



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 6th January 2023



Congratulations to Dr Orazio Camaioni, who officially became school chaplain of St Joseph's Catholic High School after his Induction Mass on Thursday celebrated by Fr. Simon Penhalagan.

Word of the Week

Is '**coherent**'. This is an adjective meaning a logical and consistent argument or forming a unified whole.

"The students functioned as a coherent group."

Idiom of the Week

is "It's not rocket science."

Meaning: Used to say that you do not think that something is very difficult to do or to understand.

Origin: The expression 'rocket scientist', meaning 'very clever person', is used in various other sentence structures. It originated in America and was used interchangeably with a similar idiom "It's not brain surgery" in the 1900s.

Example: "Basketball is not rocket science. It's about putting the ball in the basket."

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

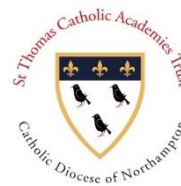
My weekly message is in video format. Please do take a listen and let us know what you think, any feedback is welcome.

Please find below the link to our website to view my message:

[St Joseph's Catholic High School \(st-josephs.slough.sch.uk\)](https://st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

St Joseph, pray for us

Mr Stapleton



"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

Theme of the Week – Baptism of the Lord

John the Baptist baptised people in a specific place called Bethabara (which means 'the house of crossing') on the eastern side of the river Jordan. The Jordan was an insignificant river if compared to the Nile or the Euphrates, but for Israel it was a landmark, the boundary between the pagan land and the Promised Land. Bethabara was thought to be the very place where Israel entered the Promised Land after the 40 years' wandering. Why then did John chose that place to preach repentance? He was trying to convey the message that, even though the Israelites thought they were safe in their religion and had got even with God with their sacrifices and established religion, they still needed to reconsider their evil ways and, through the forgiveness of their sins, start a new Exodus towards the real Promised Land.

We can understand John's disappointment when he sees his cousin, Jesus, turning up to be baptised. Baptism was necessary for sinners, for those who made mistakes and lived lives unpleasing to God, why would the Messiah himself come down and mix with sinners asking to undergo the same treatment? John, like most people of his time, had a wrong idea of the Messiah! **He was expecting one who would be separate from sinners and condemn those who did not repent. Jesus on the other hand is happy to mix with them, and be considered one of them.** In a gesture of religious zeal, John tries to stop Jesus from being baptised, but Jesus gently rebukes him saying that this is the plan God has for his people; that his own son should be made one of them so that he could lead them back to their Father. Interestingly, the verb that bibles translate *then he consented* referring to John allowing the baptism to happen, in reality is better translated *then he left him*. In only one other place Matthew uses the same verb, the temptations of Jesus in the desert, when the devil, unable to make Jesus to deviate from his path *left him*. John, even though righteous, is still **captive of an old mentality and is not open to the good news of a God who loves to the end**. We see the same thing happening when St Peter tries to stop Jesus from going to Jerusalem to be killed, and Jesus calls him Satan! (Mt 16:23)

The scene of the baptism of Jesus is very rich in biblical symbolism. As he came up from his immersion on the water **THE HEAVENS WERE OPENED**. In Jewish tradition, heaven was formed by 7 heavens, each distant from the other the equivalent of a 500 year's journey. For centuries before Jesus no prophets had arisen in Israel, and the people thought that God was so displeased with the evil of his people that he decided to shut all the heavens and have nothing to do with them. This is the reason behind the prayer in Isaiah 64:1 *Oh, if only you would rend the heavens and come down*. In Jesus Christ this prayer is answered, the heavens are opened, and God is once again amongst his people (Emmanuel literally means God-with-us!).

The Spirit of God comes down on him like a dove, that is, not in the form of an actual dove as we see in paintings, but in the tenderness and meekness of a dove. God's divine life comes down **not as lightning or hailstones, but a meek dove, the same animal that in Genesis symbolised the renewed peace between God and his people after the flood**. The dove, symbol of peace, rests on Jesus because he is the NEST of all peace, the Prince of Peace.

