

Newsletter 04th September 2026



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Head Teachers Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Click [HERE](#) for this weeks Head Teacher Message.

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

St Joseph, pray for us.

Miss Riddles

2. Theme of the Week Sheet - 6th September 2026

Theme of the Week - Your brother

When you started school last week, were you given a list of instructions to follow? Maybe from a parent, grandparent or sibling. If from a sibling, do they go to St Joseph's too? Were they telling you things to do to make sure you were ok? When at school, you may go around 6 to 7 hours before seeing or hearing from a family member again and during that time they may worry about you hence the instructions to make sure you are all ok. From Sunday's Gospel and from a lot of Chapter 18 and 19 of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus does exactly the same to His disciples. He worries for them for when he won't be around, when they will be without Him so He gives them a list of instructions to make sure they are ok.

The instruction given by Jesus on Sunday concerns disagreement. Who do you have more disagreements with? A family member or friend? Jesus explaining what the disciples must do in disagreements might see an odd thing for Jesus to say. He has professed, love thy neighbour, so why should there be disagreement? When Jesus leaves this earth, He is aware that He will have eleven disciples who will profess His teachings. Then there will be all the others who have encountered Jesus in person and have become His followers. The followers of Jesus then are like us now! We are all different and may see and interpret things from different ways. Disagreements then will most likely arise! Unfortunately, we can still see disagreement within the Church and the Christian community today. Many believe in Jesus but disagree about how to follow Him and sadly this has in the past led to conflict and death.

During Mass on Sunday, you would have heard the second reading from St Paul to the Romans saying: **Brothers and Sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet', and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'** Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. All the commandments are gathered into the one concept, 'love' - the love that is of the will, part of God's language, freely and endlessly giving. Even with love, Matthew's Gospel highlights that when people are in a relationship with each other there will be areas of conflict. Sorting out these issues that honour the teaching of Jesus is a challenge.

The challenge of the Gospel is a personal one. Reconciliation is at the very heart of the Christian faith, and it our responsibility of all who are part of the Church to be called to restore relationships with each other when these are broken. So, this week, how can you be more **Loving** and **Compassionate** to those you have fallen out with? How can reconciliation be at the very heart of your life as it is for the Church?



Your brother

Weekly Reflections
6th September 2026
23rd Sunday in Ordinary



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father,

As we come together as a school community, be with us as we live out your message with those around us. Give us the courage to support those in need so they too can feel your presence through love and compassion in their daily lives.

Through Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Day 1

Who do you fall out with the most in your life?
Why do you think this?
Do they try and tell you what to do?

Day 2

Why do you think Jesus spends time telling the disciples how to deal with conflict? Where is there conflict in the world today?

Day 3

What message does St Paul give us in the 2nd reading from Sunday?
How then can you be more **Loving** and **Compassionate** to someone you are at conflict with?

Year 7 News

It was lovely to welcome the Year 7s to St Joseph's on Wednesday. They have made such a positive start in such a short amount of time, and it has been wonderful to see them settling into their new routines, meeting new people and becoming part of our school community. I am already incredibly proud of them!

A huge thank you to all parents who attended Welcome Evening on Thursday. It was lovely to meet so many of you and to have the opportunity to share some important information about the year ahead. We have lots of exciting things planned for Year 7, and I am really looking forward to seeing them grow and flourish throughout the year.

Over the next few weeks, Form Tutors will be making their welcome phone calls home. These calls are a great opportunity for tutors to introduce themselves and make that important first contact with you as we begin our partnership for the year ahead.

Please ensure that you take some time over the weekend to complete the **Home School Agreement**, **Inclusion Agreement** and sign up to **ClassCharts**. It is really important that these are completed as soon as possible so that we can ensure you have access to all the information and communication you need.

Have a lovely weekend :)

Miss Joseph - Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

A massive welcome back to all! I hope that we had a lovely summer. It was great to see the kids back in on Thursday and lovely to see how excited they all were to be back!

