



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 5th September 2025

Our School Mission Statement - '*Unlocking Belief in All*'

Our School Vision is to become a...

Catholic Community. Christ presence comes through us – we have to love our students but more importantly, students should know we love them. If we are a school, it follows that we are a...

Learning Community. Learning is at the heart of what we do. We want our school to be a place where outstanding learning takes place. The students learn, the parents learn and we as staff learn. As professionals, we are responsible for setting the culture and the climate – their learning culture is down to us. We want to be the best school we can possibly be which means – the best in the country. To do that, it follows that we need to be a...

Listening community. St Joseph was the man who listened to the angels – we listen to the students, the parents, each other. If we listen hard enough to them, we will know how to make this the best school we can possibly be...

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

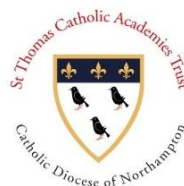
Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5ICxL8O7KM&cbrd=1>

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!"

Theme of the Week – Discipleship

To be a disciple of Jesus is not an easy thing to become and Jesus is fully aware of this. To live in the ways, He teaches us can at times mean we go without, or we don't gain the full reward of our work. There is a cost to following Jesus and this cost is not just financial. It can be with our time, patience, knowledge and generosity. In the Gospel reading from Sunday, Jesus is asking us to think carefully about what is expected of us if we are to be His disciples. We have to love him totally and be really committed to living the way He has taught us - to love one another, to be forgiving and kind. The benefits make all the cost worthwhile.

We are given many opportunities in our lives to do good and follow Jesus. Jesus uses the strong language in the Gospel reading to explain to the disciples, and the crowd, the cost of following him. He invites all those who choose to be his followers to put him first, even if it means upsetting family members and friends. Discipleship may be demanding but it is not impossible to do. If we make the right choices and have the courage to put our lives on the line for them, then God promises us enriched lives.

The Gospel reading may seem harsh and extreme, but it is asking us to look at our attitude towards life and ensuring it is right. There is always a cost of discipleship, and the concept of commitment may seem difficult for us to understand. Choosing to follow Jesus can often cost us some difficulties in our family and social lives. While most of us are not called to renounce all our worldly goods, we are expected to hold lightly onto our possessions. Reflect on which of your possessions mean the most to you? Do you find it hard to admit that what you have in excess rightly belongs to those who have nothing? What can you do this week to share some of your abundance with someone in need? How can you be more **Intentional** and **Prophetic** to share what you have with others around you?

Discipleship

Weekly Reflections
7th September 2025
23rd Week in Ordinary Time



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 14: 25-33

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

Prayer for the Week

Father of all,

You have called us to be your disciples. Through your grace you have welcomed us into your family, united in Christ. Allow us to continue in our task of making known the Good News of Christ to others. Grant your wisdom, guidance and inspiration so that many will hear and respond.

Amen

Day 1

Why do we want to be Jesus' followers when it can be such a difficult thing for us to do?

Day 2

What opportunities have you been given to put Jesus first? What right choices can you make this week?

Day 3

How can you be more **Intentional** and **Prophetic** with what you have, and share with others to be true disciples of Jesus?

Dear Parents/Carers,

This academic year (Year 7-11) in our duty to fulfil our vision as a Catholic Community, Listening Community and Learning Community; as per our Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy, the RSHE of our school will follow the Ten: Ten programme. The Ten: Ten programme seeks to nurture spiritual growth, personal development and social responsibility by sharing inspiring, creative content through a Catholic lens.

All parents are invited/ encouraged to log in using the details below to familiarise themselves with the content and have such necessary conversations at home to aid in the holistic education of their child.

Username: Parent

Password:stjosephs2024

Any questions please do get in contact.

Mrs Ossei-Brainoo

RSHE/PSHE Lead

j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Medical Absences

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome (back) to St Joseph's for the new academic year!

Please be aware that all medical absences from the last week of last half-term and the first week of this half-term will be *unauthorised without medical evidence*. This is per our Attendance Policy.

Please be aware that if your child is unwell in school, we will make a decision whether to send them home, and this will be authorised.

If you have planned a holiday, please email l.lungeanu@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk with an explanation, including the dates of absence and proof of the travel documentation (both outbound and inbound). This must be the original documentation and not the boarding pass.

Having unauthorised absences will affect future Rewards trips and college/university applications.

Thank you as always for your support in the education of your child/ren.

