

Newsletter 30th January 2026



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Head Teachers Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is: [Head Teachers Message](#)

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

St Joseph, pray for us.

Miss Riddles

Dream Academy Residential

Ten students from St Joseph's had an unforgettable experience this week, taking part in the Riding a Dream Academy residential on Monday and Tuesday. The group travelled to Newmarket, the home of British racing, where they enjoyed a packed programme of horse riding lessons, jockey fitness training and hands-on horse handling. Students also had the exciting opportunity to visit the gallops and watch the horses in action. Bright and early starts saw them mucking out and feeding the horses before breakfast, giving them a real insight into the dedication, hard work and commitment required in the life of a horse handler or jockey. The residential was a fantastic opportunity, and all students represented the school brilliantly. A big thank you to the team at the British Racing School for hosting us this week.





21. Theme of the week 1st February 2026

The Beatitudes

Weekly Reflections
1st February 2026
4th Sunday of Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of Matthew (5: 1-12a)

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'



Loving God,

We thank you for the countless blessings we have received, the innumerable good things that surround us every moment of each day.

Loving God, for all you have given us, receive our praise.

Amen

Prayer for the Week

Day 1

Can you recall the gospel readings from the last 4 weeks? You can get 2 positive points for naming each theme since Christmas and 5 positive points if you can describe what happened in each Gospel reading

Day 3

How can you be more **Loving** and **Compassionate** this week to truly live out the Beatitudes given to us by Jesus?

Day 2

Why are the Beatitudes opposite to what has been taught about God before Jesus?
What do they teach us?

Theme of the Week - The Beatitudes

Since our return from the Christmas holidays, we have heard of Jesus' baptism, a sharing from John the Baptist of who Jesus was and the calling of the first disciples. But we haven't heard a huge amount from Jesus himself. However, in Sunday's Gospel we do hear only from Jesus and in his teachings he uses paradoxes to make us think. It is only when the beatitudes are understood in the light of faith in God do we truly have an understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

So on this first major occasion in Matthew's Gospel where we hear from Jesus fully, we see and hear what is at the heart of the Christian message. For those before Christ, wealth and riches were believed to be a sign of God's blessing and poverty and suffering an indication that God was punishing. Jesus puts Christianity and the following of it at the complete opposite to everything people had taught and learnt previously. A difficult thing to comprehend for someone first hearing this. Only Matthew's account has Jesus giving this teaching on a mountain, the perfect complement for the new law of Jesus as the completion of the Law of Moses, given on Mount Sinai so many generations before. We find it hard to view poverty, mourning, hunger and persecution as blessings, and we are called to do all we can to alleviate the sufferings of others. Yet Jesus is showing us that all these sufferings reveal to us our need for God; and we can identify that those who are prosperous, comfortable and content find it much more difficult to really believe. Money, comfort and satisfaction can prevent us from seeing that without God we are lost, and human happiness without God is very transient.

Those who embrace the concept of the Beatitudes - those who are not self-satisfied, who mourn over sin, who long for God's justice and peace, those who do not judge others and are quick to forgive, those are the ones who are living the way that God desires people to live. They are truly blessed. Which of the beatitudes touches you most deeply at this present moment? During this week identify and consciously practice at least one way of showing humility in your daily life so you can be more **Loving** and **Compassionate** to those around you. It might be something like avoiding contradicting others, or not making excuses, or respecting other people's opinions.

Year 7 News

Year 7's are continuing to enjoy and engage in our weekly house competitions, well done to all of the winners in the past few weeks. It is a great spectacle watching. This week it was Hold & Fold.

Lots more exciting events and days to come!

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Well done to Year 8 students for their positive efforts this week, contributing to a total of 1,114 positive points across the school. Students have worked well in lessons, demonstrating improved focus, strong participation, and a positive attitude towards learning. It has also been pleasing to see students showing kindness and respect around the school, helping to maintain a calm and supportive environment.

A special congratulations to 8 Jerome for winning the Hold and Fold competition!

