

Newsletter 16th January 2026



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Head Teachers Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is: [Head Teachers Message 16th January 2026](#)

Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

19. Theme of the week 18th January 2026





From the Gospel of John (1: 29-34)

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving Father,

You sent your son to redeem us; to take our sins, to be sacrificed so we can be saved.

Allow the Spirit to descend on us so we too can be witnesses to the Lamb of God.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Day 1

Where else have we seen the Holy Spirit forming over people before they carry out their work?

Why do you think John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of God?

Day 2

How does John see the full importance of Jesus when he baptizes him?

Day 3

How can you be more **grateful** in being allowed this relationship with Jesus and then become more **generous** to all those around you?

Theme of the Week - The Lamb of God

Sunday's Gospel marks the end of John the Baptist's work. He is aware that his work is near the end and he has been preparing for someone far greater than he was. He acknowledges this as he witnessed the Holy Spirit at work. Can you think of another time within the New Testament where the Holy Spirit appears to others so they can carry out their work? Think of the image you see as you walk down the last flight of stairs in the tower block? Where also in your life have you experienced the Holy Spirit? Think of the theme of week for last week!

John also acknowledges Jesus as not only the Son of God but also the Lamb of God. What do you think this term means?

2000 years ago, as part of the rituals for Passover, first-born male lambs were sacrificed with their blood placed on doors so the Angel of Death would pass over the household. So when John uses images of Passover to explain Jesus, he is trying to show the listener the importance of Jesus. John himself even admits to struggling to recognise Jesus as being the Son of God but saw Him in his full glory when he was baptized.

The Gospel reading allows us to focus on our relationship with Jesus. Have you struggled to recognise Jesus? This doesn't mean have you failed to recognise Him in the street! More have you failed to hear Him when in prayer? Do other things take priority in your life that puts Jesus to one side? Our relationship with Jesus must be our focus today. When baptized, we are given this relationship as a gift through the Holy Spirit as were the Apostles at Pentecost who then went out into the world proclaiming Christ. John's mission, as is ours, is to point Jesus out to others. How can we do this if we don't have a full, loving and strong relationship with Him ourselves? How can you be more **grateful** in being allowed this relationship with Jesus and then become more **generous** to all those around you by sharing it?

Year 7 News

A great start to the term for the Year 7s. They have overtaken Year 8 for the least Number of X's which was one of the goals set to the Year 7s at our End of Term Rewards Assembly just before Christmas. They are now just behind Year 9 in the Positive Points race to. The aim is to be first in both races by the end of this term!

A reminder to check ParentPay for the Parents Evening on March 26th.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

The Year 8s have had a positive week overall, with many students demonstrating good effort and engagement in their lessons. This has been pleasing to see and reflects a growing commitment to learning.

I would like to remind the Year 8s of the importance of effective homework organisation. Homework should be commenced well in advance and not left until the last minute. A lot of negative points this week have been issued due to homework not being completed by the deadline. If any difficulties arise, students are strongly encouraged to speak to their teacher well before the deadline so that appropriate support can be put in place.

Thank you for your continued support in helping students remain organised, meet expectations, and stay on track with their learning.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Another fantastic week in the books, Year 9 had a **95% positive ratio** this week with our main downfall as homework.

I would like to remind Year 9 parents of two important upcoming events. The **Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG)** Evening will take place on **Thursday 22nd January**. This event is vital in supporting students as they begin to consider their future options.

In addition, **Year 9 Parents' Evening** will be held on **Thursday 5th February**, providing an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's options with subject teachers as well as checking on progress.

Please ensure that your attendance for both events is confirmed via **ParentPay** as soon as possible. If you have any questions or problems with both evenings please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Have a lovely weekend, look after your loved ones

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

This week our positive ratio is **90%**. Let's work together to push that back up to **95%+**—every lesson, every good choice counts.

