



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 11th October 2024



Great Student Leadership

On Thursday, our Young Leaders helped run a Primary Badminton Festival in our Sports Hall. The students were fabulous and demonstrated a great attitude. Our students led a series of different activities for the Year 3 and 4 students to take part in. They gave clear instructions and gave excellent demonstrations to ensure everyone knew what they were doing. Our students encouraged and supported all the primary students to make sure they had a great day. Well done to all those who took part!

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

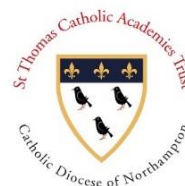
Hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the below image to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.



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!"

Give everything

Weekly Reflections
13th October 2024
28th Sunday of Ordinary time



From the Gospel of Mark (10:17-30)

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land - not without persecutions - now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

We thank you for all, who in different ways, strive to fulfil your great commission. Allow us to support those in need, to give opportunities and hope to others and to bring the light of Christ to those in darkness.

Amen

Day 1

What did Jesus ask the man to give up?
Why do you think this made the man sad?
What does Jesus want us to do to achieve true happiness?

Day 2

Why do you think people become consumed by material goods such as money and wealth?
Why is it wrong to let the things above dictate all we do?

Day 3

How have you followed Christ this term?
How can you be more **intentional** and **prophetic** to be true followers of Christ and achieve true happiness?

Catholic Social Teaching - The Common Good

Our actions have an impact on everyone. When we make decisions, we should consider the good of all.

The common good is about respecting the rights and responsibilities of all people and leaving no one behind.

"Beside the good of the individual, there is a good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of 'all of us'...To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity." Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, 7

We work to build a world where everyone, including the earth, can flourish. Ultimately, no one can truly flourish if another person is hungry, lost or abandoned, nor can humankind flourish while our common home is degraded and exploited for the good of the few.

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

Theme of the Week – Give Everything

From the Gospel on Sunday, we learn of a man who seeks eternal life and has acted in accordance with the laws to achieve this. However, for him, following the laws is not that difficult to do. After speaking to Jesus, giving up all his wealth (the challenge set by him from Jesus) leaves him distraught and sad. This task is too much of a challenge for him and something he made not be prepared to do in order to achieve eternal life. Jesus goes on to teach us to not be short term thinkers, we can all get consumed with the here and now and do things that will bring us a short term happiness but is this true happiness? Is this the true happiness eternal glory gives us? Jesus, in the Gospel, teaches us what we must do to achieve this.

The Gospel on Sunday focuses on the choice between God and riches. It is not only riches in a material sense that we are called upon to put to one side, but also things such as our time and patience or attachment to anything that might distract us from God's call to us; For God asks us, where do our heart truly resides? Fr Pius once came to celebrate whole school Mass here at St Joseph's and he said there is nothing wrong in trying to earn money. We need it! It is when this takes up all our time, thoughts and desires, this then is not right. We need to be aware of trying to fulfil desires and feed appetites that can never be truly satisfied in this world. Attachment to our possessions can lead to us being owned and dictated by them. Jesus demands an inner independence. So that by being independent of what we have, we can allow ourselves to be wholly dependent on God. We are called to be conspicuous, to be recognisable by our relationship with God, each other and our neighbour.

How hard it is to be conspicuous followers of Christ? Sometimes it is easier to focus on the exterior things, the accepted things with must do as Catholic or Christians; the weekly routine of going to Mass, praying during the school day or at home etc. These are important and is something we should all aim to do. But for us, these are the comfortable conventions we can do. This is not conspicuous enough for Christ. These conventions do not speak of active burning concern for the welfare of others or highlight how our lives are dedicated to the service of good. How can we encourage ourselves to turn our attention from material possessions to the things of the heart?

During the course of this half term, we have focused on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the 'Common Good'. And I would really like you to think, when have you shown this? Not when have you been asked to do or when have you done to gain something in return? When have you be conspicuous in helping the less able, the needy, the hungry, the poor, the less well off because that is what Christ asks of us? If in private thought you can say to yourself, yes I have achieved this, well done and thank you! However, if you can't, when can you? How can you be more **intentional** and **prophetic** in mind, thought and effort to truly show the presence of Christ within you?

