

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020



PAINTING BY OLIVIA  
JAWORSKA IN YEAR 11



MERMAID PAINTING BY  
MARIEL CABASA IN YEAR 13



MARILYN MONROE  
PORTRAIT BY SHANNON  
MUNRO IN YEAR 13

## ST JOSEPH'S *NEWSLETTER*



STUDENTS FROM 7 PETER WITH THEIR RE PROJECTS

## From The Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Christmas Dinner Day Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

This is going to be a significant day for 2 reasons. There's some talk of a vote on the EU Brexit deal in Parliament, but the more widely anticipated event is that it's the date that would have been Christmas Dinner Day here at St Joseph's. However, the impact of CV19 has caused us to rethink the event. Having all the children in the Hall with music playing and a show on the screen has, in the past, tended to prompt mass jubilant singing, this is of course not allowed under the current

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restrictions. On a more serious note though, having so many students in such proximity isn't minimising the risk of infection and in the worst case scenario might ruin someone's holiday by having to self-isolate and mean they would be unable to see grandparents or other members of the family over the Christmas period.

Therefore, mindful of the need to have an event that the children can look forward to, we've taken the bold decision to hire out an ice rink for the school for the day. It's being run by an outside firm who manage these kinds of events regularly – so it'll be supervised, insured and safe. It'll be on the playground and we will rotate the year groups over the day so that everybody will have the opportunity to have a decent time on the ice. We'll need your permission which we'll request on your mobile phones via Microsoft Forms next week. It'll also be a mufti day for the children which we ask for a voluntary donation on *Parentpay* of £1-£2.

We'll ensure that pupils are kept in year group bubbles and, of course, it'll all be outside – so the children need to dress appropriately – *and they will need to bring gloves to be on the ice*. Lunch will be available as normal from the usual year group specific areas.

### **#Mission to Thailand**

We never did get out to Thailand in February due to the virus but we did donate all the money we raised (approximately £17K) to the Orphanage and children's home to support the terrific work they do there. Last week we received a wonderful 3 minute video message which we've put on our website from Derek Franklin who organises all our activities when we're at the Father Ray Foundation. In it he shows where the money went – namely the construction of a sports playing area that previously had been wasteland. The video gives a lovely insight to one of the areas we visit and work with the children. Until this point the children in the home had no play area at all.

### **Next Week Year 11 Parents' Evening 10<sup>th</sup> December on line**

Please do ensure you've a time slot allocated in advance for the Year 11 Parents' Evening which will take place on line. The subject teachers will call you through Microsoft Teams via the students' school email address. We're keen that all parents have the opportunity to take part. Please be aware that these calls will have to run to the time slot so that other parent's times don't become delayed over the evening and the teachers may have to end your session so that the next timed meeting can take place.

### **Advance notice for PPE2 (Centre Assessed Grades)**

With less than 2 weeks to go until the end of the term it's already time to think through the next set of PPEs which take place in January. This next set is the full suite of papers replicating the GCSE and GCE experience. The children sit these in the hall as they will for the summer exams.

Have a great weekend.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Ciran Stapleton

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## **Theme of the Week – Get Ready!**

The Gospel for today begins by talking about **good news**. It is a very appropriate way to begin this week's Gospel. Recent scientific developments have given us hope that the end of this crisis may well be in sight! The way in which we have been getting ready has been crucial in achieving a return to normality.

During this season, we remember how Mary and Joseph were getting ready for the birth of Jesus. Think about what mothers-to-be do in preparation for the birth of children. Think about what needs to be considered. Like mothers, we need peace and quiet for preparation. We need help as new mothers need help. We need to ask for help in getting ready over the next three weeks. Not just in the normal Christmas preparation, but in developing our understanding of the birth, life and death of Jesus.

A question we could ask ourselves is, if we believe that Jesus was born in a stable 2,000 years ago, what does that mean for our lives today?

**Advent is a journey towards a goal:** recognising the enormity of the birth of Jesus, and the impact that his birth had on the world.

John the Baptist dedicated his whole life to one thing: "preparing the way of the Lord", now we are also asked to prepare. To make a space in our lives for God.

Make a list of the things in your life that you plan to change in order to prepare a bigger place for God in your life. John the Baptist was so passionate in telling people about God. He is a role model in talking about God.

