

St Joseph's

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, 26 November 2021

NEWSLETTER



Have you ever wondered about the difference between batteries and electricity from outlets, or how to make a circuit?...

This is exactly what our Year 8 students have been learning in their science lessons this week.

FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the successful completion of the PPE exams this week it's been a case of returning back to the normal routine towards the end of the week. Next week sees us turn towards Advent and all that that brings. One of the best times of the year and a light of hope in times of uncertainty and darkness.

Invite to the first Parent Forum Group

Our first ever Parent Forum Group will be meeting at 5.30pm Monday 6th December 2021 in the school hall.

Alongside our typical continuous work to improve the school, we have been working hard to develop plans to support the recovery process from the short and longer-term effects of Covid-19 on the education of the children we serve. Throughout the past few terms, we have been working on a number of approaches to help evolve the school to help us provide the best possible education for the children in our care given these challenges.

The purpose of the group is for us to share, discuss and evolve new initiatives, ideas and policies that will enhance the education provided at the school over the years ahead.

Thank you to all our parents who have already confirmed their interest in attending this group – if you would like to participate in this group then please email m.mclaughlin@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

Have a cracking weekend,

St Joseph, Pray for us.

Ciran Stapleton

THEME OF THE WEEK – Be ALERT!

We have now entered into the season of Advent, a time of waiting and expectant hope. Our theme this week is 'Be Alert!' as we hear in the Gospel to be always on the watch for when Jesus comes again, to not get caught up in the cares and worries of the world. As we begin to look towards the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we are reminded of the words of Jesus here in the Gospel "stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near". Jesus was the long expected 'Messiah', who was to bring redemption and salvation to the people of Israel, to all the people of the world. Jesus has come already, but Advent and Christmas is the great time when we remember His coming into the world, in His Incarnation. It is an exciting time, but we must remember to enjoy the journey of Advent before we can celebrate the feast of Christmas.

- How are you going to use the four weeks of Advent?
- Are you going to reflect on the stories of Jesus' birth from the Gospels?
- Are you going to take some extra time to pray?
- Are you going to think and reflect on what it means to 'be alert'?

As well as the theme we have in school each week, the weeks of Advent have a specific theme too. The first week of Advent is Hope.

- What does this word mean to you?
- What is it you are hoping for during this time of Advent?

Throughout the four weeks of Advent, we continue to celebrate the feast days of the saints that occur during this time. We celebrate the feast days of St Andrew, St Francis Xavier, St Lucy, St Nicholas and St Ambrose, just to name a few. We can wonder how these saints lived out their faith during Advent, what traditions they had, and how they prepared for the great celebration of Christmas.

Perhaps spend some time reflecting on the lives of the saints.

Is there something within their life story that inspires you?

Be Alert!

Weekly Reflections 29th November 21







A reading from St Luke's Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Prayer for the Week

Keep us alert, we pray,
O Lord our God, as we
await the advent of
Christ your Son, so
that, when he comes
and knocks, he may
find us watchful in
prayer and exultant in
his praise.
Amen.

Day 1

We have now entered into the season of Advent, a time of waiting and expectant hope. Our theme this week is 'Be Alert!' as we hear in the Gospel to be always on the watch for when Jesus comes again, to not get caught up in the cares and worries of the world. As we begin to look towards the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we are reminded of the words of Jesus here in the Gospel "stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near". Jesus was the long expected 'Messiah', who was to bring redemption and salvation to the people of Israel, to all the people of the world. Jesus has come already, but Advent and Christmas is the great time when we remember His coming into the world, in His Incarnation. It is an exciting time, but we must remember to enjoy the journey of Advent before we can celebrate the feast of Christmas. How are you going to use the four weeks of Advent? Are you going to reflect on the stories of Jesus' birth from the Gospels? Are you going to take some extra time to pray? Are you going to think and reflect on what it means to 'be alert'?

Day 2

Jesus is speaking in quite a dramatic way about His second coming, in apocalyptic language and imagery. It sounds a bit scary in some way, but in actual fact there is a lot of hope in His words. We must have an openness and a hope, to be alert and to expect Christ who loves us unconditionally. He longs for our peace and so we must keep focused on Christ who is our peace. Let us stand ready today, to welcome the Lord Jesus into our lives. We never know when we are going to encounter Him. Welcome everyone you meet today as Christ. How can you welcome everyone as Christ today?

