



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 20th January 2023



Year 7

On Thursday a group of Year 7 students went to The Centre to participate in a Multi-sports event. The students were able to try kinball, archery, speed stacking and fencing. They learnt some new skills and a fun morning was had by all.

Word of the Week

"Erode" is a verb meaning the gradual wearing away by natural agents or the gradual destruction of something.

"Constantly getting questions wrong can erode your confidence."

Idiom of the Week

"A snowball effect"

Meaning: Is when small actions can cause bigger and bigger actions, ultimately resulting in a big impact.

Origin: Used since the first half of the 1800s, this idiom alludes to how a snowball grows as it rolls through snow, at an ever-increasing rate.

Example: "When our star player plays poorly, it creates a snowball effect."

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

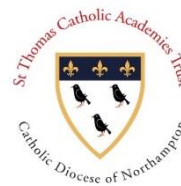
My weekly message is in video format. Please do take a listen and let us know what you think, any feedback is welcome.

Please find below the link to our website to view my message:

<https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Letters/Newsletter-20.01.23-1.m4v>

St Joseph, pray for us

Mr Stapleton



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

Theme of the Week – The Word of God

Jesus, after his baptism in Bethabara, leaves Nazareth and settles in Capernaum, a small lakeside village in Galilee. Now, Galilee was despised by the people of Judea, because it had a large percentage of pagan people living in it, and even the Jews that were there were considered somehow unorthodox. Capernaum was right on the frontier between the kingdom of Herod Philip II and Herod Antipas, and as such was, unlike Judea, a place of open-minded people. **Jesus choses that place to start his mission because in order to welcome his proposal one needs an open heart.** Matthew, a fine biblical scholar, links this beginning to a passage of the prophet Isaiah, who, when that region had been devastated by the Assyrian, foretold that one day a great light would rise upon them and save them from the shadow of death.

What are Jesus' first words? Not a long sermon, but **'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.** What is this kingdom? It's a kingdom which completely overturns the logic of the old kingdoms. The latter were built on power, competition, war, oppression of the weak, accumulation of wealth, pursuit of pleasures etc. - Think for a moment of the **Roman Triumph**, when the victorious general/emperor would march through Rome with the defeated king in chains (later killed), all his wealth displayed as booty, making a public spectacle of the humiliation of the looser and the superiority and glory of the winner! Well, Jesus says that another King is about to establish his kingdom among men, and we can forget all those pseudo-values. **The true values of the New Kingdom are peace, service, generosity, meekness, morality, honesty, sacrifice and trust.** Great! How do we become members of this kingdom? Jesus tells us: **REPENT.** We have already explained that the Greek word *metànoia*, is better translated as **CHANGE OF THE WAY WE THINK.** **In order to be part of the Kingdom of God we need to look at ourselves and change all those things that belong to the old kingdom, all our selfishness, vices, false securities, and be ready to become servants of God and one another.**

The Gospel mentions Jesus 'walking by the **sea** of Galilee', but the Lake of Tiberias is just a small lake. Why is it called sea? Firstly, the Gospel writer Matthew (who writes primarily the Jewish community) wants to draw a parallel with Exodus. Jesus is the **New Moses** who frees Israel from the slavery of sin, and leads them across the sea, bringing them to the REAL PROMISED LAND, the kingdom of God. Secondly, the SEA in the Bible, as well as in all mythology of the Ancient Near East, is a symbol of CHAOS, of DARKNESS which hides all sort of MONSTERS and DANGERS. The sea is the opposite of life, it's the place of death. As he walks on the shore, Jesus finds Peter and Andrew casting their nets in the lake. The Greek word for this net is *amphiblestron*, a cast-net, the fishing method of the poorest. Jesus does not mention what they would get as a reward if they followed him, but simply describes their mission as **'fishers of men'**. As we said, the sea is the realm of evil and darkness, so the **specific calling of all disciples of Jesus is to fish people out of the dark sea of desperation and death, and bring them safely to the shore of the life of the Kingdom.** Peter and Andrew **at once left their nets** (the symbol of every habit or compromise which prevents us from following Jesus freely) and followed him. **We too, in order to follow Jesus freely, must leave behind at once our fears, our love for things, our wrong attachments and false gods. If we don't, we may take a few steps after Jesus, but those nets will soon make us trip and fall to the ground!**

