



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 10th October 2025



Congratulations to Veronica House for leading inspiring assemblies across the year groups on the theme of Increasing Our Faith. The sessions have been truly impactful, and it's been wonderful to see students wholeheartedly embracing our core values of being faith-filled and hopeful.

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

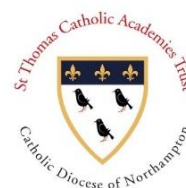
Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is:

<https://youtu.be/BoXApAPoHQY>

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 – Give glory to God

In the Gospel on Sunday we hear of a Samaritan meeting Jesus. We previously heard of the Good Samaritan last academic year (the Gospel from Sunday 13th July, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time). And the Samaritans were a group with both a Jewish and pagan heritage. Although they revered Yahweh (a Hebrew name for God) as did the Jews, their faith was not the common Judaism of that day, hence Samaritans were looked down upon. And in the Gospel reading from Sunday, it is the Samaritan (the person seen not to have the fullest, truest faith) who recognised the work of God. Just like when it was the Good Samaritan who actioned the true love of God by attending to the hurt and wounded. In addition to this, the Samaritan was one of 10 who also suffered from leprosy. Lepers suffered not just through the disease but they were cast out from their homes and communities. Jesus however took pity on all who came to him for healing.

Leprosy was seen to be a punishment for sin. So in the Gospel we see two groups despised at the time, the Samaritans and those with leprosy. However, God chooses to heal the 'foreigner', this one who was a leper but also a Samaritan ***'Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?'*** - Here the recognition of God's power through Jesus extends to all, Jew and non-Jew alike. The Samaritan was not the only one who had faith, but his gratitude sets him apart from the others, and Jesus upholds him as an example. This gospel reading is so fitting for today, because Jesus was travelling between the border of Galilee and Samaria; borders can often represent division. And today, wars are fought over borders, and again division is seen!

God's grace and healing does not confine itself to one given group. Sometimes we must also cross boundaries to obtain healing; and healing brings new life, which is completely dependent on faith. Have you experienced the pain of being excluded or treated as an outsider? During this week, reflect on where the barriers are in your own life, the things that cut you off from others. Be **Active and Curious** towards breaking down one of these barriers this week.

Give glory to God

Weekly Reflections
12th October 2025
28th Week in Ordinary Time



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 17: 11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When he saw them he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, 'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

We pray for those whose faith has been undermined by disputes and division; who feel hurt and let down by what has taken place. Allow us to Give Glory to God by being united in Christ.

Day 1

Who in the Gospel turned back and praised God?
What did they recognise that the others didn't?

Day 2

Borders can create division, why is this?
The teachings of Christ are for all, how can we show Christ to all?

Day 3

Be **Active** and **Curious** by praying one decade of the Rosary to our Lady to someone who is in need?

Year 7 News

We have only one week left of Year 7s first half term here at St Joseph's! They have their first awards assembly on Monday where students will have the chance to receive an award from each of the subjects and receive a badge from myself for consistently demonstrating our pupil profile values. I am very much looking forward to it!

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 7 Student of the Week

Nathanael Sumith Oommen & Marcela Molska for excellent weeks

Year 8 News

It has been another excellent week for the year group, with a total of 981 positive points awarded. Well done to all students for their hard work and commitment to their learning. However, punctuality to school and lessons continues to be an area for improvement, and I encourage everyone to maintain consistency and high standards.

The Hairspray school show is fast approaching, with the final performance next week. Rehearsals showcased tremendous talent and enthusiasm. Tickets are available now, Don't miss the chance to see their talent in action.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 8 Student of the week:

Alex Linadi and Jan Skrzypczynski for being active and curious towards their leaning this week.

Year 9 News

Another fantastic for Year 9. This week Year 9 had a 94% positive ratio with the most positive points coming from been Active & Curious.

A massive well-done to 9 Veronica who led the Year 9 assembly yesterday, a splendid display of faith and public speaking.

Have a great weekend, look after your loved ones.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Students of the Week

Joseph Cartwright and Particia Marciniac

Year 10 News

A fantastic week, Year 10: we passed 1,000 positive points and hit a 93% positive ratio—great consistency in lessons and around school.

On Monday we had school photos; please ask students for their barcode slips so you can view and order images at home.

In sport, the boys' football team earned a superb 2–1 win over Langley Academy, with David G netting both goals—well played, all. A shout-out as well to our BTEC Sport students for their professionalism during this week's filming—excellent organisation and teamwork on display.

Finally, a reminder that all absences must be reported via ClassCharts or by contacting the school office. Let's keep the momentum going into next week.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 10 Students of the Week

Students of the week; Charlotte Mapanzure and Perez Mbidom.

