

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021



# ST JOSEPH'S *NEWSLETTER*



## From The Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm delighted to report back to you that the running of the BTEC and Cambridge National exams this week (the attendance has been excellent) has been smooth and the children have been simply superb in what was an anxious build up that none of us would have wished for. The children really do deserve credit for their courage and determination to succeed in undertaking these exams in the most challenging of times.

We've also trialed the COVID Lateral Flow Testing this week in anticipation of the return of the students – (more of which below) with 16 staff and 6 students – and we've managed to get the system running smoothly and working effectively. We're also delighted to report back to you that the Maths and English Departments got another batch of post 16 GCSE re-takers past the Grade 4 boundary with the November re-takes. A special word of praise to Miss Stevens who pulled off

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another school first with the re-takers – we've never seen any re-taker get beyond a 4 in the exams until now and there were a number hitting well beyond that line this time – including several up to Grade 6 in her cohort this time around. Well done to you all. For those who didn't get there this time – keep working hard – your time will come.

### **Lateral Flow Testing: Where we're at.**

We're now at the stage where the Lateral Flow Tests can be undertaken in site (in the Hall). These tests *are designed to capture readings in asymptomatic cases only*. (If you or your child experience the symptoms of CV19 you should request a test at a center and get tested there immediately). It's a voluntary scheme so effectively no one should feel forced to undertake these tests. The tests work by participants registering on line via on an iPad and then self-swabbing themselves (up the nose and to the back of the mouth), putting the testing nose/mouth-bud into a solution which then is applied to an indicator device which provides an outcome after 20 minutes. It's a little uncomfortable but it doesn't hurt. The whole process is approximately 30 minutes per person in total. For clarity:

- The Department Education's plan (*at this point in time*) is that staff should be tested every week. Obviously this is the plan for when we all return.
- The children should be tested once when they return and then a second time after 5 (school) days. This could take 2 weeks in total and it's clear that even with giving the entire Hall over to this process we've only the capacity for one year group being tested per day. This inevitably will mean a staggered return of year groups over the first week when the call to return to school is given. We'll provide more details of that closer to the time.
- After all students have returned and been tested, tests will only be used in the case where a student/parent/staff member reports a positive case. At that point, those identified to have been in close proximity, and have given consent to being tested, will be tested. Any individuals who then test 'positive' would be required to go home immediately and organise a PCR test at a center. Those who test 'negative' can continue in school, but then must continue to have a daily test for the next 5 days. Students whose parents have denied consent to testing will be sent home for the self-isolation period.
- There's still a need for some parents to complete the consent form (indicating whether you are *giving consent* or *not giving consent*). For testing to take place we require active consent from parents/carers.

The Lateral flow tests capture high viral loads only. Hence the need to continue to test over 5 days for someone who was in close proximity to a positive case. The reason for this is that the device will identify any potentially developing viral load 2 – 3 days after a possible infection.

Thanks again for all your support – it's been uplifting to hear the feedback over the last couple of weeks. I know it's not easy for all the children to learn at home nor for you to have to organise it all. If you are having difficulties with any of the learning or the technical side of the learning – please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Have a great weekend.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Ciran Stapleton

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## **Theme of the Week – Come & See**

This week's Gospel invites us to "come and see". We follow, listen and remain with Jesus because we believe he is what we need. The call to be a follower of Jesus is just the beginning though. Growing within the body of Christ, the community, is a lifelong process. Year by year our understanding of what and who we are, is fed by listening to the scriptures, participating in the liturgy and praying to our creator as a true Christian, with and through Christ.

John the Baptist describes Jesus as the 'Lamb of God'. I am sure we are all very familiar with the 'call and response' rendition of this, performed by our school choir during Mass. But why does John compare Jesus to a lamb? Lambs are meek and gentle, just like Jesus was. They were often offered by people as a sacrifice to God to show their love for him. Jesus was sent by his heavenly father to proclaim the Good News and to save us. Like a lamb, he was prepared to be sacrificed, to suffer and to die out of love for us, so that we could share everlasting life in heaven.

