

St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 24th January 2025



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!"

TVLP Creative Writing Workshop Day

Award-winning author,
Sue Wallman, writer of
popular YA novels such as
Such A Good Liar and I
Know You Did It, visited St
Joseph's on Wednesday
to deliver a session on
how to write thrillers.

Sue, journalist turned
Crime author, talked
about her previous
experiences in the
magazine industry and
her journey to being a
published author.

Together with the useful advice and Sue's experience, the students proceeded to create some excellent examples of creative writing with a thriller scene.

Listen

Weekly Reflections 26th January 2025 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time





From the Gospel of Luke (1: 1-4, 4: 14-21)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus to bring good news and healing to a broken world. Fill us with faith to trust in Your plan and hope to see Your work in our lives, especially in challenging times. Help us to share Your love and bring hope to those around us.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Day 1

Discuss with students the Jubilee year of Pilgrims of Hope (Blue text on 1st page).

Then, reflect on the following question: Think about a time when something felt impossible or too difficult—how did you overcome it, and how did hope help you move

Day 2

What do you think Jesus means when he says "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" after reading Isaiah's prophecy?

Day 3

Jesus trusted in His mission, even when it was challenging.
How can you remain faith-filled and hopeful in yourself and your abilities, especially when facing difficulties in or out of 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 - Listen

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015. The 2025 Jubilee Year, also called the "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee, is a special year of grace and renewal in the Catholic Church, announced by Pope Francis. Its primary purpose is to encourage Catholics worldwide to deepen their faith, rediscover hope, and embrace the call to pilgrimage—both physically and spiritually—on their journey toward God. The Jubilee Year is an invitation for Catholics to renew their relationship with God through prayer, reflection, and the sacraments, particularly the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It aims to foster a deeper commitment to living out the Gospel in daily life. The theme "Pilgrims of Hope" emphasizes hope in the face of global challenges such as conflict, inequality, and environmental crises. It invites individuals and communities to find strength and renewal in God's promises, reinforcing the belief that Christ is the ultimate source of hope.

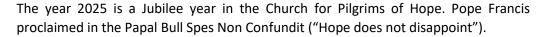
This passage, from Luke 4:14-21, is rich in meaning and serves as a powerful declaration of Jesus' mission and identity. By reading from Isaiah, Jesus declares His purpose: to bring good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, healing to the blind, and to proclaim the Lord's favour. This is a clear statement of His mission to bring spiritual and physical restoration to humanity. By saying, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing," Jesus reveals that He is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, affirming that He is the Messiah sent by God to bring salvation. The "poor," "prisoners," "blind," and "oppressed" mentioned are not only literal but also symbolic of spiritual realities. Jesus came for all who are marginalized, broken, or in need of God's grace, making His mission one of radical inclusivity. This reflects God's love for all, especially the vulnerable and overlooked. The "year of the Lord's favour" refers to the Jubilee year in Jewish tradition, a time of liberation, forgiveness, and restoration. Jesus presents Himself as the bringer of a new spiritual Jubilee, offering freedom from sin and the restoration of humanity's relationship with God.

The gospel passage from Luke connects to many virtues from our Pupil Profile, including being **Faith-filled** and **Hopeful**:

This passage highlights Jesus' **faithfulness** to His mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit. He confidently declares Himself as the fulfilment of prophecy, demonstrating trust in His identity and purpose. This invites reflection on how we can live with **faith** in our own calling, trusting God to guide and empower us in challenges we face, including education and relationships at school.

The Gospel passage is also a message of profound **hope**, as Jesus proclaims liberation, healing, and restoration. This promise assures believers that even in moments of struggle or adversity, God's presence brings transformation and renewal. It is a reminder to remain **hopeful** in difficult times, knowing that challenges can lead to growth and that we are never alone.

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope





"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 **15**th **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 <u>CLICK HERE</u> 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 <u>j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk</u>. Please see the attached letter regarding PP that will have some more information.

