



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 23rd May 2025



Baby Bank

This term, students united to support the Baby Bank charity by collecting essential items for families with young children. The response – ranging from nappies and wipes to baby clothes and toiletries – was heartfelt and generous. The Baby Bank helps struggling families by providing basic necessities, and our students demonstrated **kindness and empathy** in recognising the importance of community support. This initiative powerfully reminded us of the impact we can have when we work together. **Thank you to all who donated** – you have truly made a difference.

Headteacher 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!"

My gift to you

Weekly Reflections
25th May 2025
6th Sunday of Easter



From the Gospel of John (14: 23-29)

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

'These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I will come to you." If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.'

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God,

Speak to us through your word, your Spirit, and the fellowship we share, so we can live in abundance with the gift of peace you give us.

Through Christ our Lord
Amen

Reflection on the Gospel from Sunday:

The Gospel again from Sunday is taken from the last supper and is a reminder to us of what will descend on the disciples after Jesus has left them. The final gift that Jesus leaves for his disciples is the gift of peace 'a peace that the world cannot give.' And this peace Jesus refers to is that of perfect well-being and being in complete communion with God. This peace is so pure that whatever is thrown at us we can prevail over it.

If we are in relationship with God, if we are in union with God, then we will be blessed with the gift of peace, and as Jesus was able to offer this gift of peace to others because he possessed it, so also can we extend this gift to those around us, if we first receive this gift from God. In our fast paced world, it is easy to neglect our time with God. Often then in our times of prayer we are tempted to do all the talking, our prayer time can become very 'active.' The gift of peace, along with all the gifts of the Spirit, are just that, gifts. We cannot earn them or obtain them. This week try a new type of prayer, perhaps meditating in front of an icon, joining in on a time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, or meditating on a passage of scripture (lectio divina).

Try to refrain from too much 'active' prayer, but instead sit silently with the Lord with an attitude of openness, listen to what he has to say to you, allow him to bless you with the gifts he has for you.

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7 Sena Okyere and Daniel Baptista for excellent weeks.
Year 8 Julia Dulak and Adem Rada
Year 9 Mia Brennan and Tesia Teji , as voted for by Form Tutors.
Year 10 Vanessa Masna and Ayan Daniel for receiving the most positive points this week.
Year 11 Nathan James and Kara Cullen for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week.
Year 12 Zuzanna Drewnowska and Karolina Woronowicz for all their support with Multicultural Day.

Homework Superstars

Year 8	Michael Garncarek
Year 9	Jessica Lysiak



Year 7 News

Year 7s have had an excellent half-term, picking up **over 4,500 Positive Points** and having a **97% Positive to Negative Ratio** – which is extremely impressive! **A massive well done to them all!** I hope everyone has a lovely half-term. We will be back on Monday 2nd June.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

A **huge well done to all our students for earning over 4,500 positive points** this half term, with an amazing **93% positive ratio!** **Special congratulations to those who enjoyed a Mufti Day** yesterday for achieving no homework or late X's.

I am also proud of everyone who wore multicultural dress today and brought in meaningful items to share their heritage, it has been a fantastic day.

Remember to cherish time with your loved ones over the break, do something kind, and come back ready for the final half term of Year 8 with your homework done, equipment ready!

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Final week of the half term and the weather's starting to look better. **Congratulations to Veronica House** this week, who are receiving their prize of free ice cream for having the lowest ratio of positive points to negative points consistently over the five weeks. On Thursday, it was also Mufti Day for all those students who have received 0 XH's and 0 XL's, which is a massive achievement. On Friday, it was Multicultural Day, which gave all the students the opportunity to represent their country in national dress or with the colours of the flag. This has always been a massively positive day, with students showing their pride and passion for their country and national identity.

I hope you have a great half term and that the students come back ready and eager to go for the final half term of the year.

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

As we wrap up this half term, we want to extend a **huge well done to all of Year 10** for your excellent behaviour and positive attitude over the past few weeks. Your focus, respect, and commitment to learning have not gone unnoticed – keep it up!

