



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 8th November 2024



Welcome back students!

We have an exciting few weeks ahead as we count down to Christmas. A group of Year 13 A-Level Physics students set off for Geneva, Switzerland, on Thursday to visit the world-renowned CERN, where they'll explore the cutting-edge world of particle physics.

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

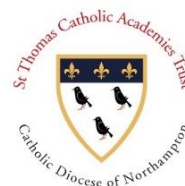
I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the below image to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.



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!"

The poor Widow

Weekly Reflections
10th November 2024
32nd Sunday of Ordinary time



From the Gospel of Mark (12:38-44)

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God,

We come to remember all you have done for us, we remember all those who have given so generously to others and we remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives for our freedom.

Lest we forget

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen

Day 1

Did you all as a class come to the same conclusions when assigning the words to the given person (rich or poor) in the Gospel?
Why do you think this was?

Day 2

How does the poor widow show great faith?
How do you think people at the time treated her?
How do you think the women felt?

Day 3

How can you be more **grateful** and **generous** in sharing your gifts and talents with the poor?
How can you make those in need feel differently and more positive to the poor widow?

Catholic Social Teaching - Option for the Poor

A preferential option for the poor means that we think first about the needs of those who are the most vulnerable. Jesus taught that when we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, look after the sick and visit those imprisoned, we are looking after Him. We work wherever the need is greatest. We refuse to accept the suffering of our brothers and sisters. No one should be beyond reach of the love and support they need "The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty!"

The [Option for the Poor] affects the life of each Christian as he or she seeks to imitate the life of Christ." St Pope John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 42

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

Theme of the Week – The poor Widow

After reading Sunday's Gospel, I wonder whether two students would be brave enough to stand up in front of the class and act out some of the Gospel? If not, can you all try and picture this in your mind. Can one student act out the image of someone well-off giving generously to the offertory? The second student, can you act the image of someone extremely poor giving all they have to the offertory? If two have acted this out in front or whether you have imagined this in your mind, can you associate the following words and phrases to the two different people. Who was loud and who was shy? Who had grand gestures when giving money and who did a small or no gesture when giving money? Who was flashy or ostentatious in giving money and who did so hoping no one would notice? And lastly, who would be wearing refined clothing probably receiving great respect by the scribes and Pharisees? Whereas who would the scribes and Pharisees most likely not want to be associated with?

The Gospel from Sunday shows us that God cannot be surpassed in generosity and the call for us is to match this generosity. All is given from God, nothing is held back. The total giving from the poor widow precedes the total self-giving of Jesus on the cross. The two paragraphs that make up today's Gospel compare the religion of the Scribes and the Pharisees, who make sure they are seen to obey the Law, with the religion of the poor widow, who in the midst of the crowd drops her contribution without anyone noticing. Jesus compares the men who *"swallow the property of widows"* with the widow herself. In the Gospel, Jesus holds up for us an example of a person of goodness and faith - the poor widow who put all she had into the collection, her whole living, and what an act of faith that was! What a detailed and interesting picture is painted in this scene from the life of Jesus.

God calls us to be generous in sharing what we have! And it is so important that you are all aware that you all have something to share and never say you don't! You all have different skills, qualities, gifts that can make our school and society a greater place. The beginning of the Psalm from Sunday says, "It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed." And it is then our task to be like the poor Widow who keeps her Faith and we do this by helping those who are harshly treated in society even if it means we have to sacrifice our time, money or resources in doing so. This half term our Catholic Social Teaching principle is the 'Preferential Option for the Poor' so how can you be more **grateful** and **generous** to those in need?

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7 Jessica Bisase and Zak Andaloussi-Sadsad for having a great first week back.
Year 9 Brianne Barrozo and Joanna Balasa
Year 10 Sianna Candara and Szymon Pazdyka for getting the most positive points this week.
Year 11 Nathan James and Darragh O'Connor for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week.
Year 12 Oskar Belniak and Roksana Czyzewska for their hard work and commitment to their studies.
Year 13 Adina Soper for excellent work in Geography and Ricky Aman for excellent work in Business Studies.

MFL Spelling Bee Competition

St Joseph's will be participating in the Spelling Bee Competition organised by the TVLP. The competition will be held next week.