Year 11 News

Another fantastic week in the books, well done to each and every one of you for your continued effort, positivity, and resilience as we approach the end of this half term.

A huge congratulations to 11V for delivering an outstanding assembly to the year group. It takes real courage to stand up in front of your peers. Your theme of faith was thoughtfully explored and beautifully presented. Special shout-outs to Noah, Adewale, Jayden, Victor, Sonia and Amrita for speaking so confidently and eloquently.

Looking ahead to next week, we'll be celebrating Year 11's progress with a celebration assembly; a chance to reflect on how far you've come and the goals you're smashing along the way.

And don't forget the school production of *Hairspray* is running from Wednesday to Friday! Tickets are just £5 on ParentPay. Come along, support and enjoy a brilliant evening of music, talent, and fun.

Have a lovely weekend One more week to go!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11

Year 11 Students of the week

Isla Slessor and Victor Buda for receiving the most positive points

Year 12 News

Another great week for our Year 12 students. So many of them are picking up positive points for excellent work and living out our St. Joseph's school values.

We do have a few issues with lateness to school and homework not being completed. Can I just remind you that you can check your child's behaviour points and homework via class charts. If you are having trouble logging in, then please do get in touch. We need your support to ensure your child achieves well this year so that they can go on to Year 13 study with the secure knowledge they need.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Year 12 Students of the Week

Farhan Farhad for excellent work in Physics Student of the week and Tyreese Chatyoka for great work in Philosophy and Ethics

Year 13 News

At the moment Year 13 are still busy with their UCAS applications and researching apprenticeship opportunities. A number of our scholar's group are in the midst of sitting entrance exams for various Universities and courses and we wish them every success with this.

We extend a massive thank you to Cameron Fyfe for producing a Super Curricular Resource that is going to be a massive support to our new Year 12s and many other year groups to come.

Some of our Student Leadership team are being trained in a school coaching program under the direction of Ms Burby and we hope to soon establish a culture of coaching and mentorship between our Year 12 and 13 students in the Sixth Form.

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 13

Year 13 Students of the Week

This week I nominate Cameron Fyfe for his amazing super curricular resource and Vanessa Anane for a super Business Ethics essay.

Ski Trip 2026

We still have some spaces available for this year's Ski Trip to Folgarida, Italy.

The cost for the trip is £1,080.

There is a final chance to sign up by Friday 10th October.

If you would like your child to attend but have not managed to pay the deposit yet, please contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss this.

Mr Robinson

c.robinson@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Bikeability Cycle Safety Training

Once again the school will be working with BeSpoke Cycle Instruction to offer Cycle Training for Everyone - Deliver Safer Training | Bikeability in the spring term.

Before this can be booked I need to know roughly how many people might take part.

Register your interest by replying to the Microsoft Form that has been sent out on ClassCharts

Mr Silver

One Week to go until Our School Production:

Hairspray the Musical!

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music, dance, and fun as our talented students bring *Hairspray* to the stage!

Performance Dates & Times:

- Wednesday, 15th October | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- Thursday, 16th October | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- Friday, 17th October | 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Tickets: Only £5 each — available now on Parent Pay!

Refreshments will be available during the interval, cash only

Bring your family and friends for a fantastic evening of entertainment. We can't wait to see you there!



Design and Technology Department



Year 7.

Our newest chefs have been wowing with their fruit platters showcasing safe cutting skills.



The year 7s have also been demonstrating their knowledge of cardboard engineering in preparation for modelling their designs later in their projects.



Year 9:

Same base-different dish! Year 9 have developed their skills and knowledge creating breadsticks in their first practical, and then turning the food room into a pizzeria. Pupils prepared the dough at home and used it to make scrumptious pizzas.



Year 12:

The product designers have been taking inspiration from iconic designers to research and model scale versions of designer chairs, after presenting their creations they took on the cardboard chair challenge; this year in a turn of events the boys were victorious with the girls testing their design to destruction.



DT MAKE IT Elective



The DT Make It groups have been working through some small projects. Their first products spreading love and hope went home after a couple of weeks and we had a lovely collection of moneyboxes completed this week. We have really enjoyed the rotation and look forward to your plaques next week.



D&T Stars of the week



For being **Active and Curious** and being awarded most positive points by their D+T and food Teachers. **Elena Rooney Y9, Kasper Gazda Y11, Joseph Cartwright Y9, Justyna Brzezinska Y7, Ethan Devereux Y7.**
 For being **Intentional and Prophetic** in DT elective **Oliwia Palusinska Y8,**
 For their work towards the **common good** and supporting so helpfully in elective **Dawid Duczek** and **Zuzanna Drewnowska**.

REQUEST for RECYCLING help in D&T

The D&T department would love to have your **Colourful Plastic bottle lids**. Please remove them from the plastic bottle and bring them to A3.



