



# St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025



*Goodbye lovely Autumn Term, welcome Spring Term! Happy New Year!*

## Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

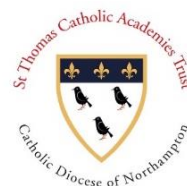
I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the image below to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.



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

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

## Welcome Back

Welcome back, everyone! We hope you had a restful and joyful Christmas half term. As we step into the new term, we're excited to continue our journey together; filled with fresh opportunities, new challenges, and plenty of growth. Let's make this term as amazing as the last! Here's to a fantastic start to the New Year!

## Baptism

Weekly Reflections  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Feast of the Baptism of the  
Lord



From the Gospel of Luke (3: 15-16; 21-22)

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

### Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of Baptism. In your love, you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours. We pray that you surround us with your love and protect us from evil.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

#### Day 1

What do you think are the key themes or ideas within Luke's gospel?

What do you know about your own Baptist (you were probably too young to remember it)?

Why do you think that your parents decide to baptize you?

#### Day 2

Why do you think Jesus asked John to baptize him, if John believes that he is not worthy enough to untie Jesus' sandals?

#### Day 3

What questions do you have about God or faith, and how can you explore them with **curiosity**?

What can you do this week to demonstrate that you are **active and curious** in everything that you do both at St. Joseph's and outside school?

#### *Catholic Social Teaching - Dignity of Work and Participation*

We respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Church teaching has upheld the dignity of work and participation. The human person should always come before the pursuit of profit. Workers have the right to join trade unions, to a just wage, to spend time with their families and to rest. Work is an essential part of our human dignity and everyone has the right to participate.

"It is essential that we continue to prioritise the goal of access to steady employment for everyone, no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning" - Pope Francis

**How this half term can you promote the Dignity of Work and Participation in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?**

## Theme of the Week – Baptism

January 12th is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in the Catholic Church. It marks the end of the Christmas season and celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. The baptism of Jesus is a significant event, rich in theological meaning, as described in Luke's Gospel. It marks Jesus' revelation as part of the Holy Trinity, with the Father's voice and the Holy Spirit descending in love. Jesus' entry into the Jordan, not as a sinner but as the sinless one, sanctifies the waters, transforming baptism from a mere symbol of repentance to a sacrament of inner renewal and rebirth, inaugurating Christian baptism.

This moment serves as a pivotal point in Jesus' life and mission, setting the stage for his ministry and ultimate sacrifice on the cross, leading to the Resurrection. Christian baptism, modelled on Jesus' baptism, signifies dying to sin and receiving the life of Christ, making believers children of God and anointed with the Holy Spirit. The descent of the Spirit at Jesus' baptism also institutes the sacrament of confirmation. Through confirmation, believers receive a mission and the power to fulfil it, emphasizing that being a Christian involves active participation in Christ's work of transforming the world. The text highlights the essential role of all Christians, not just clergy, in this mission, underlining that baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist together form the foundational sacraments of initiation.

Jesus allowed John the Baptist to baptize Him as an act of obedience to God's plan and as a way to identify with humanity's need for repentance and redemption. Jesus' baptism serves as a model for Christian baptism. It signifies repentance, the washing away of sin (even though Jesus Himself was sinless), and the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. It also emphasizes the importance of obedience to God and living a life aligned with His will. In essence, Jesus' baptism was an act of humility, a public declaration of His mission, and a powerful demonstration of God's redemptive plan for humanity.

The gospel passage from Luke connects to many virtues from our Pupil Profile, including being **Active** and **Curious**, Intentional and Prophetic:

The people's expectant waiting and their wonder about whether John might be the Messiah show a spirit of **curiosity**. They were **actively** seeking truth and understanding about the identity of the one who would bring salvation.

Jesus intentionally participates in baptism, even though he is sinless, to set an example and inaugurate his public ministry. This deliberate action reflects a purpose-driven life. John's proclamation of Jesus as the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire is a prophetic act. He prepares the way for Jesus and points others toward the transformative work of the Messiah.