Teresa House Feast Day – Tuesday 15th October

Teresa House Feast Day is Tuesday 15th October. All of Teresa House will have Mass in the School Hall at 8.30am celebrated by Fr Kevin. Happy feast day for all of Teresa House.

Year 7 Retreats to Holy Family

A letter has been sent home to all Parents/Carers of Year 7 pupils regarding their Retreat Day after half term. The retreat will take place at Holy Family Church. There is no cost to this trip and it's a great way for students and Form Tutors to build upon the relationships made already this year. The date Tutors Groups will go are:

- Monday 4th November – 7 Mark
- Thursday 7th November – 7 Cecilia
- Friday 8th November – 7 Jerome
- Monday 11th November – 7 Peter
- Friday 15th November – 7 Veronica
- Monday 18th November – 7 Teresa

Please can Parents/Carers go onto ParentPay and give consent for their child to go on the retreat, by Thursday 17th October.

Thank you.

The Baby Bank Christmas Pyjama Appeal

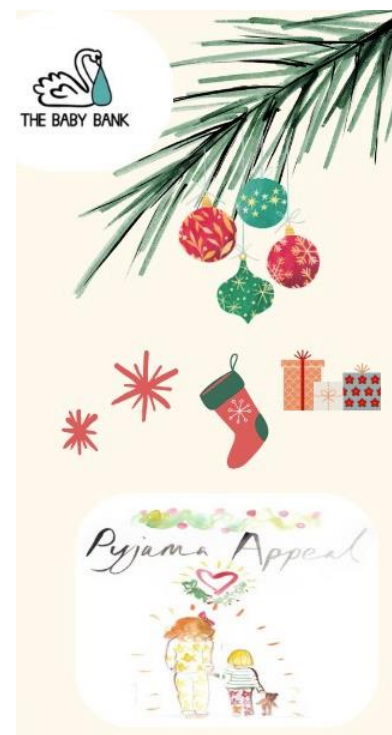
It's that time of year when we are appealing for your generosity to support the charity 'Baby Bank' in their annual Pyjama appeal. We aim for each form to collaborate by putting together at least one parcel containing:

1. A **new** set of cosy pyjamas
2. A **new** reading book
3. A chocolate selection pack

Form tutors will co-ordinate the parcel and direct the age and gender the parcel(s) is aimed for.

We would like to collect in the parcels **by the end of the first week back after half term.**

We thank you in advance for your charity.



Pupil Nominations of the Week

<p>Year 7 Jan Skrzypczynski and Lena Chmielewska for an exceptional week.</p>
<p>Year 8 Euan Blanquisco and Kezia Antao.</p>
<p>Year 9 Brianne Barrozo and Bruno Valek for achieving the most positive points. Marion for being an excellent helper, mind-mapping on the board and being really discerning to select students to share ideas. Matas for always aiming higher in pushing himself with his own learning. Eoin, Travis, Nikodem and Kacper always aiming high for the challenges.</p>
<p>Year 10 Jeff Sibanda and Patrycja Szczepanska for getting the most positive points.</p>
<p>Year 11 Anna-Emiliya Larionova, who is competing in the European Championship in fencing this weekend. You have all of St Joseph's support!</p>
<p>Year 12 Filip Czajka and Daria Witkowski for excellent attitude to their studies and achieving the most positive points on ClassCharts.</p>
<p>Year 13 Harman Kaur for showing a great work ethic, particularly during study times, and Finlay Gibbons for being so generous with her time and her displaying excellent leadership skills.</p>

Homework and MFL Superstars

Year 7	Ugochukwu Ibekwe
Year 9	Isabella Lacson
Year 10	Nikodem Klak
Year 11	Simona Tekle
Year 12	Zuzanna Drewnowska



	<i>Week beginning 07/10</i>	
	French	Spanish
Year 7	Madelyn Robinson for her regular use of WOW in French, written and spoken	Maya Bonczuk for most positive points in Spanish
Year 8	Amelia Odindo for PROUD	Filip Baginski for good progress
Year 9	Annbel Joyson for PROUD work	Maya Biskupiak-Shah and Adriana Paulusz for achieving a perfect score in three of their Spanish assessments, and Kezia Antao for her Spanish culture poster
Year 10	Declan Fagan for progress	Lena Kuczynska for Work and Participation
Year 11	Franciszek Hermanowski for progress	Nathan James for Work and Participation

Year 7 News

With one week to go before half term, the Year 7s have continued to impress. A reminder that on Friday 18th, we will finish at normal time – there won't be a half-day. Also, it has been noted that some of the Year 7s are buying too many sweet snacks and drinks without buying a proper lunch, so can we please have a conversation to ensure that they know the importance of a balanced diet.

