

5th November 2021



ST JOSEPH'S *NEWSLETTER*



From The Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

All the secondary Head Teachers met over half term with South East Berkshire Public Health England (now called the Health Security Agency). In light of the rising the incidents of infection in the locality the following steps to mitigate the spread were put into place.

Actions in place to mitigate the spread of Covid

'Unlocking Belief in All'

5th November 2021

The Department of Education has made it clear to all schools to prioritize education and minimize disruption. Given the rising infection rate of covid in the locality, the Slough Head Teachers met over half term with SE Berkshire PHE (now called the Health Security Agency) to take advice and guidance on what the next moves might be. In holding the tension between maintaining the priority to ensure the fullness of education for the students and maintaining a safe working school, the following actions were asked to be considered for all schools.

1. Students continue to come to school prepared and ready for learning as usual
2. Students and staff should wear masks and/or face visors when in transition between lessons and/or in the school buildings where social distancing is difficult to maintain (for example; moving from class to class when they may come into contact with other year groups) when inside school buildings before or after school.
3. Masks do not need to be worn for lessons, break or lunch times when the children are outside at this time.
4. We had already brought a black cloth mask for each and every student in the Y8-13 last year and provided it free of charge with the expectation that it be worn at these times. I'm asking that the students wear a similar mask at this time. We do have a limited stock of emergency masks but we don't have 5000 per week to distribute on a daily basis.
5. This will not apply to those students and staff who are medically exempt from wearing face coverings – but if students are it would help hugely if you can ensure it's clear they are exempt.
6. We're already maintaining a staggered break and lunch to keep year groupings separate, and extra cleaning during the day as we did since the pandemic began – we'll continue to do this.

Additionally, any child or member of staff who has a household member test positive for COVID-19, any child or member of staff who is identified as a close contact of a positive case via NHS Test and Trace should be advised to take a daily LFD test for 7 days, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test.

Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those aged under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing. There is evidence from the daily contact testing trial conducted in 201 schools between April and June 2021 that daily LFD testing of exposed students and staff was equivalent to self-isolation of whole year groups. It is therefore indicated to be a safe alternative to home isolation following school-based exposure. If you are worried about any of this please do get in touch with us here at the school.

If you do contract Covid please let us know either by phone or via cv19@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Advance Warning

It may seem far off in the future but we finally have a date to introduce cashless payment at the canteen which will be linked directly to ParentPay. We'll send you all the information closer to the time around the implications for data protection but suffice to say at this point we're looking to start to live test, register students and go live on 18th January.

And a special congratulations to our Year 10 Football team who beat St Bernard's last night 2-1.

Have a cracking weekend.

St Joseph, pray for us

Ciran Stapleton

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St Joseph's Cyclists

I would firstly like to say thank you so much for the support you have shown with our new cycling initiative to ensure safer cycling. It gives us great peace of mind to know that your child's journey to and from school is as safe as can be while cycling in the coming winter months. It is a legal requirement when riding in the dark to have a front facing white light and rear facing red light and the necessity of a helmet alongside these is only the minimum amount of safety features that we expect our cyclist to have. I have included a few links below to further educate on road safety, specifically in the winter. In addition, I am continuing to search for suitable courses and training for our cyclists. For those that needed support with their cycling equipment, we are in the process of obtaining these items and your patience is greatly appreciated.

I would please add that we are noticing that several pupils are bringing a helmet to school but are not necessarily wearing it. This is obviously not what we are trying to achieve with this initiative and we greatly value your support in having a conversation with your child about this, should we contact you about a concern in this area. This is not a box-ticking exercise, we genuinely care about the safety of our pupils, which underpins the whole rationale behind this initiative. For any pupils that are not meeting our safety requirements, we are currently putting these bikes into a secure lock-up. These can either be picked up by parents, or collected by pupils if they bring in the necessary safety requirements i.e. lights and/or helmet.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rosopa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Road safety teaching resources for children <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>

Keeping Children Safe in the Dark <https://firstaidforlife.org.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-dark/>

Be Safe

Mr Dann

Theme of the Week

GENEROSITY

Our theme for this week is 'Generosity' which links very well with our Pupil Profile virtues for this half term; 'Grateful & Generous'. In the Gospel, Jesus talks about giving, comparing the wealthy who give out of their leftover money, and the widow who gives out of her poverty.

