

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020



PHOTO BY BENEDITO  
QUADROS IN YEAR 7



PAINTING IN PROGRESS BY  
LUCIA MOURATO IN YEAR 12



HAND DRAWING BY  
CHARLENE DAGUPLO IN YEAR 9

## ST JOSEPH'S *NEWSLETTER*



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW YEAR 7 AND YEAR 11  
STUDENT LEADERS

## From The Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We'll send out the last Newsletter of the Year next week but it'll be a shorter version than normal. In the meantime: thank you to all the parents who participated in the on-line Parents' Evening last night. By all accounts it's been a successful way to hold these evenings despite not being able to meet on site. We're always interested in your views so if you have any thoughts around these kinds

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Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

of events we'd be grateful to hear them. On Monday we'll be welcoming back Mrs Paines and Mrs Bray from maternity leave, which will add further depth to an already strong staff we have here at St Joseph's.

Advance Notice: Please find attached the exam schedule for the second set of Centre Assessments (formerly known as PPEs) for those students in Years 11-13. *This schedule also includes the External Exams for BTEC and Cambridge National certificates* which form part of the students' overall grade (highlighted in yellow).

Arrangements for the End of Term: The most important thing I'd like to stress is that in between the Advent liturgies and the Ice Rink, lessons will continue as normal right up to the last lesson. School and lessons resume at the normal time on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

### *Wednesday - Ice Skating Rink*

The Ice Rink will be up and running on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. **This is free for all the children.** A Microsoft Forms questionnaire was sent out earlier today to the registered mobile number that we have on our database, asking for your permission to allow your child/children to go on the rink. I'd be grateful if you could complete it as soon as possible but no later than Tuesday. As it's a mufti (non-school uniform day) we normally ask for a voluntary £1 (or £2 if you're feeling generous) donation to our school charity. Students will take it in turn to use the ice rink in their year groups over the day – they must bring gloves with them on the day. To accommodate the year groups' use of the rink there will be 2 break times over the course of the day – one for each year group where children can buy their lunches or any other food and drink over the day – and these will be shorter than normal. Christmas Dinner (turkey, roast potatoes, vegetables, gravy etc) will be available for the students in takeaway format from the canteen.

### *Thursday Advent Liturgies and early closing*

**On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> school will close early at 12.30pm.** The most important activity we do over the entire Advent period is to pray together and contemplate the birth of our Lord Jesus and prepare for his second arrival in the future. We'll be running a shortened liturgy on the last day for each year group before we break up.

<b>Tutor time</b>	8:30-8:50am	Year 8
<b>Period 1</b>	9:00-9:20am	Year 7
<b>Period 1</b>	9:30-9:50am	Year 9
<b>Period 2</b>	10:15-10:35am	Year 10
<b>Period 3</b>	11:20-11:40am	Year 11
<b>Period 3</b>	11.50-12.10pm	6th Form

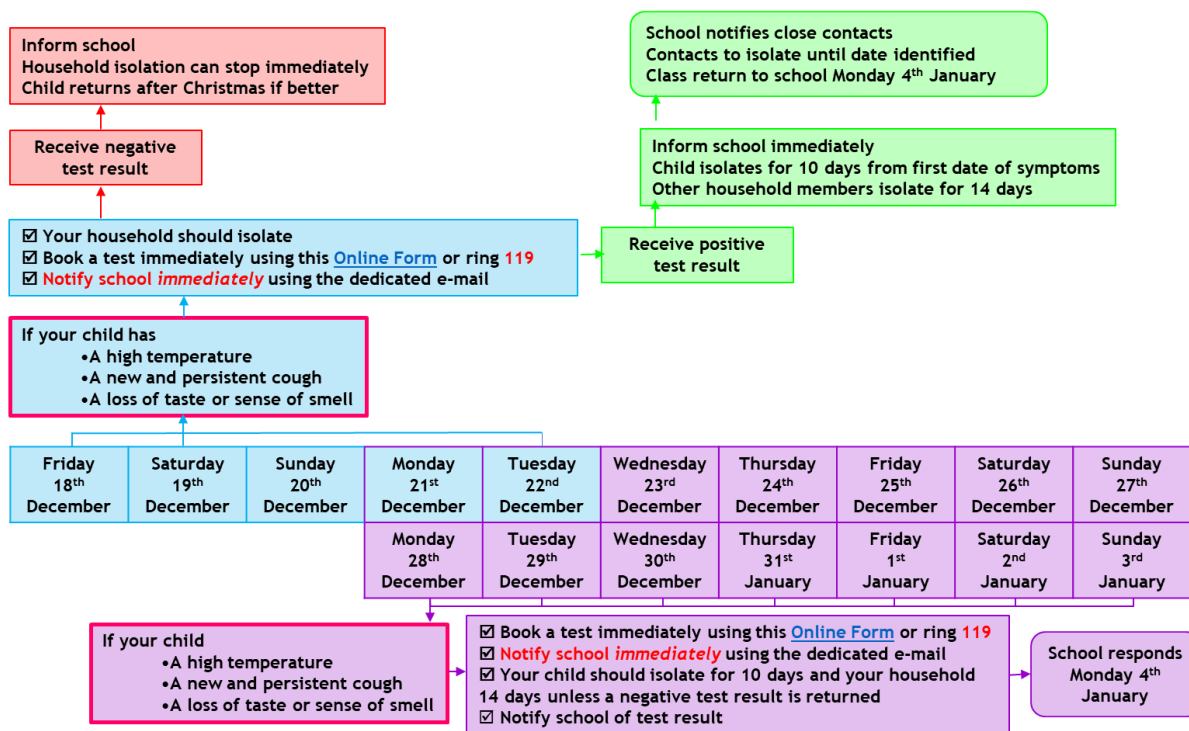
Staying alert to Covid 19 over the Christmas Break We've been asked by the Department of Education to act as *Track and Trace* over the first 6 days of the Christmas holidays. In practice what this means is that should your child undertake a test which turns out to be positive within the first 6 days of the school holiday (up to and including the 23<sup>rd</sup> December but not beyond) then you should inform us through the email address [cv19@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:cv19@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) so that we can alert other