Please encourage all students to keep up the hard work, as their efforts are noticed and appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Well done to 9X1 and 9Y1 for taking part in the Maths Challenge on Wednesday. It has also been fantastic to see so many Year 9 students getting involved in the house competitions every Thursday, Well done to all.

I have noticed a recent increase in lateness to lessons and out-of-classroom behaviour. As a year group, let's make sure we are meeting expectations and getting all aspects of St Joseph's life right by being punctual, respectful, and ready to learn.

Finally, **Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place this Thursday, 5th February**. Please ensure that students are booking appointments with their teachers and that parents/guardians have confirmed their availability on the Parents' Evening on Parent Pay as soon as possible.

Have a good weekend, look after your loved ones.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

Well done to 10X1 and 10Y1 for taking part in the Maths Challenge on Wednesday, a great effort and excellent representation of the year group. A further well done to everyone who participated in this week's house competition, 'Hold and Fold,' fantastic spirit and teamwork.

We are currently seeing a rise in students talking during lessons and, more concerningly, arguing with teachers. This is behaviour we cannot accept, as it disrupts learning and undermines the respectful culture we expect. Your support at home in reinforcing expectations around manners, listening, and following instructions is very much appreciated

A reminder that we are currently reviewing Toilet Passes and medical evidence for wearing trainers around school. An announcement has been sent via ClassCharts; please check this if you have not yet seen it. If your child requires a toilet pass or needs to wear trainers for medical reasons, you must send medical evidence from a doctor to me so we can make the appropriate adjustments.

Have a great weekend, God bless.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

It's been a really positive week, and we want to thank you for the focus, maturity, and effort you've shown since returning. Next week students will have a results assembly on Friday where they will be receiving their results from their PPEs.

Maths, English, and Science interventions resumed this week, and attendance at these sessions is compulsory for all students who have been invited.

If your child is unable to attend for any reason, we require communication from a parent or guardian. This should be sent directly to myself (Head of Year 11) or to your child's intervention teacher. These sessions are vital in ensuring students receive the support they need, especially in the core subjects.

A reminder that Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 26th February.

Please ensure you confirm your attendance via ParentPay as soon as possible.

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

Year 12 have had a fabulous week and this is reflected in the positive points they have earned. The categories that have the highest points total are active and curious and good work. This highlights the effort the students are putting into their studies and they should be very proud of themselves.

Following a review of the most recent progress data there will be some students who will be given study time during our Wednesday electives slot to allow them to focus areas of weakness that have been identified by their assessments. These students will be spoken to individually and this will start from next week.

Just a gentle reminder that where possible medical appointments should be arranged for outside of school hours. We do make exceptions where this is not possible for example orthodontist or hospital appointments, but any routine appointments should be arranged for after school. I appreciate your support with this as any time away from school will impact student progress.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

It has been great seeing the Year 13 students settle back into their normal routine following their PPE examinations. I am super proud of their commitment to their studies and their determination to make the most of every learning opportunity.

We have had some absolutely fantastic offers for those students who have applied to university. Next Thursday we will hold a session offering advice on how to pick their firm and insurance choices. I am also in contact with the University of Portsmouth and am hoping to have someone deliver a session on student finance, more details on this to follow.

If you know your son or daughter has not applied to university and they would like some help figuring out their next steps then please do encourage them to get in touch with either myself or Miss Stevens and we will arrange a time to meet with them.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Finn - Head of Sixth Form

Students of the Week

Year 7: Natalie Andrew & Inigo Narvaez for excellent weeks!