Kind regards,

Miss Lungeanu

Attendance and Welfare officer

Year 7 News

It has been a lovely start to their first few days at St Joseph's the Year 7s have done wonderfully well and we are all very proud and grateful to welcome them into our school. Please ensure that once the ParentPay logins and ClassCharts logins are received that this is done as soon as possible, this is to ensure as smooth a process as possible

Have a lovely weekend
Mr Cooper-Santos - Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

It has been a lovely start for our Year 8s they have done exceptionally well, and it has been lovely to see so many happy and smiley faces this week.

This is a gentle reminder that our Year 8 Welcome Evening will take place on Wednesday 10th September at 6:00pm in the Main Hall. We warmly encourage all parents and guardians to attend, as it will be a valuable opportunity to interact, share information, and support your child's learning journey this academic year. We ask for parents to confirm your attendance on ParentPay.

Have a lovely weekend all!
Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

I hope all of you had restful and enjoyable summer break. Let's make sure we start the new term as we mean to go on.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 11 News

Welcome back Year 11! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break and are ready to embrace the exciting challenges and opportunities of the year ahead.

We kicked off the new term with a whole school Mass on Friday, bringing our community together in reflection and celebration as we begin the academic year.

As part of our commitment to supporting Year 11 through this important stage of their journey, we are holding a **Year 11 Welcome Evening on Monday from 6:00pm to 7:00pm**. This is a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to hear key information about the year ahead, including support for GCSEs. Please confirm your attendance via ParentPay.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year with our Year 11 students—let's make it one to remember!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11

Year 13 News

Year 13 started strong this morning with many smiling faces and positive attitudes for the year ahead. New timetables have been distributed and this year they will be having an hour of PE as well to get a bit of fresh air and exercise. Year 13 Welcome Evening will take place next Monday 8th September from 6-7pm. It is only a short meeting and will not overrun but attendance is compulsory for students and parents/carers as we will be going through, amongst other things, several very important dates and deadlines for the year ahead. I look forward to seeing you there!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 13

Clubs



Languages Department

Our KS3 French and Spanish students are currently working on a project to present to other students and staff. Come along **Tuesdays Week A at 3:30-4:30pm in T5 with Ms Shaw**. Our aim is to have lots of fun with languages, exploring cultural themes and enjoying existing and new friendships.

We are *active, curious and compassionate!*

Welcome to Geography Club



Aims
 1) To appreciate nature and its resources.
 2) To create awareness of the environmental problems and adopt various measures to protect the earth.

Geography club meeting will be held every week after school on Friday, 3.30-4.00pm in T-15. Open to year 7 to year 11.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (wealth out of waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating landform models (volcano, coastal landforms, riverine landforms and glacial landforms) and planting herbs.

PE After School Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	Dance (creative dance academy)	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	Dance (creative dance academy)	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN, KBR, MJO Football Year 7+8 boys FWA Volleyball Year 7-13 HMC	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU NFL Girls and Boys Year 7-11 HMC	Trampolining KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Football Year 9-13 THU, JCO Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO		



YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

WEDNESDAYS FROM 3:15PM TILL 4PM

Come along and see why Science is so cool!

Led by
Mrs. Lionel

Mr. Orval welcomes you to:

STRINGS CLUB

bowed string instruments available

TUESDAYS
3:15-4PM
XA room



Love music? Want to learn how to play in a string ensemble? Join Mr Orval on **Tuesdays at 3:15pm** in the **XA room**. Several instruments (violin, viola, cello) are available for new/aspiring members. Contact your music teacher for further details.

Thursday at 8am – **Singing Club** / Friday Afterschool – **Band Jam**

Practice rooms are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.


D+T Club – KS3 DESIGNeers

If you love a challenge, enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making, consider joining our D&T team of DESIGNeers (designers and engineers). We would LOVE for you to join us!

Please see or message **Stacey** on Teams join us at DESIGNeers on **Mondays** in **A3**.



St Joseph's Judo Club



Official British Judo Club provider – joined with Windsor Judo Club.

Open for Grading and Competition.

Only for St Joseph's students and staff.

Location: Main Hall

Every Wednesday at 3:15-4:15pm with Mr A Romero.



Ham Radio Club



Most Fridays 15:15-16:15, at the top of the Tower Block,
An interesting club for everyone.
For any questions, please message Mr Allinson








Radio Society of Great Britain
Advancing amateur radio since 1913



Homework

“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’*

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

- **Prepare for, consolidate and embed** work covered in lessons to support learning;
- **Encourage** responsibility for, and ownership of, learning through ‘flipped learning’ activities;
- Enhance study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline;
- Broaden and extend the school curriculum;
- **Engage parental co-operation** and support;

Tips to help support your child with homework:

- Regularly check **Classcharts**, ask them to show you completed homework against ClassCharts assignment.
- 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.
- Limit **distractions**: Turn off electronics and put away cell phones to help your child focus.
- **Motivate** your child: Alternate motivators, such as "homework then computer" or "homework then a favourite video". Use positive words of encouragement when your child is working well

Homework Expectation

Each subject gives specific guidance to students regarding homework expectations. Below are the minimum general homework expectations.