Day 3 St Francis Xavier (Feast 3rd December)

Today we pray a prayer of St Francis Xavier:

O my Lord Jesus!

Teach me to be generous;

teach me to serve You as you deserve;

to give, and not to count the cost;

to fight and not to heed the wounds;

to toil and not to ask for rest;

to labour, seeking no reward,

save that of knowing that I do Thy will. Amen.

Day 4 'Hope'

The first week of Advent is all about 'hope'. As we reflect on our faith and this word, what could each letter of the word 'hope' stand for? (Example: 'H' - happiness)

Day 5

Almighty God, the Spirit of beauty, truth and grace, grant us today the faith that knows our hearts are restless till they rest in You. Amen.

Literacy - Word and Idiom of the Week

The word this coming week is 'prophetic', an adjective, which means to accurately predict what will happen in the future, to think about the potential consequences to actions and to act accordingly. It has religious connotations, which are to be prophetic, is to think about making better choices, to speak the truth (even when others may not want to hear it). It is standing up for what is right, even if this is unpopular. It is living by actions and not words.

The idiom this coming week is 'To be born with the silver spoon in one's mouth', which describes someone who is born into privilege. Privilege refers to an advantage that only one person or group of people has, usually because of their position or because their birth.

Mr Clark

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Mr McLaughlin

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 have had a very productive week. We have come to the end of our first book which we are reading in Form Time. All year 7 students have now read Private Peaceful, so please do ask them about it.

I want to repeat my message from a few weeks ago. The weather is getting drastically colder, and we will still be keeping windows open in classrooms to allow for suitable ventilation through the pandemic. Please ensure that your child is layering up underneath their uniform to ensure they do not get cold through the school day.

I would like to pass my prayers and best wishes to families in our community who are feeling the effects of CV-19. I will continue to pray for you all.

Miss O'Connor

YEAR 8 NEWS

Assessments are about to start so please make sure that you are fully prepped. Please make sure you are wearing your coats into school as the weather is getting cold. This week in PHSE we were looking at the effects of smoking and vaping. This provoked some really mature class discussions and reflection. Next week is house assemblies in the hall so make sure you know when yours is.

In the meantime I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

Mrs Dunleavy



Services to encourage students aged 12-13; especially girls to consider a career in tech, challenging long standing gender stereotypes.

Our students today were very excited to take on the challenged to become innovators of technology that would change lives.

Year 8 AWS Get IT launch assembly in the Hall

Maise Fernandes an Amazon Web Service employee launched the AWS GetIT competition, which is an app-building challenge to encourage young students to design an app to solve real issues faced by their school or community.

AWS GET IT is an initiative designed by Amazon Web



YEAR 9 NEWS

TVLP:

Last night Miss WD, Miss Boland, Belatriz Lamelo (y12) and Hannah Crow (y12) went to an event hosted at Eton College by author of "Taming the Four Horsemen: Radical solutions to defeat pandemics, war, famine and the death of the planet". A very fitting event for our current global climate which has advanced our students with a breadth of additional knowledge to that of which they are learning in the classroom.

Upcoming Events:

Environmental speaker event with Professor Alistair Griffiths, RHS Director of Science and visiting Professor of Royal Holloway, Chair of the UK Horticultural Science Research. **Thursday 2nd December, 8.45pm - 9.45pm.** Location: Eton College. To register your interest in attending this event, please email Miss WD g.wellesley-davies@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Brain Day with Dr Guy Sutton, Honorary (Consultant) Assistant Professor in the Division of Psychiatry at University of Nottingham. Location: St Mary's School Ascot. Thursday 24th February 2022, 9.00am - 4.00pm. Brain Day is MBI's flagship tutorial and aims to take students around and beyond A-level material and into degree-level concepts and research. It is intended to be inspirational, enriching, exciting and challenging. It is fast-paced and introduces students to the very latest studies in neuroscience, providing an insight into what is current and exciting in brain research. Each Brain Day tutorial considers topics such as how nerve cells work, drugs and the brain, functional neuroanatomy and research methods (including fMRI, EEG, ERPs, post-mortem and connectomics). Lunch will be provided. To register your interest in attending this in-person event, email Miss WD g.wellesley-davies@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Dr Guy Sutton will be hosting a lecture on the brain at St Mary's School Ascot from 7.00pm on Thursday 24th February 2022. Talk title TBC. Open to students & staff from TVLP schools. To register your interest in attending this in-person event, email Miss WD g.wellesley-davies@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Dear Year 9 Parents and Carers,

How fortunate we have been with this autumnal sun, it really makes the school grounds a great place to be and Year 9 continue to display this gratitude week-on-week both inside and out of the classroom. Some fantastic work and assessments taking place this week; in RE they have been studying about God and his Kingdom and parables which denote this, in English they have been writing analytically against Shakespeare's work and in PSHE students have been learning about peer influence, substance abuse and gangs.

