



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 29th September 2023



Japanese Elective

During the Japanese elective this week - we were drawing the most difficult Kanji - 'taito', composed of two kanji ("cloud" (雲) and "dragon" (龍) repeated three times)!

Well done to the group for displaying such resilience and keenness to write Japanese!

More photos from the Japanese Elective are inside the newsletter...

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

Please find below the link to this weeks video to view my message:

[\(2\) Headteacher Message NEWSLETTER 29](#)
[09.23 - YouTube](#)

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

Link to our YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/@SloughStJosephs>

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton

Theme of the Week – The Father's Will

Every day of our lives we have to make choices. Sometimes we make the wrong choice and do something we shouldn't. Remember that whenever we have had a change of heart, Jesus is always ready to give us another chance to put things right.

God's kingdom is to be governed by principles that Ezekiel (the 1st reading from Sunday) recognised and in his conversation with the people he is adamant that their choice for good or evil will lead to life or death. Good choices in the past will not negate poor choices of the present. In the second reading on Sunday, Paul speaks of aspects of Christian life and makes a plea for unity as the people strive to emulate Christian principles.

The Gospel today is set in Jerusalem, where Jesus gives another parable in response to the questioning of his authority by the chief priests. This is crisis time for Jesus' ministry and he will enter into conflict with the established religious authorities. Jesus was eliciting an answer from them about the authority of John the Baptist, who not only preached righteousness but lived it. The parable cuts the ground from under their feet. They who saw themselves as the ones with training and scriptural learning, should have known and recognised what is from God, but Jesus is inferring that they are like the second son who says 'yes' but fails to carry out God's will. It is not the conventionally religious who outwardly exhibit right talk and rituals who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but those who carry out God's will by their actions. Prostitutes and tax collectors are often bracketed together because they were considered 'sinners'. But these are the ones who accepted and believed in Jesus and experienced a change of heart and life.

Jesus' parables are always designed to challenge us to examine our own responses to God. The chief priests to whom this parable was directed were failing to recognise the reality of the situation. Have there been times when you too have been in this position? Times when you have said you were going to do something and not done it? How did you feel in breaking your promise? Have you had experiences of being pressured into agreeing to do something when you would rather have said 'no'? Or failing to do something when you knew that you should have acted? As you consider your response to the demands that being a follower of Jesus calls of you in your day to day experiences, can you identify what were the 'no' moments of the last few days? What were the 'yes' moments? How could you consider changing your negative responses in the coming week? This week, if encountering difficult moments, conversations, struggles with your studies, look to be righteous in your own actions; to truly illustrate 'The Father's Will' and allow others to see the presence of Christ in you.

The Father's will

Weekly Reflections
1st October 2023



A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (21:28-32)

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Prayer for the Week

Righteous Father, in my wrong decisions you give me forgiveness. Please pour forth your mercy so I too can forgive others. Help me to open my heart so I can make the right decisions and live out your spirit in my own actions.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Feast Day – St Jerome (342-420) 30th
September 2023



Possibly the most famous theologian in Church history. He was baptized in around 365 and became a monk in Aquileia. In 373 he travelled with three companions to Antioch, visiting Athens and many cities in Anatolia on the way. It was here that he reputedly extracted a thorn from a lion's paw, and the beast is said to have remained his faithful companion.

He returned to Rome and was retained as secretary by Pope Damasus I, who instructed him to produce a new Latin translation of the Bible. The resulting manuscript became the Vulgate Bible, the canonical Catholic text still in use today. He was

Eloquent & Truthful

Day 1

In the last week – can you think of a time where you have made the wrong choice? How did you and others around you feel?

In the Gospel today, Jesus is asking us to examine ourselves in how we come to make our decisions. Why do you think Jesus is always ready to give us another chance when we do something wrong? Think about the Gospel from two weeks ago about forgiveness

Day 2

Jesus refers to John the Baptist as a man not only preaching righteousness but actually living it.

Why do you think Jesus is critical of those who see themselves as scholars of their faith but not ones who truly practice it?

During this week be righteous to one another. Allow yourself to do the right thing for others so they do can experience Christ through you.

Day 3

The Joyful Mysteries

During this day please pray the Rosary as we enter the events surrounding the joyful coming of our Lord

School Mass – Friday 29th September 2023

We had a wonderful St Jerome Mass with Father Chris today and had a beautiful reading by our Head Boy Chiadi Emekwuo.



CONFIRMATION 2024 ENROLMENT

If you are interested in your son/daughter receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next year and they are in the academic Year 8 or above, then please register your interest to confirmationlop@gmail.com. Registration will close on 5th November 2023.

VACANCY: TRUST LEADER OF CHAPLAINCY (2 DAYS PER WEEK)

Job description: To bring children in our Catholic schools ever closer to God.

