

St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 26th January 2024

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

Link to the latest video is:

Weekly Newsletter- 26th January 2024 (youtube.com)

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!"

Berkshire Cross Country Event

Congratulation to Ana Passos who came 4th at the Berkshire County cross country event on Saturday with a time of 14:38. With such a fabulous time she has qualified for the English Schools national Championships in March. This is an amazing achievement and we are incredibly proud of her.

Mobile Phone Policy

If a student mobile phone is confiscated, parent will have to come to the school office to collect.

Theme of the Week – The Holy One of God

The Gospel from Sunday is quite a powerful one that can link to our everyday lives. Maybe not because of the actual event that happened but more so the meaning behind the event and what we prioritise as important and why we do this! Before we look more closely at the Gospel, we must just relate to the importance of the 1st reading as it adds weight to the message from Jesus. The 1st reading on Sunday is from the Book of Deuteronomy which outlines the laws of Jewish life including that of the role and purpose of Prophets (those who proclaim the will of God). In the 1st reading we hear from the Prophet Moses (considered a very important Prophet in Judaism) who said this: *'and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him'.* Jesus would be a fulfilment of the law and the prophet. In today's readings, there is a strong link between the description of a true prophet as the mouthpiece of God and a scene where Jesus is described as one who teaches the people "with authority". — God is the source of this authority.

In the Gospel, we see the authority given to Jesus over sin and evil. The Gospel is really an extraordinary story as an illustration of the authority and power of Jesus in a simple setting. By relating the extraordinary right alongside the ordinary, Mark (the writer of the Gospel) reveals to us the enormous impression that Jesus made on the everyday lives of the people. We have Jesus teaching in the temple, not extraordinary, there were often teachers speaking in the temple on the Sabbath, there would have been many people around listening and fulfilling their Sabbath duties according to the law. Jesus though taught with astonishing conviction catching every ones attention, but that wasn't too extraordinary; then against this background of the ordinary routine someone possessed by "an evil spirit" began shouting at Jesus accusing him and calling him "God's Holy One" and we know the rest of the story and how Jesus' fame began to spread around the surrounding countryside. What a shock to the lives of the complacent, the ordinary: here was someone said to be from God who spoke with amazing authority and had power over evil spirits, - this news travelled like wild fire throughout the countryside, this was the big news of the time! It is significant that Jesus speaks with authority and that he cleans the unclean. Only one with wisdom, experience and knowledge can speak with authority. Only one with understanding can be trusted. Only one with a vision of the clean can cure the unclean.

Why then is this story powerful and relates to our lives? Think about the world we live in and what as a society we class as newsworthy! When you switch on the news today, you see death, theft, floods, disasters, war – sin and evil mainly! We live in an age where self-interest is at the heart of many but we are called to base our lives on a far greater authority then simply oneself. Jesus in his authority tells us to examine the Good News and realise it in our everyday life. In a world where negativity is so prevalent, we need to allow one another to see the Good news so we too can make it the big news of the times!

The Holy One of God

Weekly Reflections 28th January 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (1:21-28)

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Day 1 What is a prophet?

Why do you think God sent Moses as a prophet?

How does Jesus in the Gospel fulfil the message given to us by Moses?

Day 2

Is there any teacher in school or adult you know who has the gift of speaking with authority? Someone you can just listen too? How do you think people felt when they not only heard Jesus but also saw what he did?

Day 3

Think about the news you read or watch? How often do you see the Good news presented to you?

How can we show the Good news to one another in our class, school and school community to make it the authority we live by?

Prayer for the Week

God our Father, in your son Jesus you gave him your authority to teach us with knowledge and wisdom. Instil within us this knowledge and wisdom so we too can teach others to become learned and wise.

Amen

Feast Day - John Bosco 31st January



John "Don" Bosco was the youngest of three brothers raised in poverty. He lost his father at a young age but his mother played

a strong role in his upbringing and supported his ideals. He was ordained in 1841 and devoted himself to the young and poor. Bosco set up artisanal workshops to educate impoverished boys. The Salesian Teaching Order was formally approved in 1874 and soon spread around the world. John Bosco was:

Learned and Wise

Year 7 News

Year 7s have had another lovely week, after receiving lots of X's last week for Equipment they have made great improvements in reducing that number significantly. Very proud of how they have turned it around. Let's keep it up!

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos - Head of Year 7

Year 9 news

Well done on another positive week; this week we have accumulated 734 positive points! There is only 2 more weeks left until half term and the tutor group currently in the lead with the least amount of homework x's and in with a chance to win a box of Krispy Kremes is 9 Veronica.

