov.uk/xfp/form/244> and complete the registration form.

All Students who are eligible to Free School Meals in Year 7-13 will receive a voucher to their parent's email address to use during half term. This will entitle them to a sum of £15 to purchase lunch throughout the half term. This can be redeemed in numerous shops such as Tesco, Asda, Aldi, Iceland, Sainsbury's and Waitrose.

Please use; [Huggg | Authenticate](#)

Mr Gibbons

PPEs

Well done year 11, 12 and 13 who have sat their PPEs this week. All your effort and hard work for these PPEs will really pay off in the summer when you receive your results. Try to get some rest of the half term but also ensure you are revising for PPEs due to be sat following the half term break. Due to school closing today (Friday 18th February) we have had to make some slight amendments to the PPE timetable. Please find the amended timetable attached and any changes are highlighted in yellow.

Thank you parents/guardians for your on-going support with these PPEs. If you didn't see the letter sent out last week concerning PPEs please can I ask you have a read outlining the logistics of how these will be sat as well as our expectations.

Mr Gibbons

Year 7 News

We are now halfway through Year 7's first year here with us. The time has flown by, and they have made such great progress.

This term has been hard for us as a community, with the passing of Nathan. I have never been so proud as I was during the Guard of Honour for Nathan's funeral procession. Year 7, most of whom had never met Nathan, were a real example of empathy and respect. For many of our Year 7 students, this brought up lots of feelings about personal experiences. I want to remind you all that we are all here to talk and support each other, so please reach out if you are finding things difficult.

Form tutors have contacted parents who have had difficulty with ClassCharts login details, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting them via email.

This is not the way I imagined seeing out the end of the half term with Year 7, however I wish you all a wonderful break. I will continue to hold you all in my prayers.

Miss O'Connor

Year 8 News

Well done to year 8 for a challenging half term. We have had our fair share of sadness with losing one of our community. Year 8 conducted themselves with dignity and respect during Nathan's guard of honour on Monday. In lessons this week: In Maths they have been looking at angles, in English War Poetry, and in Art Cave paintings. Let's make sure that next half term is a positive one and in the meantime have a great break.

Mrs Dunleavy

Year 9 News

We have come to the end of another half term. This half term we have been faced with many challenges but as always the resilience of the year group prevails. I am proud of all of your social and academic achievements this half term and I look forward to watching you excel in the lead up to summer. A huge congratulations to Emilia Augustyn-Sharma (9 Cecilia) who scored 13/15 on the final round in the TVLP French Spelling Bee competing against schools in the local area, such as Eton College and Holyport College! The final round including phrases such as Pas de problème! À tout à l'heure! (No problem. See you later!) and Je suis une tante (I am an aunt). Another example of the vast achievements you are all capable of.

My challenge to you this half term break, comes from the book Atomic Habits by author James Clear, which discusses how we can break bad habits and create new ones. He focuses on the ideology of marginal gains and improving 1% every day. The accumulation of 1% every day enables us to sustainably reach our goals and improve ourselves beyond measure. I would like you to reflect on how you can be 1% better (as discussed in assembly yesterday morning), and begin to do this over half term.

I look forward to hearing how you are becoming 1% better every day.

Stay safe, lots of love

Miss WD

Year 11 News

Happy Friday everyone. Congratulations on making it through another half term. Letters for half term revision sessions are attached and those invited have received a text. I will also post any relevant information on Teams.

Please find attached separately to the newsletter information regarding interventions during half term.

Have a great half term and be safe. See you all in a week.

Mr Cudmore

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Year 12

First and most important, I hope you are well and safe. This was not my idea for the last day of term, but we need to be resilient. Stay active and revise during the half term, I know you might think that 9 days is a lot of time but if you are not well organised time will fly and you can find yourself last two days with huge amount of content for revision and no time. Please remember the studying techniques we have learned during PSHE like interleaving and Cornell note taking. In terms of exams, they will be moved to after half term break, same with all detentions.

I attach with the bulletin notices a Word document with Mooc courses (they are all free) that you can use for your CV, UCAS application or just to learn new skills. Please look at as I am sure you will find at least one for you: there is one per subject!

I would like to wish you a lovely half term, try to spend time with those you love as much as you can, be happy and take care =) Mr Romero

Year 13

PPE's have begun and students have been working hard in all their exams. Their conduct during this time has been exceptional so well done all. Keep up the hard work and revision over half term in preparation for the first few weeks back.

The following interventions are taking place during half term. It's really important that the students studying these subjects attend as the sessions will focus on topic areas where there are gaps in students' knowledge.

Monday 21st February: BTEC Sport

Tuesday 22nd February: Maths resit

Wednesday 23rd February: Music and Health and Social Care

Leavers hoodies are available to order via the following link. <https://www.hoodiehut.co.uk/leavers-hoodies/sjchs1322/> The deadline for orders is 1pm on 30th March. Students can personalize the hoodie with their choice of colour, name and initials.

PSHE will be on Thursday 5th March period 5.

Have a lovely half term break. Mrs Bray

Walk against Hunger



Walk Against Hunger is the only Lent challenge you need. How many kilometres can your tutor group achieve during the 40 days of Lent?

