



St Joseph's Catholic High School

# Newsletter

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022



## Slough Football Tournament

On Wednesday the Year 7 and 8 girls played in the Slough school's football tournament. The girls played amazingly well in all games and only conceded one goal in the whole tournament which resulted in them placing 2nd overall. Well done to Vanessa B, Isla S, Luciana M, Licia T, Celine S, Natalia Z, Chloe W, Miah H, Maya B and Amber N.

## Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

My weekly message is in video format. Please do take a listen and let us know what you think, any feedback is welcome.

**Please find below the link to our website to view my message:**

<https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Letters/20221202-135901-1.m4v>

St Joseph, pray for us

Mr Stapleton

## Important Message

### Electives – Spring 1

All pupils have received the Elective Preferences Form for Spring 1 via email. It has also been set as a ClassCharts homework.

Students will have until **5<sup>th</sup> December 5pm** to complete their preferences form. Please do ensure your child has made a well informed decision using the electives brochure they were also sent. If there are any issues please speak to their form tutor.

## Theme of the Week – Peace

The Second Sunday of Advent is traditionally associated with Peace, and yet in our Gospel we hear John the Baptist ranting about vipers, axes, fire etc. Let's have a look at what this means. In the first reading the prophet Isaiah addressed a discouraged Israel who was now in the third generation of the Babylonian exile and had lost all hopes. The prophet says that God has not forsaken his people and is about to bring them back to their land and inaugurate a kingdom of justice and **peace** where violence will be no more (the wolf will live with the lamb etc.). In the Gospel we see John the Baptist appearing in the desert and preaching a baptism of 'conversion'. First of all, the desert has a theological significance; it is the place where we can only bring what is essential, where there is no rich or poor, where there is silence and where we can encounter God like Moses and Abraham did.

**In a noisy life buzzing with tweets, posts, opinions, can we create a little desert to give God a chance to speak to us?**

In the desert we are called to conversion. In the Old Testament this word meant 'going back to God', whereas in the New Testament (and in our Gospel) it means **CHANGE ONE'S MIND**. Why change our mind? The Baptist tells us: **Because the kingdom of heaven is at hand**, and unless we change the way we think, we won't be able to welcome it and be part of it. There is here a contrast between the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of God. The former is a kingdom of violence, of selfishness and self-advancement, a kingdom prevarication, money, career etc. The kingdom of Heaven is a kingdom of brotherhood, justice and peace.

**What are the desires of your heart? Would you welcome the kingdom of heaven or would you rather stay in the kingdom of this world?**

There is a specific reason why John placed himself on the river Jordan to baptise: that was the very same place where Israel entered the Promised Land when coming back from Egypt. John is proposing a counter-Exodus, where people come out of Jerusalem and all the false certainties of a false religion in order to start again by changing their mind. The God of the Pharisees (strict and legalistic) and the Sadducees (a tit-for-tat commercial God) is a distortion of the real God, who is love and mercy. John invites all those who thought they were secure because they 'did' religion to re-examine themselves and test whether they were really open to the new kingdom and willing to change their wrong patterns and habits in order to advance it.

**In Advent we prepare for the coming of this kingdom by examining ourselves, our life and our projects. Are they in line with God's proposal, or are they centred on ourselves and our achievements? Are we Christians because we want a reward from God, or do we really believe in his proposal?**

Finally John warns those who pretend to be religious but in reality are bent on themselves, that when the new kingdom comes, all that does not produce good fruit will be burned and consumed. **PEACE** is one of these fruits, but what is peace? It is not simply the absence of war, and not something that can be imposed on peoples and nations. **True peace is the inner state of those who have accepted the new kingdom and its king, Jesus, the Prince of Peace**. Only those who are transformed by the proposal of Jesus can reach true peace, and only those who have peace within themselves can be promoters of peace in our school, in our families, in our nation and in the world.