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Lorena Quadros Popien for receiving the most positive points this week and **Mitchell Simpson** for continually demonstrating our Pupil Profile Values.

Year 8

Danna Torok and Wadih Keyrouz

Year 9

Tesia Teji and Wiki Wrobel for achieving the most positive points.

Special Mention:

Marion Mwangi, Rio Moore Fleming, Beryl Tiero, Olly Kosiba, Daniel Lazarowicz, Mia Brennan, Aoife Comfort and William Oko for securing Lead roles in the KS3 Summer production of Hairspray.

Year 10

Igor Kusmierz and Ela Suleyman for receiving the most positive points this week.

Year 11

Nicole Podoba and David Bialek for achieving the highest amount of positive points.

Year 12

Harleen Javanda for the most positive points on Classcharts and Ana Passos for finishing in the top 16 in the County School's Cross Country Competition. She will now represent her County in the next round – the Inter Counties' Cross Country Competition – Well done Ana!

Year 13

Calum Dlubak-Daly and Natalia Kochanowska for earning the most positive points this week.

Homework Superstars

Mitchell Simpson	Year 7
Sofia Jerom	Year 8
Jessica Lysiak	Year 9
Filip Arkuszynski	Year 10
Freda Lourenco	Year 12
Calum Dlubak-Daly	Year 13



D&T Stars



Year 10 - **Michal Kundys**, **Oliver Kroliczek** for **Oracy** and being **Learned and Wise**, in the delivery of their exceptional designer presentations this week.

Year 11 - **Nathan James** for being **Learned and Wise** in his continued dedication to studies

Year 7 News

Another great week from the Year 7s this week. We had a lovely assembly this week, where we tested our trust in one another. It is safe to say that fortunately, it was a success.

Please keep an eye out for further announcements/updates. This will be done either through this newsletter or through ClassCharts.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 7 'How to Write a Thriller' Workshop

This week, we had a published author, Sue Wallman, come to visit Year 7 to discuss 'how to write a thriller'. The students were captivated by her words and participated in creative application of her top tips. Any students are invited to participate in a writing competition (information below) to win an Amazon voucher and a signed book! Please send your entries to Miss Crabtree on MS Teams.





Year 8 News

Another fantastic week this week with only 30 behavioural X's and **over 1200 positive points**. Keep up the good work.

Please ensure that all our equipment is packed the night before, ready for the next school day.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Hunt - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

This week has been crucial for Year 9 with CIAG Evening on Thursday night. Thank You to all those who attended and I hope that all your questions were answered with regards to the choices and pathways available for GCSE Options. Choices are now open, so if **the form can be completed ASAP**, that would be most appreciated. In two weeks' time, on **Thursday 6**th **February**, it is Year 9 Parents' Evening. Again, this contributes towards the GCSE choices by being able to speak directly to teachers and gain first-hand insight into behaviour and achievement in the classroom. **This is live on Parent Pay, so please confirm attendance ASAP**.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Miss McCormack - Head of Year 9

CIAG Evening – Thursday 23rd January 2025

Thank you to all parents and students of Year 9 who were able to attend our Careers, Information and Guidance evening yesterday. Please do have those ongoing conversations about choices and attached with the newsletter is the presentation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at <u>i.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk</u> or ask your son/daughter to have a chat with me in school. Year 9 Parents Evening will then take place on the 6th February where there is a further opportunity to ask questions regarding the KS4 curriculum before submitting your options via a Microsoft Form. This form will be sent to parents on Thursday 6th February and will need to be submitted by Wednesday 12th February.

Year 10 News

What a fantastic week it's been! The Year 10s have earned an impressive **94% positive points**, with the majority awarded for being **Learned and Wise**, as well as **Attentive and Discerning**.

