



# St Joseph's

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, 19 November 2021

## ***NEWSLETTER***



Take a look at this stunning selection of our students Portraiture art work from across KS3 and 4. They are currently exploring tonal drawings, continuous line drawing, abstraction and realism.

***"Unlocking Belief in All"***

## FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Important Information for all students undertaking public exams this summer**

We received an update from the Department of Education's watchdog, Ofqual, this week concerning contingency plans for the summer examinations. Please find attached a letter from Mr Gibbons aimed primarily for parents and students of Years 11&13 but equally important for all those doing additional public exams this year in lower years. The letter outlines an embryonic plan in case the summer examinations cannot take place due to the pandemic.

It is the full expectation of the government that the summer exams will take place. Students should prepare and expect them to happen. However, if it is the case that they do not, then the school will issue Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) in, what appears at first sight, a similar way to which we did last year. This means that the PPE exams that the students sit over the year will now be used in part to help evidence the performance of the children. In line with the guidance offered, there will now be 3 PPE (mock exam) opportunities over the year including this one, but the criteria for determining the TAGs has yet to be published.

We've already structured the 3 PPE (mock exams) into the Year 11 and 13 timetable curriculum opportunities in anticipation of this – so please don't worry – we've always had a plan in hand and we've run this successfully over the last 2 years. What's important at this point is that the children focus on their studies, work hard and prepare for the public exams taking place in summer. We'll keep you up to date as information emerges from the OfQual and the Department of Education as and when it emerges.

### **Parent Forum**

The Pandemic has thrown up a significant number of issues that need addressing in an educational context. For both children at both Primary and Secondary, 20 months out of school will have left an impact and legacy on the children's education that won't really be understood fully until the last child in an educational setting has left school. The Leadership in the School have been taking stock of the impact here at the school and taken this as an opportunity to review what we deliver and how we deliver the curriculum. We've come up with a number of ideas in how we should respond both in the short and long term for the best interests of the children we serve. We'd really appreciate some parental input and feedback whilst we're at the development stage. We'd like to set up a Parents Forum to this end. If you are interested please contact Mr McLaughlin via his email [m.mclaughlin@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:m.mclaughlin@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

### **Student Survey**

In the Summer Ofsted produced their national sexual abuse review. The results were shocking. The sheer number of children and young people across the country – especially girls – who said they put up with harassment and abuse day in day out is startling. This is entirely unacceptable behaviour, normalised to the point where children often didn't think it was worth reporting. Many schools said they were simply unaware it was happening. No-one wants that for our young people and it goes against everything we stand for as a Catholic School. We can't assume that it doesn't happen here even if it's not immediately obvious.

Young people face a difficult situation today where, with easy access to the internet on their mobile phones to undesirable websites, it has made it hard for young people to navigate growing up and to make the right choices. It's a larger cultural issue about attitudes and behaviours becoming normalised – and we can't solve it all by ourselves. There's a clear role for the government, us as schools and you as parents are obviously vital in this as well. We approach this issue through the daily reinforcement of the values we have in school, through the teaching of Religious Education and a well thought through curriculum of Personal Social and Health Education, which tackles these kinds of issues in which every Year group participates on a weekly basis. We always hope to see a culture where sexual harassment and abuse aren't tolerated, where issues are spotted and intervention happens earlier.

We already began to look at the issue with a quick snapshot survey in the summer. We'll be involving the students in a further and more detailed survey around this over the next few weeks to understand what their experiences are and we'll action any findings that emerge from there.

Have a cracking weekend,

St Joseph, Pray for us.

Ciran Stapleton

## THEME OF THE WEEK

# Christ the Universal King

We celebrate this week the Feast of Christ the Universal King. This is also the last week in the Church's year before we begin Advent next Sunday. Our Gospel comes from the end of John's Gospel, we are hearing a dialogue between Pilate and Jesus, with Pilate trying to understand who Jesus is. Jesus speaks of the Kingdom He belongs to being not of this world, to which Pilate calls Jesus a king. We have heard in previous weeks about the Kingdom of God, and we are reminded in the Gospel for this week that the Kingdom is not an earthly Kingdom, but a heavenly Kingdom. Jesus came to bring the heavenly Kingdom down to earth, to bring the truth.

