

# Newsletter 9th January 2026



## St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

### Head Teachers Message

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Hope you are all safe and well.*

*Link to the latest video is: [Head Teacher Message 09/01/26](#)*

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

*St Joseph, pray for us.*

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## Theme of the Week Sheet

### Baptism

Weekly Reflections  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
1<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time



#### From the Gospel of Matthew (3: 13-17)

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

#### Prayer for the Week

God of love,

We praise you for allowing us to be like Jesus and be baptised with the Holy Spirit. We praise you for the Holy Spirit's continuing presence with us now, nurturing our faith, calling us to service and filling us with joy.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

#### Day 1

Can you name the seven Sacraments of the Church?  
What did Jesus receive when Baptized in the River Jordan?  
What did this allow Jesus to do?

#### Day 2

What does the word Baptism mean?  
If baptised, why do you think your parents did so when you were only a baby? What does this show about you and your parents?

#### Day 3

How can you be more **Active** and **Curious** in showing Jesus, the Son of God, to others you encounter this week?

### Theme of the Week - Baptism

On Sunday, we celebrated the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Baptism is the first of seven Sacraments within the Church. The Gospel reading is one we may be very familiar with especially at this time of year. Jesus is with John the Baptist and John is baptizing Jesus in the river Jordan. We hear from God when the Heavens open and the Holy Spirit is seen in the form of a dove that descends down on Jesus. This moment, the moment the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus, is the significance of Baptism. Baptism for Jesus, as it is for us, is the receiving of the Holy Spirit. And when Jesus received the Holy Spirit, He then went forth in his work and teaching, to preach to the world that He was and is the Son of God. And when we are baptized, we too have that same mission of preaching the Good News and proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God.

Let us reflect on that moment as Jesus is baptized "And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" Baptism signals a renewal of the relationship between God and all who are baptized. Jesus was baptized as a sign of his obedience and compliance with the will of God. The readings from Sunday are full of symbolism as is our own baptism about the renewed relationship God is allowing to end our separation. The word baptism comes from a Greek word meaning 'to plunge'. The first Christians were baptised by being plunged into running streams or rivers, following the practice of John. Later, large fonts were built in churches and baptism of the faithful took place.

This gospel reading, 'The feast of the Baptism of the Lord', ends the season of Christmas. This feast retells the beginning of Jesus' ministry. And at our own Baptism there are many symbols used to reflect this ministry. Immersion in water symbolises not only death and purification, but also regeneration and renewal. The white garment worn represents the new life in Christ; the oil used symbolises the anointing into the ministry of Jesus - priest, prophet and king. The lit candle given represents the light of Christ in our lives. As we consider the privileges and responsibilities of our own baptism this week, let us reflect on our own sense of being set apart and chosen by God. Let us consider what it means to be baptised. How can you this week be more **Active** and **Curious** like Jesus was after receiving the Holy Spirit? How in your ministry can you proclaim Jesus as Son of God and shows acts of kindness like Jesus showed us?

### Year 7 News

Welcome Back to all! Hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year! Year 7 have had a great first week back, it was lovely to hear all of the great stories of the wonderful times they had over the break.

Please be aware that a letter and a ParentPay notification should be coming through shortly. This will be regarding Year 7 Parents Evening on the 26th of March. All Parents/Students are expected to attend, please do confirm attendance via ParentPay once the event is live.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

## Year 8 News

I would like to Welcome all Year 8 students back after the Christmas break and hope they are ready for the term ahead. It has been positive to see students returning to school and settling back into routines.

As the term begins, I would like to remind parents and students of the importance of completing homework consistently and to a high standard. Homework in Year 8 plays a key role in reinforcing classroom learning, developing independent study skills, and preparing students for future academic demands. I appreciate your support in encouraging good organisation, regular revision, and meeting deadlines.

Have a good weekend!

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

## Year 9 News

I would like to warmly welcome all Year 9 students and families back for the Spring Term and hope you had an enjoyable and restful festive break.

**The Careers, Information and Guidance (CIAG) Evening will take place on 22 January**, this is important for information about option choices next year for GCSE's. Please could you confirm your attendance on Parent pay as soon as possible. This will then be followed by **Year 9 Parents' Evening on 5 February**. It is an expectation that all students and parents/careers to attend these important events.

I would also like to make parents aware that there has been an increase in homework-related negatives. Please support your child by ensuring that all homework is completed and up to date, as this is essential to their progress and success.

Look after your loved ones,

Kind regards

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

## Year 10 News

Welcome back! It's great to have everyone in after a restful break.

