



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 21st March 2025



Level 3 Bikeability Training

Today, several Year 7-9 students participated in Level 3 Bikeability training, provided by Spokes Cycle Instruction. This comprehensive program focuses on advanced bike handling and safety skills, empowering students with the confidence to cycle safely on local roads. It is a valuable opportunity to enhance their cycling knowledge and ensure safer travel options for the future.

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

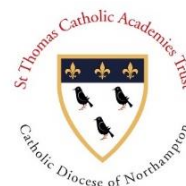
I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the image below to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.



Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Joseph's content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

Time

Weekly Reflections
23rd March 2025
3rd Sunday of Lent



From the Gospel of Luke (13: 1-9)

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father,

We come together at the start of this day, in quiet reflection, to make space in our lives for you. Allow us to listen in peace and calmness of this moment to your voice

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Day 1

Who is the owner of the Vineyard?
What does the Fig tree in the vineyard represent?
How do are we given time by God to bear the fruit we all too can produce?

Day 2

How fruitful has your life been? How is your relationship with God? Are there areas of your life where you can be more Active and Curious to bear good fruit during this season of Lent?

Day 3

Each day three of each week in Lent will be given to pray three Scripture Stations of the Cross.
This week please pray:
Station 10: Jesus is crucified
Station 11: Jesus and the penitent criminal
Station 12: Jesus speaks to Mary and John

Catholic Social Teaching - Solidarity

By coming together in hope as individuals, families, communities, organisations and nations, we can achieve transformative change for the common good. When we unite and make a stand for what we believe in, we can achieve remarkable things

"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security...while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: 'Give them something to eat' (Mark 6:37)." Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium,

49

How this half term can you promote Solidarity in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?

Theme of the Week – Time

Being followers of Jesus can sometimes make you think! At times when listening to the Gospel readings from Mass, you can listen and at the end go “I really don’t know what that means?” Jesus taught people using stories so they could understand then, but so we can understand now. In Sunday’s Gospel from Luke, Jesus tells us about giving one more chance to the fig tree to grow some fruit, give it time! And here we may ask what does this actually mean? What are we giving time too? What is Jesus trying to teach us? Just as the gardener is willing to look after the tree very carefully so that it didn’t need to be destroyed, so too God is willing to give us another chance, with Jesus’ help, to change and grow the fruit of God’s love. And it is through God’s love, His sacrifice of His son for our sins, that shows we too are given time by God to show the fruits of our worth and to illustrate the image of God through us.

In Scripture, the vineyard was often used as a symbol of God’s people. The image of God is as the owner of the vineyard, who tends it with great care, planting, pruning, cultivating and feeding the plants to ensure they are fruitful and flourishing. Every means for fostering fruitfulness is offered to the barren fig tree, just as every opportunity is given to us to attend to our own need for repentance.

Sunday’s Gospel leads us to reflect upon the mystery of God. God reaches out to communicate with us. As we think about our own personal encounters with God, we find the places of ‘holy ground’ in our life. And do we see that the ground of our daily existence is holy because of our service of Christ to others as we live our lives? When we consider the Gospel, we are brought to consider the role of the gardener and how this impacts our lives during this time of Lenten preparation. Cultivation requires care and attention – and often pruning. Pruning in our lives is usually a painful experience, but out of it comes healthy, strong growth. How can you be **Active** in cutting back on the material goods you prioritise in your life over God? How can you be more **Curious** in exploring how others you know and don’t know have cultivated their life so they too can produce fruit?



Pilgrimage to Rome – October 2025

Last, last, last call for Rome!

As part of our celebration to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope, I am pleased to be able to offer your child the opportunity to take part in a Pilgrimage to Rome. This will take place from **Monday 20th October – Thursday 23rd October**. This is open to all students who are currently in Year 7-12. *If any student wishes to go from Year 11, they must remain a student at this school in 6th Form.*

There are only 40 spaces available on a first come first serve basis and a £200 deposit must be paid on ParentPay. Please find attached a letter with all the details of the trip and please do not hesitate to contact Mr Gibbons (j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) for more information.

We need a final number by Monday 24th March, so please sign up.



St Joseph's the Worker Feast Day – Thursday 1st May 2025

On **Thursday 1st May**, all of St Joseph's Catholic High School will come together in the morning to celebrate our Feast Day. Fr Kevin O Driscoll will be coming in to celebrate Mass and then we will go onto the field for a whole school photo.

