

Newsletter 10th July 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





43. Theme of the week 12th July 2026

Sowing seeds

Weekly Reflections
12th July 2026
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of Matthew (13:1-9)

At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.'



Prayer for the Week

Almighty and loving God,

We thank you for all the ways you have sown the seed of your word in our lives – through the living relationship we share with Christ, through the movement of the Holy Spirit within our hearts, through the preaching and reading of the Scriptures, through the fellowship of the Church, through the daily experience of your love in the world around us.

Amen

Day 1

What have been your highlights from this year?

Is there anything you would change?

Day 2

Why does Jesus use parables in his teaching?

Think about the Gospel reading, what words stand out to you and why?

Day 3

Think about your year, how can you allow God into your life more so you can grow and be more productive?

Theme of the Week – Sowing seeds

So, we have come to the last week of the school year. How has the year been for you? Think about your recent report card, are you where you want to be in your studies? Friendships, how have these changed over the course of the year? What new experiences have you taken part in this year?

In this week's Gospel, Jesus uses a parable to teach people the deep truth of God. With these parables, people often need to go away and think about them before they get the message and understand what Jesus is telling us. So think silently about this year, how do you feel? Why do you feel this way? What is Jesus trying to tell you?

Jesus uses parables a lot in the Bible to teach. A vineyard, sons or servants were used to represent Israel; a master, king or father was used to represent God. In this famous parable of the Sower, Jesus uses the seed to give a picture of the word of God and how we have the capacity to grow and be productive. The soil represents our openness to receiving this word. The parable is aimed at those losing faith in Jesus – God will give you harvest. This parable continues to hold a powerful message for us today. We are called to examine ourselves to see what image of ground matches our receptivity to the word of God. Can you recall a time when God's word really connected with you, took root in your heart?

Let's go back to the question posed on day one, how was your year? And now using scriptures, how can you use this as a source to improve in a practical way? Spend some time with today's reading, recognising a word or phrase that moves you. Share this with a friend. What can you do to ensure your life becomes more fertile ground for the word of God? During this week and during the summer, try to be rich soil, not just for the word of God, but for your family and those around you. Look to messages from God in the events of everyday life.

Have a wonderful summer break and remember to stay safe and continue to allow God into your life.

Year 7 News

A massive congratulations to all of the Year 7s who won awards last night at Awards evening, it was lovely to see everyone there. It is always such a great evening!

With one week to go we still have a few things to look forward to: Year 7s last assembly on Monday, Rewards trips on Wednesday and our end of Year mass on Friday! It is looking to be a good week to finish the year.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Congratulations to all Year 8 students who received an award at our Awards Evening last night. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the effort, dedication and progress shown throughout the year. A special well done also goes to the students who took part in the performances, helping to make the evening a memorable celebration.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasise that there has been a slight increase in the number of Homework Xs this week. As we approach the final week of term, please ensure that homework is completed carefully and submitted on time. Maintaining good homework routines right up until the end of term is important in supporting learning and helping students finish the term positively.

We have an exciting final week ahead, with the Year 8 final assembly on Tuesday, reward trips on Wednesday and our End of Year Mass on Friday. School will finish at 12:30pm on Friday.

Until then, take care of yourselves and have a pleasant weekend.

Mrs. Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

It is hard to believe that we have reached the final week before the summer break. Despite another spell of warm weather, it has been fantastic to see Year 9 students continuing to approach school life with maturity and the high standards we expect every day.

There has been a slight increase in Homework Xs this week. As we prepare for the transition into Year 10, it is important that all homework is completed on time. Developing these habits now will be invaluable as homework becomes an integral part of learning and consolidating GCSE content next year.

Congratulations to all students who received an award at yesterday's End of Year Rewards Afternoon. Your hard work, commitment and achievements throughout the year have been recognised, and you should be incredibly proud.

Next week promises to be a busy and exciting one, with reward trips taking place throughout the week before we finish at 12:30pm on Friday. Have a fantastic final week of term!

