



St Joseph's

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, 25 March 2022

NEWSLETTER



Bishop David visited St Joseph's on Tuesday 22nd March to meet the staff and students of the school. He had a tour of the school, led by some of our pupils and had a Q&A session with the Chaplaincy Ambassadors in the Chapel. He blessed and distributed badges for the Chaplaincy Ambassadors, and the Team had a photo with him with their new badges.



FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

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.

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

<https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Letters/20220325-Newsletter-1.m4v>

Have a cracking weekend.

St Joseph, pray for us

Ciran

IMPORTANT REMINDER

ATTENDANCE NOTICE – SCHOOL ABSENCES

Parents must phone/email the school office each day their child is absent from school and they need to make this call/email before 08.30am in the mornings.

Please call the school office on 01753 524713 – press Option 1 to go directly through to the Attendance Officer Mrs Oliver.

Alternatively email: office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

1. Every effort should be made to arrange medical appointments outside school hours.
2. An appointment card or verification by the doctors/dentist/hospital is required both for late arrivals and for absences and handed into Reception.
3. If it is necessary for you to be out of school for this reason, you should be returning to school directly after the appointment.

THEME OF THE WEEK

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is our theme for this week, as we reflect on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Forgiveness can be a difficult thing, saying sorry and asking for forgiveness is challenging. But in order to be reconciled with one another, we must forgive each other.

We continue to see images of the conflict in Ukraine on the news, a time when we must pray for peace, and pray for reconciliation between peoples. Pope Francis on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on 25th March is consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Peace asking her prayers of intercession for peace. Pope Francis says;

‘This Act of Consecration is meant to be a gesture of the universal Church, which in this dramatic moment lifts up to God, through his Mother and ours, the cry of pain of all those who suffer and implore an end to the violence, and to entrust the future of our human family to the Queen of Peace.’

As we reflect on the Parable of the Prodigal Son this coming week, it’s a beautiful image of love, peace, forgiveness, mercy and reconciliation. We can see in this parable the unconditional love of the Father, and we are reminded that He is always ready and waiting for us to come back to Him. There are times when we need the forgiveness, love and mercy of others and of God, and at times we can become jealous and forgetting all that we have.

How can we relate this story to our lives today?

What message can we take from it?

How can we promote peace in our world today?

We are in the middle of the Season of Lent, this time of fasting. At this middle point, we are reminded of the joy and celebration that awaits us of Jesus’ resurrection after His death at Easter. The 4th Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday, which means ‘rejoice’. Similarly to Gaudate Sunday in Advent, Laetare Sunday is a moment of rejoicing in the midst of Lent. It reminds us that there is hope on this journey of Lent, as we look forward to the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The Gospel reading is one full of hope, as we reflect on our lives and knowing that Christ has already brought us salvation through His death and resurrection.

Reflecting on your own faith, what moments of joy have you experienced? What is important about your faith?

As we look forward in joy, let us be ever mindful of our brothers and sisters in Christ, who are suffering and in need of peace. Let us be merciful and forgiving, bringing about the love of God in reconciliation. Let us take onboard the last words of the Gospel, knowing that it is God the Father who is saying this to each of us; ‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’ (Luke 15:31-32)

Forgiveness

Weekly Reflections
25th March 2022



A reading from St Luke's Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Day 1

The Gospel reading this week is a beautiful story of the prodigal son. One of two sons decides that he wants to leave home with his inheritance money and he ends up spending it all. He gets to the point where he has nowhere to live and nothing to eat, and so he decides to return home to his father. As he returns, his father runs to him with open arms and embraces him. He organises to have a celebration, celebrating the return of his son. The other son however, is really quite jealous. When reading this story, we can put ourselves into the shoes of both sons. There are times when we need the forgiveness, love and mercy of others and of God, and at times we can become jealous and forgetting all that we have. How can we relate this story to our lives today? What message can we take from it?

Day 2

Laetare Sunday - Similarly to Gaudete Sunday in Advent, Laetare Sunday is a moment of rejoicing in the midst of Lent. It reminds us that there is hope on this journey of Lent, as we look forward to the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The Gospel reading is one full of hope, as we reflect on our lives and knowing that Christ has already brought us salvation through His death and resurrection. Reflecting on your own faith, what moments of joy have you experienced? What is important about your faith?

Day 3 Grail Prayer

Our prayer for today is one of surrendering to the Lord that He may work with us in any way that will be fruitful. Our mission is to build the Kingdom of God here on earth, and the Lord will give us all the graces we need to do this if we ask Him. Let us pray...

