

St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 28th February 2025



Challenges Abroad – Tanzania

A group of Sixth Form students have travelled to Tanzania as part of an initiative, in partnership with Challenges Abroad. During their visit, they will be providing valuable support to children in need. This incredible experience will allow our students to make a meaningful impact while gaining a deeper understanding of global challenges.

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!"

Blind lead the blind

Weekly Reflections 2nd March 2025 8th week in ordinary time





From the Gospel of Luke (6: 39-45)

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

'For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.'

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus,

We thank you for calling us, and we ask very simply, but also sincerely, help us to respond so we too can bear good fruit to others.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Day 1

How do we recognise a fig

Why does Jesus use this analogy to explain followers of Him?

Why is Lent a good time to reflect on how you follow Jesus?

Day 2

Why do you think Jesus gives such importance to these aspects of Discipleship?
Can you demonstrate where you have been "Learned" and Wise when reading scripture and actioning this in your life?

Day 3

Each day three of each week in Lent will be given to pray three Stations of the Cross. This week please pray:

Station 1: Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane Station 2: Jesus is betrayed by

Judas

Station 3: Jesus is condemned to the Sanhedrin

Catholic Social Teaching - Solidarity

By coming together in hope as individuals, families, communities, organisations and nations, we can achieve transformative change for the common good. When we unite and make a stand for what we believe in, we can achieve remarkable things

"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security...while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: 'Give them something to eat' (Mark 6:37)." Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium,

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

Theme of the Week – Blind lead the blind

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that just as we can recognise a fig tree because of the fruit that grows on it, people will recognise us as followers of Jesus by the way we live our lives, by the things we say and the things we do. And what a time to hear this powerful and utterly true message from Jesus, the week we enter the season of Lent. The season of Lent is where we are given the opportunity to reflect on our lives to date, how we live it, where we prioritise God in it and how we treat others. Lent is our opportunity to change so we too can bear the good fruit all of us have the potential to grow.

The Gospel speaks of what it is to be and to act as a true disciple of Jesus. We learn that a true disciple is someone whose speech is pure, who is clear sighted, humble, and acts in imitation of his/her master, Jesus Christ. A true disciple is a person of integrity. The Gospel explains discipleship and can be broken down into different aspects. Firstly, Luke in 6:39-41 deals with those disciples who guide others, urging them to honesty and humility. "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."

Luke then moves onto disciples not being judges of others in their community but more being there for one another, "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye." Verse 43 explains how a true disciple can be recognised, 'For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit." And this clearly proclaims that the source of all words and deeds can be found in the condition of one's heart

If it is the heart that determines the fruit that a person bears, it is with our hearts we must listen, understand and live out. A method to do this within the Catholic Church is by Lectio Divina, an ancient form of prayer with scripture. So this week, take this Gospel or a Gospel reading of your choice and pray the Lectio Divina. Be **Learned** in what you read from the Gospel with the word, phrase, or sentence that stands out to you. Then be **Wise** in acting out this message so you too can be a true disciple of Jesus.





Pilgrimage to Rome - October 2025

As part of our celebration to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope, I am pleased to be able to offer your child the opportunity to take part in a Pilgrimage to Rome. This will take place from Monday 20th October 2025 – Thursday 23rd October 2025. This is open to all students who are currently in Year 7-12. If any student wishes to go from Year 11, they must remain a student at this school in 6th form. There are only 40 spaces available on a first come first serve basis and a £200 deposit must be paid on ParentPay. Please find attached a letter with all the details of the trip and please do not hesitate to contact Mr Gibbons (j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) for more information.

Catholic Social Teaching and Spring Term 2

As a Catholic community, making the virtues known in everyday conversations will allow us to live out the teachings of Christ. Serving God and one another through the development of love, charity and relationships throughout the whole year allows us to show this. Our Virtues of being: Learned and Wise, Loving and Compassionate, eloquent and truthful, intentional and prophetic, attentive and discerning, faith-filled and hopeful, curious and active, grateful and generous are closely aligned to the Catholic Social Teaching Principles of the Church. This will allow us to listen and learn from the Church and enact it in our actions to one another.

On a day-to-day basis, we will lead by example:

- **Human dignity Compassionate and Loving** by showing respect to one another and building strong relationships with our teachers and peers.
- **Human dignity Learned and Wise** by unlocking our *Belief in All* in our own abilities and striving to be the best we can in our learning.

Throughout each half term, we will also promote a focus to the following principles and how they link to our school virtues:

Term	Catholic Social Teaching Principle	Link to values
Autumn Term 1	Common good	Intentional and Prophetic - for example we expect pupils to take on leadership responsibility and as a result they have the right to contribute in a meaningful way to school life.
Autumn Term 2	Preferential option for the poor	Faith-filled and hopeful - for example we learn about social and historical inequality and its causes, pupils will be actively supporting and being advocates for the poor.
Spring Term 1	Dignity of work and Participation	Active and curious - for example we teach learn and promote community cohesion with our ecumenical work.

