

# St Joseph's Catholic High School

# Newsletter

Friday 25th April 2025



# **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!"

## Ski Trip to Folgarida, Italy – Half-Term Adventure

During half-term break, a group of our students embarked on an exciting ski trip to the picturesque resort of Folgarida in Italy.

The students enjoyed breath-taking mountain views while learning new skills on the slopes and embracing the thrill of winter sports. It was a fantastic opportunity for team building, personal growth, and creating unforgettable memories. A big thank you to our staff and students for making this trip such a success!

# He stood amongst them

Weekly Reflections 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter





### From the Gospel of John (20: 19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord'. But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

### Prayer for the Week

Dear Father,

Be with us as we pray.

Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.

Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.

Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### Day 1

Why do you think Thomas
doubts the other
disciples' account of
seeing Jesus?
How does Jesus unlock
Thomas' belief?

#### Day 2

How are we sometimes like
Thomas in lacking belief from
others?
How can we be more like
Thomas in our transformation
from Mass to go out and
spread the Good News?

#### Day 3

How can you use and show our school virtues to stop others doubting the true meaning of Christ?

#### Catholic Social Teaching - Peace

Today the world has a profound thirst for peace. In many countries, people are suffering due to wars which, though often forgotten, are always the cause of suffering and poverty." Pope Francis, 20 September 2016

Peace is not just the absence of war. It is part of God's nature, and a value we should all seek to live out in our daily lives.

"Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life." Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 225

How this half term can you promote Peace in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?

# Theme of the Week – He stood amongst them

This week, on Thursday, we celebrate our school Feast Day, St Joseph the Worker. And as members of this St Joseph's school community, our mission is 'Unlocking Belief in All'. And what a fitting Gospel we hear from on Sunday. Jesus through touch, unlocks belief to Thomas. Absent when Jesus first appears to the disciples on the day of the resurrection. Jesus appears as they, the disciples, quake in fear inside a locked room. He bestows on them the Holy Spirit and the commission given to them to go out with authority to forgive sins. It is an experience of both total transformation and of responsibility. In Jesus' second appearance eight days later, Thomas is the central figure alongside Jesus. Thomas' absence requires him to believe on the testimony of others — a situation that he struggles with. His doubt is understandable, and Jesus does not judge him harshly. It is through the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas' great acclamation of faith is born.

On a daily basis, we are called to believe on the testimony of others and this requires a degree of faith that Jesus recognises in a special way. The doubt of Thomas is transformed by his encounter with Jesus and he is empowered to be sent out to share the good news, just as our parish Priest says to us at the end of Mass, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. But also through your time here at St Joseph's; we will all unlock our belief by demonstrating our school virtues of being: Intentional and Prophetic, Compassionate and Loving, Grateful & Generous, Faithfilled and Hopeful, Learned and Wise, Attentive and Discerning, Eloquent and Truthful, Curious and Active. When Jesus was arrested and put to death, the disciples were very afraid and had run away and left him. But Jesus forgave them and wanted them to know that he would always be with them. Even then when Thomas showed doubt, Jesus did not become angry or left him out, he forgave his doubt and showed to him who is was. Thomas went on to preach the Gospel as far east as India – he took up the responsibility to share the good news.

So this week we are asked to take up this challenge. Have there been times of doubt in your life, where you have questioned yourself or your loved ones? What dispelled that doubt? The sense of touch is a powerful force, though many people are reluctant to reach out to others because of cultural restrictions or a fear of being too personal. Yet many people are starved of a touch that can bring healing, comfort, support and acknowledgment. Try to bring our mission and virtues to others when we go out into the community so they too can encounter Christ through you! Happy Feast Day!

#### The passing of His Holiness, Pope Francis

Please see the attached letter written by Bishop David to every student in Catholic Education across our diocese regarding the death of Pope Francis.