Finally, there is mention of a voice from heaven; this is a traditional Jewish literary image to convey the idea that a person is speaking or acting in the name of God. The voice says that Jesus is *my beloved son with whom I am well pleased*. When a Jewish father said *This is my son*, he referred not only to the biological aspect, but mostly to the fact that the son was a real resemblance of himself, and therefore was authorised to act on his behalf as if he were the father himself. The message is that **Jesus Christ is the real face of the Father**, and that if we want to see the face of God we only need to look at Jesus. What will we see? **A tender father who always forgives and welcomes back those who turn to him with all their heart, a father who leaves 99 sheep in order to go and find the one who got lost!**

Induction Mass of our New School Chaplain



Congratulations to Dr Orazio Camaioni, who officially became school chaplain of St Joseph's Catholic High School after his Induction Mass on Thursday celebrated by Fr. Simon Penhalagan. Fr Simon was joined to celebrate this occasion by Fr Pius, Jonathan and Anthony. Orazio officially received the mandate from Fr Simon and Mr

Stapleton on behalf of Bishop David. Thank you to all the parents, guardians, students and staff who were able to attend this celebration.

Orazio, since his start here in September, has had such an amazing impact on developing and enhancing the Catholic Life and mission of the school for your child and I know this will continue in the future. May St Joseph continue to guide him in his vocation:



St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us.

Amen.

Baptism of the Lord

Weekly Reflections

8th January 2023

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (3:12-17)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, at the river Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son, the one who shows us your loving face: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Day 1

John the Baptist invited people to be baptised in the same place where Israel had entered the Promised Land. He was trying to say to them that even if they thought they were free, they were in reality still enslaved by their sins, by their complacency and delusion that they were "the good ones".

- What does freedom mean to you?
- Do you feel free?

Day 2

Jesus was John's cousin, and John knew very well that he was the Messiah, i.e. the "chosen of God". When Jesus turns up to be baptised with all other sinners John tries his best to prevent that.

- Why do you think he did it?
- In the weeks before Christmas we talked about the kind of Messiah John was expecting. Do you remember what the ideal candidate would look like?

Day 3

In the Gospel we read that after Jesus' baptism the heavens appeared opened before him. That seems to imply that before they were closed.

- Why do you think Matthew (and Mark) mentions this detail?
- What does the image of a closed heaven convey to you?

Day 4

In paintings of the Baptism of Jesus we often see a white dove resting on His head, but the Gospels say that the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, not in the form of a dove.

- Given all the available alternatives (fire, lightning, wind etc.), why do you think the Gospel writers chose a dove to symbolise the Holy Spirit?
- Do you remember another dove in the Bible?

Day 5

The voice from heaven, which is a Biblical literary feature meaning divine approval and recognition, says *This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased*. In Judaism, when a father recognised a son as his own he also meant that the son resembled him and could represent him in trade and other aspects of life. In the Gospel God is telling us that if we want to see His face all we need to do is look to Jesus.

- If Jesus is the face of God, what does God look like?

Dear Parents of Year 11 and 13,

RE: Upcoming webinar for parents – *How to Help Your Child Make Better Notes*

St Joseph's is excited to announce that Elevate Education's first free webinar of the Spring Term will be taking place on Tuesday 17th January.

Elevate Education works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series you will learn how you can help better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school:

Tuesday 17th January (6-7pm)
How to Help Your Child Make Better Notes

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what we'll be covering on the night:

- ✓ The most effective way to structure notes
- ✓ The 3 levels of acquiring knowledge and how to implement this with your child at home
- ✓ The power of deliberate practice and the fastest way for your child to improve their marks.

Mr J Gibbons

Rewards Screen – see attached for full details

THIS TERM'S REWARD CHALLENGE



NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTION

Qualify for our
**Day of Inflatable
Activities** every
time there is a
**Fortnightly
Challenge**








Mr R Dann

SCHOOL CANTEEN - MEALS PAYMENT SYSTEM

[Polite reminder to parents/carers that St Josephs is a cashless school.](#)

Payment Options - ParentPay

Current policy is that all school meals should be pre-paid. Any amount of money can be paid into meal accounts held in the cashless system, and money spent on food will be taken out of the system as and when school meals are purchased. School meal accounts can be credited through ParentPay.