A **special congratulations goes out to our Mufti Day winners on Thursday**, who earned their non-uniform treat by achieving a clean record with no X's for lateness or homework. Let's not forget to **celebrate Veronica House**, who topped the charts with the best positive to negative ratio in the House Competition!

Here's to continuing this fantastic momentum into the next half term. Let's aim high, support each other, and finish the year strong.

Have a restful break – you've earned it!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

Dear Year 11 Students and Families,

As we approach the end of this term and a critical week of GCSE exams, I want to take a moment to recognise the resilience, strength, and maturity shown by this incredible year group. The way our students are handling the pressure of exams, managing stress, and supporting one another is nothing short of inspiring. We are all truly impressed — and we know that all this hard work will pay off on Results Day.

This week, **Year 11 earned an outstanding 182 positive points**. A clear reflection of their effort, focus, and attitude. However, we also had 58 negative points, mainly due to lateness to school and missing lunch detentions. A reminder to all: our behaviour expectations remain high throughout the exam period. Punctuality and accountability are non-negotiable, and detentions must be attended as scheduled. We continue to expect nothing but the best from every student.

STUDY LEAVE – UPDATE

Many students have been asking about study leave after the half-term break. Please note:

- There will not be full study leave after half term, as explained in the letter sent to parents.
- There will be changes to timetables, which will be clearly communicated and explained as soon as they are finalised.
- Until further notice, all Year 11 students are expected to attend school every day.

HALF-TERM INTERVENTIONS

During the break, we will continue to support our students with the following sessions:

1. Compulsory Maths Intervention – Tuesday 27th May (9:00am–12:00pm). Location: Maths Block

GCSE Higher			GCSE Foundation		
Firstname	Surname	Teacher	Firstname	Surname	Teacher
Gabriel	Konarski	HGO	Georgie	Loizou	SSE
Bartosz	Kubicki	HGO	Amelia	Marszalek	SSE
Evie	Leonard -Finn	HGO	Michelle	Njau	SSE
Roksana	Lydzinska	HGO	Benedito	Quadros	SSE
Nikola	MAliga	HGO	Jayden	Sabino	SSE
Jessica	Mistecka	HGO	Che	Saini	SSE
Liza	Pereira	HGO	Martyna	Walczyk	SSE
Nicole	Podoba	HGO	Iani	Popescu	PAL
Olivia	Polaczyk Borek	HGO	Kara	Cullen	PAL
Darryl	Reyes	HGO	Gabriel	Sobala	PAL
Xavier	Rychlik	HGO	Diya	Mahi	PAL
Richard	Liyanaarachchige	POD	Jacob	Welsh	PAL
Adam	Nawrocki	POD	Lucy	Wilson	PAL
Zac	O'Brien	POD	Oskar	Kopys	HGO
Szymon	Przerwa	POD	Yurand	Kwiatkowski	HGO
Mikolaj	Roszak	POD			
Kye	Simpson	POD			
Keira	Webster	POD			
Gabriella	Wilczko	POD			
Oliwier	Wojciechowski	POD			
Kornel	W	POD			
Wiktoria	Zych	POD			
Dove	O	HKI			
Maryanne	Rojas	HKI			
Oliver	Ventura	HKI			

2. Music Intervention – Thursday 29th May (10:00am–12:00pm). Location: Maths Block

🎵 For all music students

3. Online Science Intervention – Available on *MrRomeroScience* YouTube and Twitch channels

Message from PE:

If you are staying for Sixth Form, you will need your PE Kit, so please do not throw it away or get rid of it.

Let's keep the momentum going. Rest, revise, and recharge — and come back stronger. We are proud of you.

Mr Romero – Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

This week, Year 12 are beginning to consider UCAS applications in more detail. We had a session in the Sixth Form study room on Thursday morning where the students were guided through the process of setting up their UCAS accounts. There was a real sense of excitement in the air and we hope that creating this account will give them access to a wide range of information from UCAS that will really help them to make those important decisions for post-18 destinations. In addition to this, many Year 12 students have been involved in preparations for Multicultural Day at school; whether this has involved rehearsing a dance, baking or assisting Mrs Ura with a wide range of other tasks that needed to be done in advance. I know that their input at all levels has been very much appreciated!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

We are now well into the exam season and the commitment of the students in Year 13 has been amazing. The dedication they are showing to their revision has been commendable and their conduct during the exams has been exceptional. I would just like to remind you that when we return from half term, on **2nd June, there is no requirement for students to attend Form Time, PSHE, EPQ, reading time and electives**. Students only need to attend lessons where they have not yet completed the full suite of examinations and their A Level exams. They must still adhere to the uniform policy when on the school site.