**Could we learn from him and the example he gave us?**

Maybe you could invite someone to Mass this Christmas who has not been before?



## Geography News

The Geography department are running a Christmas competition! We want to promote active and sustainable global citizens by encouraging students to create their own tree from recycled materials. Drink cans, tins, bottles, pizza boxes... get creative with the items you find at home! Entries are to be emailed to Miss Boland by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December: [L.Boland@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:L.Boland@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) Prizes to be decided!! #StayExcellent

**Design a  
SUSTAINABILI-TREE  
Competition**

We want to promote active and sustainable global citizens by encouraging students to create their own tree from recycled materials.

Drink cans, tins, bottles, pizza boxes... get creative with the items you find at home!

**Create your own Christmas tree using objects and materials from around your home.  
Email Photograph Entries to Miss Boland by 14<sup>th</sup> December!**

## Year 10 News

This week 10X took on 10Y in a mixed netball challenge. The standard improved throughout the match and it was end to end stuff with some great performances by both sides. Well done to all who played and especially to Bobby Kadiri who scored the winning goal for 10X. Final result was 3-2.



Geography coastal revision using playhouse. Great work Year 10. Good luck in all your assessments. Get some revision done this weekend



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## **Year 10 HW and exam preparation**

The Year 10s received a booklet this week to help them organise their weekly HW and revision schedules with top tips on how to get the most out of their study time.

In form time we will be looking at revision techniques throughout the year so that by the end of the summer term, when the Year 10s will have their exams in the sports hall, they will be fully prepared

There is no such thing as no HW, if your son/daughter has a night with no HW set they can use their study sessions in order to go over previously covered topics or lesson content that they found challenging.

If you have any specific subject related questions around what to revise then do please contact the subject teacher.

### **TOP TIPS**

- Start by looking at the list of topics for each subject that you need to revise.
- Working backwards from the assessment put each topic in one of the revision sessions, if you feel you need longer than one revision session for a particular topic then allocate more time.
- Each revision session should be 30-45 minutes and you should do up to 2-3 sessions an evening in the week and 4-5 sessions over the weekend.
- Take short breaks between each session.
- Make sure you have one evening off each week.
- On your timetable you should have 2-3 subject HWs/revision sessions per evening.
- When you are studying turn off all social media/mobile phones to avoid any distractions.
- Organise your study area so you have a clear quiet space to work in.
- Use your study area to display your revision timetable.
- Keep your notes and books in an orderly way so you don't waste time looking for them.
- Top tip: get 8 hours sleep, drink lots of water and eat well.

Miss Cheston

## **History News**

### **Year 11 History Student of the Month:**

Michael Addison for consistently working hard and engaging in his History work! Well done Michael, a £10 Amazon voucher is on its way to you!



**COMPETITION TIME!**

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From Tuesday 1st December until Thursday 16th December, the History Department are holding daily competitions on our Instagram page - with 5 epraise points up for grabs! There can be only one winner! To enter, you need to follow @stjosephshistory. Good luck to all entries! 😊

Operation Bletchley are calling on all Secret Agents for Christmas in Berlin! Do you have what it takes?!

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to cover 24 miles on foot through Soviet territory, decrypt vital intelligence about the blockade, cracking codes as you go, and help bring our stranded contacts back to Headquarters.

With three levels of codes to choose from: junior, codebreaker and cypher expert, this is an activity which the whole family can get involved in this Christmas.

Sign up for just £10 and link the activity to your phone or tracker, or record your miles manually. This event begins from 26 December 2020.

<https://events.soldierscharity.org/event/operation-bletchley/home>

Please follow the link below for more information, and to sign up. Please do send on photos of your participation in this event if you are comfortable with them being shared in the Newsletter, and on our History Instagram Page, @stjosephshistory.