What questions do you have about God or faith, and how can you explore them with **curiosity**? What can you do this week to demonstrate that you are **active** and **curious** in everything that you do both at St. Joseph's and outside school?

## Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope



The year 2025 is a Jubilee year in the Church for Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis proclaimed in the Papal Bull *Spes Non Confundit* (“Hope does not disappoint”).

*“The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God’s gift of creation.” (Pope Francis, Spes Non Confundit 25)*

The Jubilee began in Rome on the vigil of the Lord’s Nativity on Dec. 24, 2024 with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica, and in local dioceses on Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 29. It will conclude in local dioceses the following Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 28, 2025, and in Rome on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan. 6, 2026, with the closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica.

### THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

During the year, students will be given lots of different experiences to celebrate this Jubilee Year. We encourage all Students, Parents/Carers, Staff and Parishes to send in their celebrations to [chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:chaplain@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk), so that over the course of the whole year, we can come together as a School Community to pray for our intentions of Hope and allow us all to deepen our relationship with God.

## Flame 2024

Flame is the largest Catholic youth gathering in the UK and it returns on **15<sup>th</sup> March 2025!** Over 8,000 young people are expected to attend the OVO Arena, Wembley, for a day of inspirational speakers, world-class Christian musicians and moments of prayer and Adoration. Bishop David will be also be giving one of the keynote talks.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as the Jubilee year of ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. Pilgrimages are journeys with a sacred purpose, often full of challenges. To embark on a pilgrimage is to be unstoppable in one’s faith, believing in God’s guiding hand throughout the journey. Just as many saints and martyrs have shown, faith and hope make one unstoppable against adversities.

If any student from Year 10-13 would like to attend, please can they see Mr Gibbons, where he will arrange to buy some discounted tickets.

### **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 £16,190)
- 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.

### **Pupil Premium at St Joseph's**

If you have any enquiry about Pupil Premium (PP), whether it be how we can support your child or whether to know if your child is eligible for PP, please do email Mr Gibbons at [j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk). Please see the attached letter regarding PP that will have some more information.

### Pupil Nominations of the Week

<b>Year 7</b> <b>Kris Lindautas</b> for receiving the most positive points this week and <b>Lillie Green</b> for consistently demonstrating what it means to be a St Joseph's student.
<b>Year 8</b> <b>Claudia Burakowska</b> and <b>Marcel Stepczynski</b>
<b>Year 9</b> <b>Erin Ble</b> and <b>Brooke Harvey</b>
<b>Year 10</b> <b>Ethan Hancock</b> and <b>Lena Kuczynska</b> for receiving the most positive points this week.
<b>Year 11</b> <b>Nathan James</b> and <b>Alicia Kasongo</b> for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week.
<b>Year 12</b> <b>Stefan Niculae</b> and <b>Adrian Jurys</b> for the most positive points on ClassCharts.
<b>Year 13</b> <b>Emaan Batool</b> for consistently working hard in all subjects and <b>Matteo Mennone</b> for displaying the St Joseph's values in everything he does.



#### D&T Stars



Year 10 - **Celine Sidyk**, **Joshua Basaran**, **Lena Margilewska** and **Natalia Zaworska** for exceptional Homework. Well done!

#### Year 7 News

Happy New Year to you all! I hope we all had a lovely Christmas.

Thank you to everyone for attending our Academic Review Day on Monday, attendance was great. Form Tutors thoroughly enjoyed meeting with you all. We will have another one in the Summer Term, where we can see whether the targets set were met or not.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7*

#### Year 8 News

I hope you all had a wonderful festive period, enjoying time with loved ones and making the most of the well-deserved rest.

It's been an excellent start to the New Year, with every single Year 8 student receiving at least one positive this week.

A quick reminder to ensure uniform standards are consistently met. Let's continue to take pride in our appearance and represent our school with excellence.