The St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust serves 3 schools in Slough and works in close partnership with all 5 schools. The Trust is seeking to appoint a Trust Leader of Chaplaincy to work mostly with primary schools in the area for two days each week. The role will include providing rich experiences for children that draw them closer to God - surely the best job in the world! Uniquely, we want this to be done in a way that helps the children make connections across schools in Slough and beyond, ensuring they understand that they are part of a great mission. You can find out more about this role and more roles in our Trust on our website: [Trust Vacancies - St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust \(stcat.co.uk\)](http://stcat.co.uk)

Faith Formation Programme

St Joseph's Faith Formation programme 2023-2024 outlines all the experiences we wish our students to live out during their time at St Joseph's. Catholic Life is at the centred of everything we do at St Joseph's and our wider school community. Our aim is for our students to take their faith into the wider world in everything they do, say and believe. Please see the attached Faith Formation booklet 2023-2024 which outlines our ethos, values, beliefs and stories which make up the Catholic faith of the school. Whether you are new or old to St Joseph's, very familiar with the Catholic Church and its rituals, or a bit out-of-touch with your local church, we hope you find something of interest and reassurance in the booklet

Retreats to Worth Abbey

Next week, Year 9 will be going to Worth Abbey in West Sussex for their Retreat. Their Retreat will focus on:

Theme – The Kerygma

1000- Arrival and Welcome

1015 – Session 1: The Father

1100 – Session 2: The Son

1200 – Lunch *in the School Refectory*

1300 – Session 3: The Holy Spirit *in Abbey Church*

1400 – Retreat End

Please note form groups will be going to Worth Abbey on the following days:

2nd October – 9 Cecilia and 9 Mark

3rd October – 9 Peter and 9 Teresa

5th October – 9 Jerome and 9 Veronica

We hope they have a faith-filled and hopeful day.

A sandwich and Prayer for those Most in Need

One example of how our students serve those most in need is our ***'Sandwich for the homeless campaign'***. Over the course of the school year, every student at St Joseph's will make a sandwich and write a prayer which will be passed on to a homeless person to ensure they know they are cared for and so we all do our bit to help those most in need in society. This will commence from Monday 2nd October with 11 Cecilia starting our mission. Slough Outreach, the recipients of the sandwich, sent through this message last week:

Dear Mr. Gibbons,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your kind offer of sandwiches for the homeless at Slough Outreach. We are incredibly grateful for your support, and we would be honoured to be the recipient of your students' sandwiches.

Your students' generosity will make a real difference in the lives of the homeless people we serve. Many of our clients struggle to access nutritious food, and a sandwich can make a world of difference in helping them stay healthy and energized. Thank you to all students and staff for your efforts with this project.

The Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Rosary so throughout the next three weeks, students in year 7 and 11 will be coming to the Chapel to pray the Rosary. All other year groups will be praying the Rosary in form time.

Prayer intentions for our website and school community

As a Catholic school, we feel it's always important that students, staff and parents/families have the opportunity to share their prayer intentions so as a school community we can come together in prayer to support one another. If you have any prayer intentions you wish for us to pray for please feel free to send through to chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk During the school year, students will come together as a collective group (as a class, year group and as a school) to pray for your intentions. These prayer intentions will also be put on our website (prayer corner) to share so as a whole school community we can pray for one another.

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 of this.

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

Support at St Joseph's.

At St Joseph's we are aware and understand that the current cost of living crisis causes worry and concern for many. As a Catholic School, we always have the well-being of our school community at the heart of everything we do and as a result, we want to help as best we can. We are putting together fortnightly food parcels that will be delivered to families most in need in order to support them over the next few months. A typical food parcel will contain the following:

Food items	Cereal Pasta Soup Rice Tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce Lentils, beans and pulses Tinned meat Tinned vegetables Tea/coffee Tinned fruit Biscuits UHT milk Fruit juice
Non-food items	Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes, hand sanitizer Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons

In order to receive a food parcel each fortnight please can you email chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk where you will be invited to come into St Joseph's to discuss the needs of your family and the food parcel that will not only meet your family's dietary needs but also how we as a school can support further.

Reading and Progress Tests

On the week commencing the 9th of October, we will be holding baseline Reading Tests for Years 8-13 (Year 7 are already complete) and Progress Tests for English and Maths for Key Stage 3. We will hold a Progress Test for Science in Year 7 only (Year 8 and 9 will be at the end of the Year).

These are baseline tests to measure where students are in their learning and reading at this point in the year and the summer test serves as a measure of progress against this. This is the reason why we do a summer test and then a test straight away again in autumn (the autumn test being at a higher level than the previous summer).

The tests are hugely important to the student experience at St Josephs because we can provide high quality feedback to students to improve their reading, English, Maths and Science and we gain cohort strengths and areas for development that we use to improve our curriculum.

Parents and students will receive their reading ages, reading reports and progress reports along with their first school report.