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands - to do your work. I give you my feet - to go your way. I give you my eyes - to see as you do. I give you my tongue - to speak your words. I give you my mind - that you may think on me. I give you my spirit - that you may pray in me. Above all, I give you my heart that you may love, in me, your Father and all mankind. I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me.
Amen.

Day 4

"we are ambassadors for Christ"

In the second reading on Sunday, from St Paul to the Corinthians, he says that we are 'ambassadors for Christ'. What is an ambassador? How do we be ambassadors for Christ? Your prayer for today is:
Inspire me, Lord, so that I may reflect your image and likeness a little more clearly each day.
Amen.

Day 5

Lord, as I offer you all that is ordinary and everyday in my life, I ask you to give me the power of your Spirit that I may do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way.
Amen.



The Return of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt



Prayer for the Week

God our Father, extend our horizons, widen our vision, and remind us how interconnected we are as your sons and daughters. Breathe your Spirit into us that we may live more truly as brothers and sisters who care for one another. Amen.

Year 7 News

Lots of positives for this week! A big well done must go to Oliver Stacey who won himself an easter egg for the number of positives he has accumulated! We also had 6 students winning themselves a bag of chocolates each for having the highest number of positives in each of their form groups well done to: Declan Fegan, Emelia Malczewska, Wiktor Sztuba, Amrita Dylak, Filip Arkuszynski and Sara Najdo.

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos

Year 8 News

What a lovely week of sunshine we have had let's hope it continues. This week year 8 have been studying standard forms in Maths, war poetry in English, Devising in Drama, Science looking at lights amongst many other things. Can I ask you all to keep doing random acts of kindness for lent as we still have two weeks left. Can I encourage you to take part in extracurricular clubs as it is a great way to get to know new people? Well done to Sean, Kye, Olivia, Anna and Victoria for the top classcharts points in their forms this week.

In the meantime have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Dunleavy

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Year 12

Dear Y12

Two weeks more to Easter. I hope you are using this time of lent to reflect about how to show love and compassion to people around us. Next week there are few changes in our weekly routine so please add them to your agenda to prevent misunderstanding and unnecessary Xs:

PSHE is Monday 28/03/2022 Period 1. PSHE is compulsory so it means that **EVERYONE must attend registration** regardless of you had lesson that day period 1 or not.

Next week assembly is on **WEDNESDAY 30/03/2022**

Well done Y12 Physics for your extra session on Tuesday for Slough Unity project and special mention to Adrian Fernandes who had a second extra session on Thursday.

This week we had 6 less late detention than previous one. This really evidences that all of us can do much better. Next week I expect 6 less. I understand that now the weather is warmer, and you enjoy spending time outside but leave the daydreaming for after school and ensure you are in lesson on time.

Do not forget the reading book inside your bag all the time and check you are full equipped.

Keep going guys! 🧐

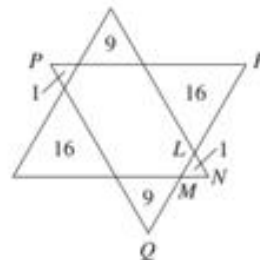
Mr Romero

Maths Challenge



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 $64 - (1 + 9 + 16) = 38$.

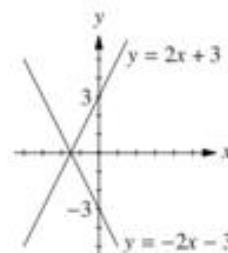


Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- E** The diagram shows that the reflection of the line $y = 2x + 3$ in the x -axis has gradient -2 and an intercept on the y -axis of $(0, -3)$.

Therefore, the equation of the reflected line is $y = -2x - 3$.

(Note that reflection in the x -axis changes y to $-y$. Hence the equation of the reflected line is $-y = 2x + 3$, so $y = -2x - 3$.)



Problem of the week

The diagram shows a pyramid made up of 30 cubes, each measuring $1\text{ m} \times 1\text{ m} \times 1\text{ m}$.

What is the total surface area of the whole pyramid (including its base)?

- A 30 m^2 B 62 m^2 C 72 m^2 D 152 m^2 E 180 m^2



Break time Teaser:

It has just turned 22:22. How many minutes are there until midnight?

- A 178 B 138 C 128 D 108 E 98

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts. Congratulations to Piotr Basinski (9T) for getting this week's puzzles correct.