All students will then go out into the community from 12pm to illustrate our School Mission Statement of **"Unlocking Belief in All"** and demonstrate our school virtues of being: **Learned and Wise, Loving and Compassionate, Truthful and Eloquent, Intentional and Prophetic, Attentive and Discerning, Faith-filled and Hopeful, Curious and Active, Grateful and Generous.**

We will also be living out to others the Catholic Social Teaching Principles of the Church. A letter for this is attached with the newsletter. **Please can all parents/carers sign up to this on ParentPay by Wednesday 23rd April.** There is no cost. Before Easter, Mr Gibbons will endeavour to let all Houses and year groups know where they will be going and what they will be doing. All students will be back to school by 3pm and for those that wish to attend, there will be a free barbeque and Staff vs Student football match.

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust News



Parent/Carer Survey

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust: Your Feedback Matters: Parent/Carer Survey Invitation

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the educational experience for your child, STCAT are seeking your valuable input through our Parent/Carer Survey.

Your feedback is essential in helping us understand your perspectives on various aspects of our school community, from communication and school policies to your child's learning environment. The survey will take only a few minutes to complete, and your responses will directly influence the decisions the STCAT make to support our students and their families.

Survey Details:

- **Deadline:** 4th April 2025
- **Access the survey here:** <https://forms.office.com/e/2dE41drG3H>

Your responses will be kept confidential, and we highly encourage all parents and carers to participate. The insights you provide will help us create a positive, supportive learning environment for everyone.

If you have any questions or need assistance with completing the survey, please feel free to contact Maxine Gilmartin at admin@STCAT.co.uk. Thank you for your time and support. We greatly appreciate your involvement in making our school community the best it can be.

Best regards,
Joe Richardson
CEO

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust
Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Train to
TEACH
SEPT 2025

FIND OUT MORE AT
ONE OF OUR OPEN
MORNINGS

We will be hosting open mornings across our schools, offering you the perfect opportunity to find out more about becoming a teacher with St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
XAVIER
TRUCK
SOUTH/EAST
ACCREDITED PROVIDER

NEW Slough Secondary ITT Training hub available for September 2025!

10am
Tuesday
25th March

St Joseph's Catholic High School, Slough SL2 5HW
Secondary Teaching Only

10am
Wednesday
2nd April

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Slough SL2 3AA
Primary Teaching Only

10am
Wednesday
30th April

St Michael's Catholic School, High Wycombe HP11 1PW
Primary Teaching Only

10am
Tuesday
6th May

St Louis Catholic Primary School, Aylesbury HP20 2XZ
Primary Teaching Only

10am
Tuesday
20th May

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Primary School, Luton LU1 5PP
Primary Teaching Only

To find out more about the events and book your place, use the QR code below:

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Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7 Matei Duru and Salome Fernandes for excellent weeks!
Year 8 Kacper Tomaszek and Bianca Danek
Year 9 Jenson Boggi and Edzio Stacey , voted for by the Year 9 Form Tutors.
Year 10 Aleisha Deans and Jakub Wroblewski-Walczyk for receiving the most positive points.
Year 12 Kahlil Carty and Jayden Bruintjies for earning the most positive points this week.
Year 13 Dominika Lichosyt and Sachman Sahdra for earning the most positive points this week.

Homework Superstars

Year 7	Noah Greenidge
Year 8	Kathryn Jose Kattakayam
Year 9	Isabella Lacson
Year 13	Roza Gorna



Year 7 News

Please can we ensure that Homework and Equipment is being checked regularly. Quite a few students have picked up XH's and Equipment X's. We want to ensure that students are able to enjoy the lovely weather and not be in detentions. So by double-checking everything, we can ensure that is the case.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Year 8 had a great week with only 62 negatives for the whole week. It's great to see so many Year 8 students competing in the Arm Wrestling House Competition and representing their House.

Keep up the good work.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

HPV Vaccinations Year 8

The Berkshire Immunisation Service will be visiting St Joseph's on **Wednesday 7th May 2025** for the Year 8 HPV Immunisations.

Parent/carers are required to complete the attached consent form as soon as possible if you would like your child to receive their vaccination at school. If parents/carers do not wish for their child to be vaccinated, please advise them to complete the form as a non-consent. Please read the attached letter for further details.

Year 9 News

Thankfully, the weather is starting to warm up and getting closer to being able to use the field at lunch and break time. Year 9 girls played the first round of NFL on Wednesday, losing narrowly to Beaconsfield School despite some stand out performances from **Vanessa Buda** and **Loikita Graca Mendonca De Jesus**. As we move closer to the final two weeks of term, students have been observing the Signs of the Cross, either in Form or in the Chapel, preparing us for Mass on the final day of term.

Have a great weekend.