**Do you want to be a channel of His Peace?**

# PEACE

Weekly Reflections

4<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (Mt 3:1-12)

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father', for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

## Prayer for the Week

God our Peace, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Day 1

The Second candle of the Advent Wreath symbolizes Peace.

- When you hear this word, what comes to your mind?
- What is peace?

### Day 2

#### St Nicholas of Myra



Did you know that 'Santa Claus' (Saint Nicolaus) really existed and was the bishop of Myra (Turkey)? According to legend, he once heard a poor man saying that he did not have enough money for his three daughters' dowry. St Nicholas decided to help him but didn't want any publicity, so he threw three bags of golden coins through the poor man's windows. Hence the tradition of Father Christmas bringing gifts on Christmas Eve.

### Day 3

In our Gospel John the Baptist quotes Isaiah and asks people to 'prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight'.

- What do you think that means?
- Can you find examples of a straight and a bendy path?

### Day 4

John the Baptist placed himself in the desert. In the Bible the desert is the place where, having left behind all that is unnecessary, we can encounter God and listen to him with a free heart. We live in a noisy world full of Tweets, posts, alerts...

- Do you ever create some desert/silence around you in order to collect your thoughts and be ready to listen to God? If so, please share.

### Day 5

John the Baptist gave hope to all those coming to him saying that 'the kingdom of heaven is near'. We have been talking about Christ the King and the Kingdom for a few weeks now.

- Can you articulate what the Kingdom of Heaven is about and how it differs from the kingdom of this world?
- Which one do you choose?



St. Joseph's Catholic High School  
warmly invites all staff to the  
Induction Mass of our new School  
Chaplain:

**Dr. Orazio Camaioni**

**Time:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at  
3:30pm

**Location:** St Joseph's Catholic High  
School, Shaggy Calf Lane,  
Slough. SL2 5HW



### Year 7 News

Another successful week for year 7. It is a real privilege to go round and see all the great work taking place around the school. A reminder to bring in some food for the Christmas hamper this is to help less fortunate people than ourselves.

In the meantime have a great weekend

Mrs Dunleavy

### Year 8 News

Well done to all those students working so hard to achieve positive points this week. At my last count we had achieved 1043, which is a really impressive number. I have also been particularly impressed with the attitude of 8 Mark and 8 Peter this week, as both have shown a real improvements working together as a form group.

A reminder that we have Year 8 Parents Evening coming up next week on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 4:15pm until 6:45pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to get feedback and have an opportunity to discuss any concerns you might have. I am looking forward to seeing all Year 8 students and their parents there.

Mrs Miller

### Year 8 Basketball

Big win for the Year 8s! Beating Slough and Eton by 8 points. This was the boys' first competitive game!

The new era of St Joseph's Basketball has begun!



### **Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 - School Immunisations – FLU VACCINATION - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

The School Immunisation Team will be visiting St Josephs on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December for the Flu Vaccination. On the day the nurse will be vaccinating all Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students.

Consent is required in order for your son/daughter to receive their vaccination. Please provide e-consent using the website link which was distributed to parents via email.

Any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

**Kind Regards,**

**School-aged Immunisation Team**



### **Year 9 - School Immunisations – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - Meningococcal ACWY & Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio Booster**

The School Immunisation Team will be visiting St Josephs on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January for the Meningococcal ACWY & Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio Booster Vaccination. On the day the nurse will be vaccinating only students in Year 9 students.

Consent is required in order for your son/daughter to receive their vaccination. Please provide e-consent using the website link. The link can be found in the letter attached with the newsletter.

Any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office

Many thanks in advance for your co-operation.

**Kind Regards,**

**School-aged Immunisation Team**



### Christmas Dinner – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022

ALL students will be provided with Christmas Dinner by the school.

We will have a mufti day (Christmas jumpers to be encouraged!) - £1 donation paid via ParentPay go towards St Joseph's Catholic High School's chosen charity for the 2022-2023 which is the 'Access to Shine Project'. This charity is to help build a new school in Nigeria.