Monday we heard of the sad passing of our Pope, Pope Francis. Pope Francis was an incredible man who did lots for the Church and society as a whole in teaching us through words and actions of how we are to be more like Christ. Pope Francis truly illustrated what it meant to be a follower of Christ and built on the *Catholic Social Teaching Principles of the Church of Stewardship, Peace, the Option for the Poor, Common Good, Solidarity, Work and Participation and finally Human Dignity*. Today at St Joseph's, we came together for a whole school Mass to remember Pope Francis and to thank him for his service to the Church. Pope Francis, when concerned, wrote prays and left them under a sleeping St Joseph placed on his desk. All Form Groups at St Joseph's have the same sleeping St Joseph and so this week we ask all students, staff and parents to pray for Pope Francis to St Joseph.

Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving Fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.

Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me and my loved ones.

Amen

#### St Joseph's the Worker Feast Day – Thursday 1st May 2025

This Wednesday 1st May, all of St Joseph's Catholic High School will come together in the morning to celebrate our Feast Day. Fr Kevin O Driscoll will be coming in to celebrate Mass and then we will go onto the field for a whole school photo. All students will then go out into the community from 12pm to illustrate our School Mission Statement of "Unlocking Belief in All" and demonstrate our school virtues of being: Learned and Wise, Loving and Compassionate, Truthful and eloquent, intentional and prophetic, attentive and discerning, faith-filled and hopeful, curious and active, grateful and generous. We will also be living out to others the Catholic Social Teaching Principles of the Church. A letter for this is attached with the newsletter. Please can all parents/carers sign up for this on ParentPay. There is no cost. The following Houses will go to the following destinations:

House	Destination	Travel arrangements		
Cecilia (All)	St Ethelbert's	Walk (will be supervised by members of St Joseph's staff to and from)		
Mark	St Bernard's Prep	Walk (will be supervised by members of St Joseph's staff to and from)		
Jerome	Our Lady of Peace	Coach/minibus to and from OLOP		
Peter	St Anthony's	Coach/minibus to and from St Anthony's		
Teresa (All) and 9 Veronica	Holy Family	Coach/minibus to and from Holy family		
Veronica (10V and 11V)	Iqra primary school	Walk (will be supervised by members of St Joseph's staff to and from)		
12 Mark	Wexham Park Hospital	Walk (will be supervised by members of St Joseph's staff to and from)		
13 Mark	Oxford House	Walk (will be supervised by members of St Joseph's staff to and from)		

For students in 7 and 8 Veronica. the destination and activity is still to be confirmed by parents/carers and Form Groups will be informed on Monday.

Within each House the following year group will be doing the following activities:

Year	Activity	Working with following year group  Reception classes of primary school		
7	Arts and Crafts			
8	English/Maths workshop	Year 1 classes of primary school		
9	Retreat/prayer workshop	Year 2 classes of primary school		
10	Alternative Sports Day	Year 3 classes of primary school		
11	English/Maths workshop	Year 4 classes of primary school		
12	Retreat/prayer workshop	Year 5 classes of primary school		
13	Supervising lower year groups	All year groups		

All students will be back to school by 3pm and for those that wish to attend, there will be a free barbeque and Staff v Student football match. All students have been sent a link on ClassCharts for the BBQ. Please can you ask them to complete.

### St Joseph's AI Policy

Dear Parent/Carers,

<u>Here is a link</u> to our AI policy on the school's website. It is important that you read the policy to ensure you support your children with the appropriate and ethical use of Generative AI tools within our school community while upholding integrity. Students will be taught how to use AI tools responsibly in their Computer Science & PHSE lessons.

Thank you for your support.



#### **Pupil Nominations of the Week**

# Year 8 Eric Despa and Lena Wilk

#### Year 9

Beryl Tiero and Vanessa Buda for representing the school in multiple opportunities.

#### Year 12

**Isabelle Byamukama** for embodying our Pupil Profile values so well – always helping others, participating in the wider life of the school and working for the common good. Also, **Luke Codeniera** for being active and curious.

#### Year 13

**Alexis Jaca** for excellent work in Geography and **Mateusz Skowera** for earning the most positive points last half term.