Launching on Monday is our Christmas RAK's Challenge!

This advent, to spread some kindness amongst our school and wider community, Year 9 will be engaging with a **Random Acts of Kindness Challenge.** There will be a challenge card students can keep in their planner folder with a list of acts of kindness they can complete to either their peers, teachers or family members. Once the act is complete, the person who received the act must sign the act off to signify that the act of kindness was received. Once the challenge card is completed, **every student** can hand in the card to me to get a Christmas treat before the holidays!

The Challenge will last for the next 3 weeks, until the end of term.

The key thing here to remember is that the aim of the challenge is to spread kindness, love and gratitude during the Advent period.

Have a great weekend!

Miss WD

YEAR 10 NEWS

Dear All,

We have had a fantastic few weeks of hard work in Year 10 as we approach the Christmas period. In assembly this week we discussed that every lesson counts and how vital it is to try our best every day.

End of term assessments are beginning to commence across the board which will be a chance to review our progress this year ahead of the Autumn 2 reports.

This term we recognised the 20 top attitude to learning students in Year 10 by holding a pizza party to celebrate. Next half term we will be doing the same incentive for the 20 most improved ATL students, this is an opportunity for everyone.

Mr Robinson

YEAR 11 NEWS

Firstly a massive well done on completing your assessments. I would also like to say congratulations to Harrison Mwangi, Seb Stacey and Luca Clark for representing the county football team at the weekend. I would also like to congratulate Natalia Malczewska for winning an award in the recent Young Writer's Anthology for her poem. Well done all!

Have a lovely weekend and I will see you all on Monday.

Mr Cudmore



Well done to year 11 and PE!

Three St Joseph's boys (which is a lot all from 1 school) (Luca, Harrison and Seb) represented the county in a match against Hertfordshire on Saturday.

All 3 played well with Luca able to claim 'assists' for both Berkshire goals.

Sadly they did not come out winners but I have included the tweet by Berkshire schools FA which suggests a positive and good game and also a photo of the St Joes lads.

Have a super week!

Mrs Stacey

Update! Sixth Form Taster Day for Year 11 Students – 7th of December 2021

Year 11 students will find information specific to the Taster Day on our school website, here: https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/joining-us/taster-day-2021/

Taster Day is an exciting first step for Year 11 students into their journey beyond Year 11. The students will take part in a Sixth Form Taster Day on the 7th of November, in which they will experience a full day as a sixth form student. They will join a sixth form tutor for registration, attend taster lessons and attend a PSHE assembly in their final period of the day. The lessons will provide deeper insight into the A Level Curriculum and Pathways Information and Guidance, tailored to their needs. The day is an important part of the process of ensuring students are on the right courses for them that lead them to progression to university or employment in line with their career goals. Students will come dressed as sixth formers, i.e. in professional, office wear (please see the policy here: https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/home/news-and-events/term-dates/)

For more information and guidance on how to choose subjects, please see our prospectus on the Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening page: https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/joining-us/virtual-open-evening-2021/

SIXTH FORM

YEAR 12 NEWS

Well done to all year 12 for your conduct during the last two weeks. You have been punctual and smartly dressed. Very impressive your attendance improvement comparing with the beginning of the year.

We are returning to assemblies in the main hall with house assemblies on the following days next week. You must attend on the correct day otherwise you will be given a detention.

Monday: Teresa Tuesday: Peter

Wednesday: Veronica / Mark in Drama

Thursday: Jerome Friday: Cecilia

All sixth form students must line up in the quad by **8:25am** with perfect uniform. Just a reminder that you must be wearing a blazer at all times and jumpers are an addition not an alternative. It's a good idea to layer up in the cold weather as coats are not allowed on in classrooms.

Interventions are going to begin from Monday. I will put copies of the list up in the study room and will email individual students involved.

Please can you all continue to Lateral flow test twice a week. There are plenty of testing kits in the study room if you need more. In addition, make sure masks are worn in communal areas and you are washing hands regularly.