As he continues to walk, Jesus calls two other men, James and John, who were on a boat with their father Zebedee, and were mending the wide nets that are cast in the deep water (boat, wide nets are all signs of more wealth). As they are called they abandon the nets, but also **THE BOAT AND THEIR FATHER**, respectively symbols of **security** and **tradition.** **In order to follow Christ we must be able to come out of our comfort zone, and dare to think outside the schemes of our tradition, of the 'it's always been done this way'.** So, Jesus now has 4 disciples who left everything and followed him. What does he do? He heals all sorts of sicknesses and diseases among the people, i.e. our sins and shortcomings, and, most importantly, he proclaims the **GOOD NEWS.** What Good News? **THE WORD OF GOD**, the News that **GOD IS LOVE AND ONLY LOVE**, and that he will never cast away his children who come back to him with a sincere and repentant (i.e. changed) heart!

The Word of God

Weekly Reflections

22nd January 2023

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (4:12-23)

Hearing that John had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.'

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, sometimes we get wrapped up in our own lives and priorities, our needs and desires. Remind us, through your Word, that there is a sea of men and women who live in the darkness of desperation, and need to know your love and salvation. Send us out to fish them by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Day 4

In the scene of the calling of Peter and Andrew, Jesus invites them to become 'fishers of men'.

- What do you think that means?

Day 1

Jesus, in order to start his mission chooses a place where people were 'open minded'.

- What does 'open minded' mean to you?
- Is 'open mindedness' the same as indifference to right and wrong?

Day 3

Conversion of St Paul the Apostle

This feast can be simply described as **the day in which a great hater became one of the greatest lovers of Christ that Christianity ever had.** The message for us is simple:

IF THIS CAN
BECOME VODKA



YOU CAN
BECOME A SAINT

Day 2

Jesus announces the coming of the Kingdom of God, a kingdom in which the values of the old kingdoms will be overturned.

- What are these?
- What will they be replaced by?

Day 5

In the account of the calling of James and John, we see them abandoning their boat and their father, respectively symbols of **security** and **tradition**.

- What are the comfort zones and acquired habits in your life that Christ asks you to leave behind to follow him?

Flame 2023

We are excited to announce that the biggest Catholic youth event in the UK is returning to London, as CYMFED organise Flame 2023. The theme of Flame 2023– which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture ‘Mary arose and went in haste’ and crystallises it into the theme, ‘Rise Up!’ Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith. This will take place on Saturday 4th March. The trip is open to students in Year 9-13 but there is a limited number of tickets. Please see the letter attached to this newsletter for more information.

Support at St Joseph’s

At St Joseph’s we are aware and understand that the current cost of living crisis causes worry and concern for many. As a Catholic School, we always have the well-being of our school community at the heart of everything we do and as a result, we want to help as best we can. We are putting together fortnightly food parcels that will be delivered to families most in need in order to support them over the next few months. A typical food parcel will contain the following:

Food items	Cereal Pasta Soup Rice Tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce Lentils, beans and pulses Tinned meat Tinned vegetables Tea/coffee Tinned fruit Biscuits UHT milk Fruit juice
Non-food items	Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes, hand sanitizer Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons

In order to receive a food parcel each fortnight please can you email support@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk where you will be invited to come into St Joseph’s to discuss the needs of your family and the food parcel that will not only meet your family’s dietary needs but also how we as a school can support further.

Am I eligible for free school meals?

With the current cost of living crisis, you may find that your child is eligible for Free School Meals. Please find attached to the newsletter, a letter outlining the criteria for this and how to apply.

Mr J Gibbons

LUX Residential for all in Years 7 to 13 – 3rd to 5th of February 2023

NYMO are once again running our annual LUX weekend from the 3rd to the 5th of February.

The weekend is packed full of fun activities, moving times of prayer and inspirational talks.

Come and join around 100 other young people from all parts of the diocese for an unforgettable weekend!

For more information and to book a place, please visit www.nymo.org/lux

Dr O Camaioni

Electives – Spring 2

Attached to the newsletter is the Spring 2 Electives Programme. This details the electives that each house will be embarking upon next half term. Please do have a read through with your child. Ensure they are truly considering broadening their skillset and being curious!

Pupils will be receiving their electives preferences form on Tuesday of next week.