Good luck to our French and Spanish representatives:
Annabel Lysiak, Brianne Barrozo, Marly Kostandy and Joanna Balasa!



Year 7 News

It has been a great first week back after two weeks off. We are now running into Christmas with lots of exciting things to look forward, such as the Christmas Dinner day, the Movie Rewards day and for some Year 7 Forms, their Retreat days.

I'm sure many of you would have seen my announcement on ClassCharts. Please can I reinforce the message regarding Homework and Journal Signing. They are a necessity each and every week, so please ensure it is completed on time. Thank you.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7



Year 8 JNR NBA

The Year 8s had a game against St Bernard's on Wednesday. The boys played extremely well but unfortunately, they did not win; losing the game 32-22. Next game very soon!

Year 9 News

I hope you all had a great half-term break. The students have definitely come back with a positive attitude, achieving 627 positive points in only 3 days. Two exciting sporting event with Year 9 Netball vs Bayliss this week and then the undefeated Year 9 football team is back in action next Wednesday vs Burnham Grammar.

This week, we are creating the boxes for the Baby Bank, where each Tutor Group will put together a gift bag for children of varying ages (it might be a good idea to make one for a student their age) containing: a brand new pair of pyjamas, a new book and a box of chocolates. Any support with this is greatly appreciated. I hope you have a fantastic weekend and we return on Monday, where we will be recognising Remembrance Day as a school.

Ms McCormack – Head of Year 9



Year 9 Netball

On Wednesday, the Year 9 Netball team had a match against Bayliss. The girls played very well in both attack and defence and won the game 22-3! Well done to **Joanna, Myah, Karolina, Viki, Victoria, Annabel** and **Charlotte**.

Year 10 News

Welcome back! Year 10s have continued where they left off last half-term with the positive points and have accumulated 497. Over the next few weeks, there will be a variety of House Competitions, such as the lip sync battle, countdown and the Christmas card competition. It would be nice to see lots of Year 10 entries where possible!

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

Welcome back after the half-term break. As we settle into this critical phase of the academic year, I'd like to share some observations from this week. We've recorded 590 positive points—a notably lower number than usual—and 77 negative points, with 55 of those related to incomplete homework. This highlights that many students did not make the most of the recent break to stay on top of their studies.

With only a short time remaining until GCSE exams, it is essential that all routines, including revision timetables and dedicated homework schedules, are firmly in place. For those who haven't yet established these routines, it's important to recognise that they are already behind. The mock exams in January will be a key indicator of readiness, and currently, many students are not demonstrating the level of maturity and seriousness required at this stage.

I urge all Year 11 students to reflect on their commitment and approach their studies with renewed focus and dedication. It is not too late to turn things around, but it requires immediate and sustained effort. For parents, your continued support is vital. Please encourage your child to stay organized and consistent with their revision and homework.

Important Reminder:

Routine, discipline, and consistent effort are what will lead to success. Let's make sure we approach the coming weeks with purpose and determination.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and let's work together to help our students achieve their potential.

Mr Romero – Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

Year 12 began the week with a really positive start as we held an Awards Ceremony on Monday morning, distributing certificates to students who had demonstrated Outstanding Performance and Outstanding Progress in each subject area so far. We also gave out badges for students who have truly embodied our Pupil Profile values in their general conduct throughout the school. Preparations are underway for an exciting new Careers Fair on-site next week, which Year 12 will be attending and, further ahead, we are also making plans for our year group trip to Winter Wonderland!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

It is lovely to see the Year 13 students back after, what I hope was, a restful and productive half-term break. This week, students have been issued reports following the assessments they completed before the break. It is really important that you go through these with your child so that you are aware of the targets they have been set by their teachers. If you know that your son or daughter is planning to attend university next year, please could I ask that you encourage them to complete their UCAS application.

Finally, well done to those students who have been sitting their GCSE resit exams this week in English and Maths, the final Maths paper will take place on Monday 11th November and results for these will be issued in January 2025.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

A Level Physics Trip to CERN, Geneva

The first few days of the Physics Trip have been great – the students are having lots of fun learning about particle physics and trying new, exciting experiments!