Students will receive all information needed to complete the test in the week before the tests during form time. They will receive a timetable, log in codes and information as to how to conduct the test.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me (Mr Stack-Clark) via email g.stack-clark@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

School Photos

We will be having our school photos on the 2nd and 3rd of October. Students were given their timings in form and assembly this morning, however, please see below:

Date		Time	Year group
MONDAY 2 OCT	Set up time	7.30am	
	Lesson 1	8.45am	Year 11
	Lesson 2	9.45am	Year 10
	Break time	10.45 - 11.05am	
	Lesson 3	11.05am	Year 8
	Lesson 4	12.05pm	Year 7
	Lunch	1.05-2.15pm	Staff photos
	Lesson 5	2.15pm	Year 9 (P, T, J, V)
TUESDAY 3 OCT	Set up time	7.30am	
	Lesson 1	8.45am	Sixth Form
	Lesson 2	9.45am	Year 9C/M & Catch Up
	Break time	10.45 - 11.05am	
	Lesson 3	11.05am	Catch up session

Year 7 News

It has been a lovely week this week, the Year 7s have done an amazing jobs. One of our forms will be receiving a Pizza Party next week for having the best attendance in the Year group. It was a very tight race between 7 Cecilia and 7 Peter. Also our two top Positive Point earners have received a Prize and a Postcard home so well done to those two.

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 9 News

Well done for another positive week; the tutor group that are currently in the lead to win my Krispy Kreme competition is 9 Veronica with 1129 positive points but there are 3 more weeks left and it all to play for!

Next week Year 9s are on retreat at Worth Abbey. The Retreat Days are a time for the students to get to develop and enhance their understanding of their own faith and to take part in moments of reflection and prayer.

Each tutor group will be going on the following days:

2nd October – 9 Cecilia and 9 Mark

3rd October – 9 Peter and 9 Teresa

5th October – 9 Jerome and 9 Veronica

Have a lovely weekend 😊

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Year 10 Football News

The year 10 football team travel to Beechwood School for their opening fixture of the season.

They had a great battle for the majority of the game leading up to 3-3. Unfortunately the train came off the tracks and conceded two late goals to make it a final score of 5-3 to Beechwood.

Goals: Gabi x1 & Emmanuell x2

Year 11 Netball News

On Tuesday the Year 11 netball team had 2 matches against Beechwood and Ditton Park. The girls started their season with 2 wins, beating Beechwood 3-1 and Ditton Park 5-4.

Player of the match: Aine Conlon

Year 11 News

Well done to year 11 for another great week. There has been a lot going on around school this week from House Assemblies to Jerome's Feast Day Today. It is great to go round lessons and see how engaged the students are. Well done to 11 V who have won a pizza lunch next week. I will be coming round with the menu on Monday.

In the meantime have a great weekend

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

Year 9 Netball

This week the year 9's played their first netball match of the season against Ditton park Academy. They put on a great performance and came away victorious with the final score being 16-1. Well done to Mikah, Abi, Natalia, Ava, Licia, Emilia and Sam.



Year 11 Battlefields Trip

A gentle reminder to any Year 11 interested in the trip to the WWI Battlefields that it has been postponed to take place, between 2nd – 4th February 2024 at the price of £320. For anyone that has already paid the deposit, if you are happy for your child to attend this trip, there is nothing you need to do at the moment, however please be aware that new payment dates have been added for ParentPay:

16th October - £75 (deposit)

20th November - £90

4th January - £155

For anyone that can no longer attend, please contact me directly in writing and I will arrange for a deposit refund.

Please note that once we get 40 entries for this trip, the deposit will be paid and will no longer be refundable. This will be paid on 16th October.

Any questions, please do get in touch and let me know.

Ms. Weir

E.Weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Business Department - Harry Potters Studios Trip

Happy Friday to all GCSE and Vocational Business Students!

This week, we have announced a Harry Potter Studios trip for all GCSE and Vocational Business students. **Y10 will be going on Tuesday 21st November and Y11 will go on Wednesday 29th November.** The cost of this trip will be **£40** and all payment and consent forms will be done via ParentPay - which is now live. Students will go during P4 and return at approximately 6:30pm to school where they will need to make their own way home. This trip promises to be a unique and fun learning experience for the students to see first-hand application of content they have learnt to the real world of business.

Payment for this trip must be completed by the 23rd October in order for us to confirm numbers to ensure the trip can go on.

If you have any questions or concerns about payment /logistics, please feel free to contact me

Miss Akintokun.

Japanese elective – more photos...

Following on from the front page news please see more photos below from Japanese elective.

Miss Crabtree





Art News

We would like to celebrate the outstanding Art work from Mikhaella Mendoza year 12 she created in Art.



Electives Choices for Next Half-Term COMING SOON....