### What truth do you think Jesus is talking about?

Within this Gospel reading from St John, the last line says; "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice". Listening can be really challenging for us at times. We are very used to hearing noise, our world being very noisy with music, TV, chatting with others, but how often do we give time to just stop and listen? When we allow ourselves to stop and listen, to find a quiet place, we can hear what's going on in our hearts and minds. That can feel a bit scary or difficult at times, but we need to be doing this, every day. If we stop and listen each day, directing our hearts and minds to God too, we may hear the voice of Jesus. You may not hear His voice as such, but a small prompting in your heart or mind, a thought, an image.

### When was the last time you spent some time listening to what was is on your heart and mind?

Jesus is the 'Universal King', He is for everyone. With Jesus being King, we through our Baptism are co-heirs with Him. We are royalty in the eyes of God. Let us take courage in this, that we are loved by God and can come to know Him in the person of Jesus.

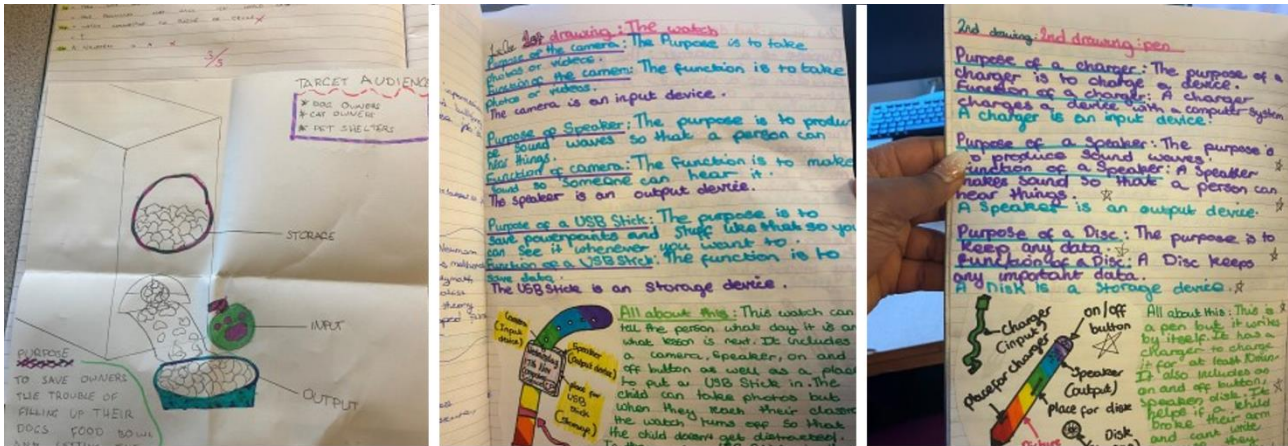
This weekend, we celebrated National Youth Sunday in the Church, celebrating young people within our Church communities. This was the theme chosen; *"Stand up. I appoint you as witnesses of what you have seen"* (based on Acts 26:16).