Look after your loved ones.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

This week Year 10 achieved an **87% positive ratio**, which is an improvement on last week and shows that many students are still making good choices and contributing positively around school. However, we have also seen an increase in some key areas of concern, particularly **homework, off-task behaviour, equipment, talking and defiance**. With only a short time left in Year 10, these standards cannot slip. Students must remain focused, prepared and respectful right up until the final day.

Well done to all the students who conducted themselves brilliantly on the **Geography trips** over the past two weeks. It is always pleasing to hear when Year 10 students represent the school well outside of the building. I am proud of those who showed maturity, respect and enthusiasm throughout the trips.

It has also been very hot recently, so please ensure your child comes to school prepared with **water, a hat** and, where helpful, a **small personal fan**. These small things make a big difference in helping students stay comfortable, focused and ready to learn.

Congratulations to everyone who won awards at **Awards Evening**. I am incredibly proud of you. It was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the students who have shown commitment, resilience and excellence across the year.

Year 10 also received their **PPE1 results** this week. As parents, please make sure you log on to **Pupil Progress** and look carefully at your child's results. This will help you see where they are doing well and where they need further support with revision and summer homework. These results are not the final destination, but they are a very important checkpoint before Year 11.

Attendance this week is below where we need it to be. At this stage of the GCSE journey, every lesson matters. Please continue to prioritise attendance, punctuality and strong routines at home. We are nearly at the end of Year 10.

Let's keep pushing, keep standards high and finish strong.

God bless.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 12 News

Yesterday evening we celebrated our annual awards evening and it was great to see so many of the year 12 students be recognised for their hard work and achievement over this academic year. Not only were their awards for academic success but a few year 12 students were also recognised for the significant contributions they make to the whole community

here at St. Josephs. I honestly could not be prouder of all the students and their generosity and kindness is truly appreciated by every member of staff.

Next week is the last week of term and there are lots of things happen including rewards trips. Please could I ask that you make sure you son or daughter is well prepared for any trip they maybe attending including, hats, sun screen and water as looks like it will be another warm week. Friday 17th July is the last day of term and we mark this occasion with a whole school mass and students will be dismissed at 12:30pm.

I hope you all have a fabulous weekend,

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Students of the Week

Year 7: Jennina Reyes and Domas Puidokas for consistently being excellent!

Year 8: Ava Ashdown and Lorcan Daly for their outstanding performance at the awards evening.

Year 9: David Bialek & Nela Mocny

Year 10: Marcin Gosek and Nadia Kulikowska

Year 12: Matthew Reis and Liza Pereira for earning the most positive points this week

Homework superstars

Marysia Kostrakiewicz 7 Jerome

Nathan Koomson 8 Cecilia

Sameer Gupta 9 Cecilia

Tyra Jonga 10 Veronica

Eva Fernandes 12 Cecilia

Summer Homework

Dear Parents and Guardians,

From research students tend to have on average 3 months regression during the summer holiday. Effects tend to be higher for literacy (three months' regression) than mathematics (two months' regression). To mitigate this, students have been set summer homework especially examination groups **Year 10 to Year 11** and **Year 12 to Year 13**.

We know that the holidays are important times for rest and relaxation for our students and it is important that we give them a chance to relax and enjoy their time off. However, if they can schedule some time for learning they will be able to complete the homework set.

Thank you for your support always.

Mrs Jackson-Bickersteth

Upcoming PE dates



Monday 13th July - Try it festival

Boys dance



On Thursday 9th July, a group of our boys took part in an exciting dance workshop led by Toby and Aaron from Creative Dance Academy as part of the **This Boy Can Dance** project.

The session was designed to encourage boys to experience dance in a fun, supportive environment while building confidence, teamwork and creativity. Throughout the workshop,

the students enthusiastically embraced the challenge, learned a range of new dance moves and developed their performance skills.

