



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 11th July 2025



Sports Day Success

Last Friday's Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of energy, teamwork and school spirit. **A huge congratulations to Cecilia House**, who emerged as the overall winners after a day of exciting events and strong performances!

Well done to all students for their incredible dedication, enthusiasm and camaraderie throughout the day.

Thank you to all Staff, particularly the PE department, for making the event such a memorable success.

Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

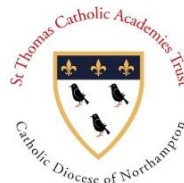
I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the image below to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.



Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Joseph's content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

The Good Samaritan

Weekly Reflections
13th July 2025
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of Luke 10: 25-37

At that time: Behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? How do you read it?' And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.'

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back." Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' And Jesus said to him, 'You go, and do likewise.'

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus,

Sometimes we have listened to others around us rather than following our loving hearts. At the end of this academic year, we thank you for the times we have followed our hearts and understood and witnessed the great things we can accomplish through service to others. Allow us to follow your Spirit always.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Day 1

Can anyone remember the theme of the week for the 1st September 2024?
What do you think the lawyer should do and why? Follow the law or help another person?

Day 2

Why do you think those listening to the parable would have been so shocked?
What is Jesus trying to teach us with this parable?

Day 3

How have you contributed to our school life this year, by showing our school virtues and Unlocking Belief in All?

Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15. We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet. Caring for the earth is integral to our task of tackling the scandal of global poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice and exclusion. Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources. The late Pope Francis said "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" Laudato Si' 13 and "...the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." Laudato Si' 159.

How this half term can you promote Stewardship in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?

Theme of the Week - The Good Samaritan

Where has the school year gone? Can you believe that this is the 40th time a Theme of the Week sheet has been produced and now this is the last one for the year? Time flies when you're having fun! Can anyone remember what the theme of the week was way back on the 1st September 2024? 5 positive points for the person who can either state the theme of the week or explain the Gospel for that week. Answer revealed on Thursday.

In the Gospel on Sunday, Jesus was telling a parable to an expert in law. The Priest and Levite whom Jesus mentions did not help the blind man. The two were so preoccupied with their jobs they were made blind to the obvious need of another. Jesus challenges the lawyer, if he follows the ritual law, he then ignores the spirit of the law. The Law of Moses decreed that touching a dead or bleeding person would bar them from their sacred temple duties until ritual cleansing could be completed. So do you follow the law word for word but in doing so allowing someone to suffer or follow the spirit of the law?

The parable would have shocked the listeners at the time, as Jews had a long history of hostility with the Samaritans because of intermarriage with pagans. So casting a Samaritan as the hero of the story would have been horrifying to the Jews. The payment of the silver coins would have been a Roman denarius, equivalent to a day's pay, so to spend that much money really showed how generous the Samaritan was practically but also in spirit. But the Samaritan in the story that Jesus told did not worry about religions or differences - he just saw someone who needed help and was filled with pity for him. Many people today hurry past hurting people, so what is Jesus telling us in this story about how we should treat each other?

The Theme of the week for the 1st September was 'The Commandment of God'. The Gospel for that Sunday was when the Pharisees challenged Jesus when the disciples did not wash their arms up to their elbows before eating, thus not following the traditions of the elders. Jesus said to them 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean.' In this Gospel reading Jesus wants us to listen to our hearts within as this is how we can truly listen to God. And when reading the Gospel on Sunday, again if we listen to our hearts and do the right thing, we would all be like the Samaritan. Throughout the course of this year, we have seen so many of you **'Unlock Your Belief'** by listen to your hearts and live out our Pupil Profile in numerous ways but the **love** and **compassion**, **generosity** and **gratefulness** you have demonstrated has been truly outstanding. Within the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church you have shown the **Options for the Poor** by: **SVP Christmas Hampers**, **Sandwich for the homeless**, supporting **Access to Shine** and the **Baby Bank Appeal**. **Solidarity** with others through: **House Assemblies** and **competitions**, **Sports Day**, being part of a team or club, **electives** and **TVLP projects**. **Stewardship** by: **Sustainability elective**, **Harvest project** we have recently done, **recycling requests** in **DT**. **Demonstrated Peace** in coming together in: **Remembrance service** in November, **Pillow Case Appeal** for Ukraine, **prayers** throughout the year for those in war. The **Common Good** is always seen in our celebration of **Multicultural Day**, **retreats** you have taken part in, those that have **mentored** or been part of **student leadership** helping out with **parents evening** or **Academic Review Day**. **Dignity of Work and Participation** through all the **extra-curricular activities**, **work experiences** and **fayres** you have taken part in and the service in coming together with other schools and institutions in our **St Joseph in the community day**. Lastly, **Human Dignity** throughout the year in your **positive relationships** to your **peers**, **staff** and all the visitors who come into school and say how wonderful you are! Thank you for making this year so special. Have a restful and safe summer and continue to listen to the Lord with Spirit and bring it to others you encounter. Have a wonderful summer.