Year 8: Harry Gardiner & Erish Pailan for Positive points points week

Year 9: Malika Abubakri & Jenson Martin

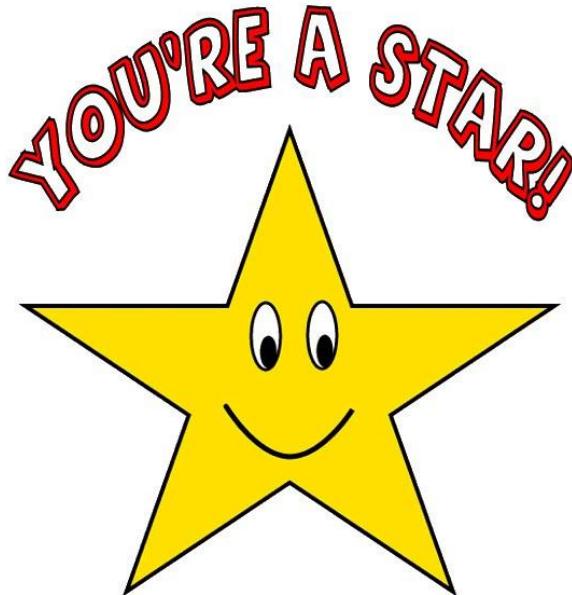
Year 10: Jessica Lysiak for welcoming a new student so well, and Amelia Gibas for getting plenty of positive points.

Year 11: Lynn Keyrouz and Patrick Lopez for receiving the most positive points this week.

Year 12: Peace Mukozho for the amazing work he has been doing in the Afro Dance elective and Evie Leonard-Finn for her outstanding effort in Geography

Year 13: Julia Lichosyt and Rophe Ramos for their hard work and effort this week

Homework Superstars



Robert Stacey 7 Peter

Denis Puidokas 8 Cecilia

Victor Dobrowolski 10 Peter

Well done to our Homework superstars of the week!

Parents Homework Review

As part of our ongoing school improvement work, we are currently reviewing our homework policy. To ensure this review reflects the needs of our students and families, it is essential that we gather your views and experiences. We would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire honestly, as your feedback will help inform future decisions and improvements.

Click on the link below to start the questionnaire, it will take you 2 minutes to complete. Please be sure to submit it by 6th of February, 2026. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

[Parents Homework Review Jan 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Philosophon at Eton College

Well done to our A level Philosophy and Ethics students, on Tuesday evening most of our year 12 and year 13 students attended a TVLP event at Eton college, the Philosophon!

They engaged in enriching conversations, ate lovely food and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones to compete in discussion with other schools. We're proud of them!



Weekly House Competition

Yesterday our weekly house competition was Hold or Fold.

This comprised of constructing a tower using marshmallows and spaghetti, the duo that build the highest freestanding tower were victorious.

Next week our House Competition is Bring Me!

It is great fun please sign up and get involved

 <u>Hold or Fold Results</u>		
	House	House Points
1 st Place	Mark	1000
2 nd Place	Jerome	800
3 rd Place	Peter	600
4 th Place	Veronica	400
5 th Place	Teresa	200
6 th Place	Cecilia	100
<u>Year Group Winners:</u> Year 7: Veronica Year 8: Jerome Year 9: Jerome Year 10: Mark Year 11: Peter Year 12: Mark		












HealthySchools

Slough Healthy Schools Award is here!

Promote a whole school approach to health and wellbeing.
Register for the research-backed 'School Health Check'.

Register: Sign up for the free, online self-evaluation toolkit
Evaluate: Assess your school's strengths and opportunities for improvement
Develop: Create actions plans to address areas of concern
Gain: Healthy Schools Status!




Public Health
Slough Borough Council


Slough
Borough Council

English Additional Language



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

The Importance of Mother Tongue Language in Education



Research indicates that having a strong mother tongue foundation leads to a much better understanding of the curriculum as well as a more positive attitude towards school, so it is vital that children maintain their first language when they begin schooling in a different language.

Developing the mother tongue is very important because when children develop their mother tongue, they are simultaneously fostering a whole host of other essential skills, such as **critical thinking and literacy skills**. It is this skill-set that they take with them into formal education, and research tells us that any skills and concepts gained in the learner's home language do not need to be re-taught when they transfer to a second language. For example, if a child has developed the ability to guess the meaning of a word through its context or to infer meaning by reading between the lines, these skills are easily transferred when they begin studying in a second language.

It is much harder, however, to teach these abstract skills directly through a second language.

Language and mother tongue also play a huge role in the development of personal, social and cultural identity. Children with a strong foundation in their first language often display a **deeper understanding of themselves and their place within society**, along with an increased sense of **wellbeing and confidence**. Certainly, this flows down into every aspect of their lives, including their academic achievement.