PSHE next week is on Thursday period 3. Please can you all ensure you bring your iPads fully charged for this session.

Take care and enjoy your weekend!

Mr Romero

Economics in Action in Y12



On Friday 26th November our Year 12 Economists attend a Virtual Economics conference.

The inspirational day of Economics talks for KS5 students featured industry leaders, academics and public servants. Students attended five highly educational sessions on areas covered in their course, such as, the labour market, behavioural economics, environmental policies, finance and how the UK economy is performing.

This was an invaluable opportunity for students to get some real-world insight in to the Economics world. Students thoroughly enjoyed the event and the immersion in to real life Economics in Action! Students were able to engage in a

live Q&A session and live polls to get them thinking about key economic issues.

Students showed excellent commitment to the subject and represented St. Joseph's in an impeccable manner.

Well done to our future Economists!

Miss Hurley

Some quotes from students about the day:

'Enlightening and expanded my thoughts on Economics.'

"Learnt crucial life skills for studying."

'Informative and great to be able to interact with the speaker through live questions.'

'Great insight in to potential future jobs in the speakers respective fields.'



YEAR 13 NEWS

Well done to all year 13 for your conduct during the exams over the last few weeks. You have been punctual, smartly dressed and focused.

Next week house assemblies will be in the main hall on the following days;

Monday: Teresa

Tuesday: Peter

Wednesday: Veronica / Mark in Drama

Thursday: Jerome

Friday: Cecilia

All sixth form students must line up in the quad by 8:25 with perfect uniform. Just a reminder that you must be wearing a blazer at all times and jumpers are an addition not an alternative. It's a good idea to layer up in the cold weather as coats are not allowed on in classrooms.

Interventions are going to begin from Monday. I will put copies of the list up in the study room and will email individual students involved.

Please can you all continue to Lateral flow test twice a week. There are plenty of testing kits in the study room if you need more. In addition, make sure masks are worn in communal areas and you are washing hands regularly.

PSHE next week is on Thursday period 3.

Have a great week! Mrs Bray



Design and Technology Department

Plastics Challenge

This week year 12 made good use of some of the donated HDPE (number 2) plastics. They investigated and explored some of the processes and methods of working with plastics in a Hands-on way.

The year 12s were inspired and eager to design potential products. It was great to see their enthusiasm. This is a process we are keen to explore and expand further so please do add to our bottle top collection in A4.



Thank-you to Mr Deans and Mr Silver for leading the active learning. #notplayingEXPLORING.

D&T Stars of the week:

Zuzanna Drewnowska and Oliwia Mroz for their intentional, wise and learned work in Design and Technology.

DESIGNeers-KS3 DT club



The **DESIGNeers** continue to develop their Christmas products. A few finished articles already, and happy faces as pupils developed their sketches into real products using CAD/CAM.

We look forward to sharing more of their outcomes with you in December.

Christmas Hampers

As a school community, we're collecting items to fill hampers for those in our local area in need this Christmas time. Students are to bring in an item to contribute to the collection. Each form is being asked to put together one hamper. There will also be a box in the staff room for extra donations.

Hampers should include non-perishable food, toiletries and Christmas items. Please ensure items have a use by date of no earlier than February 2022.

Items should be suitable for children, families AND vulnerable/older people:

- Christmas card or festive message
- Festive treats such as Christmas pudding, biscuits, cake & mince pies
- Christmas chocolate selection boxes
- Tinned goods such as meat, fish, vegetables, fruit & soup
- Pasta & pasta sauces
- Instant mash potato, rice or noodles
- Jams & marmalades
- Cereals & porridge
- Milk (UHT or powdered, not fresh)
- Tea bags, coffee & sugar
- Fruit juice cartons & squash
- Toiletries such as shower gel & flannel, aftershave & perfume
- Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Christmas gift sets
- Stationary & colouring books
- Scarves, gloves & socks

If you would like to fill more than one hamper, it will be gratefully received.

Deadline: Friday 10th December 2021





Maths challenge questions for this week

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

Let the squares on the border of the large square have side-length 1. Then the large square has side-length 5 and area 25. Note that 8 of the 16 squares on the border of the large square are shaded. The area of the central region of the large square is 25 - 16 = 9. Three-quarters of this area is shaded.