### Why do you think this was chosen?

### What does it mean to be a witness today?

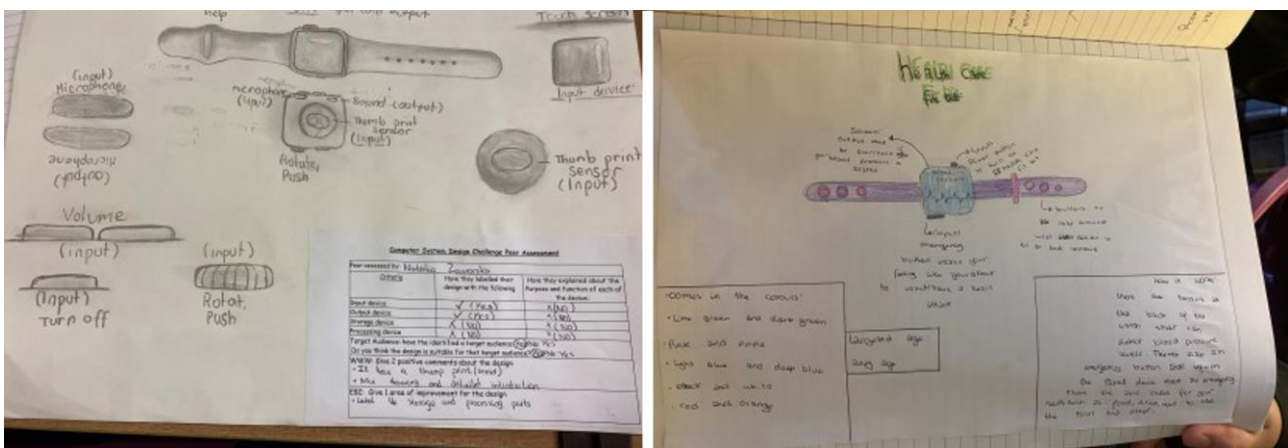


## YEAR 7 NEWS



# Year 7s Computer System

Year 7s challenged to become innovators by designing a computer system for a particular purpose and target audience



# Computer System Design Challenge

## **YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 NEWS**

### **Computer Science Club**

Computer Science Club for the Year 7 & 8s starting on

**Monday 29th November 2021**

**3:00pm - 4:00pm in CP2.**

Students will work on the AWS - GetIT Competition which is an initiative designed by Amazon Web Services (AWS) to encourage students to consider a career in tech. The aim of this competition is to design and create an application to solve real life issues faced by their schools or community.

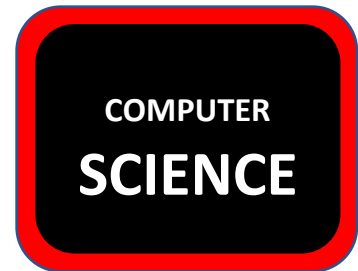
In this club you will learn practical digital and IT skills which include problem solving, designing, and coding. It will also help with teamwork and oracy skills as you will have to present your design to wide audience.

### **YEAR 7 Students of the Week:**

All girls on the Year 7 “football team” for outstanding commitment.

## **YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 NEWS**

On Wednesday evening we had the privilege of taking a mixed year 7+8 girl's football team over to Goals in Slough to take part in a 5-a-side football tournament. The girls showed a superb attitude from the outset with bubbling enthusiasm and excitement just to be back playing and competing again. They worked as a team throughout and were encouraging of each other whilst being subbed or even on the field of play. Out of five games the girls won four with our greatest victory being 4-0 against Ditton Park Academy. In this instance a player of the day could not be awarded as each, and every girl, performed to their absolute best and each were integral to the success on that evening. The tournament saw us finish second out of 12 teams and sees us take part in the cup tournament on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.



**Huge congratulations to:**

**Year 7**

**Natalia Zaworska**

**Ava Bellamy**

**Isla Slessor**

**Lucianna Mwaura**

**Celine Sidyk**

**Nadia Sztuba**

**Year 8**

**Kara Cullen**

**Rosa Jarrett**

**YEAR 8 NEWS**

Well done to anyone who has participated in any extracurricular activities this week. Can I encourage as many of you to get involved? It is a great way to meet new people and develop new skills. There has been many things going on in lessons this week ranging from melting plastic in tech! to looking at Frantic Assembly and their techniques in drama. Can I remind 8 Cecilia it is their feast day next week so look out for your doughnuts! It is the final three weeks of our Champions league and 4 forms are all joint first. There will be a reward for the winning form.

Drama: What an amazing start to rehearsals this week, I was filled with such joy having a company together again from all years in the school. If you are in the show keep your eye on our Teams page for news.