Have a great weekend all.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Congratulations, Year 8! You've received over 1,800 positive points, with most of you being praised for your **'good work'** and showing that you're truly **'learned and wise'** – what an amazing 96% positive ratio! There's just one more week to go until half term, so let's keep up the momentum and make this final week the best one yet! Keep it up!

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8



Year 8 English

This week, the students enjoyed acting and being Elizabethan masqueraders from the play *'Much Ado About Nothing'*. Well done 8P, you have worked hard this term, and we have had lots of fun learning. – Miss McBain

Year 9 News

This week, we are leading in to the culmination of this Half Term's rewards with Mufti Day for students with 0 X's – the promise of Domino's pizza for the winning house for X's, and then Rewards Assembly on Monday (including our Pupil Profile badges and also Subject Awards). All very exciting!! Leading in to the final week of Autumn 1, I want to applaud and also thank Year 9 for their outstanding work ethic and attitude to not only learning, but also behaviour this term. I hope that it carries on leading in to (dare I say it) Christmas. Have a lovely weekend.

Ms McCormack – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

One more week to go! Year 10s have been going from strength to strength. Please can we check ClassCharts on a daily basis for homework and keep up the conscientious attitude within your lessons. Next week, we will have a celebration assembly commemorating pupils' successes within lessons.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

As we close out another week at St. Joseph's, I'd like to recognise the continued efforts of our Year 11 students. This week, we've awarded 703 positive points, reflecting the ongoing commitment to hard work and positive behaviour across the year group.

However, we've also recorded 61 negative points, with equipment issues and excessive talking being the primary reasons. In addition, we've seen a rise in incidents involving chewing gum and some childish behaviour, particularly among the boys. While these are minor disruptions, we must address parents, we greatly appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home promptly to maintain the focused learning environment our students need to thrive.

As we move forward, I'd like to remind all students that being prepared for lessons and maintaining respectful behaviour are essential to the school experience. Let's all work together to ensure a positive atmosphere for everyone.

For parents, your support in reinforcing these expectations at home is greatly appreciated. Please continue to check ClassCharts for updates on your child's progress.

Important Upcoming Events:

- **Monday 14th October:** Rewards Assembly – We'll be celebrating progress and outstanding achievements. Let's make sure we enter next week with the same energy and determination to succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend.

Mr. Romero – Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

This week, Year 12 have been introduced to the various Student Leadership positions now available to them as a member of the Sixth Form at St. Joseph's and have begun to complete their application forms. Many students have expressed an interest in applying for these positions and contributing to the wider life of the school. These roles are vital for developing skills in communication and organisation which will add great value to their future applications for jobs, Apprenticeships and Universities. We look forward to welcoming them to the team!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

This week, Year 13 have been working hard both inside and outside of the classroom. It is great to see so many of them focused on their studies and making the most of every minute of the day. Most assessments have now been completed and students should have received feedback of what they need to work on as they head towards their next round of PPE's.

Please could I just remind you that medical appointments wherever possible should be made outside of school hours. Likewise absences for driving tests or job interviews will not be authorised. Every absence leads to lost learning time and this can have a detrimental effect on your child's results in the summer.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

Candle Making Elective

Students have worked well and shown great resilience in making gel candles over the last few sessions. These are some beautiful candles made by our students.



Core Reading and Progress Tests

We will begin our biannual Core (English, Maths and Science) testing for KS3 and reading tests for all year groups. Below is a timetable of when the tests will take place. The students have already been given their timetables, with their access codes but these will also be made available to them on the day of their test.

Once the tests are completed, we will be sending out electronic copies of the tests to the Parent ClassCharts app, and a copy to the student. The reports provide valuable information as to student progress in these areas as well as how they can improve. We hope you find the reports useful!