We are excited for what promises to be a positive and productive term ahead. Thank you for your ongoing support, and let's make this a successful period.

*Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8*

### **Year 9 News**

Welcome back and hope you had a lovely Christmas! We had a brilliant 90% attendance at Academic Review Day on 6<sup>th</sup> January, with students sharing their aspirations and future careers – which was great to see and the Tutors found very interesting. On **23<sup>rd</sup> January, it is CIAG evening from 5-7 pm**, where students will be able to see the options available to them for GCSE. A letter to both Parents/Carers and Students was sent out via ClassCharts on Wednesday with more information.

Wrap up warm and have a great weekend.

*Ms McCormack – Head of Year 9*

### **Year 9 CIAG Evening – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Year 9 will have their Careers, Information and Guidance evening. This will **start promptly in the School Hall at 5pm**, followed by a Subject Fair in the Sports Hall, so students and parents can gain more information on the courses offered at GCSE. Please find attached a letter outlining all the information for this.

### **Year 9 Parents Evening – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Year 9 Parents Evening will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> February, sandwiched between CIAG evening and the Options Form deadline, so Parents/Carers and Students have a further opportunity to ask questions regarding the KS4 curriculum and their suitability for subjects. It is vitally important that Students and a Parent/Carer are there for this evening so that you are fully aware of the process for choosing their GCSEs options.

### **Year 10 News**

Happy New Year and welcome back; I hope you all had a restful break! All students should have received their reports and set targets from their Form Tutor on Academic Review Day. Please could I ask that we make a conscious effort to achieve these targets over the next few months.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10*

### **Year 11 News**

This week has been a shorter one for our Year 11 students due to **Academic Review Day (ARD)** on Monday. It was a pleasure to meet with so many parents to discuss the barriers students are facing and the support we can offer in this crucial year of their education. Thank you to all who attended for your engagement and thoughtful conversations. For parents who were unable to attend, we kindly ask you to arrange a meeting or phone call with your child's tutor as soon as possible.

### Weekly Highlights

This week, we've recorded **162 positive points** and **25 negative points**, with **homework issues (8)** being the most common reason for negatives. While the numbers are lower due to the shorter week, it's encouraging to see the continued focus of many students. Let's keep this momentum going as we move through this critical term.

### PPE and BTEC Exams

The **PPE (mock) exams** and **BTEC exams** have now begun. It is vital that students take these assessments seriously as they provide valuable insights into their progress and readiness for the final exams.

However, punctuality remains a concern, with some students arriving late to their exams or subsequent lessons due to poor time management. I cannot stress enough the importance of arriving on time—both for exams and lessons—so that you can maximize your learning and avoid unnecessary stress. Please ensure you are leaving home earlier if needed and arriving well-prepared.

### A Note for Reflection

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany this week, let us reflect on the journey ahead and the opportunities we have to grow and succeed. Year 11 is a challenging time, but it's also one filled with possibilities. With dedication, discipline, and the support of your teachers and family, you can achieve great things.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment, and I look forward to seeing continued focus and progress next week. Wishing you all a peaceful and reflective weekend.

*Mr Romero – Head of Year 11*

### Year 12 News

The Spring Term has begun well for Year 12, with students reflecting upon their most recent reports and considering what they need to do to further improve in their subjects. Congratulations to those students who have passed their English and Maths GCSE Resits and received their results this week. We have also received some exciting news that five of our students have been selected to attend a Careers Insights Day at PwC in Reading next week, which they are very much looking forward to.

*Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12*

### Year 13 News

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to everyone who attended Academic Review Day this week. For all of our students, their success relies not only on them, but the partnerships created between the School and you as their Parents/Carers. As always, we welcome your feedback and please feel free to get touch if you have any concerns that you did not mention on the day. Any student who took resit examinations in English and Maths in November have received their results this week. Finally, the students started their PPE's this week. I have been extremely proud of how well-prepared they have been and how they have conducted themselves so far.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

*Miss Finn – Head of Year 13*



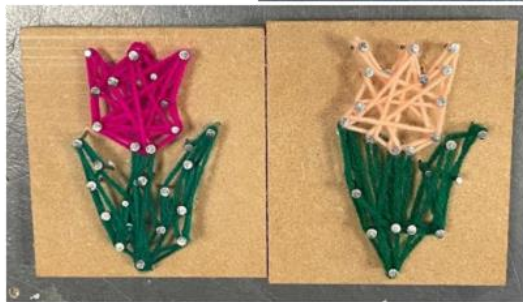
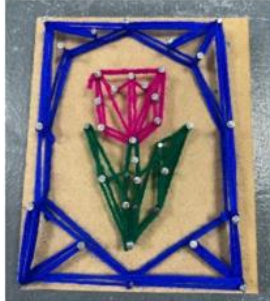
# Design and Technology Department



## D+T Make It Elective

### Spreading Kindness 2025

Pupils made pinart images and pocket tokens to gift to others.



## Year 10 Designers

Some particularly well-presented designer research pages from the Year 10 designers. We are looking forward to displaying some of these!



## D&T Social Media



We hope to begin posting some of our successes, challenges and updates onto our [@stjosephsdt](#) page again. Please scan the QR code to visit our Instagram page. We hope you enjoy the posts!



### Help us to RECYCLE: WE WANT YOUR Plastic Bottle Lids

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. Thank you!

## Geography Club – Winners of the OS Map Symbol Competition

- Year 8 – **Wiktor Belniak** (8V)
- Year 9 – **Joanna Balasa** (9M)
- Year 10 – **Lena Wanda Kuczynska** (10J)
- Year 11 – **Sydelle Vaz** (11V)

Congratulations to the winners of the OS Map Symbol competition, and a big well done to all the participants for your enthusiasm! – *Mrs Rodrigues*

## Bikeability

A gentle reminder to Parents/Carers and Students that Bikeability Level 2 will be taking place on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January** for the following students:

Niamh Caswell-Harrison	Jeremiah Massey	Laura Przybylska	Nathanael Koomson
Oscar Czarnecki	Kasper Paczek	Aleksandra Sapinska	Wiktor Belniak
Jayden Candara	Marcel Kunecki	Aldrin Joseph-Thomas	Oliver Szuba
William Gomez			

Please check MS Teams and ClassCharts for updates. – *Mr Silver*

## Menu



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sweet & Sour Chicken served with Rice	Beef Bolognese Pasta served with Parmesan Cheese	Pork Sausages served with Mashed Potatoes	Chicken Tikka Masala served with Rice & a Poppadom	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips, Tartare Sauce & a Lemon Wedge
Cauliflower Cheese Stuffed Jacket Potato	Vegetable Enchilada	Mixed Bean Stroganoff served with Rice	Quorn Cottage Pie	BBQ Quorn Sub Melt
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad
Pasta with a Tomato & Herb Sauce	Teriyaki Noodles	Pasta with Lentils	Pasta with Garlic & Parmesan	-
Apple & Berry Crumble served with Custard	Lemon & Lime Drizzle Cake	Rice Krispy Cake	Chocolate Chip Cookie	Marble Cake

Available daily:

*Sandwiches, Wraps &*

*Baguettes, Panini, Jacket*

*Potatoes, Cold Desserts & Fruit*



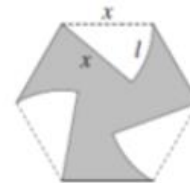
## Reporting Student Absences

A kind reminder to please review the attached document, which outlines the steps for reporting your child's absence on ClassCharts.



## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- D Let the length of the side of the hexagon be  $x$  mm and the length of the arc of each sector be  $l$  mm. Then the radius of each sector is also  $x$  mm. Therefore  $2x + l = 18$ .  
The perimeter, in mm, of the shape formed when the three sectors are removed from the hexagon is  $6x + 3l = 3(2x + l) = 3 \times 18 = 54$ .



## Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

$$C \quad 999 \times 999 + 999 = 999(999 + 1) = 999 \times 1000 = 999\,000.$$

## Puzzler of the week

$$\sqrt{\sqrt{x}} = 3. \text{ What is the value of } x?$$

- A  $\sqrt{\sqrt{3}}$       B  $\sqrt{3}$       C 9      D 12      E 81

## Break-time Teaser

Which of these numbers is neither a multiple of 3, nor a multiple of 4?

- A 16      B 21      C 28      D 34      E 45

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



## 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

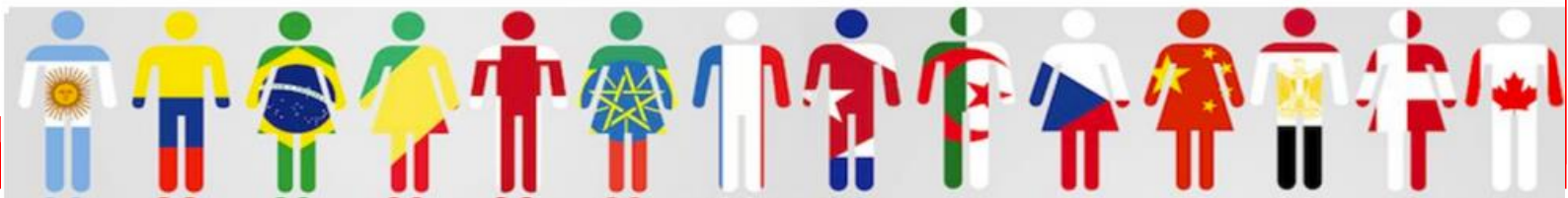
Check your child's homework schedule in their journal or on ClassCharts and ask them to explain what they're working on in their own words. Reach out to their teachers if you need clarity on assignments or extra support resources.

##### 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!**



## SCHOOL CLUBS



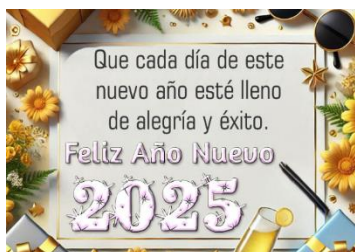
### Languages Department

Our KS3 students are back with bags of energy for their 2025 MFL club. We meet after school on **Tuesdays at 3:30 – 4:30pm**. Exploring languages, cultural themes and enjoying friendships; an enticing prospect with jelly beans and Chupa Chups! Romance languages evolved from Vulgar Latin from 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD. If you are **Active** and **Curious** (two of our Pupil Profile values), you can read up on: [Romance Languages | Britannica](#)

So, how do we actually greet each other to say Happy New Year? Our club came up with five fantastic phrases as we have students from all of these amazing cultures! Can you spot the similarities and differences in these words below?

- *Bonne Année (French)*
- *An Nou Fericit (Romanian)*
- *Felice Anno Nuovo (Italian)*
- *Feliz Ano Nuevo (Spanish)*
- *Feliz Ano Novo (Portuguese)*

The MFL club and Ms Shaw wish you, your families, friends & teachers, a happy, successful and harmonious New Year.



### D+T Club - KS3 DESIGNeers



If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making, consider joining our D&T team of DESIGNeers (designers and engineers).

New projects launch in January!... we would LOVE for you to join us!

Please see, or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams** and join us at **DESIGNeers Club** on a **Monday** afterschool in **A3**.

### 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

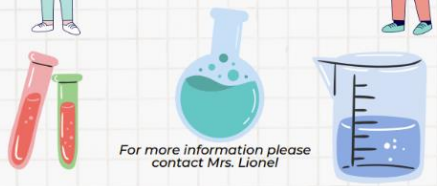


## YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

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  Trampolining KBR		Year 10, 11, 12, 13 Basketball CWH