Geography Club



The Geography Club kicked off its very first meeting of the term on 3rd October 2025 with an exciting and interactive quiz.

The event began with a fast-paced Buzzer Round focused entirely on world flags, testing members' reflexes and visual memory. This was followed by a creative Dingbats Round and a country clue challenge that encouraged out-of-the-box thinking and global awareness.

A huge congratulations to the winning team: Logan Ashdown (8T), Igor Ostrowski (8M) and Jacob Surrador (8J) who impressed everyone with their teamwork, sharp minds, and global knowledge!

A heartfelt thank you to all the students who participated in the first Geography Club meeting. Your enthusiasm, teamwork, and curiosity made the event truly special.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

A life-changing experience. An opportunity to have fun with friends. A chance to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement, respected by employers. The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate life.

14-24 year olds can do a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter and healthier, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Any young person can do their DofE. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.





Leadership Training Session

This week, 61 of our dedicated sports students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a leadership training session led by Adam Colley. The session focused on helping students develop key leadership skills and gain the confidence needed to deliver engaging and effective sessions to young people.

Throughout the workshop, Adam shared valuable insights on what makes a great leader in sport, guiding students through practical techniques and strategies they can apply in real-life settings. The energy and enthusiasm from our students were incredible, and it's clear they took a lot away from the experience.

Our students are now excited to put their new skills into action as they take on roles in upcoming sports leadership events throughout the year. We can't wait to see how they inspire and motivate the next generation through their leadership!

Well done to all involved — this is just the beginning of an exciting journey in sports leadership!



Year 8 students Sharpen Their Skills at Fencing Activity

Morning

Last Friday, our secondary students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a Fencing Activity Morning. Guided by experienced instructors, students were introduced to the fundamentals of the sport, including footwork, basic techniques, and safety practices. The session was both energetic and engaging, allowing students to challenge themselves in a new and dynamic way. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, focus, and sportsmanship on full display. A big thank you to the instructors and staff who helped make the morning a great success





Year 11 and 12 Students Lead the Way at Fencing Activity Morning

Morning

We were proud to see our Year 11 and 12 students step up as Sports Leaders during the recent Fencing Activity Morning for younger secondary students. Acting as mentors and role models, they supported the sessions by helping with equipment, guiding drills, and encouraging participation. Their leadership, enthusiasm, and positive attitude contributed to a fun and successful morning for all involved. Well done to our Sports Leaders for representing the school so well!



PE Events/Fixtures for next week:

Monday 13th October-Yr 8 football vs Trevlynn (A)

Wednesday 15th October- Year 11 netball league evening @ HGS

Thursday 16th October- Yr 3/4 football festival @Slough town.
Sports leaders to officiate.

If you would like free tickets to the Slough vs Maidstone United football match on Saturday 25th October, Please get in contact with Mrs Bray for details. K.bray@st-jospehs.slough.sch.uk

Enter the Trunks Across the Thames Student Art Competition

- This competition is open to ALL STUDENTS
(you don't have to study art!)
- You can design the whole elephant or part of it (E.g. tusk or trunk).
There is a stencil you can use if you wish- ask Mrs Burby for it- or be creative and use your own!
 - Send entries to j.kemp@tvlp.org.uk
- ^Or ask Mrs Burby for more information.
- Need more inspiration or would like some support in school? Mrs Chambers is hosting a club for this next Wednesday 15th October after school in the Art room to offer guidance, ideas and resources- all are welcome to show up!
- Winners will paint the actual sculpture that will be displayed along the Thames. You can work in pairs if you wish!



Thames
hospice

TVLP
- THAMES - VALLEY - LEARNING - PARTNERSHIP -



ENTER THE TRUNKS ACROSS THE THAMES STUDENT ART COMPETITION

WINNING ARTISTS WILL BE CHOSEN TO PAINT OUR ELEPHANT
FOR THE PUBLIC SCULPTURE TRAIL

SEND IN YOUR COLOURFUL IMAGINATIVE IDEA.

ART DESIGN ENTRIES CAN BE HAND DRAWN OR PAINTED
CONTACT JEANETTE HEMP

J.HEMP@TULP.ORG.UK TO PLACE YOUR ENTRY
CLOSING DATE MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

GET DESIGNING TODAY YOUR ELEPHANT COULD JOIN THE HERD



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available from 7:30am to 8:15am, which is complimentary to all students.