Free School Meals

There is complete anonymity for those receiving free school meals, the value of the free school meal will be automatically added to the pupils meal account each day and purchases will be deducted from the balance in the same way as those paying for school meals. If pupils are eligible for free school meals then you will not need to take any action as the entitlement will automatically be added to their meal accounts. Pupils can also add funds to their free school meal allowance should they wish to. Any unused free school meal allowance will not be carried forward to the next day.

Biometric Registration

We use a biometrics system for the school meals service at St Joseph's Catholic High School. This means that pupils are able to access by means of finger recognition. This system enables us to deliver a faster, more efficient service. Day-to-day your child will be able use their finger to access their school meal account at the till in the canteen.

If you are not yet registered, the school office will shortly be contacting those parents who have not signed up for the biometrics system. Please note parents have the option to opt out of biometric date system. For any who do not wish to use the option, it will still be possible to access school meals accounts through ParentPay.

Year 7 News

Well done to Year 7 who came back after Christmas with a positive attitude to learning. Can I remind you that if you do not have a linen learning bag these are available to buy from parent pay at the school office.

We now have new journals for the term ahead. Can I ask that you sign the parental agreement form in the journal no later than Friday 13th January.

Yesterday the majority of the year group went to the Gillian Lynne Theatre in London to see The Lion Witch and The Wardrobe. It was a fantastic show and the pupils were excellent in their conduct at the theatre. I was very proud of them.

Have a great weekend

Mrs Dunleavy

Year 8 news:

I want to wish you all a very warm welcome back and a very happy new year. So far Year 8 have made a fantastic start back to school and have already managed to achieve 358 positive points, so keep up the excellent attitude and hard work.

Just a reminder that all students should have a linen bag to carry their equipment and books. These are now back in stock in reception and can be purchased through ParentPay. Each student will also be given their new journal for this term, please take the time to have a look through and sign the new home school agreement.

Mrs Miller

Year 9 news:

Dear Year, 9

I hope you had a great return to reality after a lovely Xmas Break. There are **some important dates** to keep in our calendar for this half term:

ARD meetings. If you did not have it for any reason, you must re-arrange it. Contact with your form tutor as soon as possible.

- Thursday 19th January- Year 9 CIAG Evening at 6 pm. You should have received a letter with more details
- Between 23rd to 27th January you have to complete the online Taster Day form (It will be sent soon)
- Thursday 2nd February- GCSE Taster Day
- Thursday 9th February- Year 9 Parents Evening

Moreover, today you received your new journal. Whole school agreement has to be signed by 20th January.

Finally, remember next week we will not have lessons in school but online through Teams. You have to attend your lesson same as they are in your timetable. Register and lateness are recorder. Check that your mic and camera work.

Have a wonderful weekend

Take care

Mr Romero

Year 11 News

Dear all,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We have had a very positive start to the year and I hope academic review day was a useful experience.

Our next PPE series will be at the start of the next half term. This means that we should already be preparing and focusing on the weak areas we have identified from PPE1. Moving forward all Year 11 students should have a regular revision timetable which they are completing. Please do check in and ensure that regular recall of learning is happening.

Parents evening – Thursday 12th January

Your attendance at parents evening is absolutely crucial for your child's progress. Following academic review day this is an opportunity to hear from subject experts following the PPEs. Please do come with questions and ensure that your child leaves parents evening knowing exactly what they need to do independently to continue to progress.

Please respond on parentpay to let us know that you are coming.

If you would like to meet with me for any reason please send me an email and I am happy to arrange this.

Free webinar – How to help your child make better notes

Please see the information from Mr Gibbons regarding this free webinar on how you can further support your child's learning at home.

Uniform

We have incredibly high standards across the board at St Joseph's. Unfortunately there have been a significant number of uniform issues at the start of this half term. Please ensure you are aware of our uniform policy in the journals and if you need any clarification please contact me.

Home school agreement

Students have been issued with a new journal for the New Year. Please can you ensure you have signed the home school agreement on **p38** by Friday 13th January.