Spring Term 2	Solidarity	Grateful and generous - Care by our words and actions.
Summer Term 1	Peace	Eloquent and truthful - leaders called to listen to people affected by decisions
Summer Term 2	Stewardship	Attentive and discerning - for example being proactive and informed as guardians of the earth and all creation.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. All Students will attend a liturgy in the morning and receive Ashes on their forehead to mark this. Lent is always a great opportunity for all to come together in solidarity and help those most in need through our Lenten Fundraising activities. Please can parents/carer promote this at home with your child. Ask them how they have been showing the principles above in their daily encounters.



Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Janet Ernest and Bartek Nowicki for great starts to this half term.

Year 8

Riley Henshall and Sara Mihalcea-Sethi

Year 9

Brianne Barrozo and **James Levitt** for achieving the most positive points this week.

Year 10

Lena Kuczynska and Winners Nwachukwu for receiving the most positive points.

Year 12

Cameron Fyfe and **Oskar Belniak** for their success in the Catenian Schools Public Speaking Competition. Well done!

Year 13

Gabriel Nycz for working hard in Maths and **Oliver Trepanowski** for making excellent progress in all subjects.

Year 7 News

I hope that everyone has had a lovely half term. It has been a great week for the Year 7s and you can tell they are fully refreshed and ready to continue on their great year.

Students will receive their second academic reports **during the last week of March**, teachers are compiling data as we speak. Teachers will make students aware of the expectations and when assessments will take place, which will contribute to their reports.

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 Boys went away to Burnham Grammar on Tuesday, 25th, afternoon. It was a very close game throughout but the boys managed to hold on with two late goals to take the win and make it 5-3. **Really great effort from everyone!** Massive well done!

Man of the Match: Jacob Fiadzoe - 4 Goals

Year 8 News

A fantastic start to the term this week. Year 8 students have a **94% positive ratio**, with the majority of our positives coming from being **Active and Curious** and also **Good work**.

Keep up the good work.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Welcome back and I hope you had a great Half Term.

Option Choices are all in and decisions will be made based on the Option Blocks. The girls are back playing NFL next week, with a launch event on **6**th **March**, hosted on NFL TV. This is an amazing opportunity for them, coming **6**th out of 36 teams last year. Students have achieved on average **200 positive points** each day so far and if this continues, it will be more positives than achieved all last half term.

Have a great weekend.

Miss McCormack - Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

Welcome back! Year 10 has had a fantastic start to the term. This term, our main focus is to encourage students to be attentive and discerning in their studies. A key priority will be ensuring homework is completed on time. If you encounter any difficulties with your homework, please reach out to your teachers ahead of time.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

Please see the Year 11 Intervention timetable below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	Maths	Science	English	RE		Maths	
Week A	Science PP	Maths PP	Computer science				
Week B	Geography	French	Business	Sports BTEC	Product Design	Maths	
	History	Drama	Vocational Business				
	Spanish	Child Development	Food Tech				
		Sports BTEC	Creative Imedia				
		PE	Music				

Year 12 News

It has been an exciting week for Year 12 as three of our students entered the Catenian Schools Public Speaking Competition for Sixth Form and achieved great success for our school. We send congratulations to **Cameron Fyfe**, **Oskar Belniak** and **Joel Manalody** — all of whom performed excellently, with Cameron taking first place and Oskar second. Cameron will now advance to the National Round of the Competition in Manchester and receives a trophy soon to be delivered to the school. Well done Cameron!

In other news, **Isabelle Pace** also accepted and attended, this week, a STEM conference at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge University.

Mrs Stevens – Head of Year 12



Year 13 News

It has been a fantastic to see the Year 13 students return from their half-term break with such energy and commitment to their studies. Positive points have been on the rise this week recognising all of the efforts the students are making. **Next Thursday**, 6th **March is Parents' Evening** and I am looking forward to seeing you all there. It is vital that all parents/carers and students attend so that you can meet with your child's teachers to discuss how you can best support them into their summer exams. Please confirm your attendance via ParentPay. Please could I remind you that if your child is unable to make it to school due to illness, we do require a parent/carer to contact the school via ClassCharts (please see the supporting attachment for guidance).

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

Please Note – Year 12 and 13 will have a combined Sixth Form Parents' Evening on 6th March 2025. Please confirm attendance via ParentPay.

Panathlon Trip

On Tuesday 25th February, a group of students participated in the Secondary Panathlon. The students participated in a range of activities as a team and had a fantastic time. The St Joseph's team came **3rd** overall! Well done to **Ben**, **Jude**, **Jenson**, **Suela**, **Sarah**, **Danna**, **Lennon**, **Noah** and **Dean**.