- Year 7 will take English, Maths, Science, Reading and PASS.
- Year 8 will take English, Maths, Science, Reading and PASS.
- Year 9 will take English, Maths, Science, Reading and PASS.
- Year 10-13 will take Reading and Pass only.
- *PASS is a survey that looks into attitudes towards school, which we use to make decisions about student wellbeing.*
- *Science is taken only at the beginning of Year 7, end of year 8 and 9.*

Thank you in advance, any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Stack-Clark at g.stack-clark@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Wk A	Monday 14th of October	Tuesday 15th of October	Wednesday 16th of October	Thursday 17th of October	Friday 18th of October
P1	Yr 8 English & Reading	Year 7 English & Reading	Year 7 Maths & Pass	Yr 7 Science	Year 11 Reading & Pass
P2	Yr 8 English & Reading	Year 7 English & Reading	Year 7 Maths & Pass	Yr 7 Science	Catch Up - Reading only
P3	Yr 9 Maths & Pass	Yr 8 Maths & Pass	Year 9 English & Reading	Year 10 Reading & Pass	Catch Up
P4	Yr 9 Maths & Pass	Yr 8 Maths & Pass	Year 9 English & Reading	Catch Up - Reading only	Catch Up
Reading Time	Year 12 and 13 Reading	Year 12 and 13 Pass			

Medical Absences

Please be aware that all medical absences from the last week of Summer Term and the first week of the Autumn Term will be unauthorised without medical evidence. This is per our updated attendance policy. If you have planned a holiday, please email office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk with an explanation, including the dates of absence and proof of the travel documentation (both outbound and inbound).

Water Bottles

A reminder for students to ensure they bring their water bottles into school. If you do not have a water bottle, please can you purchase one over the half-term holiday. The School Office are unable to provide students with plastic cups, unless for medical-related instances.

Year 7 to Year 11 Flu Vaccinations

The Berkshire Immunisation Service will be visiting St Joseph's on **29th November 2024** for the Year 7 to Year 11 Flu vaccinations.

Parents/Carers are required to complete a consent form as soon as possible if you would like your child to receive their vaccination at school. If you do not wish for your child to be vaccinated, please complete the form as a non-consent. Please read the attached letters for further details

Ski Trip 2025

I am happy to announce that we will be running a Ski Trip to Folgarida, Italy during the Easter Holidays this year for Years 8, 9, 10 and 12. The total cost for the trip is £1,070.

The trip will be running between **4th April and 11th April 2025**.

Please see the attached letter for further detail and do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Best regards,

Mr C Robinson – *Ski Trip Leader*

Workshops run by The GEMS Group

GEMS
Autism & ADHD Support Services
East Berkshire

How to support your Child through Winter (Autism and/or ADHD)

Friday 25th October - 10am to 11.15am **25 spaces available!**

Join our online informal discussion to cover the following areas:

- Holidays and being out of routine.
- Family events
- Crowds
- A change in their wardrobe - moving from summer to winter clothes.

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.

Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:
Gems.4Health@nhs.net 0800 999 1342

To reserve your space, please email Gems.4Health@nhs.net with the following information:

- Your Full Name
- Your Phone Number
- Your Email Address
- Local authority:
Slough/RBWM/Bracknell
- Child's condition: ASD/ADHD/BOTH
- Child's pathway: suspected/waiting assessment/diagnosed.



Bikeability

St Joseph's organises bikeability training for Years 7 to 10. Bikeability is the government's national cycle training program. It helps children to learn practical skills and understand how to cycle on today's roads, giving them the confidence to cycle and enjoy this skill for life. It is for all levels of expertise and led by qualified, expert instructors.

Students have been sent a Forms Quiz on ClassCharts to register their interest. Please complete this by **Monday 14th October**.

We encourage any child who cycles to school to take part in this training programme. For more information about the programme visit www.bikeability.org.uk.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Languages Department News – NEW KS3 MFL CLUBS START AFTER SCHOOL ON TUESDAYS

SPANISH Week A & FRENCH Week B

Are you a student of French or Spanish in Year 7, 8 or 9? Do you fancy some fun with your friends in languages or want to meet new friends?

