



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 27th June 2025



Student Leadership and Oracy Champions Collaboration

This week, our newly elected Head Boys, Head Girls and their Deputies met with our Oracy Champions to kick-start an exciting collaboration. Together, they discussed key priorities for the year ahead and how to harness the power of oracy to strengthen student voice and leadership across the school. This partnership marks the beginning of an ongoing initiative that will continue to grow in the new academic year.

Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

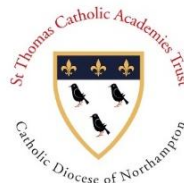
I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the image below to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.



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!"

St Peter and St Paul

Weekly Reflections
30th June 2025
13th week in Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of Matthew 16: 13-19

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

We remember through pray St Peter and St Paul who have gone ahead of us in the journey of faith, running the race set before them, and holding firm to the end.

Grant to them and to us your eternal blessing.

Amen

Day 1

It what year is the earliest recording of the 29th June being a feast day for St Peter and St Paul?

Why are these two men so special within the church?

Day 2

What difficulties do you think St Peter and St Paul encountered in their ministry?
How can you be more Faith-Filled and Hopeful in your journey of faith?

Day 3

Jubilee year of Hope
Pledge - please see the PPT

Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15. We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet. Caring for the earth is integral to our task of tackling the scandal of global poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice and exclusion. Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources. The late Pope Francis said "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" Laudato Si' 13 and "...the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." Laudato Si' 159.

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

Theme of the Week – St Peter and St Paul

On Sunday, we celebrated the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul. Apart from All Saints Day and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where both are Holy Days of Obligation, this is the only other Holy Day of Obligation given over to Saints. The earliest Roman Calendar recorded goes back to 350AD and it stated then that the 29th June should be given over to celebrate St Peter and St Paul. So, we may ask why, why are these two men so special to the Church? It is because these two men are known as pillars of the Church. Peter, the shepherd, who governed from his chair in Rome was the first Pope of the Church. Whereas Paul, the Apostle, went out across nations to spread the news of Christianity through his letters and visits. These two men are the great early leaders of the Church.

This Solemnity reminds us of the need for diversity in vocations and ministries within the church. Neither of these two leaders could have achieved what they did without the help and assistance of numerous other women and men beside them. We can also imagine the difficulties, uncertainty and fear they may have come across when spreading the Good News of Christ. It is important then to acknowledge what was asked to Peter in Caesarea Philippi, **“Who do you say I am?”** (Matthew 16:13-15), Like Peter, we are called to a profound personal encounter with Christ, a revelation that transcends mere opinion. This intimate knowledge of Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God” must be the bedrock of our faith. Throughout their vocation the two men showed remarkable hope and love.

Your decisions, rooted in Christ, have eternal significance for us as a school community and what we example. Embrace this profound responsibility with joy and courage, knowing that the “gates of the underworld shall never prevail against...” a school built on such a foundation. As we continue our pilgrimage in this Jubilee year, how can you be more **Faith-Filled** and **Hopeful** just as St Peter and St Paul were?



Pupil Nominations of the Week

<p>Year 7 Manmeet-Ioana Tomaczek and Denis Puidokas for excellent weeks.</p>
<p>Year 8 Julia Zaluga and Sameer Gupta</p>
<p>Year 9 Edzio Stacey and Wiki Wrobel, as voted for by Year 9 Form Tutors.</p>
<p>Year 10 Kasper Gazda and Maya Kordaczka for receiving the most positive points this week.</p>
<p>Year 12 This week's nominations go to our newly appointed leaders: Cameron Fyfe and Joel Manalody (Head Boys) Isabelle Byakumana (Head Girl) Ann Kavalakkat (Deputy Head Girl) Congratulations on successfully completing a rigorous and sometimes challenging selection process!</p>

Year 7 News

Last reminder for **Parents' Evening next Thursday (3rd July)**. Please make sure that you have confirmed attendance on ParentPay, this needs to be done prior to the end of Monday please.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Year 8 have had another strong week, with a **positive to negative ratio of 94%**. As we enjoy brighter weather, please be mindful that uniform standards must remain high. All students should be in full, correct uniform at the start and end of every lesson and when moving around the school. We have seen 22 Xs for uniform this week, following 25 last week, making this the main reason for sanctions over the past fortnight. It is important that we maintain the high standards, showing we are the best Year in the school.

Have a fantastic weekend, and please take the time to look after yourselves and your loved ones.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

The Year 9's have been completing their Progress Tests over the last couple of weeks and have had some amazing results; with Maths going from 102 to a whopping 108 points and Science has increased from 100.6 to 110.6 points – which is a massive increase in achievement. (For reference, 100 points is the National Average.) **A huge well done to our students!**

Next Friday (4th July), is my favourite day of the year: SPORTS DAY. Students have been choosing their teams in Form Time and it looks to be a fantastic day again.