We've noticed that **40% of Xs** this week were for **missing homework**. Please check your **child's ClassCharts** regularly. If you don't have access or are having trouble logging in, contact me as soon as possible and I'll help you get set up. Your support in ensuring homework is completed on time is essential to your child's progress.

A reminder on **uniform: school shoes must not be trainers**. Please ensure your child attends in appropriate school shoes each day.

God bless, and have a great weekend.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

Congratulations Year 11! You've successfully completed another week of your PPEs; well done for your hard work and resilience so far! With just one more week to go, let's make a big push on preparation and revision to finish strong.

An announcement has been posted on ClassCharts with a link to confirm whether you would like to attend Prom on 7th July. There is also an online shop now open for Leavers Hoodies – don't miss out on ordering yours!

Advanced Notice – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Please note that Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 26th February. Further details will be shared in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for more information.

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

Year 12 students have had a great week and this has been reflected in the amount of positive points they have earned.

If you were unable to make it to academic review day on the 5th January your child's form tutor should be in touch to discuss your child's progress.

Next half term we are going to begin looking at Unifrog which is our universal platform for careers and universities. The plan for these sessions is to introduce the students to the platform and how it can support them in planning for their next steps once they have

completed their studies at St. Joseph's. Students can access the platform at home so as a parent you will be able to take a look through it's various functions and use this to facilitate discussions with your child.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

It has been a busy week for Year 13 with the continuation of the PPE examinations and the UCAS deadline on Wednesday. I have been so proud of how the students have conducted themselves over the exam period, their dedication to revision has been commendable.

All applications that were submitted have been sent to UCAS and offers are already coming in. Once the PPEs have been completed we will provide some advice on choosing firm and insurance choices. There is no rush to complete these and it would be best for the students to wait for the results of their exams so that they can make informed decisions about what universities they are looking to attend.

We will be holding a results assembly once all of the PPEs have been completed, however students will receive feedback from their teachers during lessons once the exams have been marked.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Finn - Head of Sixth Form

Students of the Week

Year 7: Nathanael Sumith Oommen & Julia Thomas for excellent weeks!

Year 8: Jasmine Singh & Nathan Chodoruk for an excellent week.

Year 9: Sufyan Syed & Anna Camoens

Year 10: Erin Ble and Elena Rydzio

Year 11: Alexandra Czajkowska and Cadfan Rodrigues for receiving the most positive points this week

Year 12: Arabela Catilo for excellent work in Maths and Rosa Jarrett for great work in Philosophy and Ethics

Year 13: Ana Passos and Filip Marczuk for making excellent progress in Geography

Pre Public Examinations

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you are well. We would like to inform you that the PPE (Preparatory Placement Examination) period has now begun, and there will be some temporary changes to students' daily schedules.

What to expect:

- **Later dismissal times:** Some students who are sitting exams may finish school slightly later than their usual dismissal time. Students not sitting exams will follow their normal schedule.
- **Student support:** Our teachers and staff are working hard to support students academically and emotionally during this important period.

How parents can support exam preparation at home:

- Encourage your child to revise a little each day.
- Ensure they get enough sleep and eat regular, healthy meals.
- Provide a quiet space for study and revision.
- Offer reassurance and positive encouragement to help reduce exam stress.
- Remind your child to arrive at school on time with the correct equipment and transparent water bottles.

We understand that changes to routines can be challenging, and we thank you for your patience and cooperation during this important time.