As with last year we have got lots of great things to look forward to over the next Academic Year. I will be talking about all of these wonderful events, days and moments that the Year 8s will be experiencing this year on Wednesday 9th September at 5pm at our annual Welcome Evening. The expectation is that all of you will be there with your child in Full School Uniform. Please confirm attendance via ParentPay by the end of Monday 7th, letters with more information went home with students on Thursday.

I do very much look forward to being this year groups Head of Year for a second year!

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Cooper-Santos - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

A very warm welcome back to all the Year 9s and your families. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer break.

It was a pleasure to see the Year 9s back in school on Thursday and to see how enthusiastic they were to return. It has been wonderful to see them settling back into school life and beginning the new academic year positively. Please also ensure that you take some time over the weekend to read and sign the Home School Agreement and Inclusion Agreement in your child's journal.

There are many exciting opportunities to look forward to this academic year, with a wide range of events, experiences and activities planned for the Year 9s. I will be sharing further details about these at our annual Welcome Evening on Wednesday 9th September at 5.00pm. I ask that all parents/carers attend the evening with their child, who should be wearing full school uniform. Please confirm your attendance via ParentPay by the end of Monday 7th September. Letters containing further information were sent home with students on Thursday.

I am very much looking forward to the academic year ahead and to seeing the Year 9s make the most of all the opportunities and experiences available to them.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

A very warm welcome back to all of our Year 10 students. I hope you've had a restful and enjoyable summer and are feeling refreshed for the exciting year ahead. Year 10 is an important milestone as you begin your GCSE and BTEC courses.

Our expectations remain the same: excellent attendance, punctuality, full school uniform and a positive attitude in every lesson. Please make sure you arrive each day with the correct equipment.

Year 10 Welcome Evening is on Tuesday 8th September. It is essential that both parents and students attend, as vital information about the year ahead will be shared. Please confirm your attendance via ParentPay.

Please can parents also ensure the Home School Agreement and Inclusion Agreement is signed and the journals are signed for the new academic year.

Finally, I am proud of how all students have returned from the summer break and made such a positive start of the past two days. Overall, uniform, equipment and behavioural standards are excellent and I'm excited for the year ahead.

Look after you loved ones,

Mr Hunt - Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

Welcome back to Year 11 — a hugely important year for our students.

This year will move quickly, and we want every student to leave St Joseph's knowing that they achieved everything they were capable of. To do that, we will need your support at home. Please be as engaged and available as possible when it comes to your child's learning: checking homework, discussing progress, encouraging revision and reinforcing the importance of attendance, punctuality and high standards.

Our Year 11 Welcome Evening takes place on Monday at 5:00pm. All Year 11 students and parents/carers are expected to attend, and students must attend in full school uniform. This will be an important opportunity to set out expectations, key information and how we can work together throughout this crucial year.

Please also make sure you are regularly logging into ClassCharts and checking what homework your child has been set. On our very first day back, too many Year 11 students received Homework Xs for incomplete or missing work. That standard has to improve immediately. Homework is an essential part of GCSE preparation, and we really need your support at home in ensuring deadlines are met.

Students have also received their new school journals for the first term. Please take some time to look through these with your child. The Home–School Agreement must be signed, alongside any other relevant pages requiring a parent/carer signature, and students should return with these completed.

Year 11 is a fresh opportunity. The expectations are high because the stakes are high, but so is the potential within this year group. Our message remains simple:

Effort turns potential into achievement.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Let's work together to make this a successful Year 11.

God Bless,

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

Welcome to Year 12! It has been wonderful to see so many familiar faces and some new ones as well joining Sixth Form this week.

There has inevitably been a lot of administration to get through over the last few days with a bit more yet to come, but by now all students have begun to dive into their studies and the overall atmosphere has been generally very positive. Big thanks to those students who already volunteered to help at a school event last night and for all those who have already expressed an interest in Student Leadership - it is an impressive start!

