

Newsletter 17th July 2026



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Head Teachers Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Click [HERE](#) for this weeks Head Teacher Message.

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

St Joseph, pray for us.

Miss Riddles

44. Theme of the Week Sheet - 19th July 2026



Harvest

Weekly Reflections
19th July 2026
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (13:24-30)

At that time: Jesus put another parable before the crowd, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?" He said to them, "An enemy has done this." So the servants said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' " "

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

We celebrate our successes this academic year. We come with thanksgiving, joy and wonder, reminding ourselves of the richness of your creation, and acknowledging your faithfulness in providing for all our needs and beyond.

Amen

Reflection on the Gospel from Sunday:

Sunday's Gospel gives us a very powerful parable told by Jesus. When reflecting on this, I'm drawn firstly to this comment by Jesus, '*Let both grow together until the harvest...*' Just on this, I feel Jesus is telling us, give everyone a chance. And on this comment alone, I think we can all agree sometimes we don't give people a chance. Sometimes we come to a judgement of someone or something that closes our eyes and ears to them in the future and we don't give them an opportunity later because of what they have done to us. Here in the parable, Jesus is told they're weeds, no good!, but He doesn't give up on them! The second comment I'm drawn to is just a sentence earlier, '*No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them*'. By our snap judgement, we can come to label others, due to their actions or words. But Jesus in this parable is telling us don't! Don't let our actions of promoting and allowing good be restricted by the few!

In coming to the Kingdom of God, we must always do what our hearts tell us is right to do. When doing so we can harvest goodness and joy in our own lives but also to others around us.

Have a wonderful summer break.

Year 7 News

Hi all,

For one last time this year! Really well done for an excellent year, have a lovely break and we will see you fresh in September!

Have a lovely summer break!

Mr Cooper-Santos - Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

As we come to the end of the academic year, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of our Year 8 students and your families for the commitment, resilience, and support you have shown throughout the year.

It has been a privilege to witness your growth in confidence, responsibility, and independence throughout the year. I am extremely proud of your achievements, the challenges you have overcome, and the positive contribution you have made to our school community.

To conclude the year with a 95% positive behaviour ratio and over 38,535 positive points is an exceptional achievement. These figures reflect the dedication, respect, and high standards that you consistently demonstrate.

I wish you and your families a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break. I look forward to welcoming you back in September as you begin Year 9 and continue your journey of success and personal growth.

Mrs. Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

As another school year comes to a close, I just want to say how incredibly proud I am of everything our Year 9 students have achieved. It has been a real privilege to watch you all grow in confidence, mature as young people and develop into such a fantastic year group. I look forward to what next year brings.

To finish the year with a **94% positive behaviour ratio** and **over 44,000 positive points** is an outstanding achievement. Those numbers reflect the hard work and high standards that you demonstrate every day.

As you look ahead to Year 10, the start of your GCSE journey, make sure over the summer you are preparing yourself for the start of your options.

Have a wonderful, restful summer break, make the most of the time with family and friends, and come back in September ready to make Year 10 your best year yet. We can't wait to welcome you back!

Look after your loved ones.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

As we reach the end of Year 10, I want to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been a busy, challenging and rewarding year for our students.

Across the year, we have seen students represent St Joseph's brilliantly through sport, trips, performances, competitions, retreats, academic events and wider school life. We have celebrated outstanding attendance, excellent progress, acts of kindness, resilience, leadership and thousands of positive points. Many students have grown significantly in confidence, maturity and independence, and there is a great deal for us to be proud of.

There have also been challenges. At different points, we have needed to address concerns around attendance, punctuality, homework, uniform, conduct and engagement in lessons. These standards are not separate from academic success; they are the foundations of it. Students who attend regularly, arrive on time, complete their work, respond positively to feedback and remain focused give themselves the strongest possible chance of succeeding.

Our year group motto as we move into Year 11 is:

"Effort turns potential into achievement."

