



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 12th September 2025



On Wednesday 10th September 2025 a group of our students had the exciting opportunity to attend the BMW PGA Golf Championship at Wentworth Club. Darren Bailey in (Y10) had the chance to meet with Marcus Smith, England Rugby fly half at the event!

Head Teacher Message

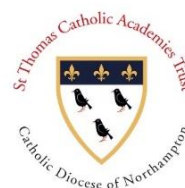
Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is:

<https://youtu.be/3lOil6X9HmQ> Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

Theme of the Week -

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

On Sunday, we celebrated the Feast Day of 'The Exaltation of the Holy Cross'. The Gospel reading tells us the reason why Jesus was put on the earth; *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"*. Jesus is the visible expression of God's unconditional love for us. Everyone who believes that Jesus came, lived and died for us and was raised to new life, will live forever.

In the first reading from Sunday, the people of Israel questioned God and Moses, they have forgotten God's mercy to all. In the first reading God punished those who rebelled against him with venomous snakes but due to their repentance, God forgave and healed. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks this to Nicodemus before explaining how God will show mercy and limitless love through his only begotten Son. The Gospel reveals the triumphant cross that brings salvation to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

When we are baptised, we too receive eternal life. God pardons sin and the cross is a triumph which reveals that 'God is love' and illuminates the path that leads to blessing and life. Today's Gospel story is a revelation to Nicodemus of God's love. Yet it requires a look of faith to recognise in the cross the sign of salvation. It does not ignore sin, since sin was the cause of Jesus' death, but by realising the gravity of sin we also realise the depth of God's mercy and love. Belief in the Trinity - one God, Father, Son and Spirit - is one of the central mysteries of our faith. St Augustine's beautiful image of the Trinity is a communion of love (the Lover, the Beloved and the Love which exists between them). How then can you show mercy to others by being **Loving** and **Compassionate** so you too can receive God's mercy and limitless love?

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Weekly Reflections
14th September 2025
24th Week in Ordinary Time



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3: 13-17

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving Lord,

Help us to both remember and understand the Exaltation of the Holy Cross so that we may live the light of Christ and follow faithfully in His way. Open our eyes to the wonder of your love.

Amen

Day 1

What does the feast day of 'The Exaltation of the Cross' celebrate?
What does Jesus represent?

Day 2

What does the word repentance mean?
How will God show his mercy?
What does this mean for us?
How do we receive mercy and limitless love?

Day 3

What do you think realising sin means? And then how does this link to God's mercy?
How can you be **loving** and **compassionate** this week to others?

Year 7 News

Year 7 have now gone through their first full week! They have done exceptionally well; the whole Year 7 team are very proud of them!

Please can we all ensure that you are logged into ClassCharts and that Page 42 of the Journals are signed over the weekend if it hasn't already

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 7 Student of the Week

Annalise Fernandes & Logan Davies for great starts to Year 7!

Year 8 News

We were delighted to welcome all parents and carers to the Year 8 Welcome Evening on Wednesday. Your attendance and engagement are greatly appreciated, and we value your continued support in your child's educational journey. The term has begun positively, with Year 8 students earning a total of 953 positive points this week. They have demonstrated a commendable attitude towards their learning and have settled well into their routines.

We encourage all parents and carers to actively use Class Charts to monitor your child's homework and track their progress. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to working together for a successful term ahead.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 8 Student of the week:

Grace Odei and Zak Andaloussi-Sadsad for receiving the most positive points this week.

Year 9 News

It has been a fantastic start to Year 9, all students have hit the ground running, thank you for all for the hard work over the summer allowing this to happen. Thank you to everyone who attended welcome evening Wednesday afternoon it was great to see all of you; I felt a real buzz of excitement for the year ahead.

Have a great weekend, look after your loved ones

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Students of the Week

Riley Henshall & Jemima Da Silva

Year 10 News

Welcome back to school! It's great to see everyone recharged and ready to go. Thank you to all families who attended the Year 10 Welcome Evening; your support makes a real difference as we begin the GCSE journey.

We've had a brilliant start: over 1,000 positive points already this term. Keep up the hard work, punctuality, and excellent conduct around school.

Sporting news: our boys' football team put in a strong performance but narrowly lost 2–1 to St Bernard's. The attitude and sportsmanship were excellent—plenty to build on for the next fixture.

Keep going, Year 10. Proud of you already.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 10 Students of the Week

Martyna Kosowska and Thomas Walls. Great start and plenty of positive points.

Year 11 News

A huge congratulations to all our Year 11s for a strong and focused start to the new academic year. It's been fantastic to see students returning with such determination and maturity, ready to take on the challenges ahead. The effort and engagement in lessons this week have been impressive—keep it up!