Just a quick reminder about our Year 12 Welcome Evening next Tuesday 8th September at 5pm. This meeting is really important time to relay some vital information to parents and students about the year ahead. It will last about an hour and there will be an opportunity to meet form tutors as well. Please can you confirm your attendance on ParentPay. Just a quick reminder about uniform - we do have some specific guidance on this which is set out clearly in the Sixth Form handbook which all students should have now received. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. We look to seeing all of you next Tuesday!

Have a good weekend!

Miss Stevens - Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Finn - Head of Sixth Form

Year 13 News

Welcome back to Year 13 - a critically important year in the lives of our students!

It was a pleasure to see all of them return on Thursday and a good tone was set from day one, with students showing real focus and determination in lessons as well as private study periods.

This is the point in time where significant decisions begin to be made that will affect the course of their young life so there needs to be plenty of careful thought and planning. Please do continue to have conversations as a family about their future plans whether that will include applying to University or looking for a job or apprenticeship. For those who intend to apply to University, they should now be working on finalising their personal statement in response to the guidance that they were given before the summer break. Myself and Mrs Finn will be on hand to assist with this.

They should also begin thinking about their choices of course and institution. For Early Entry students who wish to apply to either Oxford or Cambridge, these deadlines are even more imminent. Hopefully you will have all now heard the wonderful news now that two students from our previous year 13 were successful in applying to Oxbridge this year and will soon be packing their packs to study there.

As will no doubt be apparent, there is a lot to discuss and think about in planning the academic year ahead. For that reason we would really urge you to attend our Year 13 Information evening at school next Monday 7th September. This will give you an opportunity to learn more, ask questions and voice any concerns that you may have moving forwards. The evening will start at 5pm and we will aim to be finished in about an hour. Please confirm your attendance on ParentPay asap.

We wish you all a great weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday!

Miss Stevens - Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Finn - Head of Sixth Form

Students of the Week

Year 7: All of year 7, for a great first week!

Year 8: All of Year 8, For a positive start to the school year.

Year 9: All students in Year 9, for their excellent attitude to learning during their first week back

Year 10: All students in Year 10, for making a positive start to the year.

Year 11: Kitty Wilder and Edzio Stacey for a brilliant start to a tough new term

Year 12: Jared Fida and Nadia Sztuba for the most positive points on Classcharts and a great start to Sixth Form!

Year 13: David Bialek and Shreya Sookrah for the most positive points on Classcharts and a great start to Year 13!

Homework

Student Success

Congratulations to **Victoria John** and **Nathanael Sumith Oommen** for their outstanding achievements in the KS3 Seneca Summer Competition. Victoria received the **Best Submission Essay Award nationally** and Nathanael **1st Place for Highest Score & Learning Time** in the KS3 Seneca competition. We are very proud of them.

Homework expectations

Dear Parents/Guardians,

“The importance of homework to educational achievement cannot be denied. If pupils receive appropriate homework and do it on a regular basis over a five year period, they will, in effect, be receiving the equivalent of at least one additional year of full-time education” *‘Improving Secondary schools’*

“Homework has a high impact on learning outcomes +5 months.” ‘EEF’

At St Joseph, we believe that homework is important in:

- **Preparing for, consolidating and embed** work covered in lessons;
- **Supporting** students with learning;
- **Encouraging** responsibility for, and ownership of, learning through ‘flipped learning’ activities;
- Enhancing study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline;
- Broadening and extending the school curriculum;
- **Engage parental co-operation** and support;
- Preparing students for life opportunities and experiences.

Tips to help support your child with homework:

- Regularly check **Classcharts**, ask them to show you completed homework against ClassCharts assignment.
- Check and sign the planner once a week to confirm that the correct home learning has been set and completed by your child.
- Create a homework **schedule**: A schedule can help your child stay organized and keep track of what's due.
- Choose a homework **area**: Pick a dedicated place for homework and gather the necessary supplies.
- Make it **positive**. Make parental input a positive thing.
- Limit **distractions**: Turn off electronics and put away cell phones to help your child focus.
- Take breaks: Allow your child to take short breaks during homework time.

- Motivate your child: Alternate motivators, such as "homework then computer" or "homework then a favorite video". Use positive words of encouragement when your child is working well.