After reading the Gospel from Mark 12:38-44, who in this story gives more?

Reflecting on our theme of 'Generosity', **what does this word mean to you?** Spend a moment thinking about this question.

Does the Gospel reading change your understanding of what it means to be generous?

We can link the Gospel reading to our own lives, thinking and reflecting on how much we give of ourselves to our work and studies; to getting involved with extra-curricular activities; how much of our time we give to God in prayer; how much of ourselves and our time we give to helping others.

Jesus says in the Gospel reading; "She...put in everything" – The widow in the Gospel puts in everything, her money and herself. As Christians, we are called to be in relationship with Jesus, with God. God is so generous to us, giving us all that we need, we must return His generosity by giving our everything to Him. But how do we do this? By praying, telling Him everything that is going on in our lives, He is there to listen; by us listening to His Will and trying our best to live it out; by helping others who are in need, being selfless and not expecting to receive anything back.

How can you be generous today?

Year 7 News

We started our year 7 Retreats this week. Tutors have really enjoyed getting to spend time with their forms, and I have heard great reflections coming from Year 7 after the day. I look forward to hearing more stories from the forms who go next week.

As the weather gets colder and the pandemic continues, I ask that you encourage your children to 'layer up' when getting dressed for school in the morning. We will have windows open in classrooms, to allow air to flow through, and at this time of year the air brings a chill with it. I would recommend a plain top under the shirt.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the fireworks.

Miss O'Connor

Year 8 News

There has been lots of new topic introduced this week in subjects and year 8 as always have thrown themselves in with enthusiasm. Mission to Thai will be selling donughts and continuing with their tuck shop next week. Can I encourage you to take part in the various extra curricular clubs on throughout the week. As the weather is getting colder can I ask you to wear a dark coloured coat.

Year 9 News

Dear Year 9,

A fantastic start to this half term, It has been so great seeing so many of you again. There has been some fantastic learning this week including looking at how tropical storms are formed and managed in Geography, algebraic manipulations and expressions in Maths, and in Business they are exploring what it takes to be an entrepreneur and own their own business.

Over the course of the next few weeks we will be rolling out some exciting resilience building activities in tutor time which align with the year plan I discussed at Welcome Evening. We are going to reflect on our Academic Review Day targets that were set and look at the "Next Steps" needed to achieve these targets. Students will also have some guided time to reflect and enquire about their future Career paths using a "Career Action Plan" created by our PSHE Leader Mrs Finn.

Looking forward to seeing more fantastic participation in lessons and in the wider school community throughout this half term.

Have a great weekend,

Miss WD

5th November 2021

Year 10 News

Dear All,

What a lovely week it has been seeing everyone back after 2 weeks. The hard work has been evident all round lessons as we settle back into school.

A huge well done to everyone who got up and auditioned for the school musical this week, that's not an easy thing to do!

Well done also to our boys football team who won 2-1 yesterday. A fantastic result!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Robinson

Year 11 News

Well done on completing your first week back. We have one more week of lessons before our assessments start so make sure you are doing everything you can to succeed in these assessments.

Let me know if you feel like you need any support and have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Cudmore

Year 13 News

With only 1 more week until their centre assessments begin year 13 have been working hard preparing for their exams. I wish you all the best of luck. Keep using past papers and your preferred revision method to get ready.

Many of our students have already submitted their UCAS applications and are starting to receive offers, which is fantastic. For those who are not finished this needs to be a priority. If you require further help and support, contact your form tutor. Your application must be complete and submitted to us by 17th December.

PSHE dates for this month are:

- Wednesday November 10th Period 3
- Friday November 19th Period 5
- Thursday November 25th Period 1

In order to keep everyone safe, make sure you are all following the one way system around school and wearing face masks in communal areas. You should all be testing twice a week and regularly washing your hands.