You are invited to attend our new clubs which start:

- **Week B: Tuesday 15th October, Spanish 3.30-4.15pm in T5.**
- **Week A: Tuesday 5th November, French 3.30-4.15pm in T5.**



We will be looking at exciting topics like French and Spanish culture, music, animals, geography, sports, food, drink, festivals, and national icons of the countries and communities.



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



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 meeting will be held every week after school on Friday, 3.30-4.00pm in T-15. Open to year 7 to year 11.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (wealth out of waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating landform models (volcano, coastal landforms, riverine landforms and glacial landforms) and planting herbs.

Science Department



Afterschool Science Club is back and it is for Year 7 and Year 8 students!

Science Club will be on Wednesdays from 3.15pm – 4.00pm in Lab 3.

The first Club meeting will be on **Wednesday 6th November**.

We will be learning science by doing fun science experiments. – *Mrs Lionel*

Menu

WEEKLY MENU				
St Josephs Catholic High School - Week One				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sweet & Sour Chicken served with Rice	Beef Bolognese Pasta served with Parmesan Cheese	Pork Sausages served with Mashed Potatoes	Chicken Tikka Masala served with Rice & a Poppadom	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips, Tartare Sauce & a Lemon Wedge
Cauliflower Cheese Stuffed Jacket Potato	Vegetable Enchilada	Mixed Bean Stroganoff served with Rice	Quorn Cottage Pie	BBQ Quorn Sub Melt
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 & Herb Sauce	Teriyaki Noodles	Pasta with Lentils	Pasta with Garlic & Parmesan	-
Apple & Berry Crumble served with Custard	Lemon & Lime Drizzle Cake	Rice Krispy Cake	Chocolate Chip Cookie	Marble Cake



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



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- E Let the area of the equilateral triangle of side 1 be A . If similar figures have sides which are in the ratio $k : 1$, then the ratio of their areas is $k^2 : 1$. So the areas of the triangles with sides 2, 3, 4 are $4A$, $9A$, $16A$ respectively.
So, as shown in the diagram, the total shaded area is $3A + 8A + 15A = 26A$. Therefore $n = 26$.



Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- D Assume that $a > b$. Then $a + b = 7$ and $a - b = 2$. Adding these two equations together gives $2a = 9$. So $a = \frac{9}{2}$ and hence $b = 7 - \frac{9}{2} = \frac{14-9}{2} = \frac{5}{2}$.
Therefore $a \times b = \frac{9}{2} \times \frac{5}{2} = \frac{45}{4} = 11\frac{1}{4}$.

Puzzler of the week

A tetrahedron is a solid figure which has four faces, all of which are triangles.

What is the product of the number of edges and the number of vertices of the tetrahedron?

- A 8 B 10 C 12 D 18 E 24



Break-time Teaser

Last year, Australian Suzy Walsham won the annual women's race up the 1576 steps of the Empire State Building in New York for a record fifth time. Her winning time was 11 minutes 57 seconds. Approximately how many steps did she climb per minute?