Pupil Nominations of the Week

<p>Year 7 Grace Odei and Victor Kyazze for excellent weeks.</p>
<p>Year 8 Valan Vaz and Kathryn Jose Kattakayam</p>
<p>Year 9 Brooke Harvey and Erin Ble, as voted for by Year 9 Tutors.</p>
<p>Year 10 Dorian Kubiak and Matilde Santoro for receiving the most positive points this week.</p>
<p>Year 12 Emilia Pytel and Julia Pytel for excellent work in Travel and Tourism.</p>

Academic Review Day & Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), please remind them to collect their packed lunch from the Canteen after their Academic Review Day meeting.

Year 7 News

A **massive well done** to everyone who won an award last night at Awards Evening. It was lovely to see all the winners pick up their awards. A reminder that we finish on **Friday 18th July at 12:30pm**.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Another week ticked off and one week left of Year 8. **It has been fantastic to see all the students at Awards evening on Thursday**. This week, our behaviour ratio has dipped to **90% positive**. Let's keep our personal standards high to the end of term.

Enjoy the sun this weekend, do something nice for your loved ones.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Welcome to the penultimate week of the school year!

Last week, we enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day, with medals all around and an **emphatic win by 9 Peter**. This Thursday was Awards Evening, where students were recognised for both their subject-specific achievements and their pastoral contributions across the school.

Next Monday is **Academic Review Day**, providing an opportunity for parents to ask questions and gain a well-rounded view of their child's performance over the school year. **Tuesday is Mufti Day** for all students who achieved 0 XE, XL, and XH. **Well done to all the students on the lists that have been distributed!**

Thursday is the Rewards Trip to various locations for all those students who have met the required ATL and attendance criteria.

Finally, we will celebrate the End of Term with a whole-school Mass on Friday.

It's a busy but exciting week ahead – have a great weekend!

Ms McCormack – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

As we approach the final week before the summer holidays, I would like to take a moment to reflect on a fantastic term and share some important updates.

Last night we celebrated our annual Awards Evening, and **I am incredibly proud of all the Year 10 students who received awards. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition for your hard work, commitment, and achievements this year!**

Looking ahead to next week:

- **Monday is Academic Review Day** – a vital opportunity to meet with your child's Form Tutor to discuss progress and set goals for the new school year. Please ensure you have booked an appointment.
- Thursday is Rewards Trip Day, where students can enjoy a well-earned day out in recognition of their efforts and positive contributions throughout the year.
- Friday will begin with a whole school Mass, followed by an early finish at 12:30pm to mark the start of the summer holidays.

One more week to go!

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 10 Assembly

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 pupils,

We hope this message finds you well.

As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety and education, we held an assembly for all Year 10 students on Wednesday 2nd July, focusing on the law, risks and consequences surrounding substance use and drug-related offenses.

This assembly was led by the local police, who spoke directly to students about:

- The legal implications of drug and alcohol use, including possession and distribution
- The health and social consequences of substance abuse
- How peer pressure can influence choices – and how to resist it
- Where students can go for help or advice

We believe it's vital that young people understand not only the serious legal consequences involved but also the impact on their health, education and future opportunities. The goal is to educate and empower students to make informed, safe choices.

We encourage you to discuss these topics at home following the assembly. **Open dialogue between parents/carers and children is one of the most effective tools in prevention.**

Please see the attached poster for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Ossei-Brainoo (i.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk).