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

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

relevant students and staff to self-isolate. I've attached a flow chart that all the secondary schools in Slough are using to help show what to do in this scenario.

### COVID-19 Procedures & Protocols During Christmas Holiday



Have a great weekend.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Ciran Stapleton

## **Theme of the Week – Waiting for the Lord**

This Monday will be the shortest day of the year for the U.K. in terms of light. Sunrise isn't until 8:04 a.m. and sunset is at 3:55 p.m. Once we pass that day, we look forward to the gradual increasing of the light in our days – the light on our drive to school and long, light, warm evenings.

When John talks about light, he isn't talking about the kind of physical light we have in daylight, but rather about Jesus, as the light of the world – the person who will shine in the darkness (the sin) of the world, and shine a light on the errors of our ways, enlightening us to the salvation he has for us.

John's job is to tell people about Jesus, and prepare the way for him, so that when he comes, people will recognise him and believe.

The Jews whom John is speaking to ask him many questions:

Why he was baptising people if he was not the one who was to come?

Why he is preaching if he was not the Christ or Elijah?

It is good to ask questions, search for answers and seek the truth. Something we encourage in our students.

**What questions would you have for Jesus?**

**Are we eager to know more about Jesus?**

During his preaching, Jesus commands us to 'let your light shine' (Matthew 5: 15-16). **So what does it mean to 'shine our light' and love more like Jesus, who was the ultimate light of the world?** (John 8:12) Well, one way is through the way we treat others, especially those most in need.

Pope Francis linked care for the poor and the light of Jesus when he said: ***"Love for the poor has been the sign, the light that draws people to give glory to the Father."*** He is saying that we are shining some of God's light when we show kindness and compassion to the poor.

We have many opportunities to do this over the Christmas period, through hampers, food bank donations, handing a meal to the homeless and much more.

**How will you demonstrate some of God's light this Christmas?**

## **'A Blast from the Past'**

We recently received two St. Joseph's School Magazines dating back to 1944 and 1945. They were donated to us by the niece of a former St. Joseph student. It is important to note that these gems pre date, what we believed to be, the original St. Joseph's that opened in 1958 as a single sex boys school. What we have learned through these magazines is that St. Joseph's Catholic High School based in Slough first began as an all-girls convent school. It is uncertain if the actual site was the same, however the name and legacy is well and truly St. Joseph's.

Both magazines were written during the Second World War and highlight the societal struggles that the community faced. The 1944 edition begins, "January 1944. Another New Year has dawned, the fifth since the beginning of the war. God grant that it may be the last!" It is clear that, as a community, they were very much struggling with the hardships of the war and their desire to see loved ones and return to a sense of normality was evident. This reminded me of the current situation we are all in, the struggles are very much 'real' and 'raw'. It put into perspective the need for us to lean on one another for support and act as a community throughout this period of difficulty.

Furthermore, the magazines outlined the charities that the school supported. The most notable was that throughout the 1943 – 1944 academic year the girls raised £4895.00 to send to the soldiers. This is an impressive feat in such a time of great depravity. The magazine includes some of the responses from the soldiers thanking them for their efforts. He writes, "thanks also to your young missionaries for their never-failing charity to the missions. We are all afraid of raids, but to have children and young people under your care must enhance your anxieties and fears. I hope and pray that your patron Saint, St Joseph, will protect you from all danger." The effects of the war were felt by all, however it is extraordinary that these young people had the tenacity to try to make a difference despite the struggle they all felt.