Go the distance and help to end malnutrition.

Why walk against hunger?

We are walking to stamp out hunger. You'll be helping children like Lombeh.

Lombeh, the third child of Amie and Borbor, was malnourished. She was so tiny that a bracelet her mother Amie bought for her at the time now fits round her thumb. Amie and Borbor left no stone unturned to find help, but to no avail. Amie saw a group of new mothers coming along the road, their babies all healthy, and asked where they had come from. They told her about the Sisters. Amie went straight there. Even though they feared there was no hope for little Lombeh, they gave her benny mix – a local weaning food. Lombeh immediately began to improve. Now, aged five, Lombeh is a lively and energetic little girl, who can't believe the stories her mother tells her about when she was a baby.

Follow the link to find out more: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/about>

How are we going to take part as a school?

Throughout Lent (from 2nd March-16th April), each tutor group is going to walk as many kilometres as possible to raise awareness and money to help the end to hunger. A league table will be created, let's see which tutor group walks the furthest! A JustGiving page will be set up for those sponsoring and donating. All money raised will go to CAFOD.

How will each tutor group keep track of their progress?

A *Strava* page will be set up for us. You will hear more details about this shortly.

All donations and sponsorship will be greatly received!

Bethan – Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a time of praying, fasting, and giving, helping us to re-focus and to be prepared to celebrate Easter. Last year, you received a daily act each day of Lent and this is going to happen again this Lent. You will receive an email every day with an act, with a choice of how much you can give. It may be a small act or a big act, every act will make a difference to someone else in the world. They will be colour coded red, amber, and green. As a way of praying, fasting, and giving this Lent, why not take up the 40 acts challenge?

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|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Sit next to someone you don't normally sit with at lunchtime. | Let someone go in front of you in the canteen queue. | Leave an encouraging note for someone. | Pray for someone who is struggling. | Donate to a foodbank from your cupboard at home. | Find out how your class could help a local charity. | Congratulate others when they do well. | Hold the door open for someone. |
| Attend a Mass this Sunday. | Invite someone new to join in with your game. | Cook a meal for the members of your household. | Be the first to say sorry. | Send a nice text to brighten up someone's day. | Don't interrupt; listen carefully instead. | Say thank you to your parents for looking after you. | Wash your parent's car. |
| Refrain from eating chocolate today. | Wash the clothes for everyone in your household. | Give someone a nice compliment. | Read a passage from the Bible today. | Give up something you are addicted to today. | Follow instructions without complaining. | Give someone a nice surprise. | Walk to the shops instead of using a car. |
| Say thank you to your teacher for teaching you. | Forgive someone who has upset you. | Enter a house competition this week. | Offer to clear up after someone else's lunch. | Write a list of things that you are grateful for. | Ring someone who would appreciate a call. | Pick up litter around the school. | Write a thank you note to the canteen staff. |
| Donate clothes and games that you no longer use to charity. | Save energy by turning off the lights when you leave a room. | Choose one of the pupil profile values and practise it today. | Be brave and try something you find hard. | Try to avoid using plastic you throw in the bin, like straws. | Help return lost property to the rightful owner. | Say something nice about someone to somebody else. | Spend 24 hours without accessing social media. |

Maths Challenge



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** The diagram shows that the hexagon may be divided into twelve congruent triangles, of which five are shaded. Let the area of each of these triangles be $a \text{ cm}^2$. Then $5a = 20$, so $a = 4$. Hence the area of the hexagon, in cm^2 , is $12a = 12 \times 4 = 48$.



Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- B** The required fraction is $\frac{26}{206} = \frac{13}{103} \approx \frac{13}{104} = \frac{1}{8}$.

Problem of the week

Which of the following has the largest value?

- A $\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)}$ B $\frac{1}{\left(\frac{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)}{4}\right)}$ C $\frac{\left(\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{3}\right)}{4}$ D $\frac{1}{\left(\frac{2}{\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)}\right)}$ E $\frac{\left(\frac{1}{\left(\frac{2}{\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)}\right)}\right)}{4}$

Break time Teaser:

The numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 are to be placed, one in each of the circles in the diagram, so that the sum of the numbers in each pair of touching circles is a prime number. The number 5 is placed in the top circle.



Which number is placed in the shaded circle?

- A 6 B 7 C 8 D 9 E 10

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

PUPIL NOMINATIONS OF THE WEEK

YEAR 7

Matilde Santoro and **Isla Slessor** for their Learned and Wise approach to their studies in English.
Well done!

YEAR 8

Gabriella Majewska:
for being Ilarned and Curious

Oliver Mahoney:
for being Faith Filled and Active

YEAR 10

Ava Scott and **Tyrone Crooks**
for their resilience and eloquence in reading on
Monday's memorial service for Nathan

Leah Walls and Gabby R
for PROUD in Spanish

YEAR 11

Zuzanna S
for PROUD in Spanish

YEAR 12

Bela Lamelo

Piort Augustyn

YEAR 13

Anj Bains for good progress in media.
Alex Passos-Wiggs for excellent answers in
assembly.