Key Stage 3

- Maths, English, Science, RE – once per week for 10 -30 mins
- History, Geography, MFL, History, Art, Computing, Music, Technology, Drama fortnightly 10-30min

Key Stage 4

- All subjects once per week for 30 mins

Key Stage 5 (Flipped Learning)

- Sixth Form students are required to match every hour of lesson time with an hour of independent study outside of the classroom.
- Flipped homework should form the basis of the tasks, enabling students to prepare for their next lessons and use their knowledge to develop deeper understanding and practice the associated skills.

"Aspiration, ambition and determination are deeply rooted within the school. A feeling of warmth and love permeates St Joseph's" Ofsted 2022

"Pupils are happy and smiley and enjoy coming to school. They feel a sense of belonging" Ofsted 2022.

*"Catholic life and mission is **exemplary** and permeates all aspects of the school. The staff are fully committed to developing the potential of all in their care, making sure that their students know they are loved" Catholic Schools Inspectorate April 2025*



St Joseph's Catholic High School

The Directors of this successful, thriving, top performing and over-subscribed Catholic Academy invite prospective parents and pupils to our

OPEN EVENING

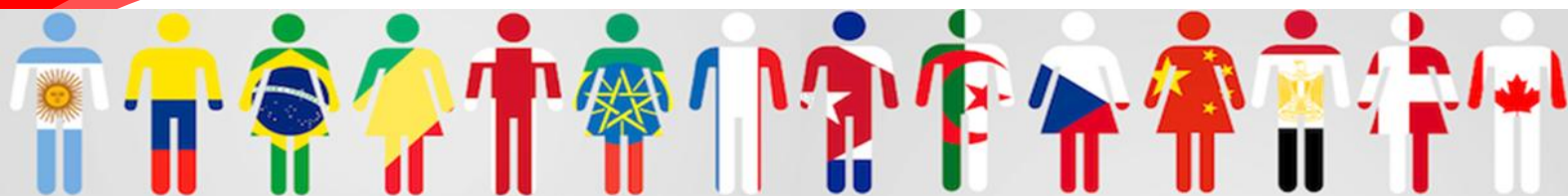
Thursday 18th September 2025
5.00pm - 8.00pm

Shaggy Calf Lane, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 5HW

The incoming Headteacher for January 2026, Miss Riddles will address parents at 5.45pm and 6.45pm in the Main Hall. Tours available from 5.00pm, last tour at 7.00pm. For more information or a tour during the school day

please contact Miss Emily Stagg on 01753 524713
www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk





EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

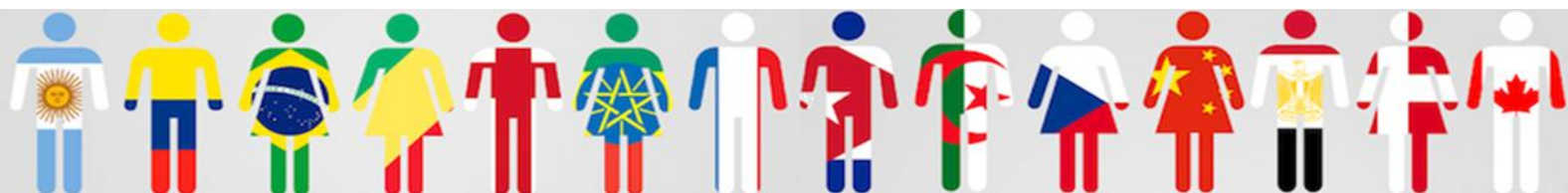
Back to school tips

We are excited to welcome all our students back and we hope this new school year will bring lots of learning and growth.

These are few tips to ensure your child is set up for a successful year.

- Please stay connected and collaborate with teachers; by staying informed, you can stay up to date on your child's linguistic and academic progress. Understanding what is going on in school will give you a better idea of how you can support your child at home. Coordination and partnership between the school and home helps children thrive and succeed. If language is an issue when communicating with your child's teachers, let the school know the language that you feel most comfortable with. I am always happy to help email J.Ura@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk
- Supporting learning at home is vitally important to your child's view of education and achievement. Click here to read our [homework policy and time table](#)
- Reading for pleasure has been positively linked with an increase in the following literacy-related benefits for children:
 - Reading attainment, phonics and writing ability
 - It increases the learners' exposure to language.
 - It can consolidate previously learned language.