It is crucial to note that it is through language we learn **about culture**, whether it is someone else's language or our own. To deprive children of their mother language literacy is to deprive them of understanding his or her **cultural identity**, and for children growing up in UK society understanding one's cultural identity can become compromised or changed inevitably. Children who become balanced bilinguals and develop mother language proficiency (ideally from an early age), in addition to acquire languages such as English, are equipped to become global citizens. In conclusion, Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for both people and the planet.



Dates for the Diary

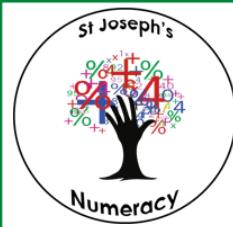
Upcoming PE dates:

Tuesday 3rd February- Yr 9 basketball vs Beechwood (A)

Tuesday 3rd February- KS1 cricket festival (sports leaders)

Wednesday 4th February- Dodgeball tournament

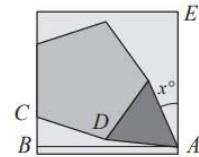
Wednesday 4th February- Yr 9 netball tournament @ LGS



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

A In the diagram, line segment AB is parallel to the base of the square. First note that each exterior angle of a regular pentagon equals $360^\circ \div 5 = 72^\circ$. So each interior angle of a regular pentagon equals $180^\circ - 72^\circ = 108^\circ$. Therefore obtuse angle $CDA = (60 + 108)^\circ = 168^\circ$ and reflex angle $CDA = (360 - 168)^\circ = 192^\circ$. The sum of the interior angles of a quadrilateral is 360° . Therefore, in quadrilateral $ABCD$, $\angle BAD = (360 - 192 - 72 - 90)^\circ = 6^\circ$. Angle BAE is a right angle. So $(6 + 60 + x)^\circ = 90^\circ$. Therefore $x = 90 - 66 = 24$.



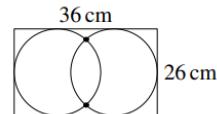
Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

D As the three rectangles have equal areas: $xy = (x+4)(y-3) = (x+8)(y-4)$.
 $xy = xy - 3x + 4y - 12 = xy - 4x + 8y - 32$.
 $-3x + 4y - 12 = 0$ and $-4x + 8y - 32 = 0$.
Rearranging: $3x - 4y = -12 \dots (1)$ and $4x - 8y = -32 \dots (2)$.
 $2 \times (1) - (2)$ gives: $6x - 4x = -24 - (-32) = 8$. So $x = 4$.
Substituting for x in (1): $12 - 4y = -12$. So, $4y = 24$, that is $y = 6$.
So $x + y = 4 + 6 = 10$.

Puzzler of the week

Two circles each touch three sides of a rectangle measuring $36 \text{ cm} \times 26 \text{ cm}$, as is shown in the diagram, which is not drawn to scale.

What is the distance between the two points where the circles intersect?



A 18 cm B 20 cm C 21 cm D 22 cm

E 24 cm

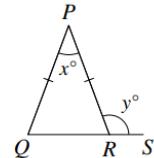
Break-Time Teaser

The triangle PQR is isosceles with $PQ = PR$. The point S lies on the extension of the line QR as shown.

$\angle RPQ = x^\circ$ and $\angle SRP = y^\circ$, where x, y and $\frac{y}{x}$ are integers.