As always if there is anything you need or you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mr Robinson

Head of Year 11

Period Product scheme for schools

Dear parents,

As part of the Period Product scheme, the government has provided free period products to all learners who need them in our school. Accordingly, this half term all girls from Years 7-13 will be given these free products. Pupils have the option to opt out from it.

The scheme aims to address scenarios such as where pupils

- have forgotten their products
- cannot afford products
- have come on their period unexpectedly

By making these essential personal hygiene products easily accessible, it will reduce any stigma associated with periods.

This is all in the hope of removing such barriers to learning.

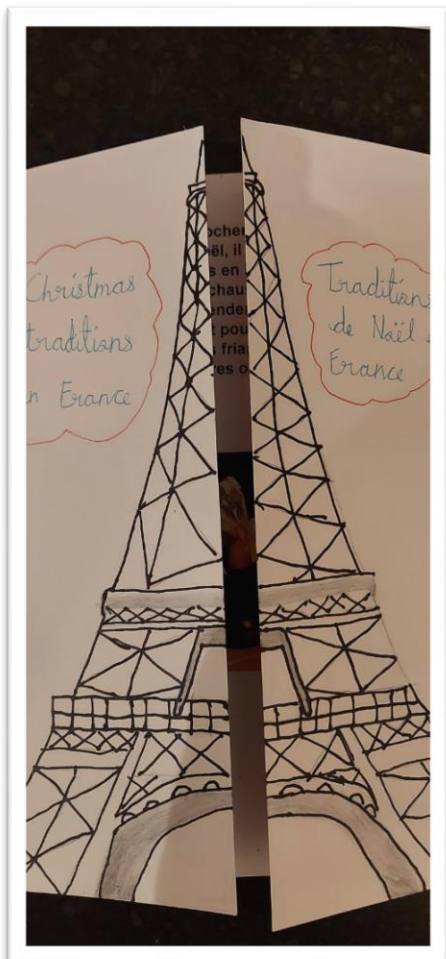
Many thanks

Mrs Ossei-Brainoo

MFL News

Our Year 7 students have designed amazing leaflets in order to explore how Christmas is celebrated in Spain and France. Take a look!

¡Feliz Día de Reyes! 🇪🇸🇫🇷🇮🇹🇬🇧



Music Department News

KS3 Listening Activities

Over next week, I will be setting up a Form for students complete online where you can make suggestions for music we could use in our music lessons. The aim is to experience a wide range of music and understand how they work.

To suggest a piece (or multiple!) Students need to access the form then in the text box share the names of any artists and the titles of the pieces. They can be any genre or style. Students who are able to justify why they think the music they have suggested is the best, will receive positive points.

The link will be set up on Classcharts as blended learning, it is optional but would be an excellent insight into the music you like.

Any questions, please contact Miss Ure

Performance Opportunities - TVLP February

We have an opportunity for students to perform at a TVLP event in February, thank you to those students who have already made contact.

If you are interested in Performing any piece of music, please see Miss Ure or message on Teams by Thursday 12th January. I also need to know which piece of music/song you are wanting to perform.

Miss K Ure

PE After school clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1 Year 8,9,10		Table tennis and Badminton AAN	Table tennis and Badminton AAN	Table tennis and Badminton AAN	
Lunch 2 Year 7,11,12,13	Table tennis and Badminton THU	Table tennis and Badminton MJO	Table tennis and Badminton AAN	Table tennis and Badminton AAN	Table tennis and Badminton THU
After school	Year 7,8 and 9 Football @ Slough Town Football Club THU 6 th form Fitness room	Year 7,8 and 9 Netball AAN Year 7,8 and 9 Badminton FWA 6 th form Fitness room	Year 7,8 and 9 Basketball JCO 6 th form Fitness room AAN, FWA		Year 10,11,12,13 Football @ Slough Town Football Club THU, EED Year 10,11,12,13 Netball MJO Year 10,11,12,13 Basketball CWH

TVLP News

TVLP TALKS

Monica Chadha

Non-Executive Director, British Film Institute (BFI); Member of the President's Advisory Board, Chartered Management Institute.