- A 13 B 20 C 80 D 100 E 130

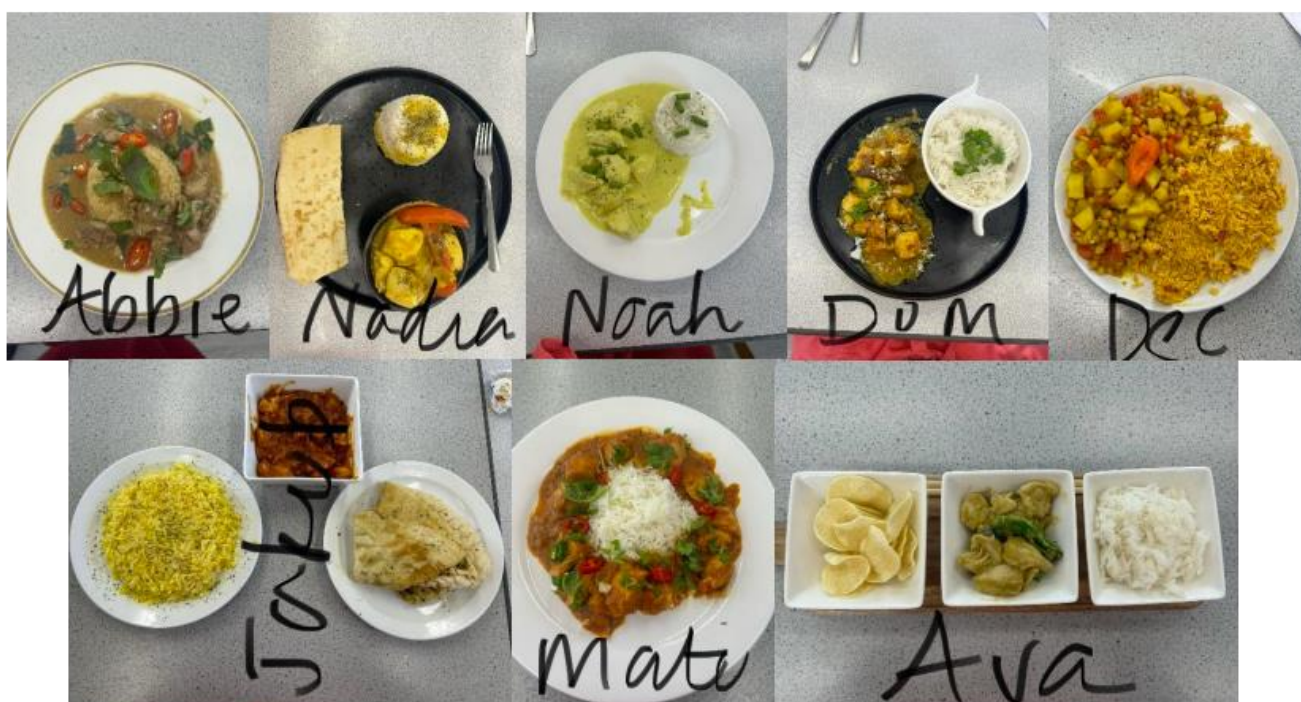
Send your answers to Mr Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts.

Design and Technology Department



Year 10 Curry Dish

Year 10 chefs have been learning about specific dietary requirements and reflecting on how culture and tradition can influence what we eat. Their task was to prepare a curry dish. It's great to see (and taste, and smell) the outcomes of these independently prepared dishes. Well done year 10!



KS3 Food:

Perfect Pizzas served up by year 9 chefs..... the pre-prep homework of making the dough at home gave it time to prove, and made a great base on which to load their toppings.



KS3 D+T

Year 7 and 8 classes have been set Homework projects.... Year 7s will be researching, designing and making card mini-mes, Year 8s will be researching, designing and making designer collaborated soap bar packaging. Your teacher will explain what part you are expected to be working on each week. We have already seen some GREAT work and look forward to seeing all your efforts in final handins after half term.

REQUEST for RECYCLING help in D&T



The D&T department would love to have your:

- **Colourful Plastic bottle lids.** (number 2 HDPE)
- **Plastic bottles** (ideally not crushed) they can even be still attached to their lids- as we can use those too!



Please put them in the labelled container in A4.
Thankyou!!

DT MAKE IT Elective

Some colourful work from the DT Electives as they got creative with blockheads, and mindful with their 1 decade Rosaries.



DESIGNeers- KS3 DT club

This week in DESIGNeers, we explored 2D Design a CAD programme- pupils learnt how to manipulate shapes, text and images to create a design that was manufactured on the laser cutter.....

If you love a challenge, like to Design and Make and would like to be part of our D&T team please see or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams** and join us at **Designers Club** on a **Monday afterschool in A3.**



D&T Stars of the week



Semion Popovic.... for being Active and Curious and really impressing us all with his efforts on the mini me Homework (already!).

Eliana Menezes... for being intentional and Prophetic and contributing so well to our plastic bottle lid appeal!



Our History, Shared History – Black History Month

1. Call for Personal Stories

As part of our Black History Month celebrations and this year's theme, "**Reclaiming Our Narratives**," we invite students of African or Caribbean descent to share their personal stories, family histories, cultural heritage, and experiences within their communities. This is a unique opportunity for students to celebrate and take pride in their identities while helping the school community learn more about the richness and diversity of Black culture.

We also warmly welcome students who are not of African or Caribbean descent to participate by sharing their stories and experiences that connect them to Black culture and history. This could include stories about friendships, communities, influential role models, or moments where they have learned and grown from Black culture or history.