If you would like to read the magazines we have made photocopies which are located in the Library. We are in the process of framing the original copies so that we can preserve them. Please feel free to use them in your lessons or tutor times. These are pieces of history that must be shared.

I would like to end with the following wish that the 1945 St. Joseph's Catholic High School had for Christmas:

"May we respectfully echo the wish expressed by our Holy Father in his Christmas broadcast to the world! 'Together with you, beloved sons and daughters, we lay our prayers at the feet of Christ Child, and implore Him that this shall be the last war Christmas.'

Mrs Darrie



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## **Geography News**

The Geography department are running a Christmas competition! We want to promote active and sustainable global citizens by encouraging students to create their own tree from recycled materials. Drink cans, tins, bottles, pizza boxes... get creative with the items you find at home! **Entries are to be emailed to Miss Boland by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** [L.Boland@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:L.Boland@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk). A £10 Amazon voucher is up for grabs! #StayExcellent



## **CV19 and Supporting those at Home**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please can you make sure that your child is able to access their school email and Microsoft Teams.

This is to ensure that when they are self-isolating they are still able to access the school curriculum alongside their peers.

If your child is unable to access either of these please do let me know via email: [a.euden@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:a.euden@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk).

If there is no work on the chat area of the team, then it will be in the Files area. Teachers need to be sent the work that is completed at home so feedback and help can be provided as well, please may you remind your child to do this.

Teams sometimes does not work on a mobile phone so please allow computer access while students are at home, if this is an issue please let me know and I will do my best to help.

Have a good weekend.

Miss A Euden



## Year 7 News

Happy Friday everyone. I have been amazed at the generosity of spirit from my forms getting the Christmas hampers ready for those less fortunate. This morning every form was wrapping their hampers up ready for collection. Excitement is in the air as on Wednesday the ice rink will appear here at St Joseph's. Can I encourage you all to wear Christmas jumpers. Mine will be making its annual appearance. Quick reminder that coats should be of a dark colour.

Have a restful weekend.

Mrs Dunleavy

## Year 10 News

Well done to all Year 10s on all your hard work over the last two weeks with the end of term assessments, reports will be out at the start of next week.

A big thank you to Mr Gow and Mr Cooper-Santos for running the table tennis and badminton events this week and to all of you who took part, no overall winner as the event was more about participation and having fun.

Christmas Hampers - tutor groups have been busy collecting items for the Christmas hampers over the last few weeks. These will be distributed next week to those families in Slough who will really appreciate some additional support over the Christmas break.

Next week is a busy week with ice skating on Wednesday lesson 2, you will need to have gloves. Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> also is a mufti day, money needs to be paid on ParentPay along with permission for the ice skating given via the survey you will have received on your mobile. More details about this are in the newsletter.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December: Year 10 plan**

Form Time: 8.30-9.10	Yr 10 PSE & Registration
P1: 9.10-10.10	Normal lessons
P2: 10.10-11.10	ICE SKATING
Form Time: 11.10-11.35	Form time PSE
P3: 11.35-12.35	Normal Lesson 3
LUNCH: 12.35-1.00	LUNCH
P4: 1.00-2.00	Normal lesson 4
P5: 2.00-3.00	Normal Lesson 5

### **Year 10 Epraise results**

Top students	This week	Tutor groups
1. ● Matteo Ramsay-Scuderi (10 Jerome) (247)	1. Anastasia Barrocas (10 Cecilia) (14)	1. 10 Jerome (2879)
2. ● Alfie Mewett (10 Mark) (221)	1. Cameron Martin (10 Peter) (14)	2. 10 Veronica (2255)
3. ● Olivier Lydzinski (10 Peter) (185)	3. ● Alfred Clark (10 Veronica) (11)	3. 10 Peter (2101)
4. ● Natalia Kochenowska (10 Mark) (184)	4. ● Dominic Witkowski (10 Jerome) (10)	4. 10 Cecilia (2015)
5. ● Alfred Clark (10 Veronica) (183)	4. Clinton Ganiste (10 Peter) (10)	5. 10 Teresa (1842)
6. ● Dominic Witkowski (10 Jerome) (182)	4. Aoife Molloy (10 Veronica) (10)	6. 10 Mark (1809)
7. ● Jakub Olszanski (10 Cecilia) (176)	4. Petrute Bades (10 Veronica) (10)	
7. ● Daisy Loft (10 Teresa) (176)	4. Aliyu Mahmud (10 Veronica) (10)	
9. ● Megan Cobb (10 Cecilia) (171)	4. Kilian Torok-Pena (10 Veronica) (10)	
10. Michelle Arzoo (10 Peter) (148)	4. Vollen Vaz (10 Teresa) (10)	

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## **Sixth Form News**

**The National School + College Leaver Show Virtual Event (attention all Year 11, 12 and 13 students!)** – Every year, we host a trip to Ascot racecourse for sixth form students in December. This brings together employers, colleges, universities and GAP providers in one place to provide careers information and guidance for our students. This year, over 80 exhibitors will be taking part from top universities to the British Army to companies such as Nestlé. This year the event is virtual and we have access to this for free. I have attached a PowerPoint that talks you through how to access the event, registering is easy and just requires filling out a few details and an email address. The event is only live until the 30<sup>th</sup> of December so make most of this brilliant opportunity.