In the final verse, Jesus calls Peter by a new name; indicating that he is taking on a whole new way of life, that he has made a life-changing choice. **To be a disciple of the Christ is to be completely transformed** and to embark on a new direction in life.

How has our faith in Christ transformed us?

How can we put our faith into action?

## **Parents/Carers Questionnaire**

Dear Parents and Carers

Many thanks to those of you who have replied to the questionnaire which went out earlier in the week seeking your views and feedback on how the students have been coping with all of the online learning. If you haven't yet had the chance to look at it, please take a couple of minutes to submit a response - we welcome your feedback as way of reviewing and improving our provision.

Additionally, whilst the students are increasingly skilled at accessing and using Microsoft Teams after two weeks of remote learning, I have attached a simple guide for those of you who may be interested in how it works, how students access their lessons and some of the other functions, in case it helps you assisting with any issues which arise at home.

Thank you for all your ongoing support!

Mr Nicol

## PE @ Home

With online learning now in full swing the PE department here at St. Joseph's wanted to set some weekly challenges to get people up about moving. The NHS says the below...

Children and young people aged 5 to 18 should:

- Aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity a day across the week
- Take part in a variety of types and intensities of physical activity across the week to develop movement skills, muscles and bones
- Reduce the time spent sitting or lying down and break up long periods of not moving with some activity. Aim to spread activity throughout the day. All activities should make you breathe faster and feel warmer

So with that in mind we wanted to make sure we are supplying you with as many opportunities as possible to get up and be active. Each week we will release a new challenge as well as some top performances from the week before.

### Challenges

1. Physical Challenge #1 – The Shoe – Click on the link below to watch the tutorial. Film your successful attempts and send through to your PE teachers.


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&fbclid=IwAR0YmUeGJGkpql8uAmU-NxHOorG715dch3I\\_iikXTQvxxw98ljcOhKL1uaVo&v=0RWSwo1FziM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&fbclid=IwAR0YmUeGJGkpql8uAmU-NxHOorG715dch3I_iikXTQvxxw98ljcOhKL1uaVo&v=0RWSwo1FziM&feature=youtu.be)

2. Strava – We have created a St. Joseph's Fitness Challenge Strava group so you can track any walk, runs or rides that you do out of school. You will need to create your own Strava account first and then request to join the group through the link below:

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/st-joseph-s-fitness-challenge-826785>



### St Joseph's Fitness Challenge

 Slough, England, United Kingdom

St Joseph's PE department Fitness Challenge

#### Club Leaderboard

Compare your training with other Club members and stay motivated throughout the week.  
[Request to join this club](#)

3. Workout of the Week (WOW) – Complete the workout and send your results to your PE teachers.

#### WOW 1

##### ➤ Push Ups -> Sit ups -> Squats

10 rounds of:

- 10 push ups
- 10 sit ups
- 10 air squats

Time how long it takes you to complete all 10 rounds including breaks and send it through – Good Luck!

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## Geography News

The Geography department has had another week of successful work and progress shown. We are very proud of all our students and encourage you to reach out if there is anything you need.

This week we are launching another competition! We would like you to research the UN's sustainable development goals and create a poster about one of your choice. This poster should include why this goal is important and solutions that countries could adopt to make it happen!

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

The 17 SDGs are **integrated** – that is, they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first. That is why the SDGs are designed to bring the world to several life-changing 'zeros', including zero poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls.

Everyone is needed to reach these ambitious targets. The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

Throughout every key stage at school students must be aware of these goals as they are vital for discussing issues in our ever changing world.

Please email poster entities to Miss Boland! Prizes will be awarded on return to school and postcards sent home for the best!



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## Year 7 News

Well done Year 7 for all your online learning this week. I have had excellent feedback from your teachers with both engagement in lessons and the standard of work you are producing. Can I remind you to move about in between lessons whether it be doing star jumps or running up and down the stairs. We are sitting a lot at the moment so take the opportunity to do some exercises whenever you can. Remember you can always email me or message me on Teams when you need to. I would love to see some photos of what you are doing.