Timings are as follows:

Form Time: 8.30-8.45	Form Time
Lesson 1: 8.45-9.45	Normal lessons
Lesson 2: 9.45-10.45	Normal lessons
BREAK: 10.45-11.05	
Lesson 3: 11.05-12.05	<b>Yr 7 &amp; 10</b>
Lesson 4: 12.05-1.05	<b>Yr 8 &amp; 11</b>
Lunch 1: 1.05-1.40	Lunch 1: Yr 8 & 11. Reading: Yr 7, 10
Lunch 2: 1.40-2.15	Lunch 2: Yr 7 & 10. Reading: Yr 8 & 11
Christmas Dinner: 1.10-2.15	<b>Year 9 &amp; 12/13</b>
Lesson 5: 2.15-3.15	Normal lessons-whole school

Students go to the lesson/tutor base they would normally have during their Christmas dinner slot.

***Please note: the canteen will not be open for breakfast or during break and lunchtime on Christmas Dinner day.***

### Academic Review Day – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

In order to review the progress of your child's academic and personal development since the start of the academic year we will be holding a mid-year Academic Review Day on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**. Every student in the school, accompanied by a parent or carer, will attend a meeting to review their progress both. The day will enable you and your child to come into school, during the school day, for a **15-minute** appointment to discuss your child's academic and holistic progress with their **Form Tutor in their Form Room**.

The school will be closed other than the Academic Review Meetings on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**. Work for students will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams. Students should attend their meeting in full uniform.

### PE Extracurricular Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1 Year 8,9,10		Table tennis and Badminton AAN	Table tennis and Badminton AAN	Table tennis and Badminton AAN	
Lunch 2 Year 7,11,12,13	Table tennis and Badminton THU	Table tennis and Badminton MJO	Table tennis and Badminton MJO	Table tennis and Badminton AAN	Table tennis and Badminton THU
After-school	Year 7,8 and 9 Football @ Slough Town Football Club THU, JCO  Year 7,8 and 9 Trampolining MJO  6 <sup>th</sup> form Fitness room	Year 7,8 and 9 Netball MJO, AAN  Year 7,8 and 9 Basketball JCO  6 <sup>th</sup> form Fitness room	Year 7,8 and 9 Badminton PE Staff  6 <sup>th</sup> form Fitness room AAN, FWA		Year 10,11,12,13 Football @ Slough Town Football Club THU, EED  Year 10,11,12,13 Netball MJO  Year 10,11,12,13 Basketball CWH



## TVLP

Please find as a separate attachment the latest December copy of the TVLP newsletter.

Our Year 9 and 10 students participated in a TVLP event on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. They had the opportunity to explore the culture of Spanish and French speaking countries and got to know career options in languages. Also, they used their creativity in order to design French and Spanish postcards.



### TVLP LEADERSHIP SKILLS COURSE

Wednesday 1st, 8th and 22nd February 2023, 5:00pm-6:00pm

### TVLP LEADERSHIP SKILLS COURSE

Three online sessions. Students must attend them all to receive a participation certificate.

Open to students in Years 12 & 13 from TVLP schools.

Run by Dr Iro Konstantinou, Head of Research Programmes at the Tony Little Centre for Innovation and Research in Learning.

Wednesday 1st February 2023, 5.00pm - 6.00pm.

Wednesday 8th February 2023, 5.00pm - 6.00pm.

Wednesday 22nd February 2023, 5.00pm - 6.00pm.

To book your place, send your name & school email address to [info@tvlp.org.uk](mailto:info@tvlp.org.uk)

**TVLP**



Location: Online and in-person at Eton College (students can choose the option they prefer.)

### History Emoji Competition

A huge well done to all entries of our emoji competition! All entries were correct, but there can only be one winner! The correct answer is the sinking of the Titanic, and our winner is **Rosie McGrory (8C)**.