#### **Year 8 News**

I hope you all had a restful break, spent quality time with your loved ones, and enjoyed something special over the Easter period.

Year 8 have made a fantastic start to the Summer Term and have truly hit the ground running! Let's keep up the momentum by ensuring equipment is packed and ready the night before, and all homework is completed on time.

Mr Hunt - Head of Year 8

#### **Year 9 News**

Welcome back to a short, but jam-packed term. Students have St Joseph's Day to look forward to next week, with a slightly different twist where all students are being given the opportunity in their Forms to carry out tasks centred on the *Catholic Social Teaching Values*, such as reflection and inclusive Sports Days. On **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April (Period 1 and 2), we had Whole School Mass** to mourn the passing of Pope Francis.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 9

#### **Year 10 News**

Welcome back, Year 10! I hope you had a restful break and are ready for a fantastic new half term.

We began this week with a special moment of reflection during our Whole School Mass on Friday, held in memory of the recent passing of the Pope. Thank you to everyone who participated so respectfully.

Looking ahead, next week we will be celebrating **St Joseph's Day on 1**<sup>st</sup> **May**. Please ensure that all **consent forms** for the day's activities are completed and handed in as soon as possible, as well as **consent via ParentPay**.

A reminder that **Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 8**<sup>th</sup> **May**. This is a key opportunity to discuss your progress, so please ensure your parents/carers are aware and have the date in their diaries.

Let's make this half term a productive and positive one!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

#### **Year 11 News**

Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers,

This week has been shorter than usual due to the bank holiday, and as expected, the number of entries is slightly lower. We recorded **437 positive points** and only **15 negatives**, which is encouraging. The main reasons for negative entries were **lateness (5)**, **incomplete homework (7)**, and **disrespectful behaviour (3)**. Let's continue working together to keep our standards high, especially in these final few weeks.

#### **▲** GCSE Exams & Interventions

As we approach the start of the GCSE exams in the second week of May, after-school interventions continue to run as normal. Please check ClassCharts and Teams for specific information from subject teachers. Attendance to these sessions remains one of the most important things students can do to improve their outcomes.

#### Leavers' Assembly – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Next Friday, we will be celebrating the end of the Year 11 journey with our **Leavers' Assembly**. It promises to be a memorable day with:

- **Shirt signing tradition** students may bring in a white shirt to be signed.
- Barbecue and Student vs Teachers Football Match after the assembly.
- Leavers Video So far, we have received no photos or videos. If no media is submitted by students, the video will not be created. Please email or upload your memories as soon as possible.
- **Leavers' Speeches** Two students will be selected to give a short speech during the assembly. If no one volunteers, we will choose students on their behalf.

#### **T** Leavers' Hoodies

The **online shop for Leavers' Hoodies** is open until **30**<sup>th</sup> **April**. Orders must be placed before the deadline. Hoodies will be distributed at school **by the end of May**.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support during this crucial time. Let's make these last weeks count.

Mr Romero – Head of Year 11

#### **Year 13 News**

As we approach exam season, it is important that Year 13 maintain their hard work and focus on their revision. There are lots of revision resources available to them on the Year Group Teams page and teachers can provide extra resources if needed. As a parent/carer, you can support your child in the following ways:

- Ensuring they have access to a distraction-free study space.
- Encourage them to study without a phone or device.
- Give them regular, balanced meals.
- Reward their efforts.
- Ask them questions about their revision; What are they studying? What are their areas of weakness and how are they addressing them? Test them on their knowledge.

All students have had their exam timetable. If they have any concerns, then they need to see either myself or Miss Euden. We are planning their **Leaver's Assembly for 9**<sup>th</sup> **May**. I am planning to put together a slideshow of photos to celebrate the students' time in school. If you have any photos you wish to share, please could I ask that you email them to me at <a href="Lifinn@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk">Lifinn@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk</a>.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

#### Reminder: Model United Nations – Wednesday 30th April 2025

Dear Students and Colleagues,

This is a reminder that the Model United Nations (MUN) event will be taking place on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**, lasting the entire school day.