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

Well done to Year 10s for another positive week. X's for homework have reduced massively, so keep up the good work and continue completing your homework on time! On Friday, some Year 10s competed in the Arm Wrestling House Competition. A letter has also been sent out this week regarding St Joseph's Day on 1st May – please have a read of it on ClassCharts.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 12 & 13 News

Year 12 have had a fantastic week working hard in all areas of study. In school, we will be hosting a Mock Interview Day which is aimed at getting the students ready for university and apprenticeship interviews. All students have been tasked with **producing a cover letter and CV, which they need to submit via Teams. The deadline for this is 2nd April.** Universities will be starting to advertise Open Days for those wishing to apply. Students can attend these; we just ask that time of is requested via email to Miss Stevens to approve. Please note that we will be unable to authorise time off during the summer PPE window.

Year 13 have been working extremely hard in preparation for their summer examinations. There have been a number of interventions taking place after school to ensure the students have the best chance to succeed. We are also hoping to run some interventions over the Easter break and will provide more details on this in due course. We have a visitor coming into school over the next few weeks who will be providing sessions aimed at supporting those students who did not apply to university, with alternative pathways following the completion of their studies here at St. Joseph's.

Have a fantastic weekend. *Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13*

House Competition – Press Up Mash Up

This past Friday, Houses went head-to-head in the ‘Press Up Mash Up’ competition. The challenge was simple; do as many press-ups as you possibly can, until you can do no more! If you were lucky enough to get to the final, the challenge of the bucket would be your next feat. Students would be doing press-ups, over a bucket of cold water, dipping their face in each time. The last student standing wins. **Well done** to all winners and competitors!



Next Half-term's House Competitions

25th April	Chess Competition	SSE
2nd May	The Great St Josephs Bake off	CCR
9th May	Polyglot MFL Competition	SSH
16th May	Sweet Tower of Mine	Science
23rd May	Dance off Part 2	HST



Japanese Elective

Practicing Kanji in Japanese elective!

Year 11 Student Leadership

This week, a group of Year 11 students took charge of running a netball event for KS1 children. The older students demonstrated exceptional leadership and enthusiasm, ensuring the younger participants had a fantastic experience.

The event was filled with laughter, excitement, and teamwork. Year 11 students meticulously organised various activities and drills, making sure each KS1 child felt included and engaged. Their dedication and positive energy were evident as they guided the little ones through the basics of netball, fostering a fun and supportive environment.

KS1 children were thrilled to participate, showing off their budding skills and enjoying the camaraderie. The smiles on their faces were a testament to the success of the event.

The Year 11 students not only showcased their abilities, but also created lasting memories for the KS1 children, making it a day to remember for everyone involved.



Year 12 Generation Global Conversation on Human Trafficking

Well done to all 20 Year 12 pupils who participated in the Human Trafficking Conversation with students from India, Egypt and Armenia. A special well done to **Isabelle Byamukama, Nicola Szuba, Jayden Bruintjies, Jonathan Sam, Shenali Palihawadana, Vanessa Anane** and **Sandra Kszczot**. It was clear that pupils from St Joseph's were well informed and spoke very eloquently. There was a general agreement in the dialogue between nations/ cultures, which highlighted how similar we are as humans.

Student Leadership Team – Youth Parliament Session on Equality

As part of our vision as a *Catholic, Listening, Learning Community*, the Student Leadership Team championing Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging (DIEB) joined a Youth Parliament session on Equality with other schools on Thursday 20th March.

In the session, pupils partook in a dialogue where they learnt from each other about what is working in their various schools. This will add on to the brilliant work already being done in creating a psychologically safe space where all pupils can fully unlock their potential/belief.



Nature at its Best Geography Club Photography Competition

On Tuesday 22nd April 2025, in commemoration of Earth Day, a photography competition will be held to celebrate nature at its best.

Photograph: This should capture the beauty and diversity of natural landscapes/ wildlife/ecosystems, highlighting the wonders of the natural world.

Entries: All entries should be emailed or sent on TEAMS to Mrs Rodrigues in digital form. The last date to receive entries is **18th April**.

Prizes: 2 prizes in each category (natural landscapes/wildlife/ecosystems).

Raffle – Wednesday 26th March

Catholic Ethos Elective students will be running a fundraising raffle activity on **Wednesday 26th March** during lunch time for SVP, which is a charity organisation that helps people who are in need.

Please come and buy raffle tickets during Lunch 1 and Lunch 2 and win chocolates, sweets, crisps and more!

RAFFLE

Fundraising for ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)
The SVP is a charity that helps anyone experiencing poverty in England and Wales or overseas at any point before, during or after a crisis.

Where? Chapel
When? Wednesday 26th March lunchtime

Price: 50p for 1 ticket

Win ranges of prizes chocolates, sweets, crisps...









Fundraising organized by the Catholic Ethos-2 Elective

Charity Event – Thursday 27th March



Guess the Sweets in the Jar

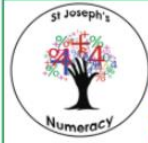
WHEN; Thursday 27th March, Lunchtime.