Watch  
Read  
Listen

#### Read

This week's book recommendation comes from Ms. Ahmed. The story of *Noor Inayat Khan* depicts the that of an Indian woman who gave her life as a British agent fighting with the French resistance movement during WWII. At the age of 29, Noor was captured by the Gestapo and eventually executed at Dachau concentration camp.



To

#### To Watch

Another recommendation from Ms. Ahmed this week is the film "The 12th Man". Based on a true story, this film tells the tale of a group of Norwegian resistance fighters whose mission is to sabotage German military fighters. This is one for our older historians as its rated 15 and older.



### To Visit

This week, Ms. Mawokomatanda recommends visiting Stonehenge! This Neolithic burial site has been around longer than the pyramids! If you're unable to visit it in person, why not carry out a virtual tour on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCFuw0o3tNY>

You can also visit the official website to find out more about Stonehenge here - <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/history/>



### Operation Bletchley Code Breaking Challenge

Bletchley Park's code breaking challenge begins in January.

Your mission is to cover miles, crack the codes and uncover the secret message you need to deliver to Winston Churchill before the time runs out.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January, take on one or both of Bletchley Park's winter missions:

- Land in Berlin and cover 40 miles on foot through Soviet territory and decrypt vital intelligence to beat the blockade.
- Embark on an undercover 80 mile journey across Yugoslavia arranging supply drops in the Balkans mission.

You can participate in either or both of these missions using your smartphone, fitness tracker or a map. You will have one month to complete the challenges.

For more information, please check <https://events.soldierscharity.org/operation-bletchley>

## Design and Technology Department



A busy term filled with successes in the workshops and kitchen!

Year 7s are coming to the end of their first unit of work in which they have followed the design process to produce a 3D graphic product. Year 8s have learnt about polymers and completed their Acrylic clips, Year 9 have learnt about 3 main material groups and have used their knowledge to manufacture a small Christmas item. In food there have been carrot muffins, healthy eating guidelines, jambalaya, eat well guides, profiteroles, and Christmas cookies.

### KS3 Makes and bakes





### DT Makelt elective

A Christmas theme to this terms Make it elective. Some skills developed with hand tools and CAD CAM, and beginning to see some creativity with the Advent angels.



### D&T Stars of the week

**Filip Kaczmarek**- Most Postive points for Food Technology

**Alessia Celorico-Jones**- Most positive points in Design and Technology



### DT social media

We try to post updates and points of interest on our Instagram page we also share some of the great work being done by our DT pupils....

## Year 11 French Christmas Market Trip to Lille's – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Summary of the fantastic trip as written by Daniel Rada 11T:

*In the French trip we took a coach which took two hours to get to Dover. We then got to Dunkirk and got off, the ferry was extremely fun as there was an arcade and a shop to buy gifts!*

*We got back on the coach to Lille, this took 2 hours; at this point some people slept and some had a lot of energy.*

*After arriving we went to our rooms with our chosen roommates and unpacked ready to go out to the Christmas market. This was extremely nice and beautiful as there was a lot of Christmas lights and little stalls. A lot of people bought souvenirs and some people went to Mcdonalds, there were also rides which went high up and one fast, we eventually came back after some fun and went to sleep.*

*Early in the morning we all got changed for a lovely French breakfast there was a huge variety of foods, we all ate and packed up and made our way to the coach as we walked past shops in Lille.*

*We hopped on the coach making our way to a French bakery. There we met the owner, called Bruno, who was very funny. He and his wife taught us about making bread and croissants, we all bought some snacks for the way to the ferry after an hour or so we had made it to the ferry and were on our way home, we finally got to Dover and after the journey to Slough we were all exhausted. Daniel Rada 11 Teresa.*