Approximately 10 students (list of names below) from our school will be participating, along with around 120 visiting students from other schools within the TVLP partnership. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to engage in debating, develop their oracy and diplomacy skills, and explore current global issues.

#### *Important Information:*

- Students taking part will not be attending their normal lessons on that day.
- The following rooms will be in use for the event: **E1, E2, E3, E4, E5 and** the Main Hall.
- Staff and students are kindly asked to plan accordingly, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We thank all Staff in advance for their understanding and support in making this a successful and enriching experience for everyone involved.

Warm regards,

Mr Romero – Head of Year 11 / MUN Coordinator



#### **House Competitions**

As we wrapped up last term, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate the incredible enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship shown by all students during the House Competitions. It has been fantastic to see such dedication and determination across all events.

A special thank you to our House Captains for their leadership and commitment, as well as to all participants for their hard work and spirit. Congratulations to our winners—your achievements are well deserved!

**Well done to Jerome House** for winning the Easter Bunny Hunt. We are looking forward to seeing more students participating and getting involved in the House Competitions this term.









#### **Geography Club Photography Competition Winners**

*Nature at its Best*, Geography Club Photography Competition, held in celebration of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025, brought in a fantastic range of student entries. Each photo captured the beauty of natural landscapes and the richness of wildlife and ecosystems. **Congratulations to the winners**, and **thank you to everyone who took part** and shared their love for nature through photography!

#### Winners:

- Natural landscapes Dominic Szczepanek (10M) and Kezia Antao (8T)
- Wildlife Kezia Antao (8T) and Evelynne Leonard-Finn (11J)
- Ecosystems Daria Mamczak (10V) and Isla Slessor (10V)



#### **Inter-Form Competition**

The Spring Term PE Inter-Form Competition was nothing short of a spectacular display of athleticism, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Students came together to compete in both football and rugby, representing their forms in a series of intense and exciting matches. The event not only highlighted their physical prowess but also their commitment to *being active and curious*, pushing the boundaries of their skills while fostering a love for sport and competition.

The football and rugby fields were buzzing with energy as students gave their all, showing what it means to be intentional and prophetic in their approach. Every pass, every try, and every goal reflected a deep understanding of strategy and purpose, as players worked to anticipate their opponents' moves while remaining determined and focused on their team's success. It was a testament to their dedication and their ability to think ahead — skills that will undoubtedly serve them in every aspect of life.

Overall, the Inter-Form Competition was a resounding success, bringing the school community together in the spirit of friendly competition. We are incredibly proud of all the students who participated, showcasing their dedication, teamwork, and positive attitude both on and off the field. Here's to more opportunities to be active, intentional, and committed to fostering a future where sportsmanship remains a central value in everything we do. A big well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to Cecilia who finished in 1<sup>st</sup> position. Please see results below.

**6**<sup>th</sup> - Teresa

**5**<sup>th</sup> - Mark

4th - Peter

3<sup>rd</sup> - Veronica

**2**<sup>nd</sup> - Jerome

1st - Cecilia







#### Shakespeare Day Celebration - In Partnership with TVLP

This Wednesday, we proudly hosted *Shakespeare Day* in collaboration with TVLP, welcoming students from 10 partner schools to celebrate the Bard's legacy in a fresh and inspiring way.

Held fittingly on Shakespeare's birthday, the event featured a morning of engaging acting workshops led by actors and staff from Artemis College of Performing Arts:

- **Forum Theatre Workshop** A creative two-part session where students directed a Shakespeare scene and then devised their own, using interactive theatre techniques.
- Scene Setter Workshop An immersive experience that brought Elizabethan England to life through music, costume, and performance, offering students a vivid taste of Shakespearean theatre.
- Shakespeare for Everyone This unique workshop explored the surprising links between Shakespearean sonnets and modern rap, uncovering shared themes such as love, betrayal, and ambition.

Students also attended an **expert talk on Shakespeare**, deepening their understanding of his work and its continued relevance today. At lunch, a lively **interschool Shakespeare quiz** brought some friendly competition.