Other Notices

Mock Trial Competition



Huge congratulations to the students in Years 9 and 10 who took part in the Mock Trial Competition on Saturday at Reading Crown Court. Out of the nine schools taking part in our heat, we were awarded 2nd place, which is an incredible achievement. The team have been preparing their case and their roles since November and did a brilliant job, conducting themselves with confidence and professionalism.

Here is what some of the students have to say about the experience:

Melanie: Partaking in mock trials took a lot of courage and confidence which I didn't know I had. Although it was proven to be stressful at times, it definitely benefited me in the long run, allowing my confidence to flourish and helping me realise that many activities which I wouldn't have done before just needed a bit of that confidence. Overall, mock trials was a great team building exercise and an enormous confidence boost. I loved working alongside amazing teachers, amazing magistrates and friends who were always prepared to help. Thank you for such a great experience.

Leah: I loved my mock trial experience and think it was an amazing opportunity. I learnt so much from the experience and gained important life lessons such as confidence and team work.

Laura: I really enjoyed this experience. It was a lot of preparation and dedication but all worth it! It was great fun and something new for all of us.

Adrian: A lot of hard work but in the end it paid off with a great performance from everyone.

Hannah: It's definitely helped me build my confidence and my ability to think on the spot. It was a rewarding experience and all the work paid off in the end.

Nicola: It helped me build my confidence which I didn't have prior. Mock trials was an amazing experience and it was definitely worth participating.

We are incredibly proud of the team and it has been wonderful to see them acquire new skills over the last few months.

Ms Kell and Miss Stevens.

MFL news

Great efforts from 7 Peter and 7Jerome last week with their Cervantes Project.

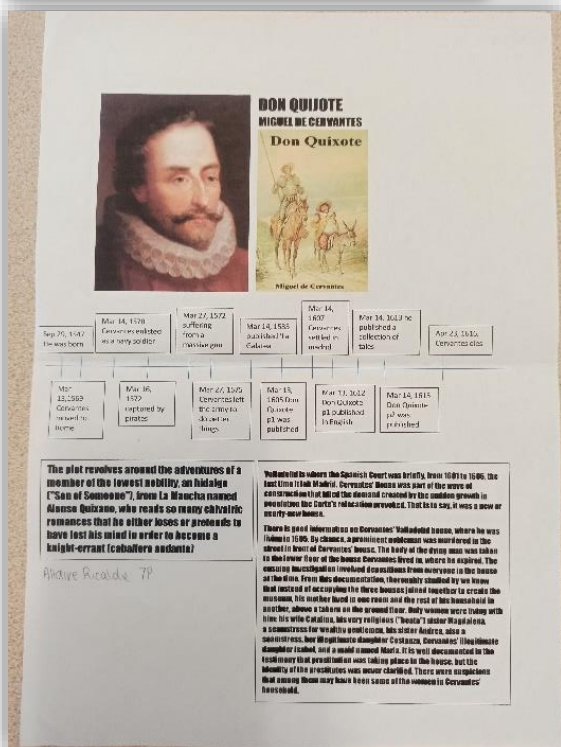
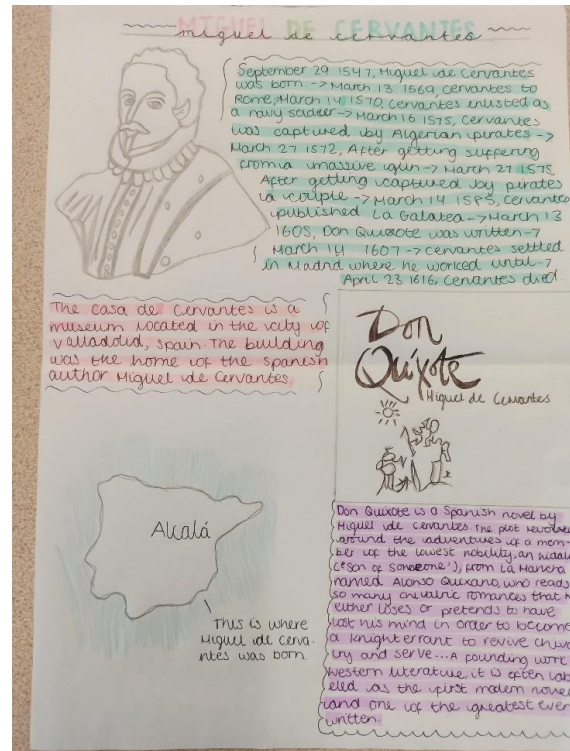
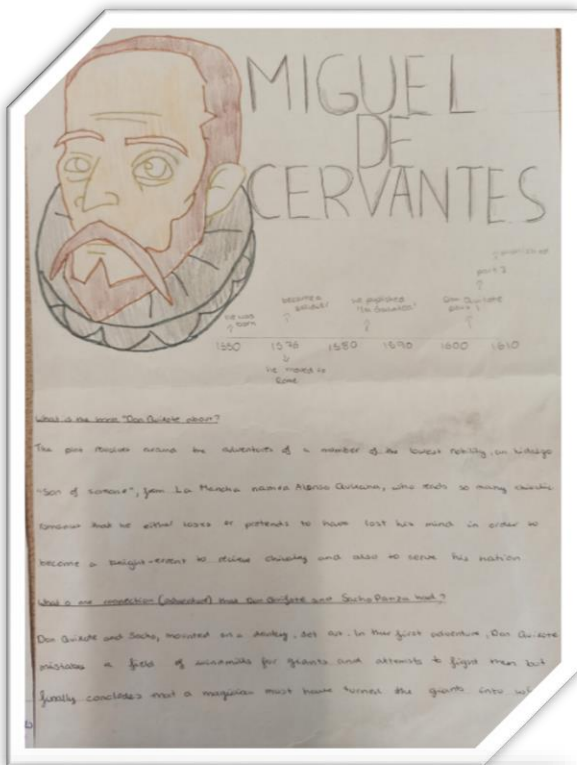


