

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021



# ST JOSEPH'S *NEWSLETTER*



ART WORK BY  
LAURA NAJDO – YEAR 12

## From The Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

You'll be pleased to know that the first set of sampling of GCSE and A Level procedures from the Examination Boards has already taken place in the Science department and we've passed with flying colours. We'll have uploaded all the results by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June but in the meantime the staff here are still in the midst of completing the final sets of marking, internal moderation and then moderation with other schools with the same boards and syllabi. We'll be back to functioning normally after the 18<sup>th</sup> in terms of marking and setting homework for the rest of the school, but in the meantime please be patient with the staff as they are under enormous pressure to get this right without any errors.

***'Unlocking Belief in All'***

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### General Covid Updates:

Over half term 11 students tested positive for CV19 including at least 3 who had the Delta variant. None of the cases originated from school. We received excellent support and advice from Public Health England who continue to monitor the local situation and we'll keep you updated with any further information as we get it. In the meantime let's keep the message clear to the students about the need for *hands, face, space*, fresh air.

Have a cracking weekend,

Ciran Stapleton

## Theme of the Week – Faith That Grows

We may be familiar with the account in Matthew's Gospel, where we are told that if we have faith even as small as a mustard seed, we can move mountains. On Sunday we hear Mark talk about the same seed, but in a slightly different way.

In Sunday's Gospel we are given two images of what the Kingdom of God is like. Jesus tells his followers that it is like seeds scattered and sown; they start small, but then they grow until they can be harvested. The mustard seed is mentioned too, and Mark emphasises that although it may be the smallest seed to fall into the soil, it grows into the biggest shrub; so big in fact that its branches provide shade for 'the birds of the air'. The mention of birds finding shelter in the branches of the mustard tree is probably the influence of Ezekiel - Mark writing for a non-Jewish audience would appreciate the reference to all nations finding a place in the kingdom. Note also that the phrase "birds of the air" was a traditional Jewish expression for the Gentiles - all the non-Jewish people.

This Gospel passage is so encouraging for each of us. Jesus is trying to help us understand that our faith does not need to be solid, strong and mighty in order to produce goodness. Our faith can be small, fragile, perhaps even feel inferior to those around us. It does not matter. **Our faith in God has the potential to grow and be life-giving to others.** Yes, it needs help and it needs nurturing – but if we rely on the word of God and practise our faith (however small) in whatever way we can, it will grow, and in turn, help bring God's Kingdom into fruition here on earth. So how can we do this?

Perhaps we might **ask more questions about God**, or try to seek more meaning from the Bible, or come to Mass more often.

Perhaps we begin **to talk more to God in prayer** or seek help from God with the questions in our lives.

Perhaps a verse from scripture hits home with new and deeper meaning.

Perhaps there is a realisation that our lives needs to change.

Perhaps we receive some special kindness from someone in a time of difficulty or sorrow.

**How can we help open the hearts of those we encounter to the surprises and small beginnings of God's plan for their lives?**

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## **Year 7 – 9 End of Year Assessments**

End of year assessments for Year 7-9 will commence next week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> June and will take place over a two week period during lesson time. Your child's class teacher will inform them on the specific date that this will take place for their given subject. Please can I ask parents to encourage their child to revise content covered during the year by reviewing lessons on Teams, resources uploaded onto Show my Homework and all the work in their exercise books.

Mr Gibbons

## **Year 10 and 12 Pre-Public Examinations**

From Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Year 10 and 12 will be completing their first set of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Again can I ask parents to encourage their child to revise for these to see their progress to date.

Mr Gibbons

## **Year 7 News**

Can I remind pupils that with the weather turning warm please make sure you have water bottles with you to keep hydrated. There will be more fundraising for Thailand going on so keep your eyes peeled. Also, Thorpe Park letters will be coming out soon.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Dunleavy

## **Year 8 News**

Dear Year 8,

A fantastic first week back! You have returned from half term committed to your studies and have conducted yourselves this week with grace and compassion. This week you were active in Geography, discussing and debating the Syrian refugee crisis; you have been creative in Drama composing chair duets and curious in PSHE learning about the political structure of the UK, our first lesson in our new PSHE topic: living in the wider world.

We have some great fun coming up this half term including events from the Mission to Thailand Sixth Form students, Sports Day and our annual end of term rewards trip. Letters will soon be sent out regarding our end of year rewards trip, a tradition of St Joseph's. This trip is for students whose attendance is over 95% or whose ATL is an average of 3+.

Have a great weekend in the sun!

Miss WD

## **Year 10 News**

Afterschool intervention is now in full swing with high numbers attending the sessions on offer which is very encouraging.

Exams start on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and finish on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July, all details are on the school website and have been uploaded onto the Year 10 Teams files.

Study skills sessions continue to take place in form and can be watched again by going onto the Year 10 Teams home page- a big thank you to all the staff who have contributed to these really informative presentations.