Potential is important, but potential alone does not produce results. Achievement comes when ability is matched by consistent effort: attending every day, listening carefully, completing homework, revising regularly, asking for help and refusing to give up when something feels difficult.

As parents and carers, your support will be crucial. Please continue to check ClassCharts and Pupil Progress, speak to your child about their learning, ensure that summer work is completed and help them establish healthy routines before September. Encourage ambition, but also reinforce accountability. Students need to know that we believe in them, while also understanding that success will require commitment and sacrifice.

As a year group, we must continue raising our standards. Year 11 will move quickly, and there will be no benefit in waiting until mocks or final examinations to become serious. The habits students develop now will shape the outcomes they achieve next summer.

To every Year 10 student: be proud of how far you have come, but do not become comfortable. Learn from your mistakes, recognise your strengths and return ready to work. You are capable of achieving far more than you may currently believe, but it will require you to take responsibility for the opportunities in front of you.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support throughout the year. By continuing to work together, maintaining high expectations and reinforcing the same clear messages at home and at school, we can help every student enter Year 11 with purpose, confidence and determination.

Let's return in September ready to work, ready to grow and ready to turn potential into achievement.

Have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer. God bless.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 12 News

We have reached the end of the academic year and I just wanted to thank you all for your engagement this year. We have a fantastic cohort of students and they have worked incredibly hard this year, however I know that this does not happen by accident and that the support they receive at home is invaluable in making sure the students strive to achieve their very best.

The summer holidays are a great time for a rest and recharge but please do encourage your son or daughter to spend some time reflecting on their PPE results and working on closing the gaps in their knowledge. A little effort now will ensure students are well prepared for the start of Year 13 in September.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer,

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Students of the Week

Year 7: Frances Okafor and Nathanael Sumith Oomen for finishing the year with the most positive points

Year 8: Lucja Majewska & Nikodem Gucwa for an amazing term.

Year 9: Munachi Okafor & Jenson Martin - the most positive points across the whole year.

Year 10: Jessica White and Bianca Lacsamana

Year 12: Mia Ramananthan and Jason Sobotka for earning the most positive points this half term

A message from SWI Uniform Providers

 **Back-to-School Uniform Reminder!** Order by **Sunday 16th August** to take advantage of **15% off and free delivery** and ensure your child is ready for September. ✨

[Find the link here](#)

Year 12 Geography Fieldwork at the River Chess

Our Year 12 A Level Geography students recently completed their final fieldwork visit of the year at two sites along the River Chess. They investigated river characteristics and biodiversity, collecting primary data and applying the geographical knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the course.

The day showcased students' enthusiasm, teamwork and resilience, while developing valuable skills in data collection, analysis, critical thinking and problem-solving—essential for success in higher education and a wide range of careers.

The visit also reflected the Catholic Social Teaching principle of caring for God's creation. By studying the river ecosystem, students gained a greater appreciation of the importance of environmental stewardship and our shared responsibility to protect the natural world for future generations.

Well done to all our Year 12 geographers for their excellent engagement and commitment throughout this year's fieldwork programme.





Sustainability Elective

As part of our Sustainability Elective, students have been making a positive difference to our local community by taking part in litter-picking activities around the school and surrounding area. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment have helped create a cleaner, more welcoming environment for everyone.

This initiative reflects our Catholic Social Teaching values, particularly our call to Care for God's Creation. By taking practical action to protect the environment, our students are demonstrating responsible stewardship of the world God has entrusted to us. They have shown that even small acts of service can have a meaningful impact, living out our school values through compassion, responsibility and care for others.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and thank them for being such positive role models in caring for our common home.



Summer Homework

Dear Parents and Guardians,

From research students tend to have on average 3 months regression during the summer holiday. Effects tend to be higher for literacy (three months' regression) than mathematics (two months' regression). To mitigate this, students have been set summer homework especially examination groups **Year 10 to Year 11** and **Year 12 to Year 13**.