Kind regards,

Ms Dar

Exams Office

Date	Start	Len	Component Title	Level	Year
19-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Religious Education Paper 3 (Developments in CT)	A Level	13
19-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Mathematics Paper 2 (Pure)	A Level	13
19-Jan	8:45am	2hrs 15	English Literature Paper 2	GCSE	11
19-Jan	8:45am	All day	Criminology Controlled Assessment (unit 1)	Level 3	13
19-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 45	Sociology Component 2	A Level	13
19-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 20	History Paper 3 (Weimar & Nazi Germany)	GCSE	11
20-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Business Paper 3	A Level	13
20-Jan	8:45am	1hr 15	Physics (Combined) (Foundation)	GCSE	11
20-Jan	8:45am	1hr 15	Physics (Combined) (Higher)	GCSE	11
20-Jan	8:45am	1hr 45	Physics (Separate) (Higher)	GCSE	11
20-Jan	8:45am	All day	Criminology Controlled Assessment (unit 1)	Level 3	13
20-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Mathematics Paper 3 (Foundation) Calculator	GCSE	11
20-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Mathematics Paper 3 (Higher) Calculator	GCSE	11
21-Jan	8:45am	1hr 15	Mathematics Paper 3 (Stats & Mechanics)	A Level	13
21-Jan	8:45am	1hr 15	Sociology Component 3 (truncated)	A Level	13
21-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Spanish Paper 2 (Writing)	A Level	13
21-Jan	8:45am	1hr 45	Religious Education 2 (Judaism & Catholic Christianity)	GCSE	11
21-Jan	1:30pm	2hr 00	Biology Paper 2	A Level	13
21-Jan	1:30pm	25 mins	History Paper I (Medicine Through Time)	GCSE	11
21-Jan	1:30pm	45 mins	Geography paper 3	GCSE	11
21-Jan	1:30pm	Various	A LEVEL CATCH UPS	A Level	13
21-Jan	1:30pm	Various	GCSE CATCH UPS	GCSE	11
22-Jan	8:45am	All day	Product Design practical day (11C/Pd1)	GCSE	11
22-Jan	8:45am	All day	Music practical day	GCSE	11
22-Jan	8:45am	Various	A LEVEL CATCH UPS	A Level	13
22-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Economics paper 3	A level	13
22-Jan	8:45am	Various	GCSE CATCH UPS	GCSE	11
23-Jan	8:45am	Various	MFL Speaking (French & Spanish)	GCSE	11
28-Jan	8:45am	All day	PE Practical day	GCSE	10 &11

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) Evening

Thursday 22nd January will be Year 9 CIAG evening which will start promptly at 5pm in the main school hall. A letter for this is attached.

Please can parents/carers arrive from 4.30pm (parking will be on the lower school playground) and go to main school hall. After the talk, parents, carers and yr 9s will head over to the Sports Hall for the subject fair. This so you can speak to subjects leaders about the different courses offered here at St Joseph's in Key Stage 4.



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Roman Catholic School
in the Diocese of Northampton
Headteacher: Miss K Riddles



6th January 2026

Year 9 Careers, Information and Guidance (CIAG) Evening – Thursday 22nd January 5pm

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is my pleasure to invite all Year 9 students, parents and carers to our Year 9 Careers, Information and Guidance (CIAG) Evening on Thursday 22nd January at 5pm.

There are two parts to the evening, first a **talk in the School Hall starting promptly at 5pm**, with myself, the Head of Year and other school leaders. During this talk an 'Options Booklet' will be distributed giving in-depth information on each course available, areas of the curriculum that are compulsory and areas where students have choices to make on their Key Stage 4 subjects.

Additionally, students, parents and carers are invited to our **Subject Fair** straight after the talk in the school Sports Hall where all Key Stage 4 subjects will be represented to discuss the course offered. This is an important opportunity for discussions to occur with staff so you can reflect on the course content, assessment and delivery before also choosing your option subjects to study.

Subject teachers and leaders will be available on the evening, and throughout the process to help guide students towards qualifications that reflect their future ambitions, areas of interest, current attainment and their preferred method of learning.

This is a really exciting time for students as they make steps towards achieving their future ambitions. Choices students make at this stage will have a significant bearing on their future progression towards Sixth Form, University and beyond.