Thank you for your support always.

Mrs Bickersteth.

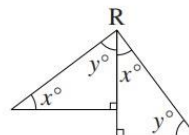
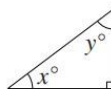
I Can do Maths



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- A** The diagrams show one of the twenty-five congruent right-angled triangles and the two such triangles at vertex R.

Let the two acute angles in each of the triangles be x° and y° .



Note that $x + y + 90 = 180$, as the interior angles of a triangle sum to 180° .

So $x + y = 90$. In the second diagram, the two angles which meet at R are x° and y° , so we can deduce that angle QRP is a right angle.

Let the length of the hypotenuse of each small triangle be a cm.

Note that angle QRP is a right angle, PR has length $4a$ cm and RQ has length $3a$ cm.

So the lengths of the sides in triangle PQR are in the ratio $3 : 4 : 5$.

Therefore the length of PQ , in cm, is $5 \times \frac{2.4}{4} = 3$.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- E** The sum of $\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{11}$ is $\frac{11}{99} + \frac{9}{99}$, that is $\frac{20}{99}$.

Now 20 and 99 do not have any factors in common except 1. So the fraction cannot be simplified. In option A, we may write 0.10 as the fraction $\frac{10}{100}$, whose denominator is a power of 10. The same is true of options B, C and D. Therefore, when simplified, none of these fractions can have 99 as a denominator.

It is left to the reader to confirm, by division, that $\frac{20}{99} = 0.\dot{2}\dot{0}$.

An alternative argument follows.

Let $x = 0.\dot{2}\dot{0} = 0.202020\dots$. Then $100x = 20.202020\dots$.

Subtracting the first equation from the second gives $99x = 20$.

$$\text{So } 0.\dot{2}\dot{0} = \frac{20}{99}.$$

Puzzler of the week

Which of these is closest in size to 1?

A $0.\dot{9}\dot{5}$

B $1.\dot{0}\dot{5}$

C $0.\dot{9}6\dot{0}$

D $1.\dot{0}4\dot{0}$

E $0.9\dot{5}$

Break-Time Teaser

Andrew calculates that 40% of 50% of x is equal to 20% of 30% of y , where $x \neq 0$.

Which of the following is true?

A $y = \frac{2x}{3}$

B $y = \frac{4x}{3}$

C $y = 2x$

D $y = \frac{8x}{3}$

E $y = \frac{10x}{3}$

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

Lunch Menu for Week 2

WEEKLY MENU St Josephs Catholic High School - Week Two				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Korma served with Rice	Beef Bolognaise served with Penne Pasta & Parmesan Cheese	Tandoori Chicken with Plain Naan, Mint Yoghurt & Salad	Cottage Pie	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips & a Lemon Wedge
Falafel Wrap with Salsa served with Rocket Salad	Chickpea & Vegetable Fried Rice with Tzatziki	Vegetable Lasagne	Quorn Chilli served with Rice, Sour Cream & Cheese	Onion Bhaji Burger
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared Salad	Baked Beans or Mushy Peas
Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	-
Iced Carrot Cake	Sticky Toffee Pudding served with Custard	Rice Crispy Cake	Chocolate Muffin	Lemon & Lime Drizzle Cake
Baguettes, Sandwiches and Bagels, Salad Bar, Assorted Fruit Pots & Cold Desserts. HARRISON food with thought				

Clubs

PE Lunch and After school clubs Sept 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and table tennis	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and table tennis	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN and MJO Football Year 7+8 boys FWA Football Year 9-13 THU and JCO Badminton Year 7-13 KBR	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Trampolining KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO	Fixtures	

Term Dates

School Year 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term

Inset Day Tuesday 1st September 2026

Year 7 + 12 Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Whole school returns Thursday 3rd September 2026

Half Term Monday 19th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Term Ends Friday 18th December 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins Monday 4th January 2027

Half Term Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027

Term End Thursday 25th March 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Term Begins Monday 12th April 2027

Half Term Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027

Term Ends Friday 16th July 2027 (12:30pm finish)