Logging your Child's Absences and Appointments

Dear Parents/Carers,

We kindly remind you of the following procedures for reporting your child's absence to ensure smooth communication and accurate record-keeping:

- **Absences must be reported *exclusively* via ClassCharts.**
- **Absences should be reported by 8:00am on the day of absence.**
- **For medical and health appointments:**
 - Please notify us in advance via ClassCharts.
 - Upload supporting documentation (e.g., proof of appointment).
 - Absences without proof will be marked as unauthorised.
- **For other types of absence requests:**
 - Follow the same ClassCharts reporting procedure.
 - Supporting information may be required (e.g., full outbound and inbound flight details, including booking dates, for travel abroad).
 - If additional information is needed, the school will contact you directly.
- **Please refrain from emailing the school office (office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) or your child's teachers directly about absences.**
 - All absence notifications must be submitted to the Attendance Officer via ClassCharts to be processed correctly.

Please find attached a PDF guide with step-by-step instructions on how to report absences through ClassCharts.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in helping us safeguard and ensure high levels of attendance for your child.

Kind regards,

Miss Lungeanu

office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

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.

Dates for the Diary

Date	What's On
Mon 13 th Oct	
Tue 14 th Oct	
Wed 15 th Oct	St Teresa Feast Day Hairspray the Musical!
Thu 16 th Oct	Hairspray the musical!
Fri 17 th Oct	Hairspray the musical!

Date	What's On
Mon 3 rd Nov	First day of Term All souls' day
Tue 4 th Nov	
Wed 5 th Nov	
Thu 6 th Nov	
Fri 7 th Nov	



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- E The product of the first three numbers is equal to the product of the last three numbers, so $x \times 120 \times 496 = 496 \times 360 \times 48$. Hence, $x \times 120 = 360 \times 48$.

$$\text{So } x = \frac{360 \times 48}{120} = 3 \times 48 = 144.$$

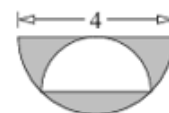
Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- E Let the number of dogs on Jane's farm be n . Then at the start of the week there were $\frac{3n}{5}$ cats. After 32 cats but no dogs arrived, the ratio became $5 : 3$, so $\frac{3n}{5} + 32 = \frac{5n}{3}$.

Multiplying throughout by 15: $9n + 480 = 25n$. Therefore $16n = 480$, that is $n = 30$.
So there are 30 dogs on Jane's farm.

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows a shaded semicircle of diameter 4, from which a smaller semicircle has been removed. The two semicircles touch at exactly three points. What fraction of the larger semicircle is shaded?



- A $\frac{2}{\pi}$ B $\frac{1}{2}$ C $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$ D $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ E $\frac{3}{4\pi}$

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.

Clubs







You are invited to join in with us this term!

Why? : Languages, fun and friendship.

Who ? : All Year 7 + 8 students.

When? : Tuesday 15.20-16.20 p.m.

Where? : T5 with Ms Shaw & Team.



Come to our club if you feel you are a empathetic and enthusiastic linguist!

You get extra-curricular positive points AND tasty treats to keep you keen!

We can't wait to see you there soon!



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



Welcome to Geography Club



The first Geography Club meeting will be held on Friday, 3rd October 2025 in T-15 at 3:20 - 4:00 p.m.

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 meetings will be held every week after school on Fridays, 3.20-4.00pm. Open to year 7 to year 9.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (Wealth out of Waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating coastal landform models 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		

WEEKLY MENU St Josephs Catholic High School - Week One				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Szechuan Chicken served with Rice	Minced Beef Enchilada	Chicken & Vegetable Pie served with New Potatoes	Spicy Beef Nachos served with Sour Cream & Cheese	Battered Fish served with Chips & a Lemon Wedge
Cauliflower Cheese Stuffed Jacket Potato	Mixed Bean Stroganoff served with Rice	Quorn Bolognese served with Pasta	Quorn Sausage & Mash served with Caramelised Onion Gravy	Mediterranean Vegetable & Feta Frittata
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 & Basil Sauce	Pesto Pasta	Pasta with Garlic & Parmesan	Pasta with a Cheese Sauce	-
Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	-
Apple & Cherry Crumble served with Custard	Iced Lemon Cake	Iced Carrot Cake	Chocolate Chip Flapjack	Rice Crispy Cake
Baguettes, Sandwiches, Bagels & Wraps. Assorted Cold Desserts & Fresh Fruit. Salad Bar HARRISON food with thought				

Term Dates

School Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Inset Day Monday 1st September 2025

Inset Day Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Year 7 + 12 Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Whole school returns Thursday 4th September 2025

Inset Day Friday 19th September 2025

Half Term Monday 20th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025

Term Ends Friday 19th December 2025 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins Monday 5th January 2026

Half Term Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026

Term Ends Friday 27th March 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Inset Day Monday 13th April 2026

Term Begins Tuesday 14th April 2026

Half Term Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Term Ends Friday 17th July 2026 (12:30pm finish)