We know that the holidays are important times for rest and relaxation for our students and it is important that we give them a chance to relax and enjoy their time off. However, if they can schedule some time for learning they will be able to complete the homework set.

Thank you for your support always.

Mrs Jackson-Bickersteth

The Lodge Gardening Elective

Dear Parents/Carers and students,

We have come to the end of another academic year. Mrs Niculae and myself wanted to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to our amazing students who have worked with us to produce some amazing vegetables in our garden we are incredibly proud of them all!

Next academic year we will be continuing this elective however expanding it further to the main school so keep an eye out for more exciting updates.

We wish you all a very happy and blessed summer holidays.

Mr Martin & Mrs Niculae

Music Department News

Extra Curricular Clubs:

- **Strings Club:** Friday's afterschool in XA room 3:15-4:15pm
- **Singing Club:** Thursday mornings before line up in Music room. 8am-8:20am
- **GCSE Music Help:** Lunch 1 Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Instrumental Lessons - Slough Music Service:

At Joseph's, instrumental lessons can be provided during the school day via Slough Music Service. If you are interested in taking lessons in a particular instrument, please complete the

application form via the Slough Music Service website. You can apply for lessons in any instrument. Costings and term prices are available on the website.

If you want to have lessons but do not have access to an instrument, or have any questions, please speak to Miss Ure.

<https://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk/instrument-lessons/>

PSHE – A Year of Learning, Growth and Flourishing

At the heart of our PSHE curriculum is our department's intent: to form individuals who recognise the dignity in themselves and in others, and are able to flourish in our globalised world. Throughout this academic year, our programme has continued to equip students with the knowledge, skills and values to make informed decisions, build positive relationships and contribute responsibly to society.

Through our partnership with the platform Ten:Ten, students explored Relationships, Sex and Health Education within the context of Catholic teaching, developing an understanding of healthy relationships, respect and human dignity. Students also continued to build essential life skills through our programmes on financial literacy, AI literacy and Learning to Learn. Year 10 students, in particular, strengthened their revision, organisation and independent learning skills as they prepared for their GCSE courses, while AI literacy encouraged students to engage with emerging technologies safely, ethically and responsibly.

Supporting students' health and wellbeing has remained a key priority. This year we introduced a Vaping Cessation Programme, offering education and support for students wishing to stop vaping. We have also continued to provide free period products, helping to remove barriers to learning and ensuring every student is supported with dignity and care.

Our curriculum has been enriched through assemblies delivered by Thames Valley Police on topics including substance abuse, anti-social behaviour and bullying, county lines, and sexual offences and sexual assault awareness. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 also benefited from powerful knife crime assemblies delivered by Lee Barefoot from The Story Group, encouraging thoughtful reflection, informed choices and an understanding of the consequences of violence.

Together, these experiences have helped our students grow in confidence, resilience and compassion, preparing them not only for academic success but also to become active, responsible citizens who uphold the dignity of every person and are equipped to flourish in an ever-changing world.

MFL Club Newsletter Review



Hola y buenas vacaciones!

Bonjour et bonnes vacances!

Hello and happy holidays!

MFL Club has had yet another successful & fun-filled term altogether, gathering on alternative Tuesdays after school & surviving a Spanish style heatwave! We have talked (important skill!), played games and organised some colourful, informative language displays - this includes key vocab/verbs plus some great football phonics with Mpappé in the middle in pride of place! We finished the term talking in different languages to each other, playing some international music and participating in a competitive quiz of football and tennis infused vocabulary. Needless to say, some tasty treats got consumed along the way (some boys do seem hungry after a day of school work and sport!) The MFL Club students & MFL Dept wish for every student and staff, to enjoy a harmonious, hard earned Summer break. Keep enjoying your rich array of amazing languages and cultures! We look forward to seeing you soon. Muchas gracias de Ms Shaw & our talented bunch of enthusiastic, curious and compassionate Key Stage 3 students!

Hasta luego!

A la prochaine!

See you soon!