Year 12 News

This week, our Year 12 students have been receiving important feedback on their recent PPE performance, with **reports being available from next Monday on Academic Review Day**. Please do make sure that you come in on Monday for an appointment with your child's Form Tutor (and also with Miss Stevens, if requested) as this is a vital opportunity to discuss their results alongside plans moving forwards. In addition, we have a number of Rewards events taking place this coming week – a Mufti Day on Tuesday and trips to London Zoo, Guildford Spectrum, Paintballing and Thorpe Park on Thursday.

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 11 Prom

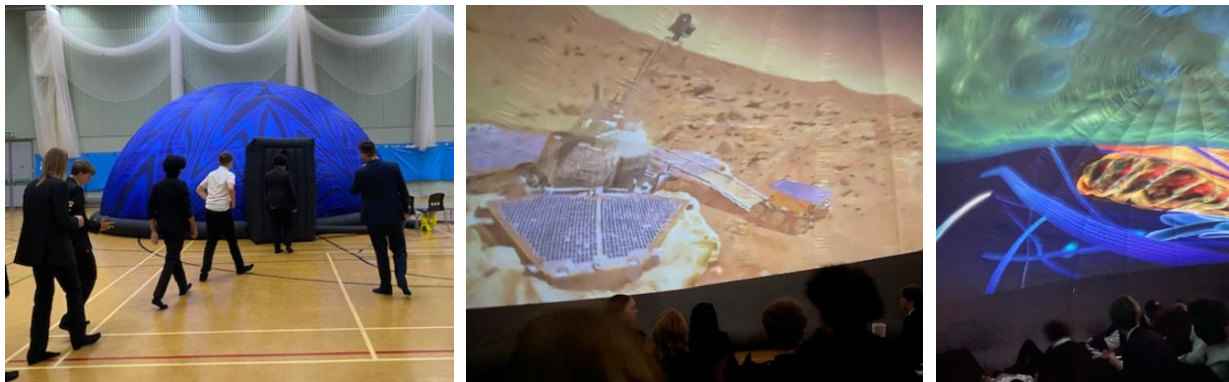
Our Year 11 students truly dressed to impress at their prom, showcasing elegance, style and a wonderful sense of celebration. We're incredibly proud of all their achievements!



Year 9 Students Explore Science at Herschel Grammar with the TVLP

Thirty Year 9 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit Herschel Grammar School as part of our partnership with the Thames Valley Learning Partnership (TVLP). During the visit, students explored the school's impressive science domes, where they watched a captivating 360-degree projected feature all about cells.

This immersive experience brought their classroom learning to life, deepening their understanding of key biological concepts in an engaging and memorable way. The visit was a fantastic chance for our students to experience science beyond the textbook and connect with other schools through the TVLP.



Year 10 Geographers Complete Fieldwork Adventures in London

All of our Year 10 Geography students have now successfully completed their fieldwork in London – and what a brilliant experience it was!

Pupils travelled to Stratford to investigate the effects of regeneration and explored Hyde Park to examine how soil properties influence different plant species. The trips provided a valuable opportunity for students to apply classroom learning to real-world environments, and they approached the challenge with enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour throughout.

It was a fantastic day of hands-on geography that will directly support their AQA GCSE case studies and exam preparation next year. **They did us proud!**



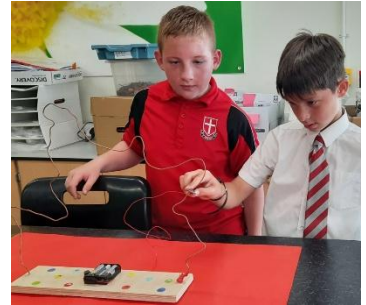
Geography Club

Our students have been getting creative and eco-conscious by making newspaper bags! As part of a sustainability initiative, they learned how to repurpose old newspapers and paper into bags. This hands-on activity not only helped raise awareness about reducing waste, but also encouraged teamwork and practical problem-solving. **Well done to everyone involved!**



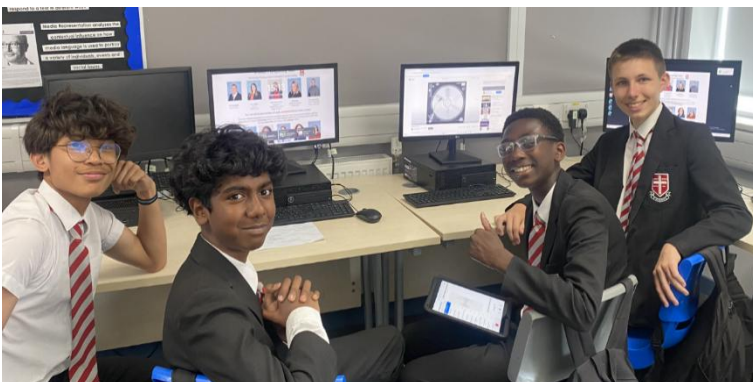
Last Science Club of the Year!