Mrs F Araf

Rewards Screen – see attached for full details

THIS TERM'S REWARD CHALLENGE



NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTION

Qualify for our
**Day of Inflatable
Activities** every
time there is a
**Fortnightly
Challenge**








Mr R Dann

Year 9 - Student Vaccination - 24th January 2023 - Men ACWY & TDIPV

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find in separate attachment letter from the Student Immunisation team regarding upcoming vaccines on 24th January 2023. For Year 9 students for Men ACWY & TDIPV.

Polite reminder that E-Consent is required. Access to the e-consent will close 24 hours prior to the immunisation session.

All parents need to complete a consent form even if it is a NO consent. Nurses will be in contact any non-responders.

Regards,

Student Immunisation Team

Year 10 & Year 11 - Catch Up Session 24th January 2023 - Men and DTP

Dear Parents and Carers,

The student immunisation team will be attending St Joseph on 24th January 2023 for a Year 10 & Year 11 catch up session for Meningitis and DTP vaccines.

Please see separate attachment with letter with further details and to provide E-Consent (if required).

Polite reminder that YEAR 10 and 11 parents ONLY need to complete the forms for Meningitis and DTP if they did not previously consent and have now decided they want their children to be vaccinated.

If your child has already had Meningitis and DTP in Year 9 then parents DO NOT need to complete another form when in Year 10 and 11 as the nurses will have duplicate forms which can create confusion and the potential of over vaccinating.

Any questions please contact the school office.

Regards,
St Josephs



IMPORTANT NOTE:

This is a reminder that the consent forms to parents/carers for Men ACWY & Td/IPV will close on **Monday 23rd January 2023 at 9am.**

Any parents/carers wishing to consent after this point will be unable to and we would advise them to email us on eastschoolimms@berkshire.nhs.uk for further information.

Year 7 News

Another successful week for year 7. Well done to those who went on the PE trip with Miss Joseph on Thursday, your medals looked great! Can you please read the information below regarding next week's online learning.

Below are the instructions for next week's online learning:

- Please ensure you have Teams installed on an internet enabled device. If you can, try not to use a phone, a laptop or tablet would be better to ensure students can read the content shared during the lesson on a larger screen with access to a larger size keyboard.
- Students need to be in their class team at the start of the lesson ready for the meeting to be started. Once the meeting is started they need to join by clicking on "Join" in the class area.
- Once they have joined they will need to ensure they are muted and their camera is on.
- If students need to ask a question they can put their hand up by clicking on the icon the meeting chat or unmute themselves to ask at an appropriate point.
- Students are expected to complete all work set we will take a blended approach with some tasks set digitally and some completed in exercise books
- Lessons will only last 45 minutes to allow students a screen break between lessons.
- Students will be expected to attend tutor at 08:30 and reading at 13:05 via their tutor team.
- Normal classroom expectations still apply and students will be given X's for disruptive behaviour in online lessons.

In the meantime have a lovely weekend

Mrs Dunleavy



On Thursday a group of Year 7 students went to The Centre to participate in a Multi-sports event. The students were able to try kinball, archery, speed stacking and fencing. They learnt some new skills and a fun morning was had by all.

M Joseph

JNR NBA - Year 7

The Year 7 JNR NBA team who are representing the Minnesota Timberwolves had their first game against Winston Churchill School on Monday. It was our first Basketball game, the score finished 31-4 to the opposition. Despite the loss the students showed a lot of passion and enthusiasm throughout the game. We have our next game on Monday 6th February.

Man of the Match - Nikodem



Year 8 news:

It has been a slightly different way of learning for year 8 this week with everyone working remotely whilst work to repair the tower block is underway.

I have been really impressed with all the excellent learning and participation I have seen from students. The majority of feedback from teachers has been how adaptable and mature everyone has been this week.

On Monday we are back to school as normal and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person again.

Mrs Miller

Year 9 news:

Dear Year 9:

Thank you for your attendance to CIAG yesterday: more than 90% of Year 9 families attended! I hope you took notes of all the important information during Mrs Araf, Mr Sindall and Mr Nicol's presentation and then Subjects Fair helped you to decide the subjects that suit you the best for your future career.

Next events: Taster Day to give you a wider idea of your preferences and then you will have to choose your preferences in an online form before 16th February.