Please can all parents and carers confirm their attendance on ParentPay and please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Hunt, (Head of Year 9) if we can be of any assistance at any stage of the process.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Gibbons
Assistant Headteacher

Mr T Hunt
Head of Year 9

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust | Registered Company Number: 09660515
Registered office: St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School, Pastures Way, Luton, LU4 0PF.
Tel: 01753 524713 | Website: www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk | Email: office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Bikeability

A reminder that the following children have signed up for bikeability next week. Check announcements on class charts for further information, groups and timetables.

- Adam Grzywnowicz
- Amelia Graba
- Chetachi Nneke
- Danna Torok
- Dawid Tershalla

- Emilia Marczuk
- Ethan Rohan
- Gabriel Tobjaszewski
- Jan Gadziala
- Jan Skrzypczynski
- Jaydon Candara
- Jeremiah Massey
- John paul Keyrouz
- Kaelan Geca njie
- Kenechi Nneke
- Lena Stroczyńska
- Leon Sidyk
- Leya Grace Yonkio
- Liwia Zietarska
- Maksymilian Tokarski
- Nela Galka
- Olivia Hysollari
- Remy Galloso
- Xavier Tomar

GCSE and A Level Additional Qualifications in a Modern Language



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Roman Catholic School
in the Diocese of Northampton
Headteacher: Mr C Stapleton MA, NPQH



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

December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: GCSE and A Level Additional Qualifications in a Modern Language

Each year we offer our students the opportunity to achieve an additional GCSE or A Level in a Modern Foreign Language. If your son/daughter is fluent (including being able to competently read and write in another language), you may wish them to have the opportunity to gain a qualification within this area. These exams will take place in the summer of 2026.

We strongly recommend that your son/daughter take this opportunity if possible to achieve an extra GCSE / A Level qualification. Through experience, we recommend students in Year 10 and above sit the GCSE and once the GCSE is achieved, they may then sit the A Level in Year 12 and above. Through our commitment to our pupils, the cost of exam entries will be covered by the school. There may be a charge for the speaking component dependent on numbers and availability of examiners for the specific language. Students who apply in younger years will be asked to submit another form when they are in the appropriate year groups.

Whilst advice will be given by the school, no additional tutoring will unfortunately be available. Please also note that this opportunity is in addition to the GCSE or A Level French or Spanish for which they may already be studying. This will be beneficial for many reason but most notably their competitiveness when apply to universities and/or the workplace.

Information on exam dates, subject components and qualifications can be found on the various exam board websites: Edexcel or AQA.

Please register your interest by completing the slip on the following page and returning it to the school office by 3:30pm Friday 30th January 2026.

Yours faithfully,

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Headteacher: Mr C Stapleton MA, NPQH



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

GCSE / A Level Additional Qualification in a Modern Language Please return to the School Office by
Friday 30th January 2026

I would like my son/daughter to be entered into the following additional GCSE/A Level exam:

Student Name _____

Year group _____

Tutor Group _____

Please specify:

Choice of language _____

And level – either GCSE or A Level _____

Parent/Carer signature _____ Date _____

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Sustainability Elective



Sustainability in Action: Letters of Hope for Post Pals

This week, our Sustainability Elective students took part in a heart-warming project that put kindness into action. As part of their learning about community, compassion and global citizenship, students created thoughtful, colourful letters and cards for sick children in support of the charity Post Pals. These messages of encouragement will be delivered to children across the UK who are facing illness and isolation, bringing a moment of joy and connection when it's needed most.