It was fantastic to see everyone fully engaged, stepping outside their comfort zones and enjoying something different. The energy and enthusiasm shown by all involved made for a brilliant session, and the students left with new skills, increased confidence and plenty of smiles.

A huge thank you to Toby and Aaron from Creative Dance Academy for delivering such an inspiring and enjoyable workshop. We look forward to welcoming them back for future sessions.

British Racing School

This week, we were delighted to welcome the **British Racing School's Ride A Dream Academy** to St Joseph's for an exciting and inspiring visit.

Students had the opportunity to take part in a **Jockey Fitness Challenge**, where they tested their balance, coordination, strength and endurance through a series of activities designed to replicate the physical demands of being a jockey. The team also brought along their racing simulator, giving students the unique experience of seeing what it takes to ride a racehorse in competition.

The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved, with students embracing the challenges and learning more about the opportunities available within the horse racing industry.

A special congratulations goes to **Jessica in Year 10** and **Sofia in Year 9**, who achieved the highest scores in the fitness challenges. Their outstanding performances were a fantastic achievement, and they should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

A huge thank you to the team from the British Racing School's Ride A Dream Academy for delivering such an engaging and memorable experience for our students.

Year 10 Geography Trip to London

This week, another group of our GCSE Geography students travelled to London to complete their fieldwork investigations. They visited Stratford to study the regeneration of the Olympic Park site before heading to Hyde Park to investigate biodiversity richness within a UK grassland ecosystem. Despite the hot weather, the students showed excellent resilience, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the day. They collected valuable data, represented the school superbly and were a real credit to the school. Well done to everyone involved!





Our Students Making Their Mark

We are delighted to share that our A Level Geography student, Rosa Bavington, has had her article and photographs about UK moths and butterflies published in the latest magazine from Little Green Change.

This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of Rosa's hard work, creativity, and passion for the natural world. You can read her published article by clicking the link here: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/7b5e86f498.html>

We are also extremely proud of all the students who submitted their work. The quality of the entries was outstanding, and we hope this is just the beginning of an ongoing partnership with Little Green Change, creating more opportunities for our students to have their work featured in future editions of the magazine.



The Lodge Gardening Elective

Well another exciting week here in The Lodge Garden with our carrots ready! Students really enjoyed helping Mrs Niculae pick the carrots and then spent some time doing some tidying up around the garden and most importantly watering our plants.

Next week is our final session for this half term and we cannot wait to give you all a roundup on our progress!

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Mr Martin & Mrs Niculae





Music Department News



Music News:

This half term has been a busy term for musical performances, firstly with the Induction Mass for Miss Riddles and now this week having two events in one.

On Tuesday 7th July, one of our KS4 bands were selected by Slough Music Service to perform in the annual Dani Awards Evening. The evening, which centers around celebration of music in our local community, was an opportunity for the a selection of the most prominent young musicians in the area. Additionally, the event took place at Other Space Arts in Windsor, given local musicians opportunities to perform in a professional space. The band D.O.V.Z, which includes Daniel L, Olly K, Vittorio F and Zach V-D, participated in the Battle of the Bands earlier this year and achieved second place, with the panel being so impressed they couldn't wait to give them another opportunity to perform, reprising their performance of Everlong by the Foo Fighters.

Next up we had our annual St Joseph's Awards Evening, where D.O.V.Z performed again, but also many excellent performances from some of our excellent music students. We had good vibes and chilled tunes from the Singing Club in the quad whilst guests received refreshments and canapes. There were also solo piano performances to welcome guests into the hall and two performances from the Theatre company. As an extra sweet treat, former student Mia Welsh was our guest speaker, performing a beautiful rendition of The Winner Takes it All by Abba, and accompanied by former music student Jonathan Deen! Congratulations to all of our performers on such a wonderful evening.