Changing topic - This was not a good week in terms of Homework Xs. Check the online platforms we use in school, not just classcharts. For example, in the Science Department we use doddle, and in the Maths department they use Mathswatch. I think that because of this reason many of you got more Xs than usual.

We live in XXI Century so online platforms for learning will be used more often soon. Keep this in mind or you will do your homework in Homework club 😊

Take care

Mr Romero

Sixth form News

Year 13 Parents Evening – Thursday 26th of January

We will be holding a parents evening for Year 13 students on the 26th of January. It is really important that we have full attendance as this is a critical step in the students' preparation for their summer exams, which will be back to 2019 standards (there will be no assistance). Given that this will be the first set of national exams that our Year 13 have sat, they will need every opportunity to be successful in getting their grades and places at university or apprenticeships. The feedback and guidance as to how parents and guardians can support at home and how students can reach their grades will be invaluable. Parents and guardians will receive a letter early next week, please RSVP via Parent Pay.

Sutton Trust – Year 12

The Sutton Trust offers programmes (often residential) that support students in successful at university or apprenticeship:

University

- Experiencing university life
- Academic taster sessions
- University application guidance
- Social activities

Apprenticeship

- Peer networking and social events
- Information and guidance on apprenticeships
- Professional networking and mentoring
- Application process guidance
- Skills sessions

Application for both is open now and you will find more information on how to apply on the link below.

<https://www.suttontrust.com/our-programmes/>

UCAS Update – Year 13 – Next Steps (Accommodation, Replying to Offers and Student Finance)

A huge well done to all of our students who are now receiving offers (some have had all of their offers and the final deadline has not yet passed – this plays to our advantage because this shows the students to be organised and they should be congratulated for this).

Here are some next steps for parents:

The next few steps of the UCAS process are smaller but questions that students often ask. How to book accommodation, when do I need to reply to offers by and how do I do students finance. All have relatively simple answers.

1. **Accommodation** - the first step is to consider what type of accommodation your university offers and this will be on their webpage (here is Portsmouth's, for example: <https://www.port.ac.uk/student-life/accommodation>). You will need to book accommodation with your firm and insurance choice universities and many will start to take bookings from February (many will also have deadlines - again, the best thing is to check with the university). You will likely need to pay a deposit to secure both places (firm and insurance) and check if this is refundable, I have only heard of a few instances where they are not. **Often, you choose accommodation based on preferences and so, if you are slow to act, you may not get your first choice.**

Here is a page on making choices about accommodation on UCAS:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/undergraduate-accommodation> }

2. **Replying to Offers** - here is the UCAS page on reply to offers: <https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/replying-offers-%E2%80%93-your-questions-answered>. **Once you've had decisions back from all your choices, you'll be given a date in which you need to reply.** If you do not reply, the offer will be withdrawn. This may be some time in May or June but, to the point above, if you wait until this time you will be competing with others who may have secured their first choice accommodation.

IMPORTANT - there are two types of choices. They are:

Firm: this is your first choice – the place you most want to go to. If you accept a conditional offer and meet the conditions, you'll have a confirmed place here. This should be an aspirational choice in terms of entry requirements.

Insurance: this is the choice you'd want if you didn't meet the conditions of your firm choice. If this is a conditional offer, you'd need to meet the conditions for your place to be confirmed. This must not be the same entry requirement as your first choice, there is literally no point because if you don't get choice 1, you won't get choice 2. This should be a lower requirement but a place you are happy attending (this is why you should have thoroughly researched all choices). Therefore, it is a better bet than clearing. Whilst clearing is a useful choice, it is not the best choice because you will not have researched it and you will be picking a place to study for 3-7 years, at a cost of £9k per year.

3. **Student Finance** - this is all done online and it is done here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login>. Click on the link and you will find all of the guidance that you need on the right hand side. I have created this YouTube playlists with all you need to know about student finance. Some videos say 20/21 but that is because the process hasn't changed: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9uCQbM0tQyu1gQjpJr6wLjWWqJV2p148>

Mr G Stack-Clark & Miss H McCormack

Homework Reward

There are 2 rewards: Homework Super Star of the week and Homework Super Star of the term.