We had a fun final session of Science Club! Students had fun experimenting with energy sticks, turning themselves into circuits by touching the ends of the rods and watching the lights and sounds activate. They also played a steady-hand circuit game, trying not to touch the wire as they moved the loop around. We finished the session – and the year – with ice lollies and big smiles; a fun and electrifying end to a great year! – *Mrs Lionel*



St Joseph's Podcast

This term, budding Podcasters have worked really hard to create some fun and engaging content. It has been a pleasure seeing the students develop their creativity, interest and skills to the centre stage - **well done!**



House Competitions

We would like to take a moment to celebrate the **incredible enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship shown by all students** throughout our House Competitions. It has been fantastic to see such dedication and determination in every event.

This week, we enjoyed coming together for our House Assembly to reflect on the term and celebrate our shared efforts. Next week, we will announce the overall House Standings – good luck to all our houses! May the best House win.

A **special thank you to our House Captains** for their leadership and commitment, and to all participants for their hard work and spirit. – *Heads Of Houses*



Year 10 Sports Leaders

This week, a group of Year 10 Sports Leaders went to help at the Berkshire School Games. They ran the Boccia and New Age Kurling events for both secondary and primary schools. The Sports Leaders were excellent and made sure that all pupils involved had a good time. **Well done to Ian, Celine, James, Alex, Andrius, Natalia, Mikah, Arina, Sam and Olivia.**



Languages Club Updates

Bonjour!

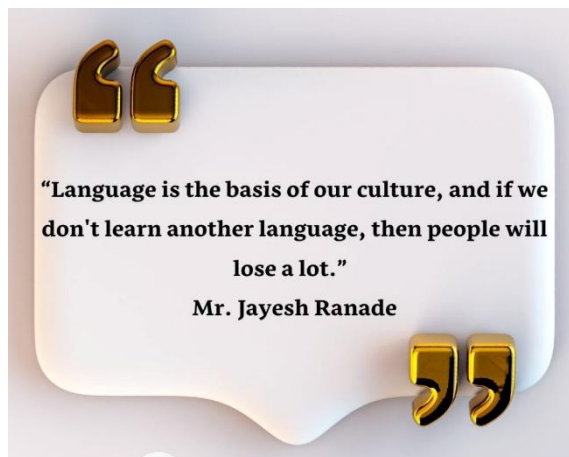
It's been a busy period. MFL club are looking forward to their **last meeting next Tuesday 15th July**, accompanied by croissants, laughter and friends – important factors for our St Joseph's Students and Linguists!

Thank you to Johanna, Amanda, Maya and Amelia for their continued efforts to advertise and recruit for MFL club! They've also designed beautiful, colourful and informative posters for our KS3 Form rooms – emphasizing our wonderful multicultural and multilingual world.

We are super proud of Bartek, Nathan & Shae (7C), Denis, Maya & Amelia (7C), Mitchell & Victor (7P) and Johanna (7V) for their consistent attendance at and enthusiasm for MFL Club this half term! Students have been working on a cross-curricular project in the club (Maths, Humanities and Science among them), and hope to end up in The Goldfish Bowl to showcase these.

The MFL Club Members and Department wish you all (your family, friends and pets too!) a happy, healthy and harmonious holiday. The MFL Club will be back in September!

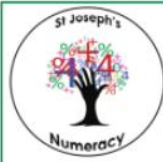
Ms Shaw found the below inspiring quote and something for us to reflect on as we head off for our summer breaks:



I love this quote, so I thought to tell you a bit about who wrote it as he is rather legendary!