See the Career's section on our school website for more information (<https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/after-the-6th-form/careers/>)

### **Year 13**

A massive congratulations to all students that have submitted their UCAS applications before the deadline. We have around 25 already submitted with roughly 50% of students already having received at least one offer and a number of students have received offers from Russell Group and Top 30% universities- congratulations!

As mentioned last week, the focus for those that haven't yet completed them, the aim is to complete and submit both the UCAS application and the EPQ before we finish for Christmas on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**. This will put students into an excellent position for their Centre Assessments (new name for PPE's) starting on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

For those that have submitted their UCAs and EPQ, the focus should now be on preparing for the Centre Assessments and BTEC exams starting from **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. This should include creating a revision timetable and working through the Centre Assessment preparation form emailed out to students two weeks ago.

## **Assemblies**

We were very privileged to have the one and only Wayne Dixon delivering assemblies for Years 9 and 10 this week. Wayne works for Christian Connections in Schools (CCiS) in association with Scripture Union as a Schools Worker. He encouraged us all to think about the question, "What are you going to do about the miracle birth?". Enjoying the opportunity to share gifts, whilst remembering that Jesus is "the reason for the season"! We were also treated to a legendary rap – or as Wayne referred to it: "spitting some bars"! We look forward to welcoming Wayne again in the new year.

Mr. Ojakovoh



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## **MFL News**

### **Students of the week**

#### **YEAR 9**

Deangelo Manga in (9C) for his excellent progress, concentration and participation in French this term.

Patrycja Artemska (9D) for her excellent participation in French and Charlene Daguplo (9D) and Zoe Galang (9D) for the quality of their written answers.

#### **YEAR 10**

Maria Jakubowska (10D) and Nicola Kaplonska (10D) for their consistently high standards and work ethic in French.

#### **YEAR 11**

Lana Deen (11B Spanish) for challenging herself and taking the Higher Paper in her assessment.

Robert Maina (11B) for his efforts in developing his written answers in Spanish.

Joe Stabler (11D) for his resilience in French and 100% attendance of intervention – your work will pay off!

### **Resources ordered through ParentPay**

Many thanks to all parents who have ordered resources through ParentPay.

Unfortunately, some orders have been delayed but we are working hard to get the workbooks out to students as soon as possible and before Christmas break.

Alternatively, if you haven't purchased the workbooks, could you please proceed through ParentPay at your earliest convenience so your child can complete their homework and/or revision.

**Joyeux Noel ! Feliz Navidad !**

## **Student Leaders**

The remaining results for student leaders of Years 7 and 11 were announced this week! Please join me in congratulating Harry Aji Joseph and Diya Dimas from Year 7, and Taylor Buchanan and Adrian Fernandes from Year 11. The competition was very close, so they have done extremely well. They will lead their year groups with care, efficiency and humility.

Mr. Ojakovoh

## Year 9 News

Well done to everyone who participated in X vs Y sports this week!

The results were as follows:

X vs Y

Netball

Netball – Y band 3 – X band 8

Basketball – Y band Win

Football Boys – 1-1 Draw

Football Mixed – X band 1 Y band 0

Overall Score - Y band 3 – X band 2

Congratulations Y band, until next time...



## Pupil Nominations of the Week

### **Year 7**

Diya Dimas and Harry Aji Joseph for being nominated for student leaders.

### **Year 9**

Szymon Hoszowski for consistent hard work and achievement in Science and Oliver Trepanowski for consistent results and effort in Maths.

### **Year 11**

Rian Moore for his excellent work in English and Eliza Mocny for her excellent display in Drama.

### **Year 13**

Phil Arko for completing and submitting his UCAS application 4 weeks ahead of the deadline and Charlotte Jackson-Lowe for receiving 2 excellent offers from Russell Group universities.

### **Year 8**

Jessica Kasz, Freda Lourenco, Jess Morrissey, Cayden Rodrigues, Camilla Molenda and Aedan Sharp for excellence in Maths and critical thinking.

### **Year 10**

Melissa Pala, Kilian Torok-Pena and Zack Munro for their motivation to do well and go above and beyond when it comes to making progress.

### **Year 12**

**Heloisa Schmite-Nunes** – for being extremely **resilient** and always having a positive mindset.

**Marvin Fotso** – for being **autonomous** – for the excellent work he has been doing with the chaplaincy team and consistently high standards (not a day late nor missed).