All students must complete an exit form and return this, in addition to their iPad and lanyard, to Mrs Higgins before they can be officially signed off. Refunds for iPads will be returned via ParentPay, dependent on the state of items returned.

I thank you once again for all of your support over the year and look forward to celebrating your child's success on **Results Day on 14th August**.

Have a great half-term.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

Absences

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please be aware that all medical absences from the last week of this half-term and the first week of the next half-term will be **unauthorised without medical evidence**. This is per our Attendance Policy. Please be aware that if your child is unwell in school, we will make a decision whether to send them home and this will be authorised.

If you have planned a holiday, please email office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk with an explanation, including the dates of absence and proof of the travel documentation (both outbound and inbound). This **must be the original documentation** and not the boarding pass.

Having unauthorised absences will affect future Rewards trips and college/university applications.

Thank you as always for your support in the education of your child/ren.

TVLP Dance Festival – Tuesday 20th May

St Joseph's proudly joined the TVLP Festival of Dance at St Mary's Ascot, a vibrant celebration of our students' passion for dance. Alongside St Mary's, Slough and Eton, Herschel Grammar and Lynch Hill, our dancers came together to share their love of movement and creativity.

The afternoon kicked off with an energizing street dance workshop led by the talented **Zoe Warboys**, whose expert choreography inspired all students to shine. Following rehearsals and tech runs, each school performed their pieces, showcasing a diverse range of styles – from dynamic street dance to expressive contemporary solos.

Under the spotlight, St Joseph's students demonstrated dedication, skill and enthusiasm, contributing to a programme of outstanding quality. **We congratulate every dancer who participated** – your hard work and talent truly lit up the stage and made the event a memorable celebration across the TVLP network.



Multicultural Day: A Massive Success

Today, St Joseph's Catholic High School came alive with colour, music, and community spirit as we celebrated our much-anticipated Multicultural Day. The event was a true reflection of our this year's theme: **"United in Diversity"**, bringing together students, staff, and families to honour and showcase the rich cultural backgrounds that make up our school community.

One of the day's standout highlights was a captivating dance performance by **Mlody Las**, which brought energy and joy to the audience. We were also treated to a variety of student performances, including music, flag and traditional attire parades. Our talented students took great pride in representing their **cultural heritage**, and their enthusiasm was truly inspiring.

Another favorite moment was the **Food Fair**, which featured a wide array of delicious dishes from around the world. A heartfelt **thank you to all the parents and carers who prepared and shared homemade meals**, your contributions helped create a warm and festive atmosphere and allowed everyone to experience a **taste of different cultures**.

The success of this year's Multicultural Day would not have been possible without the enthusiastic participation and support of our students—especially the planning committee. A **big shout-out to Julia P, Karolina W, Natalia A, Nicola S, Emilia P, Zuzanna D, Karolina W, Chesley G, Wiktorina P, Daria W, and Vanessa A**, for their outstanding contributions. **Heartfelt thanks also go to our dedicated teachers and staff**. Your commitment, creativity, and teamwork were truly instrumental in making the day an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

We look forward to continuing to celebrate and learn from one another, embracing the rich diversity that strengthens our school community every day.

Thank you once again and here's to even more unity in our diversity!

Enjoy some photo highlights (on the next page) capturing the vibrant performances, delicious cuisines, and the beautiful unity of our diverse community.





"Sweet Tower of Mine" House Competition – A Delicious Engineering Challenge!

What do you get when you mix spaghetti, marshmallows, and a whole lot of teamwork? You get one of the *tastiest* and *exciting* house competitions – "**Sweet Tower of Mine**"!