The collected stories will be displayed through a digital project and as part of a school exhibition, providing an engaging platform for students to connect with their peers and showcase the importance of reclaiming and sharing their narratives.

How to Participate:

- **Format:** Stories can be shared in written form, audio recordings, video, photographs or even artwork.
- **Submission Deadline:** Friday 8th November
- **How to Submit:** Please send your stories to M.Flanagan@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk or C.Mawokomatanda@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk or bring them to Miss Flanagan/Miss Mawokomatanda.

2. Historical Figures competition

In line with our Black History Month theme, "Reclaiming Our Narratives", we are also excited to announce a school-wide competition focusing on lesser-known Black historical figures who have been overlooked or misrepresented in mainstream history.

Students are encouraged to research a Black historical figure who has made significant contributions to society but might not be widely recognised. This is an excellent opportunity for students to shed light on these individuals' achievements and share their importance.

Competition Details:

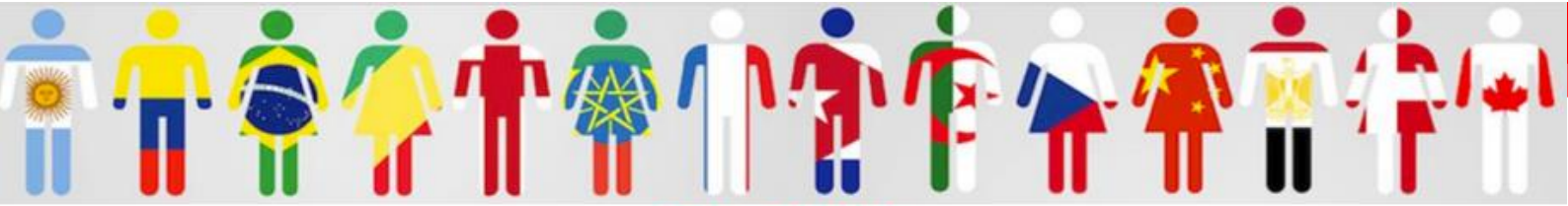
- **Format:** Students can present/submit their entries in the form of pictures; paintings; essays; presentations or any other creative avenue. Each entry should explain why the chosen figure is significant and how they have contributed to history.
- **Prizes:** There will be prizes for the most engaging and well-researched presentations!

How to Enter:

- **Submission Deadline:** Friday 8th November 2024.
- **How to Submit:** Please send your entries to C.Mawokomatanda@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk or M.Flanagan@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk or bring them to Miss Mawokomatanda/Miss Flanagan.

We look forward to celebrating the diverse and inspiring stories of our school community and we can't wait to see the amazing work and presentations that come from the competition.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Miss Mawokomatanda.



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

The Importance of Mother Tongue Language in Education



Research indicates that having a strong mother tongue foundation leads to a much better understanding of the curriculum as well as a more positive attitude towards school, so it is vital that children maintain their first language when they begin schooling in a different language.

Developing the mother tongue is very important because when children develop their mother tongue, they are simultaneously fostering a whole host of other essential skills, such as **critical thinking and literacy skills**. It is this skill-set that they take with them into formal education, and research tells us that any skills and concepts gained in the learner's home language do not need to be re-taught when they transfer to a second language. For example, if a child has developed the ability to guess the meaning of a word through its context or to infer meaning by reading between the lines, these skills are easily transferred when they begin studying in a second language.

It is much harder, however, to teach these abstract skills directly through a second language.

Language and mother tongue also play a huge role in the development of personal, social and cultural identity. Children with a strong foundation in their first language often display a **deeper understanding of themselves and their place within society**, along with an increased sense of **wellbeing and confidence**. Certainly, this flows down into every aspect of their lives, including their academic achievement.

It is crucial to note that it is through language we learn **about culture**, whether it is someone else's language or our own. To deprive children of their mother language literacy is to deprive them of understanding his or her **cultural identity**, and for children growing up in UK society understanding one's cultural identity can become compromised or changed inevitably. Children who become balanced bilinguals and develop mother language proficiency (ideally from an early age), in addition to acquire languages such as English, are equipped to become global citizens. In conclusion, Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for both people and the planet.