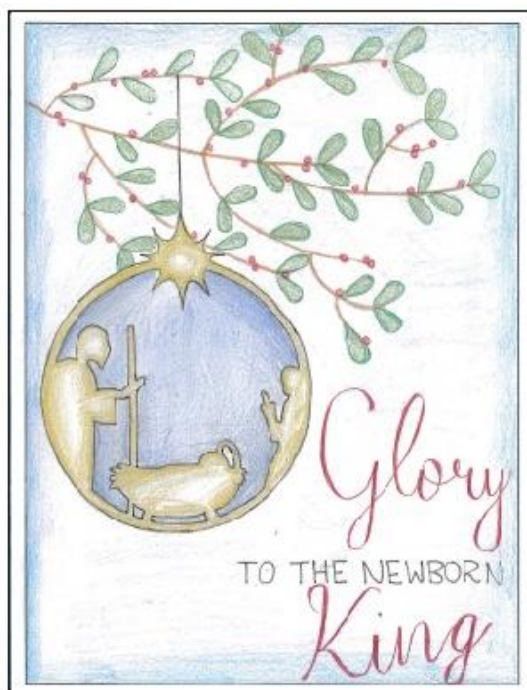
## **Art News**

### **Christmas Card Competition**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Rokšana Lydzinska 7C

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Piotr Augustyn-Sharma 11V

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Nathan James, Cameron Stock-Letang Lee-Young, Tyreese Chatyoka 7T



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## **R.E. News**

On Wednesday, Year 11 were treated to a session on Judaism in the school hall, delivered by our one and only Rabbi Vecht-Wolf! He spoke about the key beliefs and practices within his religion. We all thoroughly enjoyed his demonstrations of a wide variety of props, including the tefillin and the shofar horn! Judaism can be a difficult unit that many Year 11s around the country struggle grasping. Very few have had the opportunity, especially during Covid times, to have a Rabbi who they all know, explaining the intricacies of his faith. Thank you to Rabbi Vecht-Wolf and Mrs. Ossei-Brainoo for organising this event.



## **Year 7 News**

Another great week for Year 7. I was so impressed with 7 Peter's amazing RE projects. They had to make churches, I couldn't believe the standard of work. Well done 7P. The weather is turning really cold and windows are having to be left open please make sure you have a warm dark coat with you. With advent already upon us please spare a thought for people less fortunate. Try and bring as much as you can in for your form's Christmas hamper.

Epraise

### Top students

1. 🟡 Alexander Homot (7 Mark) (600)
2. 🟡 Yurand Kwiatkowski (7 Mark) (422)
3. 🟡 Nathan James (7 Teresa) (407)
4. 🟡 Darragh O'Connor (7 Teresa) (377)
5. 🟡 Esinam Deynoo (7 Peter) (356)
6. 🟡 Franciszek Hermanowski (7 Peter) (342)
7. 🟡 Daniel Karczewski (7 Teresa) (335)
8. 🟡 Simona Tekle (7 Peter) (327)
9. 🟡 Kieran Mugume (7 Mark) (323)
10. 🟡 Anthony Omale (7 Peter) (307)

### Tutor groups

1. 7 Teresa (6076)
2. 7 Peter (5644)
3. 7 Mark (5414)
4. 7 Veronica (4570)
5. 7 Jerome (3402)
6. 7 Cecilia (3237)

Mrs Dunleavy

## **Year 8 News**

Dear Year 8,

We have had a fantastic week. Your commitment to your studies has prevailed this week as you are all preparing for your up-and-coming Christmas assessments by being active, attentive, and curious in your lessons.

A really fantastic opportunity in Year 8 Geography for 8 Cecilia and 8 Peter who have been taken on a virtual flight through the Earth's most famous World Cities by Miss Tirbhowan who used to be a British Airways flight attendant. They got to explore the cities, and were even given a boarding pass which outlined the "trip" in the lesson.



I would like to say a very sad goodbye to Barbara Siotor from 8 Teresa, who has moved to a different school. She is a loving, kind and generous young lady who I wish all the best for now and in the future. A very sad Thursday morning saying goodbye to her with members of her tutor group sharing their favourite memories.



Congratulations to our newly elected Student Leaders, Aedan Sharp (8J) and Itohan Ogiamien (8V) a fantastic outcome and we cannot wait to see everything you represent your year group for and the ideas you bring to the school.

Have a rested weekend and good luck with your assessments,

Miss WD

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## **Year 9 News**

This week we have been working very hard in lessons with a number of assessments late this week or early next week.

Next week we are running X band vs Y band sports at lunchtimes on the playground with house points up for grabs!