Have a great weekend.

Ms McCormack – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

Firstly, a **huge congratulations to each and every one of you** for the mature and focused way you approached your PPEs. Your conduct throughout the exam period has been excellent, and it's clear that you're taking this important stage of your school journey seriously.

As we head into the final few weeks of term, there's plenty to look forward to:

- **Sports Day – Friday 4th July**
- **Awards Evening – Thursday 10th July**
- **Academic Review Day – Monday 14th July**
- **Rewards Trip – Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th July**

Keep up the excellent attitude and effort – the summer holidays are nearly here!

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 12 News

Year 12 PPEs came to a close this week and now the process begins for Teachers to assess their progress and produce reports, which will be available shortly. Most discussions on academic progress between Parents/Carers and Staff will take place on our **Academic Review Day – Monday 14th July**. Please ensure that you have booked an appointment to see your child's Form Tutor.

Next week is an exciting and somewhat different week for Year 12, as many students have enrolled in a day of online Work Experience – which will take place within school. Each day focuses on a different speciality and careers path. On Wednesday, we are also teaming up with *Learning to Work* once more to provide the students with an opportunity to experience a mock interview process with an industry professional. The feedback they receive from this will be invaluable in their preparation for applying for post-18 destinations next year.

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Walthamstow Wetlands

Our Year 12 Geography students recently enjoyed an engaging and insightful field trip to Walthamstow Wetlands, where they explored the impact of invasive species on local ecosystems. As part of their AQA A-Level Geography fieldwork, students investigated real-world examples of environmental change and developed essential geographical skills, including data collection, analysis and collaborative enquiry.

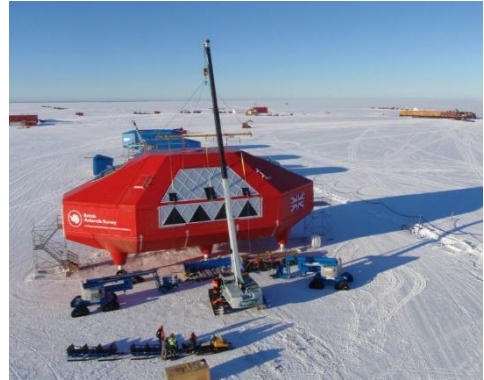
In a spirit of academic partnership and community, our students worked alongside peers from St Michael's School in Aylesbury. The collaboration encouraged mutual learning and positive social interaction, reflecting the *principles of Catholic Social Teaching* – especially *stewardship of the environment* and *solidarity across school communities*.

The day was both educational and enjoyable, deepening students' understanding of key course content while reminding us of our shared responsibility to care for creation.



Geography Club

The Geography Club has been venturing into the fascinating world of Antarctica! Our recent activities allowed students to virtually step inside the innovative Halley VI Research Station, offering a unique perspective on life and work in this remote and extreme environment. We also engaged in practical challenges, learning how to layer up correctly for the Antarctic cold and understanding the detailed process of preparing for an expedition; from health checks and specialised training to getting passports and packing for the journey south. These virtual experiences provided an excellent insight into the incredible planning and resilience required for polar research!

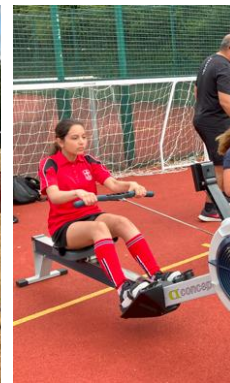


TVLP Sports Activity Morning – Wednesday 25th June

This week, we took 48 students from Years 7-9 to participate in the Thames Valley Learning Partnership (TVLP) Athletics Sports Day. Students from across the TVLP gathered for the much-anticipated TVLP Athletics Sports Day, held at Beechwood school. The event brought together young athletes from member schools, showcasing not only sporting talent but also the camaraderie and community spirit that defines TVLP.

From the starting whistle to the final relay baton, the track was alive with energy. Pupils participated in a wide range of athletic events, including sprints, long jump, high jump, shot put, Javelin and relays. Each event was a display of determination, resilience and sportsmanship.

A huge well done to all those who took part and represented the school with pride.



House Competition Highlights: Tissue Tantrum Challenge!

Last week's House Competition brought laughter, teamwork and a flurry of flying tissues in our brilliantly chaotic **Tissue Tantrum** challenge! In this fast-paced task, students worked in pairs to empty tissue boxes one tissue at a time – and then race to carefully put them all back in without tearing the box. It was a true test of patience, precision, and partnership.