Extra Curricular Clubs:

- **Strings Club:** Friday's afterschool in XA room 3:15-4:15pm
- **Singing Club:** Thursday mornings before line up in Music room. 8am-8:20am
- **GCSE Music Help:** Lunch 1 Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Instrumental Lessons - Slough Music Service:

At Joseph's, instrumental lessons can be provided during the school day via Slough Music Service. If you are interested in taking lessons in a particular instrument, please complete

the application form via the Slough Music Service website. You can apply for lessons in any instrument. Costings and term prices are available on the website.

If you want to have lessons but do not have access to an instrument, or have any questions, please speak to Miss Ure.

<https://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk/instrument-lessons/>

Design and Technology News

Food Preparation and Nutrition

This week Year 8 have made delicious mini custard and fruit tarts. Sadly I did not get to try any this time :(but hopefully they have been enjoyed by year 8s and maybe even shared a little.





KS3 D&T Challenges

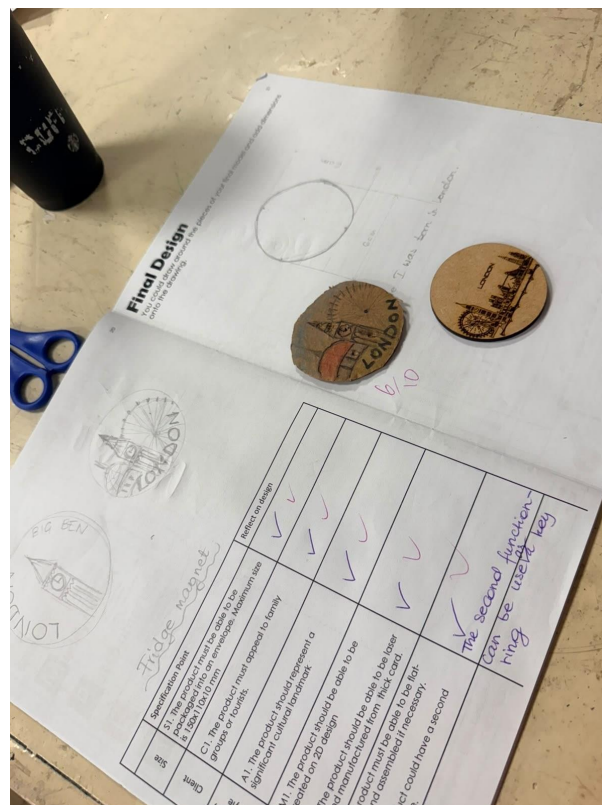
YEAR 8

There have been some brilliant structures, some 'creative' structures and some structures that have exceeded expectations! Well done year 8. Testing concludes next week! A photo of some willing volunteers and the towers designed by their group.



Year 9

Year 9 designers developed their 2D CAD skills to design cultural souvenirs. After designing, pupils were able to iterate their designs and some were then manufactured on the laser cutter.









Make It elective

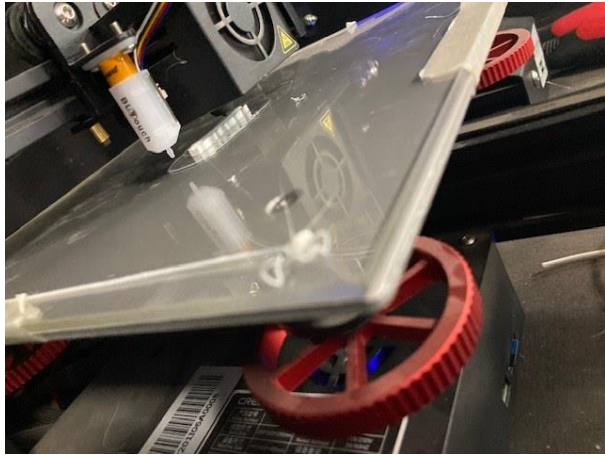
Pupils this week finished off their string art. They used beads to make adornments of their choosing, we had some beautiful bracelets, and some rather fantastic beaded creatures and objects. It is so good to create things although simple these projects encourage creativity, mindfulness and a sense of accomplishment. Using tools and a range of materials also enhances fine motor skills and encourages problem solving. It has been a pleasure to make things with this group of students who have been a joy and been willing to give things a try.