**Academic Review Day:** We had many productive conversations and clear targets - thank you to all who attended. If you were unable to make it, your child's form tutor will be in touch to arrange a phone call or meeting so we can agree next steps.

**Homework & ClassCharts:** Please continue to check ClassCharts with your child to track homework and deadlines. This helps keep **XH**'s to a minimum and ensures students stay on top of their learning.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

## Year 11 News

Welcome back! Hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year! Well done to all Year 11 students for your maturity and focus towards your PPEs this week.

Next week, we will resume the PPEs, so please ensure you are fully prepared. Use this time wisely to review your notes and strengthen any areas you feel less confident in.

Exciting news...at the start of next week, look out for a link on ClassCharts to order your Leavers' Hoodies this is a great way to celebrate your journey through Year 11!

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Joseph- Head of Year 11

## Year 12 News

It was lovely to see the Year 12 students return from the Christmas holidays with great enthusiasm and continue the great work they had started last term. I want to wish you all a very happy new year and I hope you and your families had a wonderful time over the break.

All students should now have received their report card and know their areas of development moving forward. I would encourage you to discuss your child's progress at home and if there are any concerns then please do get in touch with subject teachers or myself and we will do our very best to support you.

Students who sat their resist GCSE examinations in English and Maths in November will receive their results this week.

Have a fantastic weekend,

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

## Year 13 News

It was a pleasure to welcome Year 13 students back after the Christmas holidays and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year!

The PPE exams have started this week and so far the students have conducted themselves well. These exams are important for the students as it is their opportunity to assess their progress so far and identify any gaps in their knowledge before they sit their real exams in the summer. If you are wondering how you can support your child at home then some top tips include; asking them how their revision is progressing, ensuring they access to a distraction free study area at home and quizzing them on their subject content.

Just a reminder that for any student wishing to apply for university, the UCAS deadline is 14th January at 6pm. We have asked the students to ensure applications are completed by this Friday 9th January to allow time for them to be checked before we send them off.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Finn – Head of Sixth Form

## **Students of the Week**

**Year 7: Alicia Ivanova & Luis Guce for excellent starts to the new term!**

**Year 8: Hollie Thynne & Nathan Daniels for excellent starts to the new term.**

**Year 9: Daniel Celorico-Jones & Ciara Croxford-Shalloe**

**Year 10: Bruno Valek and James Rossiter for a lot of positive points this first week back.**

**Year 11: All Year 11 students are our Students of the Week as they complete their exams this week.**

**Year 12: Peace Mukozho and Mia Ramananthan for earning the most positive points this week.**

**Year 13: Ava Mae Marshall and Miguel De Jesus for having a great start to the term.**

## **Pre Public Examinations**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you are well. We would like to inform you that the PPE (Preparatory Placement Examination) period has now begun, and there will be some temporary changes to students' daily schedules.

### **What to expect:**

- **Later dismissal times:** Some students who are sitting exams may finish school slightly later than their usual dismissal time. Students not sitting exams will follow their normal schedule.

- **Student support:** Our teachers and staff are working hard to support students academically and emotionally during this important period.

**How parents can support exam preparation at home:**

- Encourage your child to revise a little each day.
- Ensure they get enough sleep and eat regular, healthy meals.
- Provide a quiet space for study and revision.
- Offer reassurance and positive encouragement to help reduce exam stress.
- Remind your child to arrive at school on time with the correct equipment and transparent water bottles.

We understand that changes to routines can be challenging, and we thank you for your patience and cooperation during this important time.

