



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 17th January 2025

Science Club

Making hot air balloons in Science Club – a fun activity that kept everyone engaged and excited!



Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

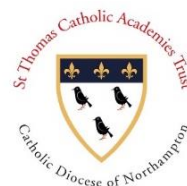
I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the image below to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.



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!"

Do whatever He tells you

Weekly Reflections
19th January 2025
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of John (2: 1-11)

At that time: There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding seventy or one hundred litres. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.' So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, At Cana, Your son turned water into wine, showing Your power and care.
Help us trust in Your timing, obey Your word, and believe in Your abundant blessings.
Transform our lives as You did the jars, and reveal Your glory to us.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Day 1

What can we learn from the way the servants trusted and obeyed, even when they didn't fully understand what Jesus was doing?

How can we apply this lesson to situations where we are asked to step out of our comfort zones?

Day 2

What does the transformation of water into wine symbolize about who Jesus is and what He came to do?

How does this miracle reveal both Jesus' divinity and His care for human needs?

Day 3

Mary told the servants to "do whatever He tells you." How can we cultivate the **wisdom** to listen to and follow good guidance in our lives?

How can you use the knowledge (**learned**) you gain in school to make **wise** decisions?

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 – Do whatever He tells you

In the Gospel of John, the account of Jesus transforming water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee offers profound lessons for real-life application. First, it underscores the importance of believing in the limitless power of God, as demonstrated in the miraculous transformation. This act reminds us that what seems impossible for humans is entirely possible with divine intervention.

Second, the story emphasizes the value of obedience to Jesus' instructions. The disciples exemplified this obedience when they acted upon His commands, prompted by His mother's trust in Him. Their readiness to follow without hesitation serves as a model of faith in action. Finally, the narrative teaches the principle of asking in faith. It suggests that through prayer, faith, and adherence to His guidance, one can experience blessings that surpass expectations. Even in circumstances that appear insurmountable, God's provision is abundant and sufficient. This event reassures believers that Jesus, as a caring provider, will always find a way to meet the needs of His people.

The transformation of water into wine symbolizes Jesus' power to bring joy, abundance, and transformation. It reveals His identity as God (divinity) and foreshadows His mission to replace the old covenant with the new. This miracle also shows His care for human needs by preventing social embarrassment at the wedding, affirming His compassion for both practical and spiritual concerns.

The gospel passage from John connects to many virtues from our Pupil Profile, including being **Learned** and **Wise**:

The servants exemplified a teachable spirit by following Jesus' instructions, even though the request to fill ceremonial jars with water may have seemed strange. Their willingness to trust and act enabled them to witness and **learn** from the miracle. Similarly, the disciples grew in their understanding of Jesus' divine nature through this event.

Being "**learned**" also involves seeking deeper meaning in events and situations, as this story invites us to reflect on how God works through everyday circumstances to reveal profound truths.

Wisdom in this Gospel is highlighted in Mary's confident instruction to the servants: "Do whatever he tells you." Mary demonstrates spiritual insight, recognizing the importance of trusting Jesus even before He performs the miracle. **Wisdom** here is the ability to discern the right course of action, even when the outcome is not immediately clear.

The story also illustrates that **wisdom** involves humility and obedience. The servants' actions, though simple, required trust in something greater than their own understanding. True **wisdom** involves not only knowledge but the discernment to act in alignment with God's will, even when it seems unconventional or counterintuitive.

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, 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 2025

Flame is the largest Catholic youth gathering in the UK and it returns on **15th 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. Please see the attached letter regarding PP that will have some more information.

Spreading Joy with Post Pals: A Lesson in Love and Kindness

As part of the Sustainability Elective, our students recently embraced the spirit of **Catholic Social Teaching** by creating thoughtful and colourful cards for **Post Pals**, a charity dedicated to bringing smiles to children facing serious illnesses.

Through this activity, students embodied the **values of human dignity and solidarity**, recognising the importance of bringing joy to others and standing together as a community of care. By pouring love and creativity into their cards, they demonstrated the attributes of **being loving and compassionate**, showing how small acts of compassion can have a lasting impact.

This initiative not only brightened the lives of the children who will receive these cards but also reinforced a deeper understanding of sustainability—not just for the environment, but for relationships and emotional well-being. It reminded us all that caring for others is at the heart of building a more compassionate and interconnected world.

We are so proud of our students for their generosity and for living out the **Gospel message of love in action**. Together, they showed how powerful small, intentional acts can be in transforming lives.



Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7 Lisa Mwaura and Filip Draminski for excellent weeks.
Year 8 Tomasz Dobinski and Iga Karasinska
Year 9 Brianne Barrozo and Tesia Teji for achieving the most positive points.
Year 10 Macayla Silva and Oliwer Wlodkowski for receiving the most positive points this week. Oliwer Wlodkowski for his excellent work in Geography this week.
Year 12 Isabelle Pace and Christian Piscopo-Evans for great attitude to learning and the most positive points on ClassCharts.
Year 13 Daniel Da Fonseca Soares and Michalina Rolka for maintaining 100% attendance since September.

MFL Superstars



	Spanish
Year 7	Leo Parkin for his diligence and willingness to do well in Spanish.
Year 8	Matthew Gumarang for great focus and participation in lessons.
Year 9	Pawel Gregorczyk and James Rossiter for their resilience and effort to excel in Spanish. Urszula Kaczor for the time, effort and dedication to her Spanish studies. 9Y3 for their work, participation and commitment in Spanish since the beginning of this term.

Year 7 News

Year 7s have had an excellent week, there is lots to be proud of! We have broken the **20,000 Positive Point** barrier, which puts us in a great position to hit the target set by the Year 7 team of 60,000 by the end of the year. Well done Year 7 and keep it up!

Have a great weekend everybody!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Year 8 have achieved over **1,500 positive points** with a **94% positive ratio**, a fantastic reflection of your hard work this week. A shoot-out to **Jerome**, who earned over **300 positives** this week—well done!

Congratulations to the **Year 8 Football team** for their 3-0 victory in the County Cup. Keep up the hard work!

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

The second week back after Christmas is always difficult as we are now truly back in the swing of lessons. In assembly this week, Year 9 were informed about **CIAG Evening next Thursday, 23rd January**, where students will get the opportunity to circulate around subjects and get more information around the options available for them for GCSE. The evening will start at 5pm in the Main Hall, with a talk for both parents and students to explain the options process and then the opportunity to go across to the Sports Hall, where all Heads of Department will be there to answer any questions and give more information related to subject choices.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing all parents next week.

Ms McCormack – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Parents Evening – Thursday 6th February

Year 9 Parents Evening will take place on 6th 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

Year 10, you've done an outstanding job this week with **over 650 positive points** and an **impressive 93% positive ratio**—well done! This is a true reflection of your hard work and dedication.

A quick reminder: Please make sure you're ready on the upper school playground by 8:20am for the line-up. Lateness has started to creep up, so let's keep that excellent punctuality up to match our fantastic achievements!

Keep up the great work! Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 12 News

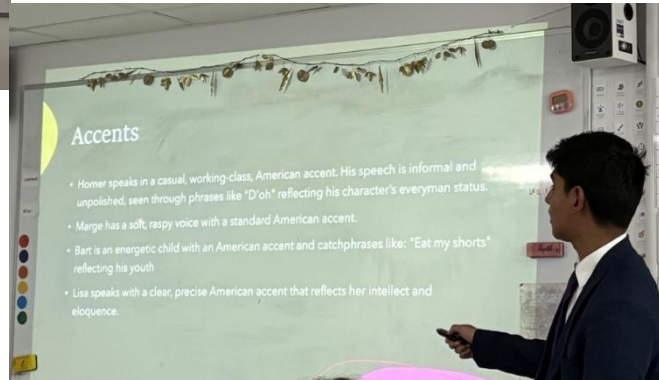
It has been another week full of exams, assessments and hard work for Year 12, and yet there are still many exciting opportunities coming up to look forward to. On Thursday, six students attended a **Careers Insights Day at PwC in Reading** – a major global accountancy firm. In addition to this, we are in the process of selecting two students to participate in **The Catenian Association Public Speaking Competition**, which if successful in the opening round, would give our students the chance to compete against other Sixth Form students nationwide. From this week, we are starting to run sessions every Thursday morning during Form Time on Study Skills, which we trust will be beneficial to all students as the academic demands of their courses begin to increase.

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12



English Language Presentations

This week, Year 12 English Language students took to the stage to present on dialect and accent in a TV series they had been investigating. Their academic rigour and presentation skills were really impressive. Well done!



Year 13 News

Another great week of PPE's for Year 13. The way the students have conducted themselves during this exam period has been amazing and to see so many of them putting the hours in after school to prepare is fantastic. Staff are busy marking exams and over the coming weeks, students will start to receive feedback that will be crucial to their success in the Summer Exams. It is important that they take this feedback on-board and ask their subject teachers what their next steps should be. I would just like to remind you that the **deadline for UCAS is 29th January**, so if you know your son or daughter is planning to apply, then please check in with them to ensure they get their applications in on time.