Please can I remind you that we have Parents Evening on Thursday 1st February; if you haven't already confirmed your attendance on ParentPay please can you do it ASAP.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Joseph - Head of Year 9

Year 10 news

Congratulations to Gabriel, Livia, Vince and Sydell for achieving the highest positive points this week and last.

Mr Romero - Head of Year 10



Year 11 News

Can I remind you that interventions continue with option subjects next week, as I said in the previous newsletter your son or daughter must attend these sessions. This is to maximise their potential at the end of the year. Can I remind students who did not pay for mufti before Christmas that this is due in by next Wednesday. The money is going to a very good cause, if you know that you haven't paid can you do so please. Mrs Burby and our TVLP leaders came in to assembly this week to ask for donations for the baby bank. If you can donate to this that would be amazing. PPE timetables were given out this week can i ask you to highlight when your exams are.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Y8 Football News



The Y8 football team took the long trip to Forrest Academy Wokingham start their County Cup run.

Unfortunately we faced a very good team at Forrest Academy and the final score was 7-0.



LUX Dive- A Residential Youth Retreat for Young People Years 7-13

Students from School Years 7-13 are invited to the next residential youth weekend, LUX:Dive which is being run by NYMO.

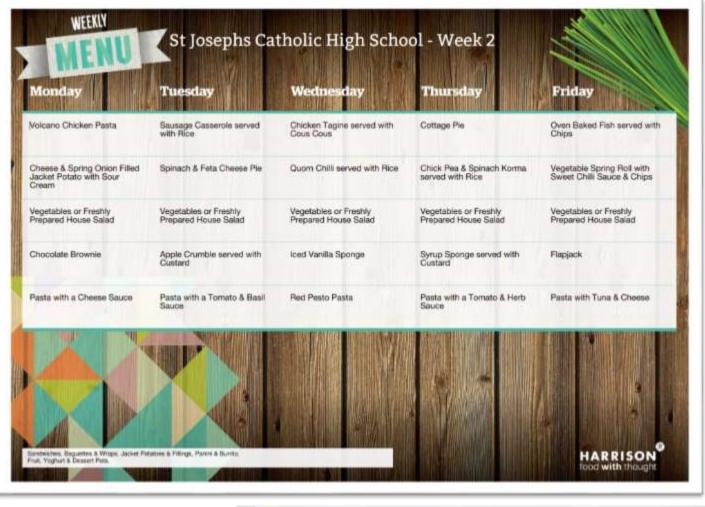


AN INVITATION TO DIVE HEADFIRST INTO A LIFE OF COURAGEOUS FAITH The deep waters of life bring many challenges such. as anxiety, fear, loneliness, and we are called to swim with Jesus to discover a more enduring faith that cannot be shaken by circumstances. DO YOU WANT TO DIVE DEEPER WITH GOD? Get ready to exchange fear and confusion for the courage and holy confidence that lead to a life of deep faith and joy! February 9th - 11th Year 7 to 13 £125 To book your place visit our website https://nymo.org/lux-dive/

those who work with this age group this weekend is

a great opportunity to encourage young people to come along and get involved. All the details are below. *To watch a promotional video* and for more information please see:

https://nymo.org/lux-dive/



Selwyn College Cambridge Trip

Today a select group of Year 12s went to the university to have a tour of the campus and city, as well as meet current students who attend there.



TVLP - Baby Drive

Our TVLP student leaders, Leah and Finlay, are leading a charity collection event for those in need of items for babies and young children. We are trying to spread our mission and values of Christ into further TVLP schools and help those who are less fortunate. We would be really grateful if you could bring in items into form to donate from the poster attached. Any questions, please email Mrs Burby (Boland).



Music Department Extra Curricular Club

| Time | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|--------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------|
| 8.00am- | | Singing Club (KUR) | | | a change a |
| 8.20am | | 8am-8:20am | | | |
| Break | Open | | Open | | |
| Lunch 1 | | Open (KUR) | Open (KUR) | | Open (KUR) |
| | | 1:15-1:35pm | 1:15-1:35pm | | 1:15-1:35pm |
| Lunch 2 | | Open (ROR) | Open (ROR) | | Open (ROR) |
| 3 | | 1:50-2:10pm | 1:50-2:10pm | | 1:50-2:10pm |
| 3.15pm- | | Open | Production Rehearsals | | Band Jam (ROR) |
| 4.15pm | | 3:15-4:15pm | | | 3:15-4:15pm |
| | | | Practice rooms closed | | |
| | | | Practice rooms open | | |
| inging club i | | | arn to harmonise. We also take re naino trips | quests for songs to sing | during the club. |

This club is for students to come along and practice instruments with the intention of starting a band or group. Students can use their voices, uitars, drum kit, ukuleles and other instruments to practice and collaborate.