Science Club – Parachute Design and Drop

Students created parachutes by using different materials and testing their designs.



Year 7 Cecilia and 7 Mark Retreat Day

The students had a great time reflecting, performing and building new relationships!



A Big Congratulations to Wayne Dixon

On Thursday, Wayne Dixon from Christian Connections in Schools celebrated his 60th birthday! Wayne has been working in schools in Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead (including St Joseph's) for over 35 years. He combines up-front talking about Jesus, RE and curriculum input and 'Hanging Around Ministries'. This involves spending time with teenagers (and staff) in school getting alongside them and listening to their joys, hopes and fears. We wish him a wonderful birthday!



Prayer Intentions for our Website and School Community

As a Catholic school, we feel it's always important that students, staff and parents/families have the opportunity to share their prayer intentions so that as a school community, we can come together in prayer to support one another. If you have any prayer intentions you wish for us to pray for, please feel free to send through to chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk. During the school year, students will come together as a collective group (as a class, year group and as a school) to pray for your intentions. These prayer intentions will also be put on our website (prayer corner) to share.

Free School Meals – Am I eligible for Free School Meals?

You will be able to claim Free School Meals for your child if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have a net income from employment of no more than £7400 per year). For more information on how the government calculates your earnings from employment whilst claiming Universal Credit, please check the "Eligibility under Universal Credit" section below.
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to apply. If entitled, Slough Borough Council will inform you and the school of this.

Year 7 to Year 11 Flu Vaccinations

The Berkshire Immunisation Service will be visiting St Joseph's on **29th November 2024** for the Year 7 to Year 11 Flu vaccinations.

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

Legally Blonde Production

St Joseph's Productions proudly presents *Legally Blonde*, performing on **December 11th, 12th, and 13th in the School Hall at 6:00pm**. Tickets are £5 for students and £10 for adults. To secure your seats and avoid disappointment, please **book your tickets via Parent Pay** as soon as possible.



SCHOOL CLUBS



Languages Department News – NEW KS3 MFL CLUBS START AFTER SCHOOL ON TUESDAYS

SPANISH Week A & FRENCH Week B

Are you a student of French or Spanish in Year 7, 8 or 9? Do you fancy some fun with your friends in languages or want to meet new friends?

You are invited to attend our new clubs which start:

- **Week A: Tuesday 12th November, Spanish 3.30-4.15pm in T5.**
- **Week B: Tuesday 5th November, French 3.30-4.15pm in T5.**

We will be looking at exciting topics like French and Spanish culture, music, animals, geography, sports, food, drink, festivals, and national icons of the countries and communities.

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 & Ms. Jetwani

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 Fitness JCO	Year 9-11 boys Football THU Trampoline KBR		Year 10,11,12,13 Basketball CWH

COUNTDOWN HOUSE COMPETITION

- You will have 60 seconds to achieve the target number/word, or as close as you can get to it, using all of the selected numbers or alphabets.
- For the numbers round you may use any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. If required please use your MWB's to do your working.
- Tutors** please email the answers (i.e. longest words) for each of the rounds to me by 14th November.

The competition includes 2 rounds:

- 1 letters game where the pupils should compete to get the longest word out of the letters given;
- 1 numbers game, where the pupils use the numbers given to get to the solution shown;

**NEXT WEEK:
12TH AND 13TH**



Place	Points
1 st Place	1000
2 nd Place	800
3 rd Place	600
4 th Place	400
5 th place	200
6 th Place	100

Good luck
to all the
houses.



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- A 40% of 50% of 60 equals 40% of 30 = 12. Also, 50% of 60% of 70 is 50% of 42 = 21.
So the required difference is 21 - 12 = 9.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

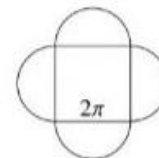
- A The amount of topping required is $2\frac{1}{2} \times (100 + 50 + 50) \text{ g} = 2\frac{1}{2} \times 200 \text{ g} = 500 \text{ g} = 0.5 \text{ kg}$.

Puzzler of the week

A semicircle is drawn on each side of a square, as shown.
The square has sides of length 2π .

What is the area of the resulting shape?