Mrs Dunleavy

## Year 8 News

Dear Year 8,

I am firstly so proud of you all and completely over the moon with the positive feedback I continue to receive from your teachers. Well done for being absolute superstar online learners! I am very fortunate as well to be able to say how fantastic the attendance of Year 8 has been over this week. You should all be very proud of yourself for keeping up the motivation and participating so maturely in your lessons. Well done - keep it up!

Last week I launched the Everest League Lockdown Challenges, and we started with the Great Year 8 Bake Off! I am astounded by the variety of cakes that were sent my way, and the thought which had gone into the design and taste of these - I only wish I got to try them.

The scores are in and the tutor group with the most cakes and therefore the winning tutor group this week is ..... **8 Mark! Congratulations**, you are now leading our Everest League Competitions for this term. The total scores for the tutor groups this week are:

60 - Mark

20 - Cecilia

20 - Jerome

10 - Peter

10 - Veronica

0 - Teresa

Now, I also said we would have an individual reward for the most creative and after sending the cakes to your tutors, I counted the votes and our champion individual is ... Emilia 8 Cecilia with her chocolate orange birthday cake, Delicious!



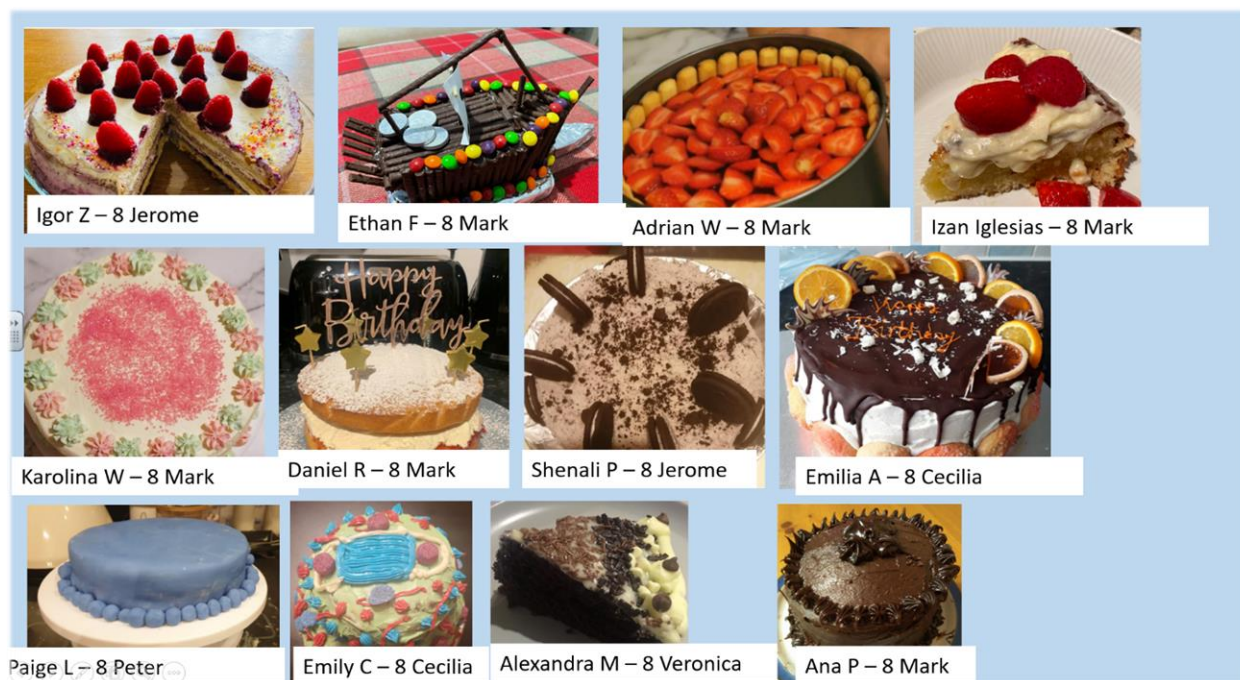
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Well done to all of you who participated in this weeks Challenge. Next week, is "#Selfie Challenge" where you need to create a self portrait of yourself. You can use whatever artistic and creative materials you would like too, once you have created the self portrait please send a photograph to myself again. It would be so fantastic to see more of you join in with this weeks Challenge.