The day concluded with a powerful performance of *Macbeth* by the **Globe Players**, specially tailored for Years 9 and 11. The production, delivered by professional actors, was followed by a Q&A session that gave students the chance to engage directly with the cast.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our students, who showed exceptional energy, enthusiasm, and open-mindedness throughout the day. You were fantastic hosts and true ambassadors for the school – well done!









#### **Girls Flag Football**

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the Girls Flag Football Team travelled to Grasshoppers RFC to take on Kingsbury High School in a must-win game to come Top 2 in their pool, and progress to Finals' Day on 9<sup>th</sup> May. We were kept waiting in anticipation until 4pm, when they finally showed up. We chose to start on offence, scoring 12 points from our first two drives. The game ended with a 40-0, where we now move on to play group leaders, Northwood School, next week in the final pool game.

Player of the Match: Vanessa Buda



### **Year 7 Orienteering**

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April, a group of Year 7s went to Upton Court Park to participate in an Orienteering event. The students worked beautifully as a team and finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall, with **Lorcan and Mitchell also finishing the course as the 2<sup>nd</sup> quickest pair out of 20**!

Well done to Elizabeth, Ella, Emilia, Erish, Mitchell, Lorcan, Leon and Jan!





#### Solution to last Week's Puzzler

**B** The required fraction is  $\frac{26}{206} = \frac{13}{103} \approx \frac{13}{104} = \frac{1}{8}$ .

#### Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

**A** The number of claps achieved per second is  $\frac{1020}{60} = \frac{102}{6} = \frac{51}{3} = 17$ .

### Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows a regular hexagon which has been divided into six regions by three of its diagonals. Two of these regions have been shaded. The total shaded area is 20 cm<sup>2</sup>. What is the area of the hexagon?



A 40 cm<sup>2</sup> B 48 cm<sup>2</sup> C 52 cm<sup>2</sup> D 54 cm<sup>2</sup> E 60 cm<sup>2</sup>

#### Break-Time Teaser

Someone has switched the numbers around on Harry's calculator!

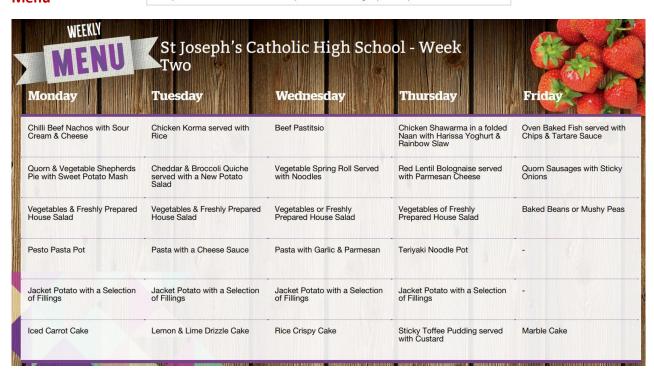
The numbers should be in the positions shown in the left-hand
diagram, but have been switched to the positions in the right-hand
12.3 3.2.1

Which of the following calculations will *not* give the correct answer when Harry uses his calculator?

A 79 × 97 B 78 × 98 C 147 × 369 D 123 × 321 E 159 × 95

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

#### Menu



#### Available daily:

Sandwiches, Wraps & Baguettes, Panini, Jacket Potatoes, Cold Desserts & Fruit

#### SCHOOL CLUBS



#### **Languages Department**

Our KS3 French and Spanish students have had a fantastic half-term in MFL club with Ms Shaw, on Tuesdays (Week A) at 3:30-4:30pm in T5. Having fun with languages, exploring cultural themes and enjoying friendships is what we love, so do come along! An appealing prospect with chocolate: les oeufs de Pâques (French); los huevos de Pascua (Spanish).



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

#### 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). We would LOVE 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



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	Rounders KBR MJO AAN	Athletics JCO THU MJO KBR	Fixtures	
	Tennis JCO	Cricket THU			