After an intense (and slightly messy!) showdown, **Teresa House** emerged victorious. A **huge well done to all who took part** – and watch this space for the next Exciting House Challenge!

SENDCO

CONNECT WORKSHOP

Support and connect with your neurodiverse child.

HOME START
Berkshire East

FACE TO FACE



INTERACTIVE SUPPORT

- Meet other parents going through the same issue.
- Form friendships and support each other.
- Manage common meltdowns, special interests, anxiety, and sensory issues.

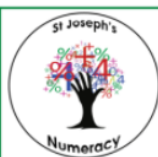
VENUE:
Chalvey Grove
Childrens Centre
Montem Middle
School
Slough
SL1 2TE

DATES AND TIMES:

Join us for free connection-driven parenting for neurodiverse families.

FREE 17th September - 15th October
2 hours a week for 5 weeks
9:30am - 11:30am

01753 572958 / office@homestartberkshireeast.org.uk



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- D The diagram shows that a triangle whose area is one quarter of that of the square may be divided into four congruent triangles, one of which is the shaded triangle.
So the required fraction is $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16}$.



Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- A The mean of p and q is 13. Therefore $p + q = 2 \times 13 = 26$. Similarly, $q + r = 2 \times 16 = 32$ and $r + p = 2 \times 7 = 14$. Adding these three equations gives $2p + 2q + 2r = 26 + 32 + 14 = 72$.
Hence $p + q + r = 36$. So the mean of p , q and r is $\frac{p + q + r}{3} = \frac{36}{3} = 12$.

Puzzler of the week

I start at square "1", and have to finish at square "7", moving at each step to a higher numbered adjacent square.
How many possible routes are there?



- A 7 B 9 C 10 D 11 E 13

Break-Time Teaser

Four of the following coordinate pairs are the corners of a square.
Which is the odd one out?

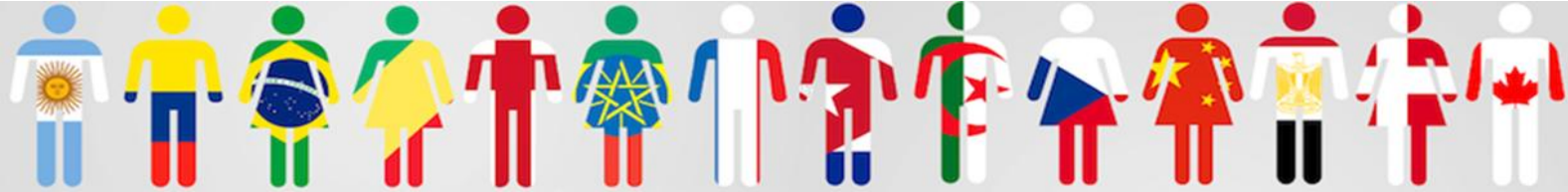
- A (4, 1) B (2, 4) C (5, 6) D (3, 5) E (7, 3)

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

Menu

<div>WEEKLY MENU</div> <div>St Joseph's Catholic High School - Week One</div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Korean Fried Chicken Burger	Beef Bolognese with Pasta & Parmesan Cheese	Pork Sausages served with Mashed Potatoes	Chicken Enchilada	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips & Tartare Sauce
Sweet Potato & Chickpea Tagine served with Couscous	Quorn Enchilada	Vegetable & Edamame Bean Noodle Stir-Fry	Vegetable Tikka Masala served with Rice & a Poppadom	Bombay Potato Frittata
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Baked Beans or Mushy Peas
Tomato & Basil Pasta Pot	Red Pesto Pasta Pot	Tuna Pasta Pot	Pasta with a Tomato & Chilli Sauce	-
Jacket Potato with a Selection of Toppings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	-
Chocolate Brownie	Fruit Crumble served with Custard	Iced Vanilla Sponge	Dorset Apple Cake	Salted Caramel Banana Bread

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



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Languages)

Did You Know?

It is widely recognised that when parents/carers and families are involved in their child's education, they do better at school and have better feelings and a more positive attitude about learning. By learning together as a family and making it part of your daily life, it shows you value education and that learning can be enjoyable.

Here are some ideas to help you be a positive role model for learning and help your kids develop a love of learning.

- **Read together:** Look for time to read together and talk about the books you read.
- **Tell stories:** create time to tell stories from your childhood.
- **Give books:** Give your child a book for the holidays. It does not have to be new-visit your local library.

Free Online Resources

This is a useful website for learning English and for help with homework: [Learn English Teens](#)