Wishing you all a safe weekend,

Miss WD



## Year 9 News

Another brilliant week of hard work from Year 9 online. Online learning is a challenge, but the feedback from Year 9 teachers has been excellent again. If there are any barriers to online learning your children are facing, do not hesitate to contact me and I will do what I can to help. My email address is [c.robinson@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:c.robinson@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk).

A couple of notes from me:

- Please be aware that if a teacher contacts home it will likely be from a withheld number while we are working from home. I know myself that I tend to have an aversion to answering withheld numbers, but please make sure you do answer these calls.
- A reminder below of the timings of the day and when students should be taking their break times and lunch times.

### **Timings of the day**

8:30 – 8:50 **Registration**

8:50 – 9:50 **Lesson 1**

9:50 – 10:10 **Break**

10:10 – 11:10 **Lesson 2**

11:15 – 12:15 **Lesson 3**

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12:15 – 12:55 **Lunch time**

12:55 – 13:55 **Lesson 4**

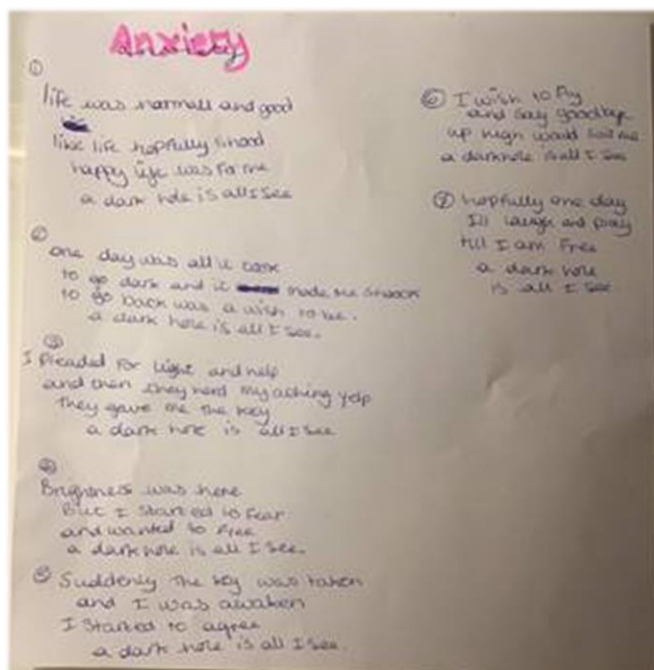
14:00 – 15:00 **Lesson 5**

Mr Robinson

## **Year 10 News**

Another week passes and I am still being inundated with positive emails from the Year 10 teachers about how well you have been doing. Well done to all those who have sat external exams this week and for all the hard work you have put in around your online lessons in order to prepare for these exams.

Thank you to those who have emailed me some of the great work you are doing. Here is a beautiful poem written by Megan Cobb this week.



So it's great to see Megan at the top of this week's epraise total.

### **This week**

1. ● Megan Cobb (10 Cecilia) (72)
2. ● Natalia Kochanowska (10 Mark) (52)
3. Natalia Malczewska (10 Teresa) (50)
4. ● Matteo Ramsay-Scuderi (10 Jerome) (47)
5. ● Alex Chappell (10 Jerome) (31)
6. ● Cameron Martin (10 Peter) (26)
7. Ketziyah Sudhagar (10 Cecilia) (20)
8. Esther Owusu-Ansah (10 Teresa) (18)
9. Charlie Thomas (10 Jerome) (15)
10. Isabelle O'Sullivan (10 Cecilia) (10)

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Congratulations to the following students who have made great progress when comparing the last two reports:

Nykhi Brown, Dominic Witkowski, Patrick Loughlin, Jakub Olszanski, Paul Xavier, Tania Pereira, Duella Fernandes, Ava Sharp, Ryan Hughes, Zuzanna Malinowska, Natalia Malczewska, Michelle Anwar, India Jackson, Max Ishchuk and Mihnea Preda.