### Support at St Joseph's.

At St Joseph's we are aware and understand that the current cost of living crisis causes worry and concern for many. As a Catholic School, we always have the well-being of our school community at the heart of everything we do and as a result, we want to help as best we can. We are putting together fortnightly food parcels that will be delivered to families most in need in order to support them over the next few months. A typical food parcel will contain the following:

<b>Food items</b>	Cereal Pasta Soup Rice Tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce Lentils, beans and pulses Tinned meat Tinned vegetables Tea/coffee Tinned fruit Biscuits UHT milk Fruit juice
<b>Non-food items</b>	Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes, hand sanitizer Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons

In order to receive a food parcel each fortnight please can you email [support@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:support@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) where you will be invited to come into St Joseph's to discuss the needs of your family and the food parcel that will not only meet your family's dietary needs but also how we as a school can support further.





## SVP Christmas Hampers

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done (Proverbs 19:17)"

**Help families and vulnerable people in Slough this Christmas- donate to your forms Christmas hamper!**  
**All forms are asked to put together at least one hamper.**  
**Hampers should include non-perishable food, toiletries and Christmas items**

**Please ensure items donated have a use by date of no earlier than February 2023**

### Your hampers should include:

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Christmas card or festive message   | - Tinned fruit        |
| - Christmas pudding, biscuits or cake | - Fruit juice         |
| - Christmas selection boxes           | - Instant mash potato |
| - Cereal                              | - Noodles             |
| - Soup                                | - Sugar               |
| - Pasta/Rice                          | - Shower gel          |
| - Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce        | - Shampoo             |
| - Lentils, beans and pulses           | - Soap                |
| - Tinned meat                         | - Deodorant           |
| - Tinned vegetables                   | - Toothpaste          |
| Tea/coffee                            | - Toothbrush          |
|                                       | - Flannel             |
|                                       | - Towels              |
|                                       | - Scarf/Gloves/socks  |

**All hampers to be completed and delivered to the school hall (under the tree) for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

## Thank you!





# #IcandoMaths

## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

E The tetrahedron has 6 edges and 4 vertices, so the required product is  $6 \times 4 = 24$ .

## Solution to the Break time Teaser:

E The number of steps climbed per minute  $= \frac{1600}{12} = \frac{400}{3} \approx 130$ .

## Problem of the week

My recipe for apple crumble uses 100 g of flour, 50 g of butter and 50 g of sugar to make the crumble topping. When my family come for a meal, I have to use two and a half times each amount to provide enough crumble. In total, how much crumble topping do I then make?

- A 0.5 kg      B 2 kg      C 2.5 kg      D 5 kg      E 50 kg

## Break time Teaser:

What is the difference between 40% of 50% of 60 and 50% of 60% of 70?

- A 9      B 8      C 7      D 6      E 5

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

## Pupil Nominations of the Week

### YEAR 7

**Chloe Webster** and **Connor Jones** for working consistently hard and being faith filled and hopeful

### YEAR 8

**Bleu Scott** for great progress in French

**Andrius Trinovas** for positive contributions in Spanish

**Oliver Stacey** has again achieved the most positive points this week, with an amazing 30!

Closely followed by **Paulina Konopka** with an impressive 25. Well done to both of you.

### YEAR 9

**Kamil Krzesaj** for progress in Spanish

**Tyreese Chatyoka** and **Sweenal Fernandes** for gaining lots of positive points.

### YEAR 10

**Chay Evans** for positive participation during reading time

**Jakub Roginski** for his incredible advanced knowledge of Spanish grammar

**Joel Manalody** for motivation in Spanish

### YEAR 11

**Nicholas Lewkowicz** and **Patrycja Artemska** for excellent number of positive points this week.

### YEAR 12

**Tyler De Jesus** for excellent work in Physics and **Steven Anamanya** for great work in Maths

### YEAR 13

**Bela Lamelo** and **Jorge Morillas** for communicating in target language consistently in Spanish

**Joe Stabler** and **Piotr Homot** be awarded student of the week for the most positive points