Congratulations to the winners:



7J: Oliwier R, Maja S, Arina P and Kamila C.

7P: Jayona G, Vanessa M and Altaire R.



PE News

On Wednesday the Year 10 netball team attended a tournament at Herschel Grammar School. The girls won 6 of their 8 games; overall coming 3rd in the whole tournament. All of the girls played outstandingly well and just missed out on beating the overall winners by 2 goals.

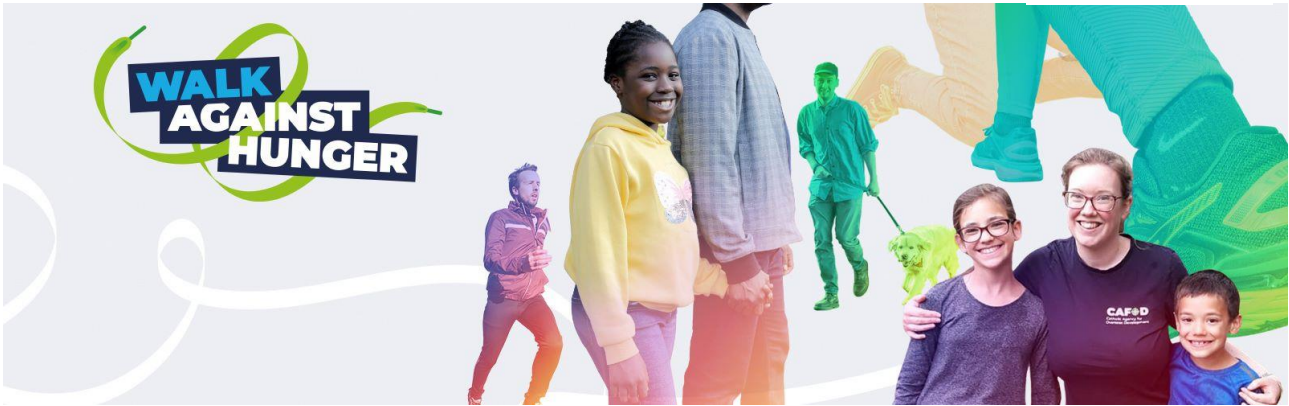
★ **Player of the tournament: Tia De Jesus** ★



Miss M. Joseph

- **Friday 25th March - FOOTBALL:** Lunchtime Year 7, 11, 6th Form – 1:25 on the field - 50p a go. You will be given the drill to learn on the Thursday. You will complete the drill and will be timed on the Friday.
Winners will be those who complete in the fastest time and score the most number of goals. And prizes for winners! See Mr Gibbons for more details.
- AND
- TOMBOLA:** Lunchtime (Year 8, 9, 10 – 12:25 & Year 7, 11, 6th Form – 1:25) on the lower playground - 50p a go. Prizes to be won!
- **Friday 1st April – FOOTBALL:** Lunchtime Year 8, 9, 10 – 12:25 on the field - 50p a go. You will be given the drill to learn on the Thursday. You will complete the drill and will be timed on the Friday.
Winners will be those who complete in the fastest time and score the most number of goals. And prizes for winners! See Mr Gibbons for more details.
 - **Friday 8th April – HOOPLA:** Break-time on the lower playground - 50p a go. Prizes to be won!