Have a great week

Mrs Bray

'Unlocking Belief in All'

Sixth Form News

Year 13 & 11 – Preparation for PPE

I have attached a Personalised Learning Checklist for our Year 11 and 13 students in order to prepare them for the upcoming PPEs.

Sixth Form Information and Guidance for Parents and Students – Web Pages

- Applying to University - <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/after-the-6th-form/applying-to-university/>
- Careers: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/after-the-6th-form/careers/>
- Admissions Tests: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/after-the-6th-form/admissions-tests/>
- The Super Curriculum: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/about-us/widening-participation/>
- Revision and Study resources: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/about-us/revision-and-student-resources/>

Opportunities for Sixth Form

Please see the following opportunities promoted to sixth form this week:

- Virtual Medical Work Experience: <https://educationprojects.co.uk/courses/ward-round-live/>.
- Veterinary, Medical and Dentistry Interview Preparation: <https://meducators.co.uk/shop/ols/products/mmi-online>
- The Young Photographer Challenge: https://investin.org/blogs/news/young-photographer-competition?mc_cid=1d3c363598&mc_eid=15d1f5882e

Free Online Courses and Documentaries for Sixth Form:

Mr Romero has put together a list of Free Online Courses (MOOCs – free learning, accredited by universities to really extend learning and impress in Personal Statements) and Documentaries to watch, all organised by subject. Please see these documents attached.

Literacy – Word and Idiom of the Week

The word this coming week is **‘Theory’**, a noun, that is defined as a supposition or a system of ideas intended to explain something, especially one based on general principles independent of the thing to be explained. Further, it is a set of principles on which the practice of an activity is based.

The idiom this coming week is **‘To put the cart before the horse’**, which means doing things the wrong way round or with the wrong emphasis or confusing cause and effect.

Drama News

Well done to everyone who auditioned for Sweeney Todd this week. I am so excited to start directing another show. It will be cast by the end of next week and rehearsals will start the following week.

Mrs Dunleavy

Geography News

Geography Club continues every Tuesday 3:00-4 in T16. We are continuing to create ecobricks until Christmas which will then be turned into a permanent sculpture in school to raise awareness about plastic pollution. After five sessions students receive their Eco School badges- this week we say congratulations to Ariyana, Giannina, Dawid and Julia who have made Eco Bricks for five hours. Ariyana says 'it is a really fun club and I love to get to know more about the Geography teachers and what is going on in the world.'

For the club to continue we need everyone's support! Please continue to bring all plastic wrappers to the Geography department- we need your rubbish to continue to make an impact in our local environment!

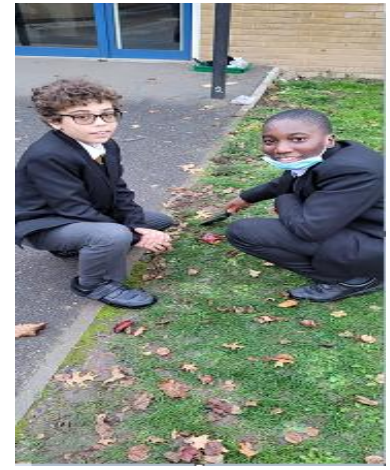


Science News

We are proud to inform everyone that we have received 3rd place in the Tesco Community grants and as such has **received £500** to go towards the greenhouse project. This is a drop in the bucket but we are grateful for it nonetheless. Many thanks to those who supported us and please keep an eye out for other fundraising ventures we wish to embark on in the upcoming months.

Be sure to give a thumbs up to all our science club members who took part in the TVLP Biodiversity project this week and planted several bulbs (snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils) in various areas. It was refreshing to see eager youths digging away and bettering their environment one bulb at a time. We also anticipate the results of their hard work as these bulbs should come to bloom this spring and every spring hereafter. These eager beavers include:

- Fabian L.
- Oliwier R.
- Marika W.
- Adewale A.
- Marcell E.
- Melanie L.
- Phoebe B





Design and Technology Department

A particular perk of working in the D&T department is 'having' to sample some of the great dishes served up by our pupil chefs. This week Year 11s had a ready steady cook desert challenge. The star chefs produced some stunning and particularly tasty puddings, designed, dished up and cleared away within 45 minutes! Well done year 11!