Kind regards,

Ms Dar

**Exams Office**

Date	Start	Length	Component Title	Level	Year
12-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	BTEC Business Unit 3	BTEC	13
12-Jan	8:45am	1hr 30	BTEC Health & Social Care Unit 2	BTEC	13
12-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Mathematics Paper 1 (Pure)	A Level	13
12-Jan	8:45am	2hr 30	Spanish Paper 1 (Listening Reading & Writing)	A Level	13
12-Jan	8:45am	1hr 15	Chemistry (Combined) (Foundation)	GCSE	11
12-Jan	8:45am	1hr 15	Chemistry (Combined) (Higher)	GCSE	11
12-Jan	8:45am	1hr 45	Chemistry (Separate) Higher	GCSE	11
12-Jan	1:30pm	2hr 00	Biology Paper 1	A Level	13
12-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Further Maths - Decision	A Level	13
12-Jan	1:30pm	2hr 00	Design Technology	GCSE	11
12-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 45	Food Preparation & Nutrition	GCSE	11
13-Jan	8:45am	1hr 30	BTEC Travel & Tourism Unit 1	BTEC	13
13-Jan	8:45am	2hrs 30	English Language Paper 2	A Level	13
13-Jan	8:45am	2hr 30	Geography Paper 2	A Level	13
13-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Business Paper 2 (1)	A Level	13
13-Jan	8:45am	1hr 45	English Literature Paper 1	GCSE	11
13-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	History Paper 2 (South Africa)	A Level	13
13-Jan	1:30pm	2hr 00	Psychology Paper 2	A Level	13
13-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 45	Business Paper 2	GCSE	11
14-Jan	8:45am	2hrs 30	English Literature Paper 2	A Level	13
14-Jan	8:45am	1hr 30	Product Design Paper 2	A Level	13
14-Jan	8:45am	Various	Polish Speaking	GCSE	10
14-Jan	8:45am	1hr 45	Religious Education Paper I (Catholic Christianity)	GCSE	11
14-Jan	1:30pm	2hr 00	Economics Paper 2	A Level	13
14-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Core Maths Paper II	Level 3	12
14-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Mathematics Paper 2 (Foundation) Calculator	GCSE	11
14-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Mathematics Paper 2 (Higher) Calculator	GCSE	11
15-Jan	8:45am	4hr 20	Drama Practical	GCSE	11
15-Jan	8:45am	2hr 30	Computing (Component 2)	A Level	13
15-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	AS Maths paper 1	AS	12
15-Jan	8:45am	1hr 35	French (Listening & Reading) (Foundation)	GCSE	11
15-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	French (Listening & Reading) (Higher)	GCSE	11
15-Jan	8:45am	1hr 35	Spanish (Listening & Reading) (Foundation)	GCSE	11
15-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Spanish (Listening & Reading) (Higher)	GCSE	11
15-Jan	1:30pm	2hr 00	Religious Education Paper 2 (Ethics)	A Level	13
15-Jan	1:30pm	2hr 00	Chemistry Paper 2	A Level	13
15-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Drama	GCSE	11
15-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Computer Science paper 2	GCSE	11
15-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 15	PE Paper 2	GCSE	11
15-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 15	CamNat Enterprise & Marketing	CamNat	11
15-Jan	1:30pm	Various	GCSE CATCH UPS	GCSE	11
16-Jan	8:45am	2hr 30	Media Studies Paper 2	A Level	13
16-Jan	8:45am	1hr 30	History Paper 3 (Britain)	A Level	13
16-Jan	8:45am	2hr 00	Physics Paper 2	A Level	13
16-Jan	8:45am	1hr 45	English Language Paper 2	GCSE	11
16-Jan	1:30pm	2hr 00	Law Paper 2	A Level	13
16-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Further maths - Further Pure	A Level	13
16-Jan	1:30pm	1hr 30	Geography Paper 2	GCSE	11

## Spanish Trip

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss the upcoming school trip to Spain. During the meeting, we will go over the itinerary, travel arrangements, accommodation, safety measures, and answer any questions you may have. Your attendance is important to ensure you have all the necessary information and feel confident about the trip. Please, ensure you bring both **passport and EHIC/GHIC cards** as copies of these need to be taken.