6th Formers interested in careers in ICT and/or Risk Management may well have heard of Jay Ranade? A very famous computer book author and information technology management consultant. He is also the editor-in-chief for the J. Ranade IBM Series of books, which cover most mainframe computer topics. He has written and published a multitude of IT-related books on various subjects like networks, security, operating systems, languages, and systems. The New York Times critically acclaimed his bestseller book 'The Best of Byte'. He leads a company "Risk Management Professionals International". He is also an 'adjunct professor at New York's and St John's Universities.





#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- A We are given that $xy = x + y$. So $xy - x = y$. Therefore $x(y - 1) = y$ and hence $x = \frac{y}{y-1}$.
(Note that division by $y - 1$ is allowed because if $y = 1$, then we have $x = x + 1$ which is impossible.)

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

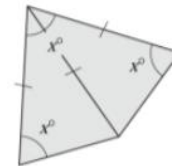
- A From the given information, the sum of Megan's first three numbers is -9 , the sum of her first four numbers is 16 , and the sum of her first five numbers is -25 .
Therefore the fourth number is $16 - (-9) = 25$, and the fifth number is $-25 - 16 = -41$. The difference between them is $25 - (-41) = 66$.

Puzzler of the week

A kite is made by joining two congruent isosceles triangles, as shown.

What is the value of x ?

- A 36 B 54 C 60 D 72 E 80



Break-Time Teaser

Which of these integers cannot be expressed as the difference of two squares?

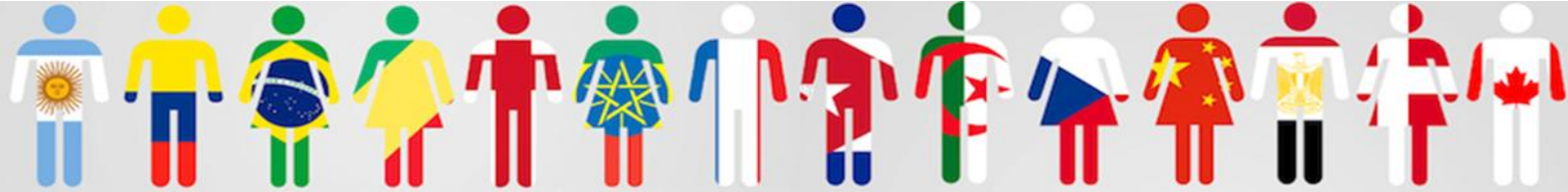
- A 5 B 7 C 8 D 9 E 10

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

Menu

<div>WEEKLY MENU</div> <div>St Joseph's Catholic High School - Week Three</div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chinese Style Chicken Curry served with Rice & Prawn Crackers	Mexican Tortilla Bake	Creamy Cajun Style Chicken Pasta	Cottage Pie	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips & Tartare Sauce
Spinach, Tomato & Mozzarella Pasta	Dhal with Cauliflower & Spinach served with Rice	Mixed Bean Taco served with Sour Cream & Cheese	Bean & Vegetable Burrito with Sweetcorn Salsa	Roast Vegetable & Pesto Pizza
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
Sweet Chilli & Coriander Noodles	Pasta with Ham & Cheese Sauce	Pasta in a Cheese Sauce	Tomato Pasta Pot	-
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 Sandwiches Fillings	-
Jam & Coconut Sponge	Fruit Turnover served with Custard	Iced Chocolate Sponge	Iced Lemon Shortbread	Chocolate Chip Flapjack

Available daily:
Sandwiches, Wraps & Baguettes, Panini, Jacket Potatoes, Cold Desserts & Fruit



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Languages)

Food for Thought over the Summer

Going away in the next couple of weeks? Whether you are going away or not, remember that children learn through play and curiosity. At the same time, playing with children is important for **supporting your child's literacy development, reducing stress and improving mental health among parents or caregivers.** Several studies suggest that learning is a major part of what occurs during play: Playing and learning are inextricably linked. For children, playing with adults is likely to be even more enriching.

Here are some fun games for all ages:

1. 20 Questions: [Click here to learn how to play this game](#)
2. Pass The Story: [Click here](#)
3. Scrabble: [How to play Scrabble](#)
4. Terraforming Mars: [Click here to Learn how to play](#)
5. Don't Eat Pete: [How to play](#)

Free Online Resources

[Document about Parenting and supporting Teenagers](#)