Monday - netball

Tuesday - basketball

Thursday - football

This is for all students who would like to participate. If anyone has not signed up yet and would like to be involved, please email Mr Robinson or message on Teams. Signups can be teams, small groups or individuals.

Have a great weekend and Happy Advent to all!

Mr Robinson

## **Year 11 News**

Well done to Adrian, Nirvanah, Taylor and Rebecca for their student leader speeches in assembly on Tuesday. The standard was out of this world and all of you spoke so clearly and confidently. Voting is taking place so ensure you get your votes in, with the winner being announced next week. Thank you to Rabbi Vecht-Wolf who delivered a great, informative lecture to the year group, it was great to see so many great questions being asked by you all.

On the sporting side of things, well done to X band Netballers who won the netball 4-2, and well done to the Y band footballers who won an aggregate score of 2-1 over both games. At the time of writing, we await the result of the Basketball which holds the fate of winning side of the year! I must say, the way that the year group have conducted themselves during the sporting events, both those playing and spectating, has been exceptional. You are a real credit to yourselves, well done!

Two more weeks to go, Year 11! Keep working hard, keep the focus!

Stay Excellent,

Mr Oakley

## **Sixth Form News**

**Absences in Sixth Form** – whilst our sixth form attendance is something to be deeply proud of (it is the best in the borough!) I would like to give a polite reminder of the following:

- Absence in the sixth form must be reported by the parents as soon as you are sure that a student will miss school (due to illness only).
- We do not allow any form of leave for driving tests (practical or theory) and routine doctors' and dentist appointments that could be booked outside of school hours.

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- Any absence for medical reasons (such as an operation) must be evidenced by a letter.
- If there is something that the family deem really important, then a request must go through the Headteacher and the Head of Sixth Form, who will arrange a meeting with you.

Thank you kindly for your cooperation in advance with this, there is a strong causal link between attendance and achievement and this is one of the reasons that we have again received the amazing news that we get the best results of all the sixth forms in the borough.

### **Year 13**

Please could I ask all Year 13 parents to really push the students for the last two weeks of term. There are big coursework deadlines approaching for a number of BTEC courses and EPQ. In addition, students should be finalising their UCAS applications and personal statements so they can be submitted. The earlier that this is done, the more availability there will be on courses and therefore they will have a greater chance of being awarded a place. A number of students that have already submitted their applications have received offers and interview invitations.

Finally, the next set of BTEC exams and A Level PPE's will begin in 5 weeks on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. It cannot be stressed highly enough how important these examinations are as they could be the determining factor for students grades if they miss the real exams in the summer and centre assessed grades are used instead. This set of PPE's will be much more rigorous than the last PPE's in November where students were tested on about 20% of their course- this time it will be 80-100% for most subjects. Therefore, it is vital to begin preparations for these as soon as possible by creating a revision timetable and completing the PPE preparation checklist.

Mr Matthews

## **Computer Science News**

Year 7 students taking part in the Cyberfirst Security week.



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## **Student Leader Assemblies**

This week, Praveen Nathan (Head Boy), Georgia Flanagan (Deputy Head Girl) and Damian Woznicki (Deputy Head Boy) delivered assemblies each morning around the theme of the week: 'Stay Awake!'. They encouraged us to be conscious of those around us who may have been struggling, and gave us examples of what we could do in order to promote hope. We lit the first Advent Candle on the wreath; the Candle of 'Hope'. "We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God." (Romans 15:12-13)

They also announced the student leaders for Years 8, 9 and 10. Huge congratulations to the following student leaders:

Year 8 – Aedan Sharp and Itohan Ogiamien

Year 9 – Matteo Mennone, Joy Nwachukwu and Laura Wilkanowska

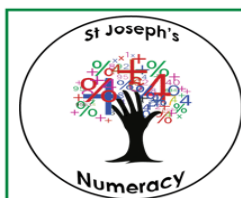
Year 10 – Harrison Mwangi and Natalia Malczewska

There was a tie between the girls in Year 9 – so we have decided to award both of them roles in the student leadership team. Very well done to all who applied. The competition was very close! The winners of Years 7 and 11 will be announced during assemblies next week.