Please remember, there are currently several roadworks around the school and in Slough, which could impact your commute and arrival time.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Miss Joseph - Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

As we wrap up the final week of **PPE** (mock) exams, I want to commend Year 11 students for their efforts during this challenging period. This week, we recorded **203 positive points**, reflecting the continued hard work and commitment shown by many. However, we've also seen **59 negative points**, with **lateness** (**16**), **homework issues** (**11**), and **equipment** (**6**) being the main causes. These numbers are slightly higher than last week, and it's important we address these areas, particularly as we move closer to the final exams in May.

PPE Exams and What's Next

As the PPE exams come to an end, we'll soon have a full picture of each student's current progress and how far we are from achieving our target grades. These results are a critical step in identifying strengths and areas for improvement, and they will guide us in planning the necessary support moving forward. I

encourage students to reflect on their performance and stay focused on making the most of the months ahead.

After-School Interventions

After-school interventions remain a key part of our support strategy and will continue to run next week from **15:15pm to 16:15pm**:

Monday: MathsTuesday: ScienceWednesday: English

Starting from the **first week of February**, more subjects will be added to the intervention timetable to provide even greater support. The **full intervention timetable** will be shared soon. As always, the list of

students required to attend interventions is shared during **form time or reading time** and posted at the entrance of the **Head of Year Office**. Attendance is vital to ensure students receive the tailored guidance they need to succeed.

A Reminder for All

As we move beyond the PPEs, this is the time for Year 11 students to demonstrate resilience, determination, and focus. The effort you put in now will be reflected in your results. Let's address the issues of punctuality, homework, and preparedness to ensure we are all working towards the shared goal of success in the summer exams.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's work together to make the most of the weeks ahead. Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Mr Romero - Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

This week, Year 12 have continued their study skills sessions during Thursday Form Time, with a focus this time on Academic Reading. The SEN support group also met this week and we focused on folders, organization, planning and work experience. Several of our students have decided to enter the **Catenian Public Speaking Competition**, where they will be competing against a variety of other schools locally in a few weeks' time; we are very excited to see how well they perform and whether they will be successful in making it through to the next round. The students who attended the PwC Insights Day last week spoke very positively about this opportunity and we are delighted to hear that they plan to run a similar event again later in the year.

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip

Our Geography students had a fantastic time on their recent Urban Enquiry Trip to Slough, investigating air quality and pollution. Using advanced pollution monitors, they skilfully measured how air quality changes with distance from the town centre, gathering valuable data to enhance their studies. The students demonstrated exceptional teamwork, collaborating effectively with peers from our Trust Partner School, St. Michael's Aylesbury. Together, they shared ideas, supported one another, and showcased brilliant communication skills, making the trip a great success. Well done to everyone involved for their enthusiasm and dedication! – *Mrs Burby*









Year 13 News

This week sees the end of the PPE window for Year 13. The students have conducted themselves extremely well during their exams and whilst the exams may be over now, the real hard work starts. The students will shortly be receiving feedback from their teachers and it is vitally important that they take this on board to ensure their continued progress towards their summer exams. The **UCAS deadline for applications is this coming Wednesday, 29**th **January at 6pm**. Students can still apply to university after this date but there is no guarantee their application will be considered. Finally, can I just remind you that where possible, medical appointments should be made outside of school hours to ensure students are not missing valuable learning.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

Speed Stacking Festival

On Tuesday, a group of Year 7 and Year 8s went to a Speed Stacking Festival, which was led by our Year 10 Sports Leaders. Both the students participating and the Sports Leaders had a great time. The Year 10s were commended for their confidence and enthusiasm when leading their stations and encompassed all of the St Joseph's Pupil Profile Values. – Miss Joseph





Sustainability Elective

A huge Well Done to the students in the Sustainability elective who rolled up their sleeves and made a real difference in our community last Wednesday! During their elective club time, these dedicated students took part in a community litter pick, demonstrating their commitment to protecting our environment and keeping our local area clean and green. Their hard work and enthusiasm set a fantastic example for us all—thank you for being Sustainability Champions!

Science Club
Having fun making elephant toothpaste!