As a reminder here is the after school intervention timetable:

	<b>SESSION 1</b> <b>3-3.45</b>	<b>SESSION 2</b> <b>3.45-4.30</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	SCIENCE (Maths block)	MATHS (maths block)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	SPANISH (A5) & FRENCH (A6) BUSINESS (M7 & M8) COMPUTING & iMEDIA (CP1)	ENGLISH (all English Rooms) ART (Art1)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	RE (M1 M2 M3) CHILD DEVT (CP3) DRAMA (Drama Hall)	PE (M2)

All exams will take place in the sports hall and the following exam protocols need to be followed:

- All students to line up outside Sports Hall for all exams - go to the Sports Hall at least 5 minutes before exam start time.
- No mobiles or smart watches-these MUST be handed in at the door.
- Bags and coats need to be left in the store cupboard at the back of sports hall 5 minutes before lining up.
- Lining up in form groups for all whole year group exams (or if a smaller exam in classes).
- Complete silence lining up and going into the exam hall.
- Labels on drinks (water) bottles have to be removed. Only plain water bottles are allowed
- Pencil cases with equipment will be provided.

If you have any questions leading up to the summer exams do contact me on my school email: [s.cheston@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:s.cheston@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk).

### **Thorpe Park July 2021**

The Year 10 Thorpe Park trip takes place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July; letters will be going out soon. Students with an average ATL score of 3 or above and an attendance of over 95% will be invited. All other students will be expected to come to school on that day to attend normal lessons. More information to follow.

Miss Cheston

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## **Sixth Form News**

**Year 11 Transitions** – please see all of the information for our Year 11 students joining us in the sixth form in September via this link:

Apply & Next Steps letter (attached) <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/joining-us/apply/>

Transition Resources <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/joining-us/transition-resources/>

**Extra Lessons for Year 12** – just a reminder that we have provided more lessons for Year 12 and students will receive a new timetable this coming Monday morning to that effect.

### **Year 12**

You have settled back into your studies well this week. Keep up the hard work and revision ready for the centre assessments. These begin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Make sure you check the timetable carefully to identify when your exams are taking place and how long they will be. When revising think about which revision techniques work best for you. Speak to your teachers for individual subject specific top tips. Make sure you are also using past papers to aid your revision.

Just a reminder that each week you should complete and register at least two Lat flow tests. There are plenty in the study room if you need more.

Your next PSHE session will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June period 1.

Have a great week.

Mrs Bray

## **St Joseph's Golf Tournament**

St Joseph's is holding its first Golf Competition for our school community on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Please see the poster below and if you're interested please email Mr Gibbons.



***'Unlocking Belief in All'***

## Debating Society

On Tuesday 15th June we will be debating on issues surrounding the Israeli and Palestinian Conflict. All year groups are welcome (although Year bubbles will still apply).

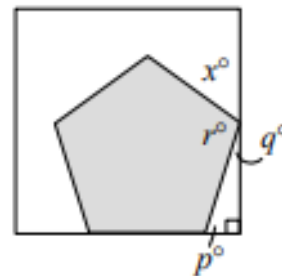
It will happen in T11 from 3:05pm - 4pm.

For more information email either [j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) or [D.Kuczynski@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:D.Kuczynski@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) 😊.



### Solution to last Week's Puzzler

**C** The sum of the exterior angles of a convex polygon equals  $360^\circ$ . The angle marked  $p^\circ$  is the exterior angle of a regular pentagon. So  $p = 360 \div 5 = 72$ . The angle sum of a triangle equals  $180^\circ$ , so  $q = 180 - 90 - 72 = 18$ . The angle marked  $r^\circ$  is the interior angle of a regular pentagon, so  $r = 180 - 72 = 108$ . The angles marked  $q^\circ$ ,  $r^\circ$  and  $x^\circ$  lie along a straight line, so  $x = 180 - (q + r) = 180 - (18 + 108) = 54$ .



### Solution to the Break time Teaser:

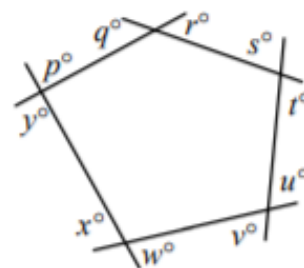
**E** Half of a third, plus a third of a quarter, plus a quarter of a fifth equals  $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{20} = \frac{10 + 5 + 3}{60} = \frac{18}{60} = \frac{3}{10}$ .

Well done and epraise awards to Piotr Basinski (8T), and Gabriela Majewska (7T) Izan Iglesias Trepiana (8M) for correct answers to both the Challenge and the break time teaser.

### Problem of the week

What is the value of  $p + q + r + s + t + u + v + w + x + y$  in the diagram?

A 540 B 720 C 900 D 1080 E 1440



## **Break time Teaser:**

What is the remainder when  $2^2 \times 3^3 \times 5^5 \times 7^7$  is divided by 8?

A 2

B 3

C 4

D 5

E 7

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. The first full complete answer will get epraise points.

## **Pupil Nominations of the Week**

### **Year 7**

Oliwia Foksinska and Alexander Homot for achieving the most Epraise points this week.

### **Year 8**

Patryk Bialas for compassion in helping his peers and Zuzanna Drew for always smiling.

### **Year 9**

Vanessa Szulc for excellent knowledge and application in Geography.

Tyrone Crooks for being confident in Maths.

### **Year 10**

Mary Koroma for consistently working hard in all her subjects.

Danica Amon for her caring manner towards her peers.

Jak Rushbrooke for his outstanding work in RE.

### **Year 12**

Charlotte James for positive attitude to learning in all subjects.

Dovin Monteiro for hard work in Travel and Tourism.