Mr. Ojakovoh



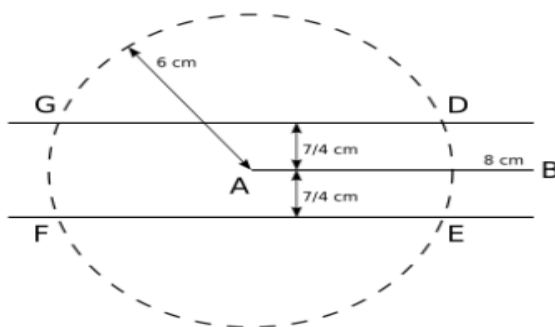
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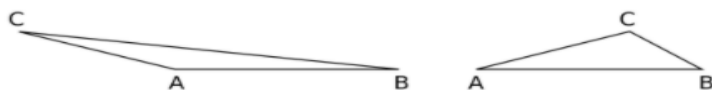
# #IcandoMaths

## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

Let the base  $AB$  of the triangle be the side of length 8 cm and let  $AC$  be the side of length 6 cm. So  $C$  must lie on the circle with centre  $A$  and radius 6 cm as shown. The area of the triangle is to be  $7\frac{7}{4}\text{ cm}^2$ , so the perpendicular from  $C$  to  $AB$  (or to  $BA$  produced) must be of length  $\frac{7}{4}\text{ cm}$ .

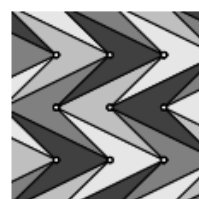


The diagram shows the four possible positions  $D$ ,  $E$ ,  $F$  and  $G$  of  $C$ . However, since  $\angle BAG = \angle BAF$  and  $\angle BAD = \angle BAE$ , these correspond to exactly two possibilities for the length of the third side  $AC$ . The diagrams below show the two possibilities.



## Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- B** At each of the points indicated by a dot, four quadrilaterals meet, so that at least four colours are needed.  
The diagram shows that four colours is possible, so the minimum number of colours Khelen needs is four.



Congratulations to: Izan IT (8M) Adrian Fernandes (11T), Nicola Szuba (8V) and Annabell Lysiak (8C) for correct answers.

## Problem of the week

In a 7-digit numerical code, each group of four adjacent digits adds to 16, and each group of five adjacent digits adds to 19.

What is the sum of all seven digits?



## **Break time Teaser:**

Which integer  $n$  satisfies  $\frac{3}{10} < \frac{n}{20} < \frac{2}{5}$ ?

A 3

B 4

C 5

D 6

E 7

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. The first full complete answer will get epraise points and a prize.

## **Cycling to School**

If your child cycles to school, please can you remind them that they must lock their bike in the bike area, using a secure lock, as soon as they arrive at school.

Thank you.

## **School Photographs**

This is a reminder that if you want to order copies of any of the photos of your child for Christmas, orders need to be placed with Success Photography no later than Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Website: [www.successphotography.com](http://www.successphotography.com)

## **Pupil Nominations of the Week**

### **Year 7**

Simona Tekle for her AMAZING church project and George Curtis for consistently hard work in Music.

### **Year 9**

Laura Wilkanowska, Joy Nwachukwu and Matteo Mennone for being successful in their application for student leadership! Congratulations!

### **Year 11**

Dawid Ceberek for his excellent attitude in Geography.  
  
Maksy Palzewski for an excellent focus in Maths.

### **Year 8**

Dawid Rusinek for excellence and participation in Geography and Matilda Clark for outstanding commitment to Drama.

Annabell Lysiak, Nikola Szuba, Itohan Ogiamien, Nicole Lewandowska, Barbara Siotor, Maya Kravitz, Izan Iglesias, Aedan Sharp and Joel Manalody for representing their year group in student leadership elections. Well done!

### **Year 10**

Jasper Stewart for some amazing work in English and Jayden Meghoma who is working consistently well in History.

**Year 12**

**Zuzanna Bilicka** – for continuously high standards and hard work.

**Przemek Durlak** – for a mature proactivity this week.

**Year 13**

Frank Bulley for showing excellent initiative by completing and submitting Media coursework before the deadline and Karolina Cal for achieving an interview with Robinson College, Cambridge to study Psychology.