Monica will discuss her career and what it takes for women and men to be successful in industry, as well as the skills required for achievement, advancement and career satisfaction. A question-and-answer session will follow and Monica will be happy to mingle and talk with students directly following her talk

**Wednesday 18th January 2023.
6:00pm - 7:30pm.**

This is an in-person event at Slough & Eton C of E Business & Enterprise College, SL1 2PU, which will be streamed live via a Zoom webinar.

If you are interested in attending in-person or online, sign up at tvlp.org.uk/upcoming-events



TVLP
THAMES VALLEY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

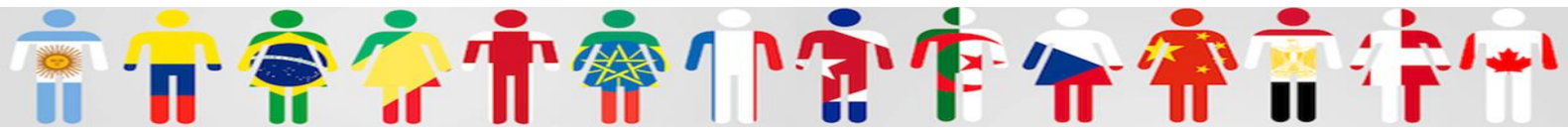


This free talk is open to secondary-aged students from schools within the Thames Valley Learning Partnership (TVLP).



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)



Accessing Support

Use the links below to determine whether there are any benefits, you could be claiming:

- [Turn2us Benefits Calculator](#)
- [Better Off Calculator | Policy In Practice](#)
- [Housing and support options for migrant families](#)

Access free or low-cost food:

- [Food Bank near Me | Find a Food Bank — Bankuet®](#)
- [Our members - Independent Food Aid Network UK](#)
- [Find a Food Bank - The Trussell Trust](#)
- [Community Fridge Network \(hubbub.org.uk\)](#)
- [OLIO – The #1 Free Sharing App \(olioex.com\)](#)
- [Join Our Food Waste Movement \(toogoodtogo.co.uk\)](#)
- [Low Price Foods - Save up to 70% on your weekly food shop](#)

Help with energy bills:

- [Bounce Back Checklist - British Gas Energy Trust](#)
- [Energy mythbusting - MSE](#)

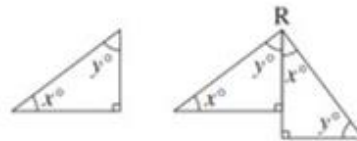




#IcandoMaths

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 $5 \times \frac{24}{5} = 24$.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

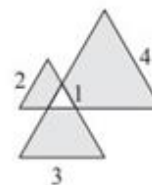
- C The values of the five options are 64, 243, 256, 125, 36 respectively.
Of these 256 is the largest, so 4^4 is the largest of the options.

Problem of the week

The diagram shows four equilateral triangles with sides of lengths 1, 2, 3 and 4. The area of the shaded region is equal to n times the area of the unshaded triangle of side-length 1.

What is the value of n ?

- A 8 B 11 C 18 D 23 E 26



Break time Teaser:

The angles of a quadrilateral are in the ratio $3 : 4 : 5 : 6$.

What is the difference between the largest angle and the smallest angle?

- A 30° B 40° C 50° D 60° E 70°

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

YEAR 7

Julian Kosmala and **Ben Bull** for taking part in Mr Stapleton's Friday Forum this week

YEAR 8

Ethan Hancock (8 Veronica) and **Mikah Aungon** (8 Mark) For receiving the most positive points this week.

Lena Wanda Kuczynska (8J) for her excellent ATL and outstanding work in Spanish last term

YEAR 9

Daya Kumar (9J) for the outstanding quality of her Spanish homework and classwork.
Alicia Kasongo and **Esinam Deynoo** for the highest amount of positive points achieved this week.

YEAR 10

YEAR 11

Laura Wilkanowska and **Matteo Mennone** for the most positive points this week

YEAR 12

Maclan Costa for making excellent use of his study time and **Victoria Sobala** for making really good progress in English Literature

YEAR 13

Joe Stabler and **Joel Tabil** as student of the week for the most positive points