WHERE; The Quad

HOW; Bring in 50p. The person with the correct guess wins the jar of sweets.

WHO; Everyone is invited to take part (max. 3 guesses per person)

WHAT; Look at the jar, pay 50p, guess a number. All money goes to charity.



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

B It is given that $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 = 10^n$. So $10^n = 1 + 8 + 27 + 64 = 100 = 10 \times 10 = 10^2$. Hence $n = 2$.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

B 0.015% of 60 million = $\frac{0.015}{100} \times 60\,000\,000 = 0.015 \times 600\,000 = 15 \times 600 = 9000$.

Puzzler of the week

Two numbers x and y are such that $x + y = \frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{x}{y} = \frac{2}{3}$.

What is the value of $x - y$?

- A $-\frac{2}{3}$ B $-\frac{2}{15}$ C $\frac{2}{25}$ D $\frac{2}{5}$ E $\frac{2}{3}$

Break-time Teaser

Which of these expressions has the largest value?

- A $\frac{1}{2}$ B $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$ C $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6}$ D $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8}$
 E $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{10}$

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

Menu

WEEKLY MENU				
St Josephs Catholic High School - Week One				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sweet & Sour Chicken served with Rice	Beef Bolognese Pasta served with Parmesan Cheese	Pork Sausages served with Mashed Potatoes	Chicken Tikka Masala served with Rice & a Poppadom	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips, Tartare Sauce & a Lemon Wedge
Cauliflower Cheese Stuffed Jacket Potato	Vegetable Enchilada	Mixed Bean Stroganoff served with Rice	Quorn Cottage Pie	BBQ Quorn Sub Melt
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad
Pasta with a Tomato & Herb Sauce	Teriyaki Noodles	Pasta with Lentils	Pasta with Garlic & Parmesan	-
Apple & Berry Crumble served with Custard	Lemon & Lime Drizzle Cake	Rice Krispy Cake	Chocolate Chip Cookie	Marble Cake

Available daily:
 Sandwiches, Wraps &
 Baguettes, Panini, Jacket
 Potatoes, Cold Desserts & Fruit



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer many opportunities for learning. Use the following tips to support reading at home:

Questions Fill free to use your home language when talking about the book.	All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to'. Ask questions before, during, and after reading aloud. This can help your child focus attention on the ideas in the story. So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is happening?• Where is this?• Who is that?• When might this be happening?
Ask your child to summarise what they have read	Model how to summarise the key events/facts in the book. Encourage your child to have a go using a proper sentence and relate the book to what he/she already knows or has experienced.
Maintain the motivation to read	Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Engage in conversations; offer a literacy-rich environment, even talk about school, magazines, or current events. Ask them what they are reading and discuss the books. Also, ask them about their reading age and appreciate their efforts.



SCHOOL CLUBS



Languages Department

Our KS3 students are thriving in our MFL club, which meets after school every alternate Tuesday (each Week A) from **3:30pm to 4:30pm** in **T5** with Ms Shaw. Our aim is to explore languages, cultural ideas and activities, have fun with friends, and forge new friendships – full of (jelly) beans of course!

Mr. Orval welcomes you to:

STRINGS CLUB

bowed string instruments available

TUESDAYS
3:15-4PM
XA room

Love music? Want to learn how to play in a string ensemble? Join Mr Orval on **Tuesdays at 3:15pm** in the **XA room**. Several instruments (violin, viola, cello) are available for new/aspiring members. Contact your music teacher for further details.

D+T Club- KS3 DESIGNeers



If you love a challenge, enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making, consider joining our D&T team of DESIGNeers (designers and engineers). We would LOVE you to join us! Please see, or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams** and join us at **DESIGNeers Club** on a **Monday afterschool in A3**.

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 meeting will be held every week after school on Friday, 3.30-4.00pm in T-15. Open to year 7 to year 11.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (wealth out of waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating landform models (volcano, coastal landforms, riverine landforms and glacial landforms) and planting herbs.

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

YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

WEDNESDAYS FROM 3:15PM TILL 4PM

Come along and see why
Science is so cool!

Led by
Mrs. Lionel

For more information please
contact Mrs. Lionel

PE After School Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Badminton and Basketball	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Badminton and Basketball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	Badminton and Basketball	Badminton and Basketball	Badminton and Basketball	Badminton and Basketball
Afterschool	Year 7-9 Basketball JCO Rugby Girls and Boys HMC/THU Girls Football MJO Year 7+8 boys Football FWA	Netball- all year groups AAN MJO KBR Dance HST Basketball year 10, 11, 12 and 13 JCO	Year 9-11 boys Football THU Trampolineing KBR		Fitness - all year groups