Plastics Challenge

Thank-you to those that have already brought in plastic bottle tops. Please do continue to collect and send them in to be put into the collection boxes in A4.

DESIGNeers- KS3 DT club

It was fabulous to see the workshop busy on Monday after school. The DESIGNeers had a good first session back, and got busy designing and making their own individual poppies.



Poppies.

Year 9 Designers began work on their poppies which will be available to buy from Monday next week. All money collected will be passed onto the poppy appeal.

DT social media



We try to post updates and points of interest on our Instagram page we also share some of the great work being done by our DT pupils....

D&T Stars of the week



Warrick Passos-Wiggs 9Mark For being prophetic and generous with his significant contribution to our HDPE collection

Lukasz Orlowski for continued wise, learned and eloquent contributions in food lessons.

Thames Valley Learning Partnership

The Thames Valley Learning Partnership provides our students with some fantastic opportunities over the year. Launching on Monday is our participation in the WWF Wild Wisdom Global Challenge. Each student from years 9-13 will be able to explore interactive content and expand their knowledge on the climate crisis, before testing what they have learnt and gaining points for our school by completing online challenges. St Joseph's will then be in a global and national leaderboard. The schools in the top 5% of the national leaderboard can enter two students to progress to the International Finals.

Look out for your log-in from your form tutor on Monday and help get us to the Finals!



Another great opportunity this week funded by the TVLP has been the planting of bulbs across our school site, which the Science Club got to participate in as part of the TVLPs biodiversity project. I can't wait to see these bloom in the Spring months. Do see the Science Club's section in the Newsletter to read more about this.

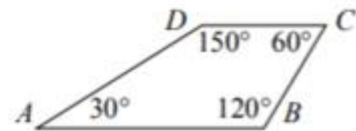


Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** From the information given, there are at least two 9s in the list, since 9 is the mode, and at least one number greater than 10, since 10 is the mean. So there are at least three numbers greater than 8 in the list. Therefore the list must contain at least six numbers, as the median of the numbers is 8. Moreover, it is possible to find suitable lists of six numbers with sum 60 (as the mean is 10), for example 1, 2, 7, 9, 9, 32.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- E** The sum of the interior angles of a quadrilateral is 360° , so $x + 5x + 2x + 4x = 360$, that is $12x = 360$. Therefore $x = 30$ and the angles of the quadrilateral, taken in order, are 30° , 150° , 60° and 120° . The diagram shows the shape of the quadrilateral. Since $30 + 150 = 180$, we see that AB and DC are parallel. Since it has no equal angles, it is not a rhombus or a parallelogram so it is a trapezium.



Problem of the week

Three consecutive positive integers less than 20 are, in ascending order, prime, even and triangular. What is the product of these three integers?

- A 6 B 60 C 990 D 1786 E 2730

Break time Teaser:

Megan writes down a list of five numbers. The mean of her first three numbers is -3 . The mean of her first four numbers is 4. The mean of her first five numbers is -5 .

What is the difference between her fourth number and her fifth number?

- A 66 B 55 C 44 D 33 E 22

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. The first full complete answer will get satchel points.

Pupil Nominations of the Week

<u>Year 7</u> Oliver Torok-Pena for his intentional attitude towards his learning, and Sonia Wiaderek for her loving nature with her peers. Keep it up! Great job!	<u>Year 8</u> Rosa Bavington for resilience Angelo (8C) for curiosity in Computer Science
<u>Year 9</u> Wiktoria Powaska (9 Peter) for tackling this week with resilience. Kacper Kostriakiewicz (9 Jerome) for being intentional and faith-filled this week.	<u>Year 10</u> Diana Fragola and Simone Gagliesi for superb commitment to Italian over half term.
<u>Year 11</u> India Jackson and William O'Leary for exceptional effort in intervention sessions this week.	
<u>Year 13</u> Emma Kadiri for homework in product design and Mandla for hard work in art.	