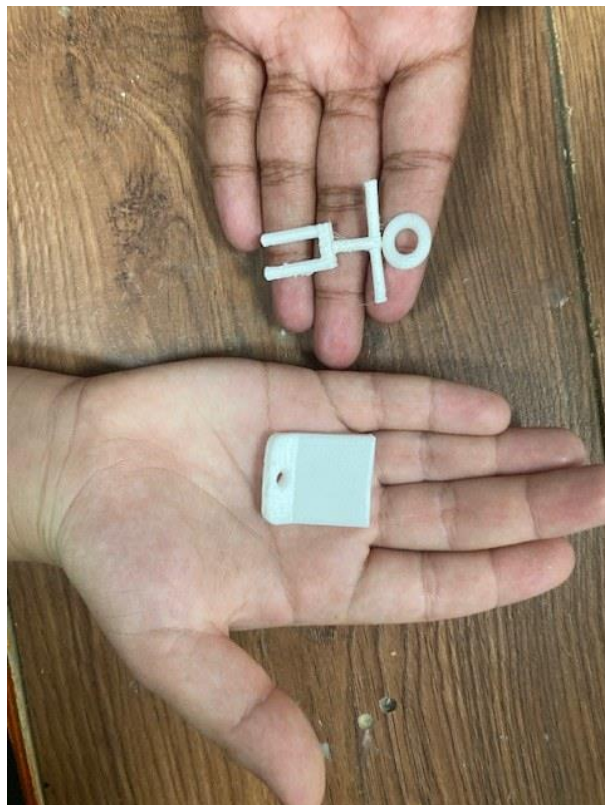




DT Club-Designers- Make It Monday

This week the focus was on exploring 3D design and 3D printing possibilities. Pupils investigated tools and created designs in Tinkercad, and we were able to print a couple of products by the end of the session, ready for a little development and 2nd try next time!





The following pupils were nominated for awards in Design & Technology and Food Preparation & Nutrition. Well done for your consistent efforts in class.

Year 7 Justyna Brzezinska

Year 8 Lena Chmielewska

Year 9 Lena Wilk

Year 10 Vaiva Liutkeviciute + Jude Martin

Year 11 Abigail Samar + Lena Margilewska

Year 12 Oliver Mahoney

Year 13 Oliwia Mroz

Karting Elective



**CAN YOU
HELP?**

 Do you have **mechanical** or **engineering** experience?

 We are looking for **parents** who are willing to help with a project.

 Please contact **Mr Allinson** for more information.

Holiday Activities Programme - Summer 2026



Kooth – Free Online Mental Health Support for Young People

Did you know that our students have access to **Kooth**, a free, safe and anonymous online mental health and wellbeing service for young people aged **10–18**?

Commissioned by the NHS and accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), Kooth provides confidential support to help children and young people manage their mental health and emotional wellbeing. It complements existing support available through schools and other services.

What Kooth offers:

- **Free online counselling** with qualified mental health practitioners via live text chat or secure messaging.
- **Self-help tools** including journals, goal-setting activities and wellbeing exercises to help young people build resilience and develop positive coping strategies.
- **Peer support** through moderated online discussion boards where young people can safely connect with others experiencing similar challenges.
- **Helpful resources** including articles, videos and activities covering a wide range of mental health and wellbeing topics.

Why use Kooth?

- No referral is needed – young people can register themselves in just a few minutes.
- The service is **completely anonymous**, helping many young people feel more comfortable seeking support.
- Available **365 days a year**, with live counselling offered: **Monday to Friday: 12.00 pm – 10.00 pm** **Weekends: 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm**
- Content is carefully moderated and tailored to be appropriate for different age groups.