Please encourage your child to read for pleasure; your library is one of the most important resources in your community, and anyone can use it. You and your family will find books, videos, music, newspapers, computers, and much more for your child and you — for free! Click below to find information about [Slough Libraries](#)

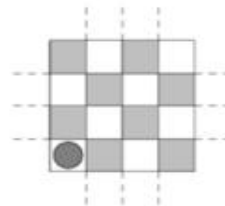




#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- C The diagram shows the original diagram shaded as on a chess board. Note that as the counter starts on an unshaded cell then, in whichever line it is reflected, one reflection will move it into a shaded cell. Similarly, a second reflection will move the counter from a shaded cell into an unshaded cell. Finally, a third reflection will move the counter from an unshaded cell into a shaded cell. It is left to the reader to show that it is possible to reach each of the shaded cells in precisely three reflections. Hence the number of cells the counter could occupy after three moves is equal to the number of shaded cells, that is 8.



Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

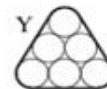
- A From the given information, the sum of Megan's first three numbers is -9 , the sum of her first four numbers is 16 , and the sum of her first five numbers is -25 .
Therefore the fourth number is $16 - (-9) = 25$, and the fifth number is $-25 - 16 = -41$. The difference between them is $25 - (-41) = 66$.

Puzzler of the week

The first figure shows four touching circles of radius 1 cm in a horizontal row, held together tightly by an outer band X.



The second figure shows six touching circles of radius 1 cm, again held tightly together by a surrounding band Y.
Which of the following statements is true?



- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A X is 2 cm longer than Y | B X is 1 cm longer than Y |
| C X and Y are the same length | D Y is 1 cm longer than X |
| E Y is 2 cm longer than X | |

Break-Time Teaser

Aroon is asked to choose five integers so that the mode is 2 more than the median and the mean is 2 less than the median. What is the largest possible value of the range of Aroon's five integers?

- | | | | |
|---|-----|------|------|
| A 2 | B 5 | C 12 | D 15 |
| E The largest possible range depends on the integers chosen | | | |

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

MORNING BREAK TARIFF



Pizza	£1.36
Panini	£2.15
Burrito	£1.87
Spring Roll	£1.36
Vegetable Samosa	£1.36
Sausage Roll	£1.87
Popcorn / Pop Chips	£1.15
Homemade Muffin	£0.97
Churros	£1.36
Cheese Filled Croissant	£1.67
Jacket Wedges	£1.13
Mini Hash Brown Bag	£1.13

DRINKS TARIFF



Capri Sun	£0.97
Apple Juice	£1.13
Radnor Splash	£1.13
Radnor Fizz	£1.13
Juice Burst	£1.36
Suso	£1.13
Still Mineral Water	£0.97
Sparkling Mineral Water	£1.08
Iced Tea	£1.36
Slushy	£1.66

LUNCH TARIFF

Main Meal	£2.22
Meal Deal	£2.60
Hot Pasta Pot	£2.15
Jacket Potato with One Filling	£2.13
Jacket Potato with Two Fillings	£2.50
Baguette	From £2.10
Sandwich	from £1.71
Bagel	£2.10
Cold Wrap	£2.22
Salad Box	£2.22
Salad Pot	£2.15
Hot Dessert	£0.97
Cold Dessert	£0.97
Fruit Pot	£0.97
Mini Doughnuts	£1.67
Piece of Fruit	£0.55

<div>WEEKLY</div> <div>MENU</div> <div>St Josephs Catholic High School - Week Two</div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef Bolognaise served with Pasta & Parmesan Cheese	Pork Paprikash served with Rice	Minced Beef & Onion Pie served with New Potatoes	Chicken Massaman Curry served with Rice	Battered Fish served with Chips & a Lemon Wedge
Cheese, Leek & Potato Pie	Roast Vegetable Lasagne	Quorn & Vegetable Stir Fry	Lentil Cottage Pie	BBQ Quorn Sub Melt
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad
Pasta with a Tomato & Herb Sauce	Pasta with a Cheese & Ham Sauce	Sausage & Tomato Pasta	Cheese Pasta Pot	-
Jacket Potato with assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted Fillings	-
White Chocolate & Berry Sponge	Sticky Toffee Pudding served with Custard	Iced Vanilla Sponge	Chocolate Sponge served with Chocolate Sauce	Dorset Apple cake

Available daily

Baguettes, Sandwiches, Bagels & Wraps.
 Assorted Cold Desserts & Fruit Pots.
 Salad Bar

HARRISON
 food with thought