Attendance to all your lessons is key to success so if for any reason you cannot attend a lesson please ask your parents to email Miss Cheston and the subject teacher concerned, any missed work will need to be caught up with during the week via Teams where all the lesson materials will be saved.

This week's challenge is to cook a meal for your family or if you would prefer something more physical to go on a walk with a family member to the nearest park area eg Black Park and record your walk on Strava (see details on the PE item in this week's newsletter). Send me a picture of you in action.

Take care everyone.

Miss Cheston

## **Year 11 News**

Dear Year 11,

Another week down, and another successful week of online learning. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate all of you who sat an exam this week. Your behaviour and maturity entering the exam was exceptional, and you made me a very proud Head of Year. I have no doubt your results from your exams will be excellent as well. Well done to all.

Secondly, if you have applied for the 6th Form at St Joseph's you will be receiving the details of your interview very soon. Please ensure that you make a note of this time and date, as it will be very difficult to re-schedule should you miss it without good reason. There are 15 different members of staff conducting the interviews, so don't panic if you've got someone different to your peers. If you're unsure what to expect from these, please do speak to your form tutors, or myself or Mr Clark.

Please do continue to be productive with your online learning, and remember to send your written work (particularly exam practice) to your teachers on a regular basis. These will only benefit you come the summer.

Stay Safe, and Stay Excellent!

Mr Oakley

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## **Sixth Form News**

**Sixth Form Interviews** *(for the attention of Year 11 parents)* – the Senior, Sixth Form and Year 11 teams will start post-16 interviews with Year 11 w/c commencing the 25<sup>th</sup> January. Interviews will be 10 minutes in length, will be conducted on Teams and aim to support students with preparation for their post-16 pathway. A member of our office team will be contacting you in the next week to book in an interview time. The interview is an opportunity to receive guidance that suit their individual career goals, ask questions and gather as much information as possible. Some interviews may be in the school day. Whilst those students may excuse themselves from lessons for those 10 minutes, we do expect students to log back in to their lessons as soon as their interview has finished. Finally, usually the interview is attended by the student only. There is no expectation for the parent to join.

Thank you and we look forward to our Year 11 taking their next step towards joining our sixth form. For further information on the application process, please refer to the application page on our school website: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/joining-us/apply/>

**The Sutton Trust University US Programme** – following the posts in last week's newsletter, there is now the opportunity for students to apply to the prestigious Sutton Trust University Summer School programme in the United States. Many students have already signed up to the UK and apprenticeship programmes in Year 12 and this will benefit their learning and chances of getting in to a top university – add the experience of doing this in another country and the benefits are huge. For more information, inquire here as to how to apply: <https://us.suttontrust.com/how-to-apply/>

Deadline is the 17<sup>th</sup> January (this has been sent to the students earlier in the week and so some may be advanced in their application).

Best wishes,  
Mr Clark

### **Year 12**

We are now into our second week of online learning and you are all still working extremely hard. Keep up the engagement and enthusiasm. Please can we focus this week on sending work to each of your teachers on time so that you can receive feedback. It is also important to check your emails regularly every day.

This week all students in year 12 received an abundance of emails regarding opportunities which will help them with the next stages of their education. Please look carefully at all of these and take time to consider if any would be applicable. The Sutton Trust Summer school is a fantastic opportunity and I would encourage as many of you to sign up as possible. It will give you an excellent insight into university academics and an opportunity to have fun with other students from across the UK. Students who take part in this experience are four times more likely to be accepted into a Russell Group university. Additionally, if you are thinking of applying to Oxford or Cambridge please inform Mr Clark.

I would like to wish all you sitting exams next week the best of luck. Make sure you are in school on time and dressed appropriately in uniform.