A gentle reminder to all students: completing homework on time is essential for consolidating learning and staying on track. We've noticed a few homework X's cropping up already, so please do make sure deadlines are met and work is submitted promptly.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Welcome Evening on Monday. Form tutors will be reaching out to parents for a brief check-in before the end of this half term. However, if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact your child's form tutor directly.

Here's to a successful term ahead!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11

Year 11 Students of the week

Oli Stacey and Kaitlyn Wynne for receiving the most positive points this week

Year 12 News

Year 12 have settled into 6th Form life really well over the past week and I could not be prouder of them. Thank you to every student who has volunteered their time this week helping at the various welcome evenings, it's great to see that community spirit at work. Once again, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all those students who joined St. Joseph's this year, we hope you experience all the love St. Joseph's has to offer. Just a reminder that the final date for any course changes is the 30th September so please do come and see me if there are any problems. iPads should be paid for on parent pay and then can be collected from Mrs Higgins in the 6th Form centre. Please do feel free to get in contact if you or your child have any issues my email address is l.finn@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Year 12 Students of the Week

Jason Sobotka and Maksymilian Oleszak for earning the most positive points this week and having a great start to Year 12.

Year 13 News

Year 13 News

Year 13 have had a very productive first week back at the school. Our Welcome Evening on Monday provided a helpful guide to many students and parents of the processes involved in applying for post 18 destinations and many of the students are busy currently preparing their personal statements for University. The Year 13 Leadership team met to discuss a new initiative that we hope to implement in the coming weeks, running lunchtime clubs for Year 7 and they are also busy preparing their speeches for Open Evening. A big thanks to many of the students who kindly volunteered their time to help with car parking on Welcome Evening for other year groups. Finally, we send our congratulations to Cameron Fyfe who was selected to attend the National round of the Catenian Public Speaking competition in Manchester. The event took place last Sunday and he spoke very eloquently making everyone at school very proud!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 13

Year 13 Students of the Week

This week I nominate Chesley Gyasi and Piotr Basinski for their willingness to serve and help others.

Welcome Evening

Thank you all for your attendance at our annual Welcome Evenings, was wonderful to see you all! As promised, please see attached to this newsletter a 'how to guide' for checking Screen Time.

Kind regards

Miss Riddles

BMW PGA Championship Golf Trip

The students had a lovely time despite the weather! We got to see the likes of Lando, Norris, Gareth Bale and John Terry! Hopefully this has started their love for Golf.



Clubs



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

PE After School Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	Dance (creative dance academy)	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	Dance (creative dance academy)	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN, KBR, MJO Football Year 7+8 boys FWA Volleyball Year 7-13 HMC	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU NFL Girls and Boys Year 7-11 HMC	Trampolining KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Football Year 9-13 THU, JCO Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO		

Homework

“The importance of homework to educational achievement cannot be denied. If pupils receive appropriate homework and do it on a regular basis over a five-year period, they will, in effect, be receiving the equivalent of at least one additional year of full-time education” *‘Improving Secondary schools’*

At St Joseph, we believe that homework is important to:

- **Prepare for, consolidate and embed** work covered in lessons to support learning;
- **Encourage** responsibility for, and ownership of, learning through ‘flipped learning’ activities;
- Enhance study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline;
- Broaden and extend the school curriculum;
- **Engage parental co-operation** and support;

Tips to help support your child with homework:

- Regularly check **Classcharts**, ask them to show you completed homework against ClassCharts assignment.
- Create a homework **schedule**: A schedule can help your child stay organized and keep track of what's due.
- Choose a homework **area**: Pick a dedicated place for homework and gather the necessary supplies.
- Limit **distractions**: Turn off electronics and put away cell phones to help your child focus.
- **Motivate** your child: Alternate motivators, such as "homework then computer" or "homework then a favourite video". Use positive words of encouragement when your child is working well

Homework Expectation

Each subject gives specific guidance to students regarding homework expectations. Below are the minimum general homework expectations.

Key Stage 3

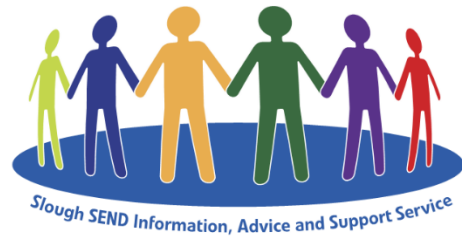
- Maths, English, Science, RE – once per week for 10 -30 mins
- History, Geography, MFL, History, Art, Computing, Music, Technology, Drama fortnightly 10-30min

Key Stage 4

- All subjects once per week for 30 mins

Key Stage 5 (Flipped Learning)

- Sixth Form students are required to match every hour of lesson time with an hour of independent study outside of the classroom.
- Flipped homework should form the basis of the tasks, enabling students to prepare for their next lessons and use their knowledge to develop deeper understanding and practice the associated skills.