We have another round of upcoming electives for next half-term. Look at your ClassCharts for an announcement early next week.

Our elective provision now includes: Art Club, Art Nouveau, Basketball, Beginners Guitar, Business Enterprise, Candle Making, Catholic Ethos, Chess, Classics, Clay Modelling, Coding, Learning Support at St Ethelbert's, Cookery, Darts, Debating Society, Electronics, Film Director's Club, First Aid, Boys Football, Girls Football, Fantasy Football Analysis, Hebrew, Hurling, Italian, Japanese, Salsa, 'Make It' Club, Mandarin, Microscopy, Mindfulness, Polish GCSE Preparation, Prop Design & Construction, Resin Making, 'Sew Easy', 'Shrek' The Musical, Swimming, Web Design, World Cultures, World History, Yoga/Pilates and our very first ever **Rewards Elective!**

Lots to do, get your selections in as quick as you can! - Mr Dann

Homework Superstars

Robert Slezak	7 Cecilia
Adriana Paulusz	8 Teresa
Lena Gaczowska	9 Teresa
Mia Ramananthan	10 Cecilia
Mateusz Zieba	11 Peter
Mateusz Skowera	12 Peter



Black History Month – House Competition

Sunday marks the first day of Black History Month here in the UK. Black History Month is a month in which we celebrate the achievements of black individuals and groups throughout history. In the UK, the month of October is dedicated to celebrating these achievements.

To mark Black History Month, the History Department invites you to create a fact-file, poster or presentation on any significant black woman in history.

To enter, please bring your poster to any member of the History Department by the end of Thursday 19th October. Alternatively, you can send your entry to a member of the department through Teams or email.





TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF OUR YEAR 9X1 FRENCH COMPETITORS:

MIKAH AUNGON (9 MARK) – WINNER

ANNA SIDYK (9 CECILIA) – RUNNER UP

THESE TWO STUDENTS BRAVELY TOOK PART IN A FRENCH SPELLING BEE WHICH THEY HAD PREPARED FOR THOROUGHLY! THEY HAD TO BRAVELY PERFORM TO ME AND THEIR PEERS IN 9X1 FRENCH. THEY PRONOUNCED THESE WORDS CORRECTLY WITH ACCENTS AND GOOD PRONUNCIATION.

1. beaucoup – A LOT/MANY
2. drôle – FUNNY
3. généreux - GENEROUS
4. aujourd' hui - TODAY
5. ennuyeux – BORING/DULL
6. petit – SMALL, TINY
7. marché – MARKET / WALKED
8. habiter – TO LIVE
9. apprendre – TO LEARN
10. travailler – TO WORK

L'ALPHABET EN FRANÇAIS



A	ah	J	jee	S	ess
B	bay	K	kah	T	tay
C	say	L	ell	U	u
D	day	M	em	V	vay
E	euh	N	en	W	doob-leh-vay
F	eff	O	oh	X	eeeks
G	jay	P	pay	Y	ee-grek
H	ash	Q	coo	Z	zed
I	ee	R	rrr		





#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** Let the squares on the border of the large square have side-length 1. Then the large square has side-length 5 and area 25. Note that 8 of the 16 squares on the border of the large square are shaded. The area of the central region of the large square is $25 - 16 = 9$. Three-quarters of this area is shaded.

Therefore, the fraction of the large square which is shaded is $\frac{8 + \frac{3}{4} \times 9}{25} = \frac{32 + 27}{100} = \frac{59}{100}$.
So 59% of the large square is shaded.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- B** The value of 2019 tenths is $2019 \times \frac{1}{10} = 201.9$

Puzzler of the week

Each of the diagrams below shows a circle and four small squares. In each case, the centre of the circle is the point where all four squares meet.

In one of the diagrams, exactly one third of the circle is shaded. Which one?



Break time Teaser:

One third of the animals in Jacob's flock are goats, the rest are sheep. There are twelve more sheep than goats.

How many animals are there altogether in Jacob's flock?

- A 12 B 24 C 36 D 48 E 60

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year7

Michael Garncarek for his routine in Gymnastics and Coco Stewart who received the most positive points this week.

Year9

Andrius Trinovas and Vanessa Masha for getting the most positive points this week!

Year 10

Anna Kozinska for her improvement and hard work in math lessons.
Adriel Dias and Nathacia Mendonca de Jesus for the highest amount of positive points achieved this week.

My student of the week in 10V is Tracey Paterson for outstanding values of compassion, communication and generosity of spirit.

Year 11

Joel M (11V) and Julia P (11P) for winning the first Friday shout out

Year 12

Leah Walls and Finlay Gibbons for commitment to the wider life of the school
All the students who helped with car parking yesterday
Victoria Palczewska and Alex Pienkowski for the most positive points on classcharts.

Year 13

Daisy Loft and Liam Wilson for earning the most positive points so far this term.