Finally, today we remember Nathan Marriot, a former student who passed away suddenly in 2022 following a short illness. Nathan would have been in Year 13 and some of the students took the time to remember him this morning with a liturgy lead by Mr Gibbons. I know you will keep Nathan and his family in your prayers.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Finn – Head of Year 13



TVLP
CREATIVE WRITING
COMPETITION

Write Yourself a Thriller!

Who dunnit?
 Murder Mystery?
 Cliffhanger?

In just 500 words
 Its Time to Thrill!

Competition Launch Date
 Wednesday 15th January
 For years 7,8,9

Competition Closing Date
 Friday 14th February

Email your writing to
 J.Kemp@tvlp.org.uk



Be inspired to write to chill
 by
 Author Sue Wallman
 with her January
 Writing Workshops



Prizes to Die For!

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-15deg); font-weight: bold;">WEEKLY MENU</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">St Josephs Catholic High School - Week Two</h2> </div> </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef Keema with Peas & Rice	Chicken Tagine served with Couscous & Tzatziki	Student Choice	Minced Beef Enchilada	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips, Tartare Sauce & a Lemon Wedge
Cheese, Leek & Potato Pie with a Puff Pastry Lid	Spinach & Ricotta Lasagne	Quorn Tacos with Sour Cream & Cheese	Indonesian Style Vegetable Curry served with Rice	Curried Vegetable Pasty
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 Cheese & Ham Sauce	Pasta with a Cheese Sauce	Chinese Style Noodles with Beansprouts	Pasta with a Tomato Sauce	-
Iced Vanilla Sponge	Sticky Toffee Pudding served with Custard	Chocolate Brownie	White Chocolate Chip Flapjack	Carrot 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

E We are given that $\sqrt{\sqrt{x}} = 3$. Therefore $\sqrt{x} = 3^2 = 9$. So $x = 9^2 = 81$.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

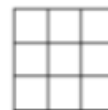
D Both 21 and 45 are multiples of 3. Also, both 16 and 28 are multiples of 4. However, 34 is neither a multiple of 3, nor a multiple of 4.

Puzzler of the week

To draw a 3 by 3 square grid you need 8 straight lines, as shown.

How many straight lines do you need to draw a n by n square grid?

- A $n+5$ B $3n-1$ C n^2-1 D $4(n-1)$ E $2(n+1)$



Break-time Teaser

What is the value of $1 - (2 - (3 - 4 - (5 - 6)))$?

- A -2 B -1 C 0 D 1 E 2

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



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Accessing Support

For a comprehensive list of food services and support, including additional days and locations, refer to Slough Borough Council's Cost of Living Resource Pack. [Click HERE](#)

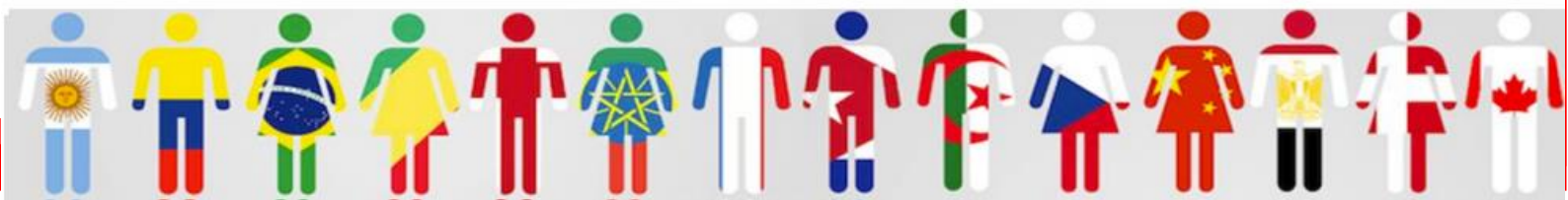
Family Information Service

Slough Family Information Service offers free impartial information and guidance about a wide range of services for children, young people and their families. They provide information on:

- support and advice for families with children and young people
- financial support and help with childcare costs
- children's centres and family services
- schools and school-based family services
- activities for children, young people aged 0-19 and families
- the Local Offer including activities and services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- adult education and employment.

To talk to the team visit the website at

www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk or call 01753 476589.



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 in T5**. Exploring languages, cultural themes and enjoying friendships; an enticing prospect with jelly beans and Chupa Chups! Romance languages evolved from Vulgar Latin from 1st Century AD. If you are **Active** and **Curious** (two of our Pupil Profile values), you can read up on: [Romance Languages | Britannica](#)

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