Mrs Dunleavy

**YEAR 11 NEWS**

**Sixth Form Taster Day for Year 11 Students – 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2021**

Taster Day is an exciting first step for Year 11 students into their journey beyond Year 11. The students will take part in a Sixth Form Taster Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, in which they will experience a full day as a sixth form student. They will join a sixth form tutor for registration, attend taster lessons and attend a PSHE assembly in their final period of the day. The lessons will provide deeper insight into the A Level Curriculum and Pathways Information and Guidance, tailored to their needs. The day is an important part of the process of ensuring students are on the right courses for them that lead them to progression to university or employment in line with their career goals. Students will come dressed as sixth formers, i.e. in professional, office wear (please see the policy here: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/home/news-and-events/term-dates/> )

Year 11 students have had a presentation in PSHE today to take them through the process of signing up for courses, the expectations for the day and how this will support them with the Sixth Form application process. Students have until the 26<sup>th</sup> of November to make their choices and these will be done in form time, with their tutor.

For more information and guidance on how to choose subjects, please see our prospectus on the Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening page: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/joining-us/virtual-open-evening-2021/>



### Russell Group Informed Choices (For Year 11 and Sixth Form)

What you study at sixth form or college can affect your options at university and your future career. Use Informed Choices to help you understand which subjects open up different degrees, particularly at Russell Group universities. This is a useful resource for students in Year 11, who are choosing their A Level and BTEC subjects and for Year 12 and 13, who are thinking about the types of degrees that their A Level and BTEC courses allow progression onto.

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

### LITERACY – WORD AND IDIOM OF THE WEEK

The word this coming week is **‘to affect’**, an infinitive verb, which is defined as an ‘influence or cause someone or something to change’. It is not to be confused with the noun **‘effect’**, a noun, which means the result of an influence.

The idiom this coming week is **‘To stab someone in the back’**, which means to hurt someone who was close to us and trusted us by betraying them secretly and breaking their trust.

### YEAR 11 NEWS

#### English News

This week, Year 11 had the opportunity to watch a production of Jekyll and Hyde, the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel they are studying as one of their GCSE Literature texts. Afterwards, one of the actors held a question-and-answer session, and students asked a host of questions ranging from ‘what’s it like playing a villain?’ to ‘why is there a lack of female characters in the text?’

This experience was an invaluable way of allowing the students to gain further insight into the novel’s characters and themes and appreciate the significance of the context in which it was written.





## **SIXTH FORM NEWS**

**Year 12** - You do not have PPE, but your assessments are coming soon. I would like you to reflect on the techniques you are using in your revision. In PSHE we have seen few: Cornell notes or use PLCs. Do not forget to revise often so you do not accumulate huge amount of work just for the last day.

Remember also to sleep and eat properly and try some physical activity regularly.

Mr Romero, Head of Year 12

**Year 13** centre assessments continue next week. Keep up the hard work everyone. So far you have been punctual, smartly dressed and your conduct before and during the exam has been exceptional.

Please can you all continue to LAT flow test twice a week, wear masks in communal areas and following the one-way system to keep everyone safe. Assemblies will remain online for now, but you **must** be in form time every Monday morning.

Have a great week

Mrs Bray, Head of Year 13

## **Thames Valley Learning Partnership opportunity for sixth form students:**

This Thursday 25th November at 8:45pm Miss Boland and Miss WD will be attending Eton College for a talk by Mr Robin Tenison, the author of the Four Horsemen: Radical solutions to defeat pandemics, war, famine and the death of the planet. If you are interested in joining us please let Miss WD know.



### **Design and Technology Department**

A strange week for me this week in D&T, knowing it would be my last for at least a little while. The chefs this week produced some delicious spaghetti carbonara, and one of my favourite dishes of jambalaya. Developing practical skills and knowledge that will hopefully be repeated at home! It has also be delightful to see the design work being produced at all levels in the workshop, and this years collection of mini-thems will be completed very soon. It is wonderful being part of such an amazing team, and I look forward to seeing updates about pupils' progress and work. A HUGE Thankyou especially to the DT A-team: Mr Mall, Mr Silver, Mr Deans, Mrs Hill, Mrs Gunn, Ms Araf, and all that support us.