Online information sessions for parents of children with SEND and Professionals

**Monday 15 September 2025
11am-12noon or 6-7pm.**

This session will focus on annual reviews and phase transfer.

To book, email:
SENDIASS@slough.gov.uk
(please specify AM or PM session)
or via
www.sloughsendiass.org.uk

SS-7103/11-08-25



www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
Borough Council

"Aspiration, ambition and determination are deeply rooted within the school. A feeling of warmth and love permeates St Joseph's" Ofsted 2022

"Pupils are happy and smiley and enjoy coming to school. They feel a sense of belonging" Ofsted 2022.

*"Catholic life and mission is **exemplary** and permeates all aspects of the school. The staff are fully committed to developing the potential of all in their care, making sure that their students know they are loved" Catholic Schools Inspectorate April 2025*



St Joseph's Catholic High School

The Directors of this successful, thriving, top performing and over-subscribed Catholic Academy invite prospective parents and pupils to our

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 18th September 2025

5.00pm - 8.00pm

Shaggy Calf Lane, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 5HW

The incoming Headteacher for January 2026, Miss Riddles will address parents at 5.45pm and 6.45pm in the Main Hall. Tours available from 5.00pm, last tour at 7.00pm. For more information or a tour during the school day

please contact Miss Emily Stagg on 01753 524713

www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk





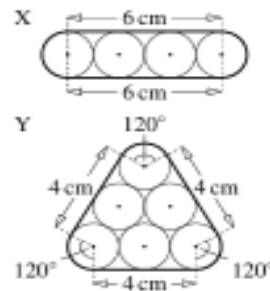
#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- C As shown in the upper figure, X consists of two straight portions of length 6 cm and two semicircular arcs of radius 1 cm.
So its length is $(2 \times 6 + 2 \times \frac{1}{2} \times 2\pi \times 1) \text{ cm} = (12 + 2\pi) \text{ cm}$.

In the lower figure, the band Y turns through one third of a revolution at each corner, so it consists of three straight portions of length 4 cm and three arcs, each of which is one third of the circumference of a circle of radius 1 cm.
Hence its length is $(3 \times 4 + 3 \times \frac{1}{3} \times 2\pi \times 1) \text{ cm} = (12 + 2\pi) \text{ cm}$.

So the two bands have the same length.



Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- D Let the mean of Aaron's five integers be m . Then the median is $m + 2$ and the mode is $m + 4$. Hence we can let the five integers in ascending order be $x, y, m + 2, m + 4, m + 4$, where x and y are to be determined. Since the mean of the integers is m , their sum is $5m$.
So $x + y + 3m + 10 = 5m$. Therefore $x + y = 2m - 10$. Now for the range of the integers to be as large as possible, x needs to be as small as possible. In turn, this means that y must be as large as possible. We know that y is an integer which is less than $m + 2$, so its maximum value is $m + 1$.
So the smallest possible value of x is $2m - 10 - (m + 1) = m - 11$.
Hence the largest possible value of the range of the integers is $m + 4 - (m - 11) = 15$.

Puzzler of the week

The angles of a quadrilateral are in the ratio 3 : 4 : 5 : 6.

What is the difference between the largest angle and the smallest angle?

- A 30° B 40° C 50° D 60° E 70°


Break-Time Teaser

The combined age of Alice and Bob is 39. The combined age of Bob and Clare is 40. The combined age of Clare and Dan is 38. The combined age of Dan and Eve is 44. The total of all five ages is 105.

Which of the five is the youngest?

- A Alice B Bob C Clare D Dan E Eve

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

<div>WEEKLY</div> <div>MENU</div> <div>St Josephs Catholic High School - Week Three</div> <div>  </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef Lasagne	Pork Sausages served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Volcano Chicken Pasta	Cottage Pie	Battered Fish served with Chips & a Lemon Wedge
Quorn & Vegetable Enchilada	Black Bean & Sweetcorn Nachos served with Sour Cream & Cheese	Quorn Meatball & Tomato Pasta Bake	Vegetable Korma served with Rice	Spinach, Tomato & Red Onion Pizza
Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad
Red Pesto Pasta	Hoi Sin Vegetable Noodles	Pasta Bolognaise	Ham & Sweetcorn Pasta	-
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 Fillings	-
Syrup Sponge with Custard	Chocolate Brownie	Blueberry Muffins	Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Salted Caramel Banana Cake