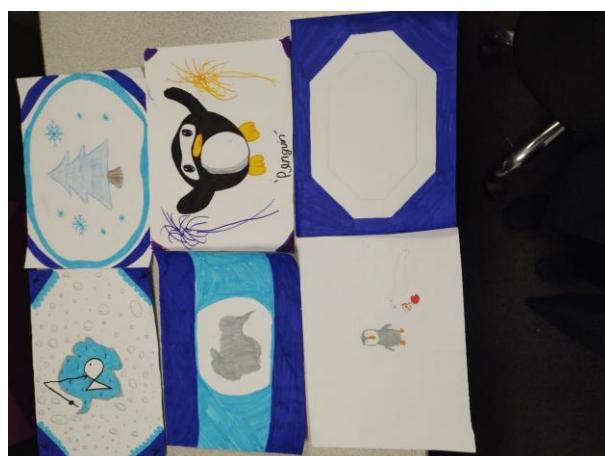
This initiative links closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, by supporting the emotional wellbeing of children experiencing health challenges; Goal 4: Quality Education, through meaningful learning beyond the classroom; and Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities, by reaching out to children from all backgrounds with messages of hope.

The project also reflects key principles of Catholic Social Teaching, including Human Dignity, by recognising the value of every child; Solidarity, by standing alongside those who are suffering; and the Common Good, by working together to build a more caring and compassionate society.

Well done to all the students involved for showing empathy in action and for making a real difference in the lives of others. Your creativity and kindness are something to be proud of.

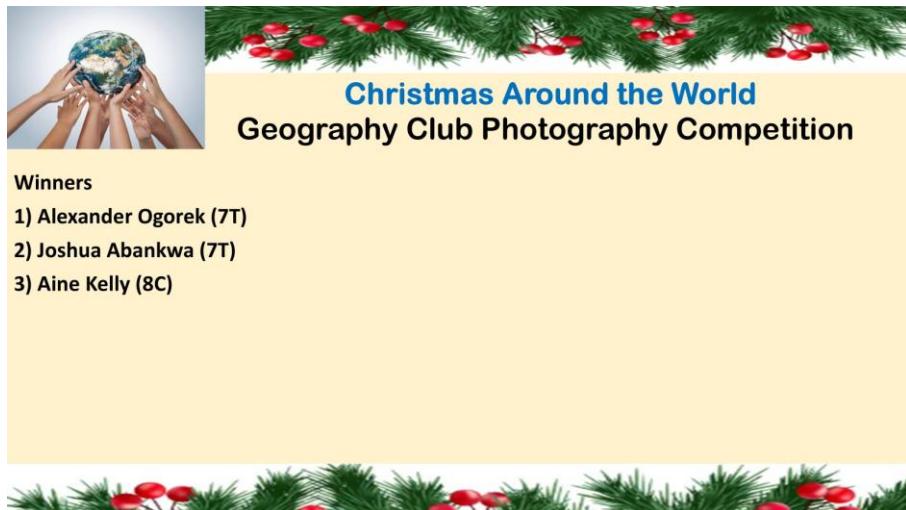
If you would like to get involved at home, you can find out more about writing letters for Post Pals at <https://postpals.co.uk/>

Geography Club – Designing a Flag for Antarctica



Last week, students learned about the Antarctic Treaty and how it helps protect Antarctica as a place for peace, cooperation, and scientific research. They discovered that the continent belongs to no single country and is instead cared for by nations working together.

To bring their learning to life, students then designed their own flags for Antarctica. With no official flag to follow, they used their knowledge and imagination to choose symbols and colours that reflected unity, the icy landscape, and the importance of protecting the environment. The final designs were thoughtful, creative, and full of meaning.



Winners

- 1) Alexander Ogorek (7T)
- 2) Joshua Abankwa (7T)
- 3) Aine Kelly (8C)

Science Club- Students enjoyed making slime!