Karting Elective

A man in a black hoodie and cap is kneeling and working on the rear wheel of a red and black go-kart. The kart is elevated on red jack stands. The background shows a workshop with various tools and equipment. The text "CAN YOU HELP?" is prominently displayed at the top in a bold, distressed font, with "CAN YOU" in black and "HELP?" in red. Below this, there are three bullet points, each with an icon in a red circle: a gear for mechanical/engineering experience, two people for parents, and an envelope for contact information. The bottom right corner features a checkered flag graphic.

CAN YOU HELP?

 Do you have **mechanical** or **engineering** experience?

 We are looking for **parents** who are willing to help with a project.

 Please contact **Mr Allinson** for more information.

Great British Summer Savings scheme.



Find your family's summer offer

The government is cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on family days out — from cinema and theatre tickets to attractions, and children's meals out. Less to pay, more summer to enjoy.

25 June – 1 September 2026, right across the UK

Between 25 June and 1 September 2026 there is a temporary reduction on VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts, exhibitions and a wide range of other attractions.

In addition, there is to be free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England.

Details of Summer Savings participating venues can be found on the **attraction finder** website, which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://summersavings.gov.uk>

Holiday Activities Programme - Summer 2026



POSITIVE LINKS
CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE
TO POSITIVE FUTURES

HAF SUMMER PROGRAMME

20TH JULY – 13TH AUGUST

OUR EXCITING SUMMER PROGRAMME
WILL FEATURE A FANTASTIC RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:

-  **VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCES**
-  **STREET DANCE CLASSES**
-  **DJ WORKSHOPS**
-  **TAEKWONDO SESSIONS**
-  **INFLATABLE BOUNCE SESSIONS**
-  **CREATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS**
-  **FOOTBALL AND MULTI-SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

 **A healthy and nutritious lunch will be provided each day.**

VENUE:
Britwell Parish Hall – Community Centre
Long Furlong Drive, Slough SL2 2PH

OPENING TIMES:
Monday – Thursday
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

TRANSPORT AVAILABLE
We provide transport to and from the programme from selected pick-up points.

BOOKING IS QUICK AND EASY
through the HAF booking system using your unique HAF code.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at positivelinkscommunity@hotmail.com or call 07857 312445.

 Paid option for non-HAF bookings.

Positive Links Team 

The poster features several circular images: children playing football, a child using VR, a child in a taekwondo uniform, and a child painting. There are also icons for various activities and a rainbow at the bottom right.

Kooth – Free Online Mental Health Support for Young People

Did you know that our students have access to **Kooth**, a free, safe and anonymous online mental health and wellbeing service for young people aged **10–18**?

Commissioned by the NHS and accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), Kooth provides confidential support to help children and young people

manage their mental health and emotional wellbeing. It complements existing support available through schools and other services.

What Kooth offers:

- **Free online counselling** with qualified mental health practitioners via live text chat or secure messaging.
- **Self-help tools** including journals, goal-setting activities and wellbeing exercises to help young people build resilience and develop positive coping strategies.
- **Peer support** through moderated online discussion boards where young people can safely connect with others experiencing similar challenges.
- **Helpful resources** including articles, videos and activities covering a wide range of mental health and wellbeing topics.

Why use Kooth?

- No referral is needed – young people can register themselves in just a few minutes.
- The service is **completely anonymous**, helping many young people feel more comfortable seeking support.
- Available **365 days a year**, with live counselling offered: **Monday to Friday:** 12.00 pm – 10.00 pm **Weekends:** 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm
- Content is carefully moderated and tailored to be appropriate for different age groups.

Kooth offers an additional source of support for young people who may be struggling with their mental health, feeling anxious, stressed or overwhelmed, or who simply want someone to talk to. It provides a safe, welcoming space where they can access professional advice and practical wellbeing tools whenever they need them.

For more information or to register, visit www.kooth.com.