Have a great week, stay safe.  
Mrs Bray

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### **Year 13**

As we end our second week of online learning, I just want to extend a massive thank you to all students that have a 100% attendance record so far, it speaks volumes for your attitude and commitment to success. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students that it is **compulsory to attend form/registration if you have a lesson period 1, PSHE and EPQ as well as your subject lessons.** The sixth form team including tutors put in a huge amount of effort to enrich your knowledge and skills during these lessons and they are designed to benefit you and make you more ready for life at university, work and in the wider world so please make the effort to attend.

We are aware that some internet providers are struggling with the high demand they are facing during this lockdown and that some students have struggles to access online lessons as a result. Firstly, well done to those that are using their initiative and getting hold of the recordings/emailing teachers to catch up with the work. Secondly, if your internet is down for the whole day, please could you ask that your parents phone the school office or email both myself and Mr Clark so that we are aware at the time.

A massive congratulations to all Maths and English GCSE re-sit students that managed to pass this exams in November and also all BTEC students that have sat exams this week under the most testing of circumstances. Hats off to you all!

Finally, thank you and well done to the remaining UCAS applicants who have been working hard this week to finish off their personal statements and submit applications. FYI, UCAS has extended the original deadline from today to **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January.** However, please continue to push to submit your application by the end of the weekend as I know the majority of you are very close to submitting.

Mr Matthews

## **Free School Meals**

If you experience changes in employment during lockdown, please do get in touch as there is help and support available for eligible families.

[a.stockings@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:a.stockings@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

## **Drama News**

Hi everyone,

Can I remind you that there is an abundance of really good online theatre to watch whether it be on YouTube or Sky Arts, I would really encourage you to watch as much as you can particularly GCSE and BTEC students.

Mrs Dunleavy

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## ***DUNLEAVY'S RE-ENACTMENT CHALLENGE!***

### **Rules are:**

- Recreate a scene from a movie and take a **photograph** of it.
- Scenes must **NOT** be violent in nature.
- You may use costume, props, your dog, your chicken, whatever you like!
- If you can get some of your family involved, great!
- Be as creative and imaginative as you can!
- You **MUST** put the original image side by side to your creation for comparison.
- **Deadline for submissions to be emailed to me is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan**
- **Email** your creations to [s.dunleavy@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:s.dunleavy@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)
- The winner will receive a **£10 Amazon voucher**
- The runner up will receive a **£5 Amazon voucher**

Some examples:



Now over to you... GO!!!

## **Lockdown Extra-Curricular Activities**

During lockdown here at St Joseph's we will be organising lots of exciting events and competitions – keep checking the newsletter and our twitter page.

### **Lockdown Reads**



Until 15<sup>th</sup> February we will be taking part in 'Lockdown Reads'. An opportunity for you to share the books you are enjoying while you are stuck at home. This is open for ALL staff and ALL pupils, please do take part and share photos of yourself reading – the best ones will be shared on our twitter page!

Send your photos to [a.stockings@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:a.stockings@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

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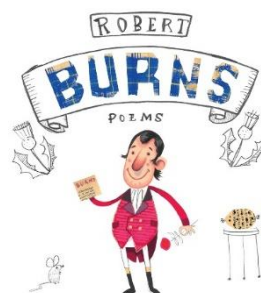
## **Burns Night Poetry Competition**

The 25<sup>th</sup> January marks 'Burns Night' – a celebration of the life of Robert Burns – a very famous Scottish poet.

Year 7 -9

Watch the video of 'Up in the Morning Early' to give you some inspiration, to write your own poem, using the same title:

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/robert-burns-poems-scottish-auld-lang-syne>



If you want to learn more about Burns Night:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/16722720#:~:text=Burns%20Night%20is%20a%20festival,of%20poems%2C%20songs%20and%20letters.&text=He%20was%20born%20on%2025,January%20as%20it's%20his%20birthday.>

For older years (10 and 11) and Sixth Form- take part by writing your own poem inspired by Burns' work:

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/robert-burns-poems-scottish-auld-lang-syne>

Entries for the poetry should be sent to [a.stockings@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:a.stockings@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) no later than Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Cooking Competition**

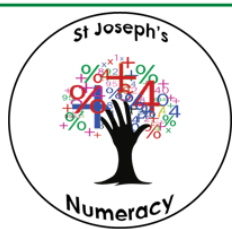


When your lessons are finished, have some time away from the screen and help out in the kitchen. For older students you can cook your family a meal to enjoy together! Please ask permission first and get an adult to help you with knives and hot pans.