Last week, students across Years 7-10 were challenged to build the tallest freestanding tower they could using only dry spaghetti and marshmallows. Sounds easy? Think again! The competition required creativity, collaboration, and some seriously impressive engineering skills.

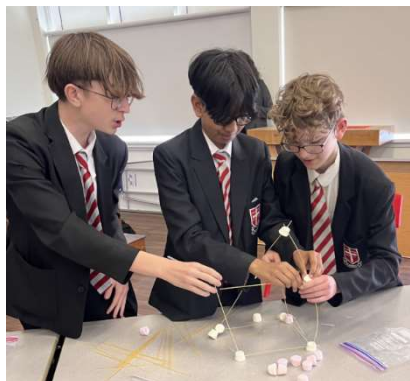
From tangled noodles to teetering towers, the energy in the room was electric as students raced against the clock, trying to balance their structures while resisting the urge to snack on the building materials! Each group worked with focus and determination, cheering each other on while learning the value of strategy and communication.

After a sticky and spectacular showdown, here are the **winning year group teams** who rose to the occasion:

- **Year 7:** *Peter* – 44.5 cm of pure spaghetti genius!
- **Year 8:** *Teresa* – a gravity-defying 44.5 cm!
- **Year 9:** *Teresa* with *Mark* close behind – with a precise and sturdy 47 cm and 44.5 cm respectively!
- **Year 10:** *Cecilia* and *Peter* – both tied at a sky-high 68.9 cm marvel!

Well done to everyone who took part – your enthusiasm, creativity, and resilience made this event one to remember. The competition was tight, but the teamwork and fun were even more impressive than the towers themselves.

Keep an eye on the leaderboard and get ready for the next challenge! ✨



Sixth Form Geographers Published in Environmental Magazine

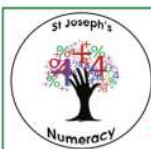
Our Sixth Form Geography students have been putting their A-level knowledge into action by writing insightful articles on the threats facing Antarctica. Drawing on their studies of climate change, fragile ecosystems, and global governance, students produced thoughtful and well-researched pieces exploring the future of this unique environment.

All students made an excellent effort, demonstrating real enthusiasm for the topic. **We are especially proud that several articles were selected by *Little Green Change* to be featured in their latest environmental magazine.** You can read the published work [here](#).



Science Club – Heart Dissection

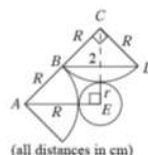




#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** The diagram shows part of the figure, to which have been added A and C , centres of two of the quarter-circle arcs, B and D , points of intersection of two arcs, and E , the centre of the small circle. In cm, the radii of each arc and the small circle are R and r respectively. Firstly, note that $\angle BCD$ is a right angle as arc BD is a quarter of a circle. Therefore, by Pythagoras' Theorem $R^2 + R^2 = 2^2$ so $R = \sqrt{2}$. Consider triangle ACE : from the symmetry of the figure we deduce that $\angle AEC = \frac{1}{2} \times 360^\circ = 90^\circ$. So, by Pythagoras' Theorem $(R+r)^2 + (R+r)^2 = (2R)^2 = 4R^2$. Therefore $(R+r)^2 = 2R^2 = 2 \times 2 = 4$. Hence $R+r = 2$, so $r = 2 - R = 2 - \sqrt{2}$.



(all distances in cm)

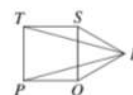
Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- C** Let the length of each of the shorter sides of the triangle be x cm and the length of its hypotenuse be y cm. Then, by Pythagoras' Theorem: $x^2 + x^2 = y^2$. So $y^2 = 2x^2$. Also, $x^2 + x^2 + y^2 = 72$, so $4x^2 = 72$, that is $x^2 = 18$. Now the area of the triangle, in cm^2 , is $\frac{1}{2} \times x \times x = \frac{1}{2}x^2 = 9$.

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows a square $PQST$ and an equilateral triangle QRS . What is the size, in degrees, of angle PRT ?

- A 10 B 15 C 20 D 25 E 30



Break-Time Teaser

What is the value of $\sqrt{2025^2 - 2024 - 2025}$?