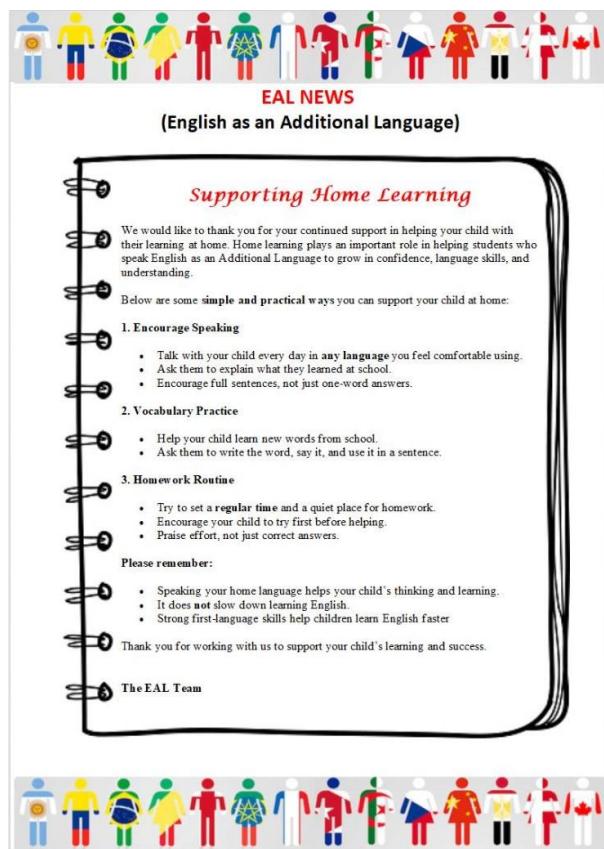


Polish GCSE exams - Summer 2026

If any students in **Year 10 or Year 11** would like to register for the Polish GCSE exams taking place this summer term, please contact Mr Kuczynski by **January 30th**.

This applies to students following the **exams-only route**. Students who are currently attending Polish GCSE elective lessons this academic year will be entered for the exam automatically and do not need to take any action.

EAL



Dates for the diary

Bikeability Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st.

CIAG Thursday 22nd January 2026

You must register for the polish GCSE by Friday 30th January 2026

I Can do Maths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

C The exterior angle of a regular pentagon is $\frac{360^\circ}{5} = 72^\circ$.

Therefore the interior angle of a regular pentagon, in degrees, is $180 - 72 = 108$. The angles at a point sum to 360° , so the reflex angle in the irregular quadrilateral, in degrees, is $360 - 108 = 252$. Finally the interior angles of a quadrilateral sum to 360° , so the sum of the marked angles, in degrees, is $360 - 252 = 108$.

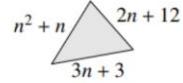
(Note that the sum of the three marked angles equals the interior angle of the pentagon.)

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

B Let the number of chickens and goats sold be c and g respectively.
 Then, since 80 animals are sold, we have $c + g = 80$.
 Also, $2c + 4g = 200$, since the chickens have two legs and the goats have four legs.
 Dividing the second equation by 2, we obtain $c + 2g = 100$.
 Then, subtracting the first equation gives $g = 100 - 80 = 20$.
 So 20 goats were sold.

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows a triangle with sides $n^2 + n$, $2n + 12$ and $3n + 3$.
 What is the sum of all the values of n for which the triangle is isosceles?
 A 7 B 9 C 12 D 13 E 16