The best chefs will win exciting prizes (tbc).

Tweet us your creations at @SloughStJosephs





# #IcandoMaths

## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

**E** When the given calculations are performed on Harry's calculator, they will be equal to: A  $97 \times 79$ ; B  $98 \times 78$ ; C  $369 \times 147$ ; D  $321 \times 123$ ; E  $357 \times 753$ .  
All of these, except E, are equal to the intended calculations.

## Solution to the Break time Teaser:

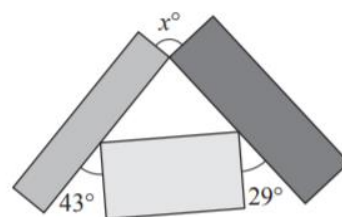
**D** First note that  $AB = \sqrt{13}$ ,  $AC = \sqrt{26}$ ,  $AD = \sqrt{17}$  and  $AE = \sqrt{13}$ . Thus  $AB = AE$ .  
Note also that  $BC = \sqrt{13}$  and  $CE = \sqrt{13}$ . Therefore  $ABCE$  is a rhombus.  
Finally,  $BE = \sqrt{26}$ , so  $ABCE$  is a rhombus with two equal diagonals and hence is a square.  
So (3,5) is the odd point out.

Well done and epraise awards to Nicola Szuba (8V), Izan IT (8M), Annabelle Lysiak (8C) and Piotr Basinski (8T) for correct answers to both the Challenge and the break time teaser.

## Problem of the week

The diagram shows three rectangles.  
What is the value of  $x$ ?

A 108    B 104    C 100    D 96    E 92



## Break time Teaser:

Each of the diagrams below shows a circle and four small squares. In each case, the centre of the circle is the point where all four squares meet.

In one of the diagrams, exactly one third of the circle is shaded. Which one?



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

## **MFL News**

Workbooks paid for in ParentPay are available to be picked up from the school's reception.

Shout out to Year 11 who have demonstrated great attitude and determination in their learning overall. Special mention to Lewis Passos-Wiggs for his outstanding contribution to Spanish, Hannah Crow and Flora Ezeoke for going beyond and preparing past papers independently.

In Year 8, amazing use of target language (French) for Adrian Konstantyn (8T) and Igor Szczepanik in 8M for his outstanding creation on the Epiphany's theme and French booklet revision!

## **Pupil Nominations of the Week**

### **Year 7**

Darragh O'Connor and  
Roksana Lydzinska for fabulous online  
learning.

### **Year 8**

Zuzanna Drewnowska for excellent work in  
English and Jessica Kulesza for fantastic  
work in Science.

### **Year 9**

Jakub Marczuk for excellent work in Maths,  
Julia Czarna for brilliant effort in MFL and  
Wiktor Miklas for achieving an amazing  
27,000 steps in one day for his PE  
challenge.

### **Year 10**

Congratulations to the following 4 boys who  
made the greatest progress from their first  
report to the second report: Nykhi Brown,  
Dominic Witkowski, Patrick Loughlin and  
Jakub Olszanski.

### **Year 11**

Danny Sharp for his excellent attitude to  
learning in all subjects.

Lyric Boateng-Lovinger for her excellent  
work in MFL.

### **Year 12**

Eleanor Levitt for working exceptionally hard  
in Health and Social Care.

Akeem Willis for producing excellent work in  
BTEC Sport.

### **Year 13**

A huge congratulations to Martin and  
Meleeona for passing their Maths GCSE  
and Kelechi, Joalan, Joel and Olga for  
passing their English GCSE.