I Can do Maths



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- E** Before any of the cubes are joined, the total surface area of the five cubes is equal to $5 \times 6 = 30$. Whenever two faces are joined, the total surface area decreases by two. Figures A to D all contain four joins, but figure E has five joins and therefore has the smallest surface area, namely 20.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- E** First note that the triangular numbers less than 20 are 1, 3, 6, 10, 15. As we are looking for a sequence of consecutive integers which are respectively prime, even, and triangular, the required

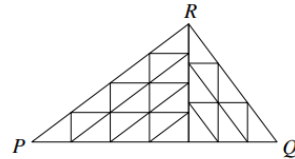
triangular number is odd. So it is 3 or 15. It is not 3 as 1 is not prime, but it is 15 as 13 is prime. So the required product = $13 \times 14 \times 15 = 2730$.

Puzzler of the week

Triangle PQR has been divided into twenty-five congruent right-angled triangles, as shown. The length of RP is 2.4 cm.

What is the length of PQ ?

- A 3 cm B 3.2 cm C 3.6 cm D 4 cm
E 4.8 cm



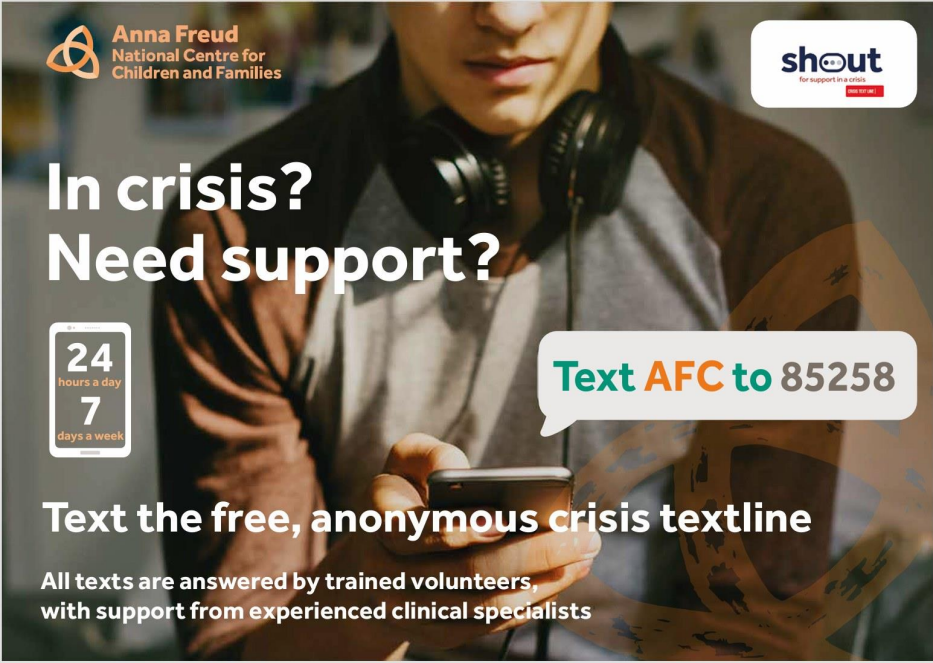
Break-Time Teaser

As a decimal, what is the value of $\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{11}$?

- A 0.10 B 0.20 C 0.2020 D 0.202 020 E $0.\dot{2}\dot{0}$

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

AFC Shout



Anna Freud
National Centre for
Children and Families

shout
for support in a crisis
0800 011 011

In crisis? Need support?

24
hours a day
7
days a week

Text AFC to 85258

Text the free, anonymous crisis textline

All texts are answered by trained volunteers,
with support from experienced clinical specialists

Term Dates

School Year 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term

Inset Day Tuesday 1st September 2026

Year 7 + 12 Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Whole school returns Thursday 3rd September 2026

Half Term Monday 19th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Term Ends Friday 18th December 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins Monday 4th January 2027

Half Term Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027

Term End Thursday 25th March 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Term Begins Monday 12th April 2027

Half Term Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027

Term Ends Friday 16th July 2027 (12:30pm finish)