House Competitions

Last Friday saw our first *Paper Planes Competition*, with enthusiastic competitors from Years 7-10 seeing who could achieve the furthest flight.

Amongst all the impressive attempts, the best distances were:

- Year 7 Logan Ashdown 16m
- Year 8 William Gomez 14.9m
- Year 9 Loikita Graca Mendonca De Jesus 10.1m
- Year 10 Joshua Basaran 9.2m

And a final Well Done to **Shawn Travasso**, who correctly identified the mystery monument as the Monument to the Dream, part of the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. The monument celebrates the achievements of Orville and Wilbur Wright in the field of aviation. – *Mr Silver*







Show Racism The Red Card – Whole-School Competition

former professional

footballers. This is a unique

opportunity for schools to proactively

equality and tackling racism by taking

demonstrate their commitment to

part in the UK's largest equalities themed school competition.

Deadline of entries-Friday 14th February RULES Artwork must not exceed A3 size (297 x 420mm) Music entries must not exceed 5 minutes & must be playable in MP3 or MP4 format Any questions do ask Mrs Ossei-Brainoo CATEGORIES-An independent panel of judges Film entries must not exceed 6 minutes & must be playable in Year 7-9 Artwork select the winning entries and Windows Media Player winners are invited to a Year 7-9 Creative Writing Group entries are permitted but limited to a maximum number Year 10+ Artwork & Creative special Awards Ceremony at a of 6 young people per group Premier League stadium. Please do not send more than one entry, per category, per Additional Support for Learning Prizes are presented by special guests including current and **Artwork & Creative Writing**

All Ages Film Category

Category

All Ages Music Category

All Ages Design a Football Boot

All Ages T Shirt Design Category

Design and Technology Department



D+T Make It Elective



Pupils finished their kindness products from last week and started work on their containers, which we will be delighted to share next week.

Year 10 Designers

Year 10s have, this week, presented their researched designers. They prepared presentations based on their research and presented them to their classes. We were impressed with how well prepared and eloquent so many of the pupils were. Well done. They continue now with their designer boxes and we begin work on this year's **Design Ventura competition**.

D+T Club - KS3 DESIGNeers

Our KS3 pupils have started work on their new project of St Joseph's Golf Quest, they have individually and in groups come up with some ideas for a St Joseph's themed mini-golf, and began to model some of their ideas in miniature.



Year 11

In GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition and GCSE Design and Technology, pupils work on NEAs (non-examined assessments). The NEA is worth 50% of their overall GCSE grade. In both subjects, there is an element of project and practical work which in the coming months will be completed, marked and moderated. Unfortunately, we cannot share this work with you as it is 'live' and counts towards current examinations.

All pupils are working diligently and we hope they will be proud of their coming achievements.

Whilst we are not able to show the current work, next week we hope to share some of last year's outcomes with you, so you can see some of the high quality, creative, innovative and brilliant work our students produce.

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 be directed to our Instagram page and to enjoy our 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:

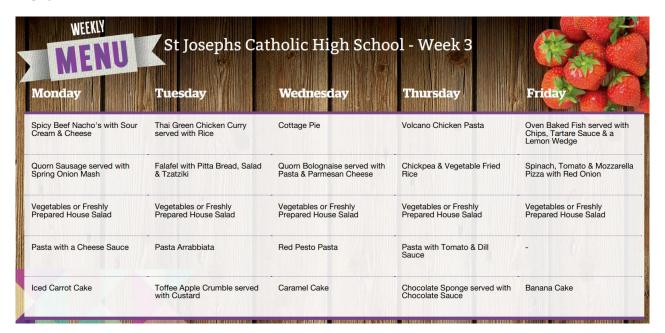


Colourful Shampoo bottles

Please put any you collect into the labelled container in A3. Thank you!