You're cordially invited to a special Charity Dinner Event that promises an evening of joy, good company, and making a meaningful impact! RSVP to secure your spot!!

Click **<u>HERE</u>** to Book your tickets





Science Club having fun with the circuits, energy sticks and the plasma ball!







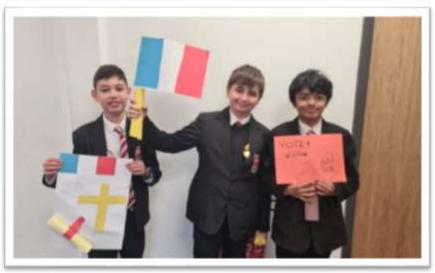




History News

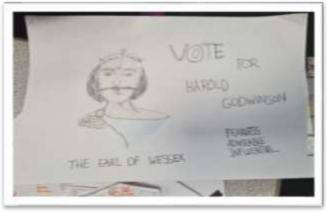
This week, our Year 7 students created elections campaigns on who they believe should be the next King of England in 1066, and why. Their options were William, Duke of Normandy, Harold Godwinson and Harald Hardrada. Well done to each of our students that put a great deal of effort into creating props, writing speeches and performing in front of their peers. Below is just a small sample of our students' creations:







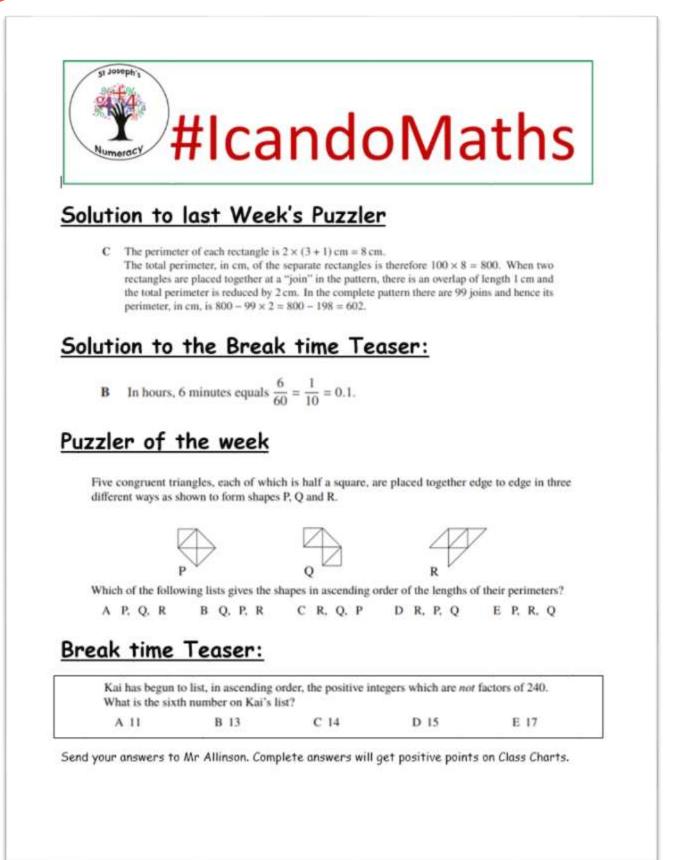






Homework superstars of the Week

| Leah | Walls | 12 Peter |
|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| Sheryl | Fernandes | 13 Peter |
| Paulina | Duda | 7 Jerome |
| Loikita Graca | Mendonca De Jesus | 8 Veronica |
| Lucas | Passos | 9 Cecilia |





EAL NEWS English as an Additional Language

Multicultural Day Extravaganza!

Get ready to embark on a global journey like never before! We are thrilled to announce the **upcoming Multicultural Day**, a spectacular celebration of diversity, unity, and the rich tapestry that makes St. Joseph's truly extraordinary!

Prepare to immerse yourself in a day filled with vibrant colours , electrifying performances, and mouth-watering cuisines from around the world. Our school has always been a melting pot of cultures, and Multicultural Day is the perfect occasion to showcase the beauty and uniqueness of each community that makes up our diverse school community.

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and get ready to be a part of an unforgettable Multicultural Day **after half term**! Together, let's celebrate our differences and discover the beauty in diversity.

Would you like to do a cultural performance? <u>CLICK HERE</u> to Complete this Microsoft Form.

Stay tuned for further details!

E)

≤



Pupil Nominations of the Week

| Year7 Patricia Marciniec and Adam Khan for having the most positive points this week |
|---|
| Year9 Natalia Zaworska and Michal Kundys for getting the most positve points |
| Year 10 Vince and Sydelle for the most positive points on Classcharts |
| |

"Unlockina Belief in All"