Kooth offers an additional source of support for young people who may be struggling with their mental health, feeling anxious, stressed or overwhelmed, or who simply want someone to talk to. It provides a safe, welcoming space where they can access professional advice and practical wellbeing tools whenever they need them.

For more information or to register, visit www.kooth.com.

I Can do Maths



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- E** When the given calculations are performed on Harry's calculator, they will be equal to: A 97×79 ; B 98×78 ; C 369×147 ; D 321×123 ; E 357×753 . All of these, except E, are equal to the intended calculations.

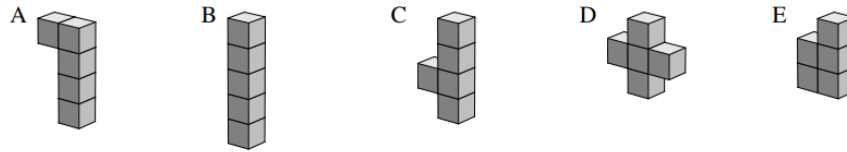
Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- D** The value of ' abc ' equals $100a + 10b + c$. We need to find integers of the form ' abc ' such that ' cba ' = ' abc ' + 99.
So $100c + 10b + a = 100a + 10b + c + 99$, that is $99c = 99a + 99$. This condition simplifies to $c = a + 1$. So there are 10 such integers of the form ' $1b2$ ', 10 of the form ' $2b3$ ', 10 of the form ' $3b4$ ', ..., and 10 of the form ' $8b9$ '.
Therefore the required number is $8 \times 10 = 80$.

Puzzler of the week

Each of the five shapes shown below is made from five unit cubes.

Which has the smallest surface area?



Break-Time Teaser

Three consecutive positive integers less than 20 are, in ascending order, prime, even and triangular.

What is the product of these three integers?