- A $2\pi^2(\pi + 1)$ B $\pi^2(\pi + 2)$ C $2\pi^2(2\pi + 1)$ D $\pi^2(\pi + 4)$
E $2\pi^2(\pi + 2)$



Break-time Teaser

What is the value of $(4 - \frac{1}{4}) \div (2 - \frac{1}{2})$?

- A $1\frac{1}{2}$ B 2 C $2\frac{1}{2}$ D 3 E $4\frac{1}{4}$

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

Design and Technology Department



Thank you to all the pupils who made a poppy for our community poppy effort over half term. The 6th formers in the D+T Makelt elective put them all together to make a fitting display. Well done!



Well done to the Faith-Filled and Hopeful pupils in the DT Makelt Elective who have produced poppies and put them up on doors around the school to mark our respect and remembrance to those that gave up their lives so that we might lead ours so freely.



DESIGNeers- KS3 DT club

This week in DESIGNeers, pupils recycled plastic bottles to create poppies. We placed them outside the chapel as part of our remembrance tribute.



DESIGNeers - KS3 DT club - Monday Afterschool



If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making; please consider joining our D&T team!
 We hope to start our competition entry this Monday.
 Please see or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams** and join us at **DESIGNeers Club** on a **Monday afterschool in A3**.



REQUEST for RECYCLING help in D&T

The D&T department would love to have your number 2 HDPE plastic:
 HDPE plastic is often used to make:

- Plastic bottle lids. (Please remove them from bottles!)
- Colourful Shampoo bottles

Please put any you collect into the labelled container in A3.
 Thankyou!

D&T Stars of the week

Thank you to the pupils who made and handed in poppies for our community display.



Sybilla Wasoly, Ann Kavalakkat, Denis L, Patrick Lopez, Jakub K Oliwia Dzienniak, Emilia Duczek, Oliwier Lipnicki, Jenisha Sath, Shae D., Sydelle Vaz, Ana Prepelita, Nicole7V, Jessica Bisase, Lillie Green, Joanna Balasa, Anand Khalsa, Inaaya Ajmal, Eliana 7T, Brianna Barroza, Kezia Antao, Gabriel 7J, Joseph Cartwright, Naomi Soares, Euan B., Jessica Bisase, Pamela Lopez, Aine Kelly, Kasper Paczek, Mitchell Simpson, Benjamin Valek, Ashwayra V. Kuba Linde, John Cartwright, Avleen Singh, Adam Luzynski, Issac Nanda, Maya Banczuk, Theresa Teji.

HOPE FULL

A SLICE OF HOPE.

Our New Project

PILLOWCASE APPEAL

WHAT DO WE DO?

We help war-torn and disaster-struck communities by serving freshly baked pizzas, snacks and drinks to those who need a slice of hope.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Bring in your donations and give them to the necessary people.

They will put all your items into a pillowcase to be donated to the HopeFull charity!

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Bring in any of these items to give to the people in need!

• Baby powder	• Toiletries
• Baby milk powder	• ROLL-ON deodorant
• Nappies	• Pillow cases
• Baby wipes	• Colouring books
• Hand sanitiser	• Toys
• Sanitary items	• Hygiene products
• Feminine products	

IMPORTANT:

No food or aerosol products!

Follow us: @HopeFull

<https://www.hopefull.org.uk/>

THAMES - VALLEY - LEARNING - PARTNERSHIP



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Frequently asked questions

1. **My English is not very good. Should I speak English with my child?**

It is better to use your home language because you will provide a good model of the language. Besides, your child has many opportunities to hear English and to use it, outside the home.

2. **What can I do when my child does not want to use the home language anymore?**

It is normal for children, especially teenagers to want to use English all the time because they want to fit in with their friends. It is not advisable to try to force your child to use a particular language.

3. **What are the advantages of being bilingual?**

- **Thinking power:** Learning and using more than one language can improve creative thinking, problem solving and expression.
- **Culture:** Speaking more than one language means that you experience more than one world: different ways of thinking, ideas and beliefs. The home language is very important for passing on values and traditions and maintaining cultural identity.
- **Language:** Bilingualism creates a better understanding of how language works and can make learning other languages easier.