Break-Time Teaser

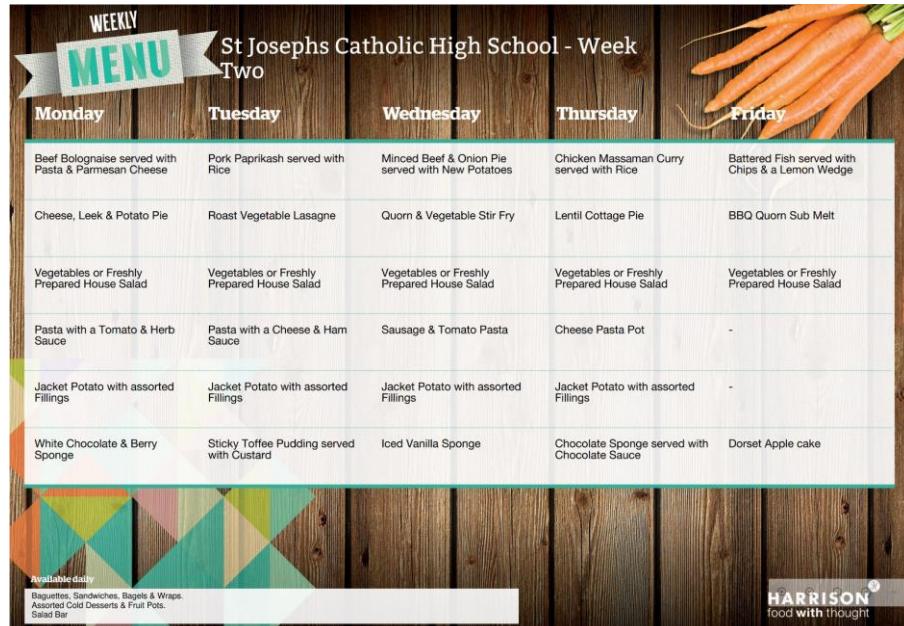
Megan writes down a list of five numbers. The mean of her first three numbers is -3 . The mean of her first four numbers is 4 . The mean of her first five numbers is -5 .

What is the difference between her fourth number and her fifth number?

A 66 B 55 C 44 D 33 E 22

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

Menu: To see the dinner choices and price list please click [HERE](#)



Clubs

DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15

KS3 D&T CLUB

Make it Monday!



If you love a challenge: enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making: consider joining our D&T team!

Please see or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams**

Join us in A3 for DT Club on **Monday afterschool. 3.20-4.15.**

This week we are planning a bit of CAD/CAM

DESIGNEERS

 **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

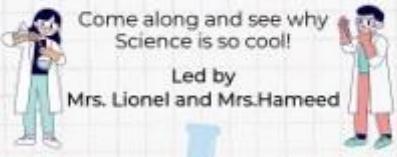


 **Radio Society of Great Britain**
Advancing amateur radio since 1913



**KEY STAGE 3
AFTERSCHOOL
SCIENCE CLUB**

WEDNESDAYS FROM 3:15PM TILL 4PM



Come along and see why
Science is so cool!

Led by
Mrs. Lionel and Mrs. Hameed



For more information please
contact Mrs. Lionel!

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 meetings will be held every week after school on Fridays, 3.20-4.00pm. Open to year 7 to year 9.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (Waste out of Waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating coastal landform models and planting herbs.

The first Geography Club meeting will be held on Friday, 3rd October 2025 in T-15 at 3:20 - 4:00 p.m.



St Josephs Dance Club

Starting Monday 12th January in the Assembly Hall

Move. Groove. Repeat.
 Dance Club — Mondays after school
 Fun routines • New skills
 No experience needed!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	GCSE Students Badminton	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	GCSE Students Badminton	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN and MJO Football Year 7-13 boys FWA and THU Volleyball/ Badminton Year 7-13 JRO Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Dance Year 7-13 HST	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO		

Term Dates

School Year 2026- 2027

Autumn Term	
Inset Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Whole school returns	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Inset Day	Friday 18 th September 2026
Half Term	Monday 19 th October 2026 to Friday 30 th October 2026
Term Ends	Friday 18 th December 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term	
Term Begins	Monday 4 th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 th February 2027 to Friday 19 th February 2027
Term End	Thursday 25 th March 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term	
Term Begins	Monday 12 th April 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 st May 2027 to Friday 4 th June 2027
Term Ends	Friday 16 th July 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Term Dates

School Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Monday 1 st September 2025
Inset Day	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Whole school returns	Thursday 4 th September 2025
Inset Day	Friday 19 th September 2025
Half Term	Monday 20 th October 2025 to Friday 31 st October 2025
Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins	Monday 5 th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February 2026 to Friday 20 th February 2026
Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Inset Day	Monday 13 th April 2026
Term Begins	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May 2026 to Friday 29 th May 2026
Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026 (12:30pm finish)