A 6

B 60

C 990

D 1786

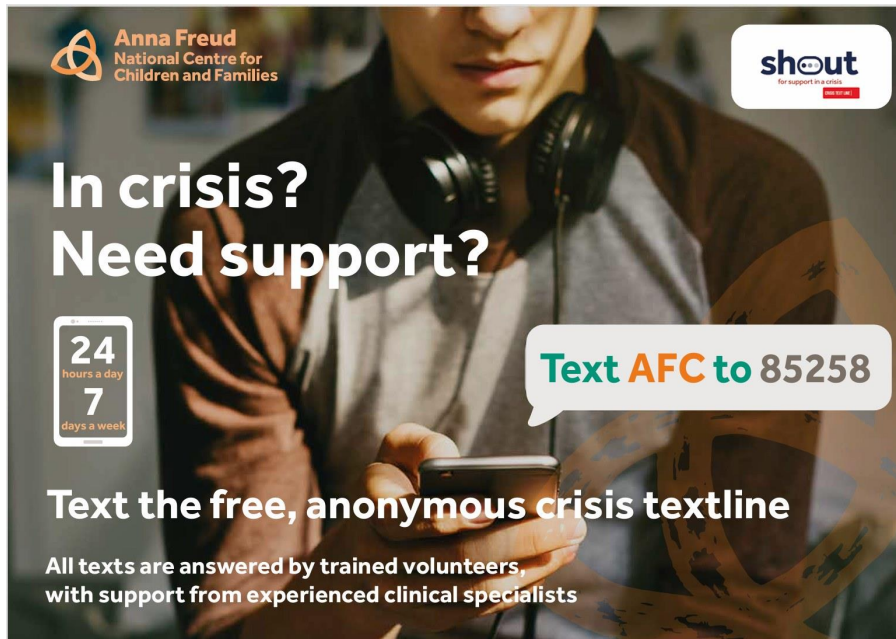
E 2730

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

Menu

WEEKLY MENU St Joseph's Catholic High School - Week One				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Tikka Masala served with Coriander Rice	Cottage Pie	Korean Style Chicken Burger	Beef Bolognese served with Penne Pasta	Battered Fish served with Chips
Quorn Enchilada	Black Bean Tacos served with a Sweetcorn Salsa	Cheese & Chive Quiche	Spicy Persian Style Potato Wellington	Vegetable Spring Roll served with Sweet Chilli Sauce & Chips
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Baked Beans or Mushy Peas
Pasta with a Tomato & Basil Sauce	Pasta with Garlic & Parmesan	Pasta with a Tomato Sauce	Teriyaki Noodle Pot	-
Jacket Potato with assorted fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted fillings	-
Chocolate Chip Cookie	Lemon & Lime Drizzle Cake	Iced Vanilla Sponge	Apple Crumble with Custard	Rice Crispy Cake
Baguettes, Sandwiches, Bagels & Wraps, Salad Bar, Assorted Cold Desserts & Fruit Pots. HARRISON food with thought				

AFC Shout



Anna Freud
National Centre for
Children and Families

shout
for support in a crisis
0800 011 011

In crisis? Need support?

24
hours a day
7
days a week

Text AFC to 85258

Text the free, anonymous crisis textline

All texts are answered by trained volunteers,
with support from experienced clinical specialists

Clubs

DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15



Make it Monday!

If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and
Designing and Making; consider joining our D&T team!
Please see or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams**

Join us in A3 for DT Club on Monday afterschool. 3.20-4.15.



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.



KS3 Club
 *To foster friendship about different cultures.
 *To allow communication with people in another language.
 *To enhance cultural and linguistic understanding and create compassionate and tolerant students.

WELCOME TO OUR AMAZING KS3 MFL CLUB (SUMMER TERM)
 Reaching out to all you empathetic and enthusiastic languages lovers.
 Get ready to join us after school WEEK B TUESDAY 15.20 in Room T5 (arrange to travel home safely 16.30). Have fun with your friendship group & also make fantastic new acquaintances! Join us for much fun & many snacks - bring your own, but must be nut free).

You can also take charge of a club session like a "mini mentor" role; just Teams your Powerpoint and let Ms Shaw know beforehand so I can print out any student resources. Gain extra-curricular points, prizes or even a Goldfish Bowl nomination! We play languages games, music videos & competitions! We make projects, displays & assemblies! **SEE YOU SOON**

HOW TO SAY FRIEND IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

friend	朋友 (péngyǒu)
kaligian	
ami (m) / amie (f)	
友達 (tomodachi)	
친구 (chingoo)	
apɔr (dhoog, m) / noogya (podrooga, f)	
amigo (m) / amica (f)	
Freund (m) / Freundin (f)	
amigos (phuean)	
amico (m) / amica (f)	
amigo (m) / amica (f)	

Hello Pal!




St Josephs Dance Club

Starting Monday 12th January in the Assembly Hall



Move. Groove. Repeat.
 Dance Club — Mondays after school
 Fun routines • New skills
 No experience needed!



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	GCSE Students Badminton	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	GCSE Students Badminton	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN and MJO Football Year 7-13 boys FWA and THU Volleyball/ Badminton Year 7-13 JRO Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Dance Year 7-13 HST	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO		

Term Dates

Term Dates

School Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Monday 1 st September 2025
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Inset Day	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
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Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
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Whole school returns	Thursday 4 th September 2025
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Inset Day	Friday 19 th September 2025
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Half Term	Monday 20 th October 2025 to Friday 31 st October 2025
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Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025 (12:30pm finish)
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Spring Term

Term Begins	Monday 5 th January 2026
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Half Term	Monday 16 th February 2026 to Friday 20 th February 2026
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Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026 (12:30pm finish)
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Summer Term

Inset Day	Monday 13 th April 2026
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Term Begins	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
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Half Term	Monday 25 th May 2026 to Friday 29 th May 2026
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Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026 (12:30pm finish)
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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)