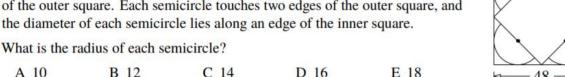
Therefore, the fraction of the large square which is shaded is $\frac{8 + \frac{3}{4} \times 9}{25} = \frac{32 + 27}{100} = \frac{59}{100}$. So 59% of the large square is shaded.

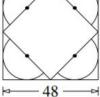
Solution to the Break time Teaser:

Note that $53 \times 57 = (43 + 10)(47 + 10) = 43 \times 47 + 43 \times 10 + 10 \times 47 + 10 \times 10$ $= 2021 + (43 + 47 + 10) \times 10 = 2021 + 100 \times 10 = 2021 + 1000 = 3021.$

Problem of the week

The diagram shows two squares and four equal semicircles. The edges of the outer square have length 48 and the inner square joins the midpoints of the edges of the outer square. Each semicircle touches two edges of the outer square, and the diameter of each semicircle lies along an edge of the inner square.





Break time Teaser:

Adam's house number is in exactly one of the following ranges. Which one?

A 123 to 213

B 132 to 231

C 123 to 312

D 231 to 312

E 312 to 321

Send your answers to Mr Allinson

The first full complete answer will get satchel points





The Adoration of the Magi, c. 1478/1482 Sandro Botticelli

To celebrate the beginning of Advent and look forward to the birth of baby Jesus at Christmas, St. Joseph's Art department would like to invite you all to join us in producing an A4 design for a Christmas Card. Your cards can be as creative and inventive as you wish; glam with glitter or digging with digital, the winning design will be original and creative, reflecting the 'Spirit' of joy and kindness we can all bring to one another at this special time.

There will be a winner chosen from each year group and some
Christmas goodies as prizes. The winning design will be
produced for the school Christmas card.

Please collect an entry sheet from the Art department and return to Ms Aldridge or Miss Irvine.

Closing date: - Friday 3rd December 2021

St Joseph's Carol Service

Students who would like to participate in the Music for the Carol Service need to attend rehearsal on **Tuesday Mornings 8:00am-08:25am.**

Music Department Clubs

All clubs are back on and practice rooms are open.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Carol Service			
Before School		Rehearsals			Practice Rooms
8:00am-08:25am		(Singing)			Open
Break 1: 10:05am	Practice Rooms		Practice Rooms	Practice Rooms	
-10:20am	Open		Open	Open	
Break 2:	Practice Rooms			Practice Rooms	
11:05am-11:20am	Open			Open	
Lunch 1:	Guitar Club (All	Practice Rooms			Band Club
12:30pm - 12:55pm	Years)	Open			(Yrs 8, 9 & 10)
Lunch 2:	Guitar Club (All	Practice Rooms	Practice Rooms	Keyboard Club	
1:30pm - 1:55pm	Years)	Open	Open	(Yr7)	
Afterschool			Production Singing		
3:00pm - 4:30pm	GCSE Composition	GCSE Composition	Rehearsals		GCSE Composition

House competition: John Lewis Christmas Advert

The media department would like to see your creative and technological talents by creating a *John Lewis* Christmas Advert for 2021.

The advert must include:

- A clear positive message
- A loveable and relatable character
- Non diegetic music (a soundtrack) that is suitable for your plot
- Please do not film your advert inside school
- If you cannot put a filmed advert together than a picture storyboard of the advert would be accepted.



You can film and edit all footage on your iPad or phone. If you have neither and would like to participate, then please come to see Mrs Cumming in E4.

Entries to be emailed to Mrs Cumming by Monday 6th December

r.cumming@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

PUPIL NOMINATIONS OF THE WEEK

YEAR 7

Oliver Kroliczek for his learned approach to lessons. Kosi Anyadiegwu for his truthful attitude.

Nikola Zulewska for resilience and sterling effort in Spanish.

YEAR 8

Szymon Przerwa for excellent work in PE Simona Teckle for all round ACTIVE and CURIOUS classwork. Well done!

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

Mikolaj Sycz and **Ethan Louis** for being consistently intentional learners.

YEAR 11

For **every** Year 11 student for how they have handled themselves with their assessments over the past 2 weeks. Well done!!

YEAR 12

Dorien Chakaodza for wonderful work in BTEC Sports.

Lyric Boateng-Lovinger for wonderful questioning in Psychology.

YEAR 13

Natalie Shaundale for excellent participation is Psychology and **Marvin Fotso** for effort in Philosophy and Ethics.