- A 2022 B 2023 C 2024 D 2025 E 2026

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

Menu

<div>WEEKLY MENU</div> <div>St Joseph's Catholic High School - Week Three</div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chinese Style Chicken Curry served with Rice & Prawn Crackers	Mexican Tortilla Bake	Creamy Cajun Style Chicken Pasta	Cottage Pie	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips & Tartare Sauce
Spinach, Tomato & Mozzarella Pasta	Dhal with Cauliflower & Spinach served with Rice	Mixed Bean Taco served with Sour Cream & Cheese	Bean & Vegetable Burrito with Sweetcorn Salsa	Roast Vegetable & Pesto Pizza
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Baked Beans or Mushy Peas
Sweet Chilli & Coriander Noodles	Pasta with Ham & Cheese Sauce	Pasta in a Cheese Sauce	Tomato Pasta Pot	-
Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Sandwiches Fillings	-
Jam & Coconut Sponge	Fruit Turnover served with Custard	Iced Chocolate Sponge	Iced Lemon Shortbread	Chocolate Chip Flapjack

Available daily:
Sandwiches, Wraps &
Baguettes, Panini, Jacket
Potatoes, Cold Desserts & Fruit



SLOUGH OPEN MIC

THE STAGE IS YOURS BRING YOUR VOICE FEATURING LIVE DJ

A brand new event for poets, singers, rappers, and musicians - or anyone who just wants to come through and listen. Don't miss Your chance to perform at Curve Venue - a professional performance space in the heart of Slough .

Come be part of the community. An inclusive space to showcase your creativity, collaborate and build connections. Tickets are £3

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Free of charge

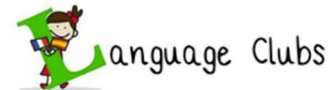
No rowing experience necessary

Give Rowing a Go

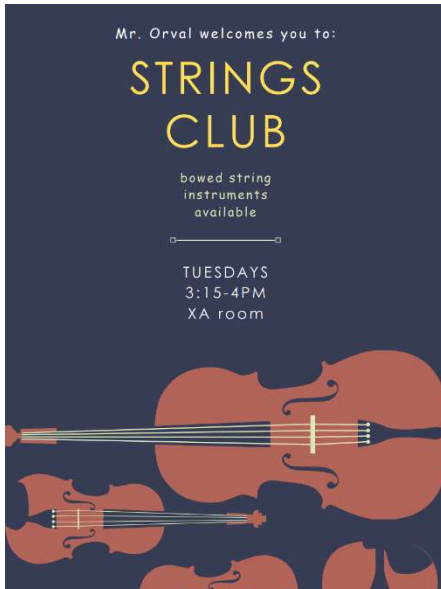
Marlow Rowing Club
Saturday, 31st May

Ideally Years 9-11, height over 170cm (f) and 180cm (m)

For more info, or to apply, email ben.reed@britishrowing.org

SCHOOL CLUBS**Languages Department**

Our KS3 French and Spanish students have come back with a lamblike spring in their step, ready for a fun Summer of MFL club activities! We are currently working on a project to present to other students and staff. Come along **Tuesdays Week A at 3:30-4:30pm in T5 with Ms Shaw**. Our aim is to having lots of fun with languages, exploring cultural themes and enjoying existing and new friendships. We are *active, curious and compassionate!*



Love music? Want to learn how to play in a string ensemble? Join Mr Orval on **Tuesdays at 3:15pm** in the **XA room**. Several instruments (violin, viola, cello) are available for new/aspiring members. Contact your music teacher for further details.

Thursday at 8am – **Singing Club** / Friday Afterschool – **Band Jam**

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.

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	Flag football HMC Tennis JCO Dance HST	Rounders KBR MJO AAN Cricket THU	Athletics JCO THU MJO KBR	Fixtures	

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

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

St Joseph's Judo Club

Official British Judo Club provider – joined with Windsor Judo Club.

Open for Grading and Competition.

Only for St Joseph's students and staff.

Location: Main Hall

Every Wednesday at 3:15-4:15pm with Mr A Romero.