**Date: 13/01**

Time: 16:15

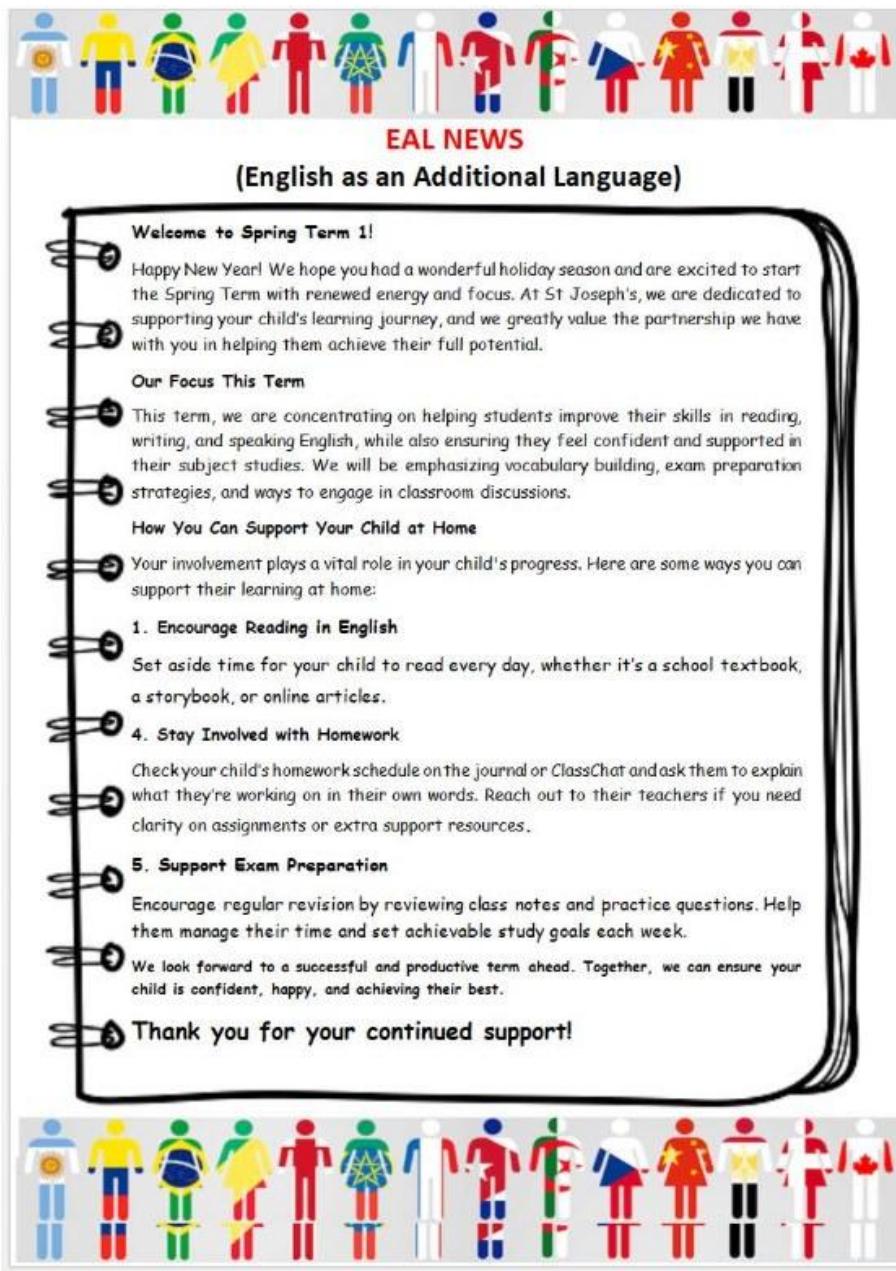
Location: Main Hall

We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards,

Ms Toro Sánchez - Head of MFL

## English Additional Language



The image shows a template for an 'EAL NEWS' (English as an Additional Language) newsletter. The template is designed to look like a spiral-bound notebook. At the top and bottom are decorative borders featuring stylized human figures in various colors (blue, yellow, green, red, etc.) and patterns. The main content area is a white page with a black border, containing text and bullet points. The title 'EAL NEWS (English as an Additional Language)' is centered at the top of the page. The page is divided into several sections: 'Welcome to Spring Term 1!', 'Our Focus This Term', 'How You Can Support Your Child at Home', and 'Thank you for your continued support!'. Each section contains numbered bullet points or steps. The text is in a clear, sans-serif font.

**EAL NEWS**  
(English as an Additional Language)

**Welcome to Spring Term 1!**

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are excited to start the Spring Term with renewed energy and focus. At St Joseph's, we are dedicated to supporting your child's learning journey, and we greatly value the partnership we have with you in helping them achieve their full potential.

**Our Focus This Term**

This term, we are concentrating on helping students improve their skills in reading, writing, and speaking English, while also ensuring they feel confident and supported in their subject studies. We will be emphasizing vocabulary building, exam preparation strategies, and ways to engage in classroom discussions.

**How You Can Support Your Child at Home**

Your involvement plays a vital role in your child's progress. Here are some ways you can support their learning at home:

- 1. Encourage Reading in English**  
Set aside time for your child to read every day, whether it's a school textbook, a storybook, or online articles.
- 4. Stay Involved with Homework**  
Check your child's homework schedule on the journal or ClassChat and ask them to explain what they're working on in their own words. Reach out to their teachers if you need clarity on assignments or extra support resources.
- 5. Support Exam Preparation**  
Encourage regular revision by reviewing class notes and practice questions. Help them manage their time and set achievable study goals each week.