### **DESIGNeers- KS3 DT club**

DESIGNeers started to get into the Christmas spirit this week (yes it may seem a little early) but with only 4 sessions left pupils set about designing decorations to develop and create over the coming weeks 😊

The club is currently at capacity, so sadly we will not be able to welcome any new members at the moment.

### **D&T Stars of the Week**



**David Nwachukwu** for having a consistently **positive** attitude in every DT lesson.

**Karolina Woronowicz** for her **intentional** and learned work in DT

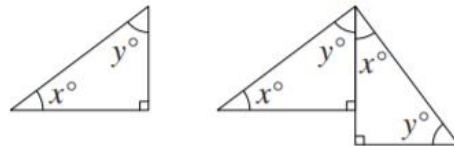


## Maths Challenge Questions of the Week:



### Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- A** The diagrams show one of the twenty-five congruent right-angled triangles and the two such triangles at vertex R.  
Let the two acute angles in each of the triangles be  $x^\circ$  and  $y^\circ$ .



Note that  $x + y + 90 = 180$ , as the interior angles of a triangle sum to  $180^\circ$ .  
So  $x + y = 90$ . In the second diagram, the two angles which meet at R are  $x^\circ$  and  $y^\circ$ , so we can deduce that angle  $QRP$  is a right angle.  
Let the length of the hypotenuse of each small triangle be  $a$  cm.  
Note that angle  $QRP$  is a right angle,  $PR$  has length  $4a$  cm and  $RQ$  has length  $3a$  cm.  
So the lengths of the sides in triangle  $PQR$  are in the ratio  $3 : 4 : 5$ .  
Therefore the length of  $PQ$ , in cm, is  $5 \times \frac{2.4}{4} = 3$ .

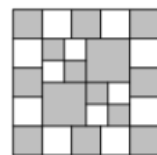
### Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- C** The values of the five options are 64, 243, 256, 125, 36 respectively.  
Of these 256 is the largest, so  $4^4$  is the largest of the options.

### Problem of the week

The diagram shows a large square divided into squares of three different sizes.  
What percentage of the large square is shaded?

- A 61%      B 59%      C 57%      D 55%      E 53%



## Break time Teaser:

The prime factor decomposition of 2021 is  $43 \times 47$ .  
What is the value of  $53 \times 57$ ?

- A 2221      B 2521      C 2921      D 3021      E 3031

Send your answers to Mr Allinson

The first full complete answer will get satchel points!

## PUPIL NOMINATIONS OF THE WEEK

### YEAR 7

**Vanessa Temrowska** for settling in so well to the school community.

**Oliver Stacey, Emma Powell, Dorian Kubiak and Oliver Remfeld** for always being curious and attentive in Computing.

**David Stachura** for excellence in French.  
**Oliwier Remfeld** for excellence in Spanish.

### YEAR 8

**Rosa Jarrett** and **Kara Cullen** for amazing footy skills in the match this week

**Wiktoria Juszcak, Nadia Ankiewicz-Heetun, Esinam Deynno, Darragh O'Connor and Rosa Jarrett** for excellence in Computing and showing curiosity surrounding the subject area.

### YEAR 9

**Dhembher Villegas** for being polite towards members of staff and improving his ATL, **Emily Cripps** for excellence in Maths. Keep up the good work Year 9!

### YEAR 10

**Ava Scott** and **Madi Rawcliffe** for fantastic collaboration in French.  
**Alex Jozwiak** for excellent progress in Spanish  
**Pamela Lopez** for Autonomous, Intentional and Learned work in Food

### YEAR 11

Good luck to **ALL** Year 11s doing their PPEs.

### YEAR 12

**Otylia Konarska** for her resilience and hard working in Economics.  
**Adrian Fernandes** for his application to extra-curricular programs/projects.

### YEAR 13

**Juliana Fallaria** and **Clarence Aligaen** for excellent participation and independent work in psychology.