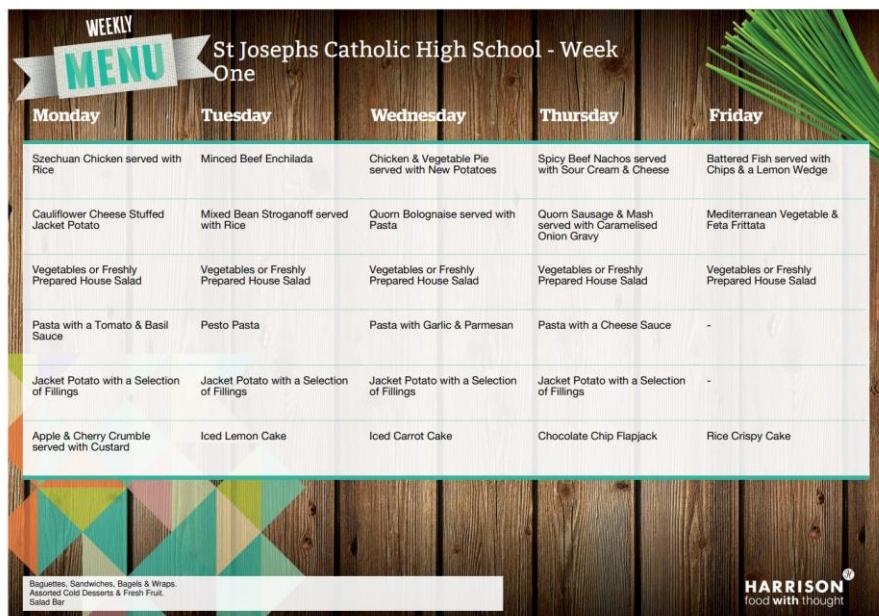
What is the largest possible value of $\frac{y}{x}$?

A 36 B 23 C 17 D 8 E 5



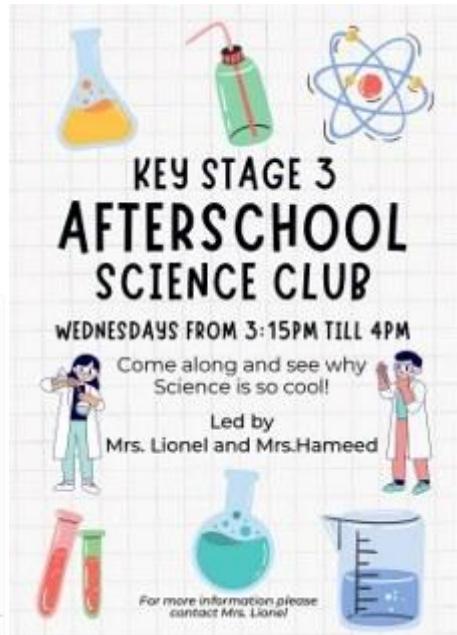
Send your answers to Mr Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts.

Menu: To see the dinner choices and price list please click [HERE](#)



Clubs

DESIGNEers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15



Welcome to Geography Club



The first Geography Club meeting will be held on Friday, 3rd October 2025 in T-15 at 3:20 - 4:00 p.m.

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 meetings will be held every week after school on Fridays, 3.20-4.00pm. Open to year 7 to year 9.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (Waste out of Waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating coastal landform models and planting herbs.



St Josephs Dance Club

Starting Monday 12th January in the Assembly Hall



Move. Groove. Repeat.
Dance Club – Mondays after school
Fun routines • New skills
No experience needed!



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	GCSE Students Badminton	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	GCSE Students Badminton	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN and MJO Football Year 7-13 boys FWA and THU Volleyball/ Badminton Year 7-13 JRO Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Dance Year 7-13 HST	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Football Year 7-13 THU Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO		

Term Dates

School Year 2026- 2027

Autumn Term	
Inset Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Whole school returns	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Inset Day	Friday 18 th September 2026
Half Term	Monday 19 th October 2026 to Friday 30 th October 2026
Term Ends	Friday 18 th December 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term	
Term Begins	Monday 4 th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 th February 2027 to Friday 19 th February 2027
Term End	Thursday 25 th March 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term	
Term Begins	Monday 12 th April 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 st May 2027 to Friday 4 th June 2027
Term Ends	Friday 16 th July 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Term Dates

School Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Monday 1 st September 2025
Inset Day	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Whole school returns	Thursday 4 th September 2025
Inset Day	Friday 19 th September 2025
Half Term	Monday 20 th October 2025 to Friday 31 st October 2025
Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins	Monday 5 th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February 2026 to Friday 20 th February 2026
Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Inset Day	Monday 13 th April 2026
Term Begins	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May 2026 to Friday 29 th May 2026
Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026 (12:30pm finish)