Homework Super Star of the week: The student with the most Excellent Homework positive points on ClassCharts in each year group will have a shout out on the weekly newsletter

Homework Super Star of the Term: The student with the most homework positive points in each year group will win a **£10 voucher** of their choice at the end of the term

Homework Super Stars this week are:



- ♦ Jessica Lysiak 7C
- ♦ Paulina Konopka 8V
- ♦ Marcus Chodoruk 9V
- ♦ Chantelle Chipatisco 11P
- ♦ Rosie Gorna 11V
- ♦ Oliver Radomyski 12M

Mrs E Buck

TVLP NEWS

Please find an in-person talk open to TVLP students and staff attached, '**TOUGH GIRL TRIBE: TWO ADVENTURERS SHARE THEIR STORIES.**' Friday 20th January 2023, 8:30pm-9:30pm, at Eton College.

Katrina Megget recently sailed around the UK, and is aiming to climb 40 volcanoes by the age of 40 currently, having walked the length of New Zealand's Te Araroa trail (3,000km) in 2018.

Marcia Roberts holds the world record for the fastest female unsupported cyclist to cycle from Lands's End to John O'Groats AND BACK in 11 days, 13 hours, 13 minutes.

If anyone would like to attend, please can they send **Clare Matheson** their full name and school email address by 2:00pm on 20th January: c.matheson@tvlp.org.uk

Miss L Boland

EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)



EAL Parent/Carer Coffee Evening

We are welcoming our bilingual families to join us in school for our first coffee evening. If you are a parent/carers or family member of a student who speaks an additional language.

- Have a brew, biscuits and cake.
- Meet our EAL Support team
- Chat with other parents/families
- Receive support and help others
- Ask questions
- Share your thoughts and concerns
- Get involved in EAL parties 😊

Please join us on:
1st February 2023
3:35 - 4:15pm
At the school Hall



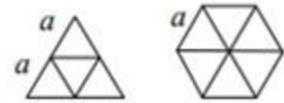
Mrs J Ura



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- D** Let the length of the side of the regular hexagon be a . Then its perimeter is $6a$. Therefore the perimeter of the equilateral triangle is also $6a$, so the length of each of its sides is $2a$. The diagrams show that the equilateral triangle may be divided up into 4 equilateral triangles of side a , whereas the regular hexagon may be divided into 6 such triangles. So the required ratio is $4 : 6 = 2 : 3$.



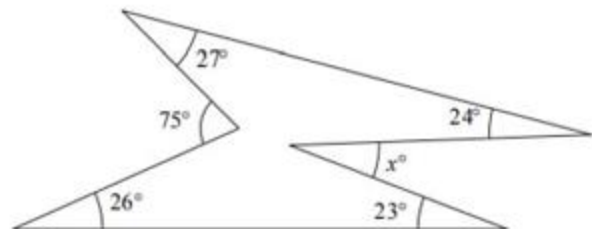
Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- E** The tetrahedron has 6 edges and 4 vertices, so the required product is $6 \times 4 = 24$.

Problem of the week

In the diagram, what is the value of x ?

- A 23 B 24 C 25 D 26 E 27



Break time Teaser:

The sum of two numbers a and b is 7 and the difference between them is 2.

What is the value of $a \times b$?

- A $8\frac{1}{4}$ B $9\frac{1}{4}$ C $10\frac{1}{4}$ D $11\frac{1}{4}$ E $12\frac{1}{4}$

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

YEAR 7

Abiezer Baksh and **Marlon Rodrigues** for consistent hard work and effort
Freddie Clark and **Annabel Lomas** for great contributions in French

YEAR 8

Patrick Lopez (8 Jerome) and **Emma Powell** (8 Peter) for working with excellent effort during online learning.

YEAR 9

Rianna Picardo and **Ariyana Maraj** for the highest amount of positive points achieved this week
Maksymilian Oleszak for knowledge recall in Spanish.

YEAR 10

Inma Wylie for PROUD in Spanish
Oskar Luniewski, **Cameron Fyfe**, **Inma Wylie** and **Joel Manalody** for the most positive points

YEAR 11

YEAR 12

Sheryl Fernandes for making great contributions to class discussion in Philosophy and Ethics and
Clinton Ganiste for fantastic reading during in reading time

YEAR 13

Sereena Kasoka for delivering a presentation confidently in front of the class in Travel and tourism.
Michael Addison for receiving 5 conditional offers to university.