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

Menu





Solution to last Week's Puzzler

E To draw a n by n square grid requires (n + 1) horizontal lines and (n + 1) vertical lines. So, in total, 2(n + 1) lines are required.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

$$\mathbf{B} = 1 - (2 - (3 - 4 - (5 - 6))) = 1 - (2 - (3 - 4 - (-1))) = 1 - (2 - (3 - 4 + 1)) = 1 - 2 = -1.$$

Puzzler of the week

In the diagram, PQRS is a square, PST is an equilateral triangle and SRUVW is a regular pentagon.

What is the size of angle WTS?

A 35°

B 36°

C 37°

380 E

Break-time Teaser

A regular octagon PQRSTUVW has sides of length 2 cm. When I shade the rectangles PQTU and RSVW, four small triangles inside the octagon remain unshaded. What is the total area, in cm², of these four triangles?

A 1

B 2

C 4

D 6

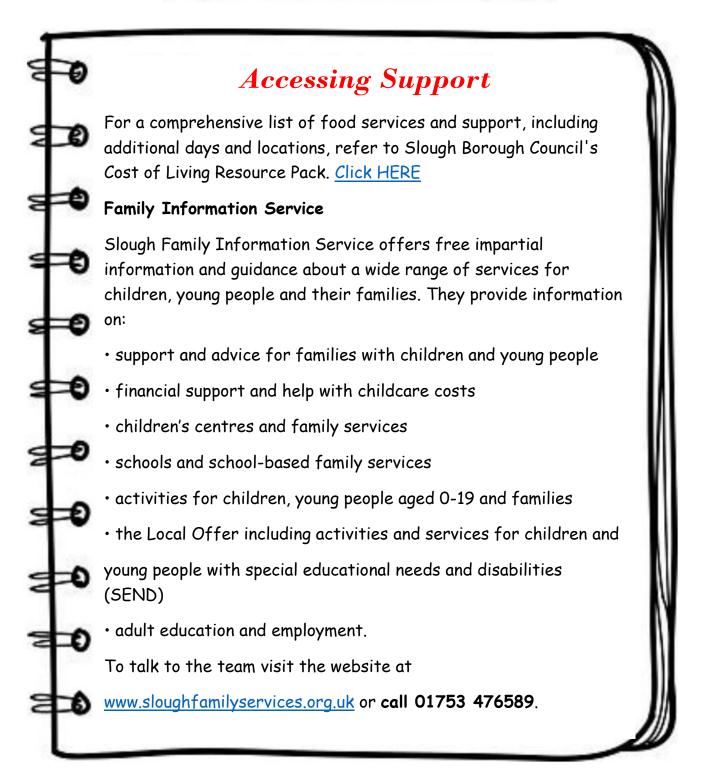
E 8

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



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)





SCHOOL CLUBS



Languages Department

Our KS3 students are thriving in our MFL club, which meets after school on **Tuesdays at 15.30-16.30pm in T5** with Ms Shaw. Exploring languages, cultural themes, having fun with friends and forging new friendships is our key aim – energized by Chupa Chups (a Spanish lollipop, but now a Dutch brand!).

We are excitedly preparing for a Year 7 Assembly on **10**th **February**, which is based on the **Gospel theme of "Follow Me"** and also inspired by worldwide famous figures. We are committed to exploring the evolution and extent of languages globally, enriching our poly-linguist communities and enhancing communication.



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.**







Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Lunch 1 Badminton and Badminton and Badminton and Badminton and Badminton and Basketball Basketball Basketball Basketball Basketball (GCSE students (GCSE students only) only) Lunch 2 Badminton and Badminton and Badminton and Badminton and Badminton and Basketball Basketball Basketball Basketball Basketball Netball- all year Year 9-11 boys Year 7-9 Fitness - all year Afterschool Basketball Football groups AAN MJO KBR THU JCO Dance Rugby Girls and Trampolining HST KBR Boys HMC/THU Basketball year 10, 11, 12 and 13 Girls Football JCO MJO Year 7+8 boys Football FWA

PE After School Clubs