We look forward to a successful and productive term ahead. Together, we can ensure your child is confident, happy, and achieving their best.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## Geography Club



To celebrate the end of term, students took part in a lively **Christmas Geography Quiz**, putting their global knowledge to the test in a fun and festive way. The quiz included a variety of exciting rounds that challenged students to think carefully and work as a team.

In the *Country Catch Phrase* round, students matched well-known clues to the correct countries. They were also asked to work out which country Father Christmas was in, using geographical hints to guide them. The final round tested their knowledge of the world even further by asking students to name the capitals of different countries.

All students participated enthusiastically, making the competition both challenging and enjoyable. Congratulations to Denis Puidokas, Igor Ostrowski and Domas Puidokas, who were crowned the winners after an impressive performance throughout the quiz.



## Design and Technology News

### REQUEST for RECYCLING help in D&T

The D&T department would love to have your **Colourful Plastic bottle lids** . We hope to use them in ongoing and upcoming projects..... Please remove the lid from the plastic bottle and bring them to A3 for recycling. THANK YOU!

### Make It Elective.

Spreading love and kindness is the thought behind some of our little makes this elective. This week the lovely pupils upped tools and hammered out love in the form of pin/string plaques. Plenty more love to share this term. Well done to all!



### D+T Stars

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*Well done and good luck to the Design and Technology exam groups as they prepare for their examinations and practical assessments. You are all amazing! Keep up the good work.*

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### Dates for the diary

Tuesday 13th January- Yr 10 football vs Burnham Grammar (A)

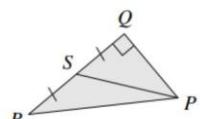
Thursday 15th January- Yr 10 netball tournament

PPE for Year 11, 12 and 13 until the 23rd January!

### I Can do Maths

#### Solution to last Week's Puzzler

**D** Let  $PQ$  have length  $4x$ . Then, as  $\tan \angle QPR = \frac{3}{2}$ ,  $QR$  has length  $6x$ . Therefore, as  $S$  is the midpoint of side  $QR$ ,  $QS$  has length  $3x$ . By Pythagoras' Theorem in triangle  $PQS$ ,  $PS^2 = PQ^2 + QS^2 = (4x)^2 + (3x)^2 = 16x^2 + 9x^2 = 25x^2$ . Hence  $PS = \sqrt{25x^2} = 5x$ . So  $\sin \angle QPS = \frac{QS}{PS} = \frac{3x}{5x} = \frac{3}{5}$ .



## Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

**E** Note that  $1001 = 7 \times 143$ , so that any six-digit number of the form ' $XYZXYZ$ ' =  $1001 \times 'XYZ'$  is necessarily a multiple of 7. So options A and D are both multiples of 7.  
Also,  $10101 = 7 \times 1443$ , so that any six-digit number of the form ' $XYXYXY$ ' =  $10101 \times 'XY'$  is necessarily a multiple of 7. So options B and C are both multiples of 7.  
However, ' $PPPQQQ$ ' =  $111 \times (1000P+Q) = 3 \times 37 \times (1000P+Q)$  is not necessarily a multiple of 7. For example, when  $P = 1$  and  $Q = 2$ ,  $1000P+Q = 1002 = 143 \times 7 + 1$ .

## Break-Time Teaser

Farmer Fatima rears chickens and goats. Today she returned from market and said, "I sold 80 animals, and now there are 200 fewer legs on my farm than before!"  
How many goats did she sell?

A 15

B 20

C 25

D 30

E 35

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

### DT Club

#### Make It Monday!

If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making; consider joining our D&T team!

Please see or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams** and join us

in A3 for DT Club on a Monday afterschool until 4.15

### DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15



#### Make it Monday!

If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making; consider joining our D&T team!  
Please see or message **Mrs Stacey** on Teams  
Join us in A3 for DT Club on **Monday afterschool**. 3.20-4.15.

This week we are planning a bit of CAD/CAM

**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



## KEY STAGE 3 AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

WEDNESDAYS FROM 3:15PM TILL 4PM

Come along and see why Science is so cool!

Led by  
Mrs. Lionel and Mrs. Hameed



For more information please contact Mrs. Lionel!

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

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

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



## St Josephs Dance Club

Starting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January in the Assembly Hall



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



	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
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 Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO		

## Term Dates

# Term Dates

### School Year 2025 - 2026

#### Autumn Term

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

#### Spring Term

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

#### Summer Term

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

### School Year 2026- 2027

#### Autumn Term

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

#### Spring Term

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

#### Summer Term

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