Walk against Hunger



Walk Against Hunger is the only Lent challenge you need. How many steps 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, each tutor group is going to walk as many steps 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 has been set up for those sponsoring and donating. All money raised will go to CAFOD.

How will each tutor group keep track of their progress?

Students will track their steps using their step-counter on their phones. At the end of each week, tutors will add up all steps and send the amount to Bethan (Chaplain) to add to the league table.

Friends and family can sponsor and donate via the JustGiving page:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/lentfundraising>

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Ukraine and Russia

On the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Friday 25th March, Pope Francis will consecrate Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We continue to pray for peace, entrusting our prayers to the Queen of Peace. Pope Francis says;

"This Act of Consecration is meant to be a gesture of the universal Church, which in this dramatic moment lifts up to God, through his Mother and ours, the cry of pain of all those who suffer and implore an end to the violence, and to entrust the future of our human family to the Queen of Peace."

Pope Francis has written to Bishops and his letter can be found here:

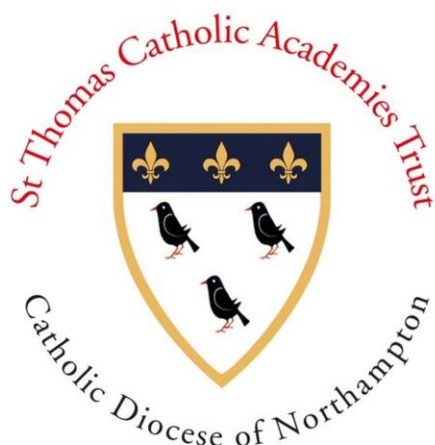
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/03/Pope-Letter-Bishops-Consecration-250322.pdf>

To join in this prayer of consecration, the words can be found here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/consecration-immaculate-heart-of-mary/>

Note: The Act of Consecration will take place in the context of a Celebration of Penance to be held in Saint Peter's Basilica on Friday, 25 March at 4pm (UK time). The Act itself will take place about 5:30pm.





INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER?



START YOUR TEACHER TRAINING JOURNEY NOW

TO APPLY YOU'LL NEED TO BE AN UNDERGRADUATE
STUDYING MATHS, PHYSICS OR COMPUTER SCIENCE

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: FRIDAY 13TH MAY 2022

CONTACT: MAXINE GILMARTIN
ADMIN@STCAT.CO.UK

WITH TEACHING
INTERNSHIPS, YOU'LL GET
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPERIENCE A RANGE OF
ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOU
GET A FEEL FOR SCHOOL
LIFE

OUR PROGRAMME TAKES
PLACE ACROSS OUR
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
AYLESBURY, HIGH
WYCOMBE, SLOUGH AND
LUTON

YOU'LL EARN £300 A WEEK
FOR 3 WEEKS FROM
JUNE 2022

YOU'LL HAVE YOUR OWN
MENTOR AND SHADOW
EXPERIENCED TEACHERS IN
YOUR SUBJECT

YOU'LL ALSO GET THE
CHANCE TO DELIVER YOUR
OWN LESSON TO A SMALL
GROUP OF STUDENTS

PUPIL NOMINATIONS OF THE WEEK

YEAR 7

Declan Fegan and **Emelia Malczewska** for receiving the highest number of positives across this week in the year group

MFL Nominations:

Oliwier R, Maja S, Arina P and **Kamila C, Jayona G, Vanessa M** and **Altaire R.**

YEAR 8

Rowan Moore for an excellent week

Natalia K for compassion

YEAR 9

MFL Nominations:

Kasper M and **Liam R** for helping regularly during form time.

YEAR 10

Patrycja Artemska, Julia Saladyk and **Agata Santoro** for an excellent result in their netball tournament

and

Charlene Daguplo, Emma Tully, Natalia Bednarczyk, Joy Nwachukwu, Shiman Singh and **Melissa Fonseca** for their continued hard work and progress in Geography.

MFL Nominations:

Laura W, Martyna K and **Vanessa S** for excellence in Spanish

YEAR 12

Ali Arif and **Giya George** for the highest number of positive points this week.

Special mention to **Jorge Antonio** who also got an impressive number of positive points this week