House Competition: Dance-off

On the last Friday before half term, we held our Dance-off House Competition and the room was full of excitement. It was lovely to see the students performing, as well as supporting the other students as they performed. They blew the roof off with the cheers and support.

Well done to our winners and to **Mark and Veronica House** for securing another 1000 positive points. Do not forget to sign up to other House Competitions throughout the year!

Lunch 1 Winners:

3rd place - 9 Mark - Zofia, Abeni, Dean, Darren, Antoni, James, Vittorio, Joanna and Marly

2nd place - 9 Veronica - Tyra

1st place - 11 Mark - Peace

Lunch 2 Winners:

2nd Place - 7 Teresa- Logan, Xavier, Oliver, Issac, Shilioh

2nd Place - 7 Jerome- Sasha, Oliwia, Elisabetta, Maddie, Mariah

1st Place - 11 Veronica- Winners and Jayden







Current Standings

Standings	2000	XH Comp	Poetry	Countdown	Christmas Card	Lip Sync	Synonym	XH Comp	Rock Paper Scissors	Paper Plane Flying	Hook &	Spaghetti Slurp		Minute Madness	Dance Off	Positive Points	Total
Starranigo	100000000000000000000000000000000000000							-					1.00000			1.000	
1	Peter	1000	800	1000	1000	100	1000	100	800	100	400	600	200	1000	100	18465	26665
2	Veronica	600	0	200	800	600	600	600	400	800	800	1000	1000	800	1000	17057	26257
3	Jerome	400	1000	800	600	800	400	800	100	400	1000	400	800	800	600	17007	25907
4	Teresa	200	0	400	400	200	0	1000	600	1000	800	800	400	400	800	17300	24300
5	Mark	800	0	600	200	400	200	400	1000	200	400	200	600	600	1000	17502	24102
6	Cecilia	100	0	100	100	1000	800	200	200	600	100	100	100	100	200	15772	19472

Catholic Ethos Elective – God lies beyond the door - are you ready?

God is with us behind each door we open, whether it is a house, hospital, school or even a prison, Jesus is there. Even in the most unexpected situations, God has promised to be with us always.

Students discussed the Parable of Doors and had a time of reflection on the doors where they are welcomed and cared for. They enjoyed decorating the door stoppers too!

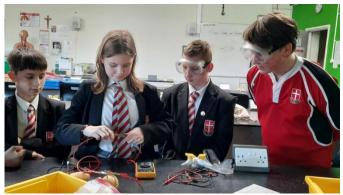


Science Club - Potato Battery

Students enjoyed making batteries out of potatoes using iron (nails), copper (coins), zinc (strips) and connected them in series to power a LED bulb.







Competition Winners - Show Racism the Red Card

Congratulations to Maria Manolache (7J), Perez Mibidom (9J) and Lena Kucyznska (10J) for their winning entries into the prestigious National Competition, *Show Racism The Red Card*.

- Year 7-9 Artwork
- Year 10+ Artwork
- All year groups Music entry



St Joseph's Book Day - 7th March 2025

We are delighted to share details of our upcoming St Joseph's Book Day, which we will be celebrating **throughout the week commencing 3**rd **March**. Below is an overview of the exciting activities planned for our students.

Author Talks

We are fortunate to be hosting two author talks, arranged in collaboration with TVLP:

- 4th March: *A performance of Macbeth* will be delivered to our Year 10 and 11 students during Reading and Period 5.
- 5th March: Helen Comerford will deliver an assembly for Year 8 students during Period 4.
- 7th March: *Patrice Lawrence*, author of Orange Boy, will speak to Year 9 students (who have read the novel) during Period 5.

World Book Day Celebrations - 7th March

On 7th March, students can participate in a creative writing workshop, a book swap (in the chapel during lunchtimes) and literary treasure hunt and a literary character dress-up day, with prizes to be won!

Dress-Up Guidelines

We encourage all students and staff to dress as a character from literature to celebrate the joy of reading. Please note:

- Costumes must represent a literary character (e.g., Harry Potter, not Super Mario or TV/film characters without a book origin).
- Outfits must be school-appropriate: no inappropriate logos, slogans, bare shoulders, cropped tops, or low-cut designs. Students wearing unsuitable attire may be sent home to change.

Thank you for your support—we look forward to a fantastic celebration of literature!



St. Joseph's High School Pi Day - 14th March 2025

The St Joseph's Maths Department presents $Pi(\pi = 3.14 ...)$ Day which will be held on **Friday 14th March 2025**. It's the 3rd month and the 14th day (Kool, isn't it!).

The day will be celebrated with a competition called "Memorizing Pi" or (Memorizing digits of π)

This means, on Friday 14th March, students will come to the Main Hall at **Lunch break** where they will get a chance to write, **from memory**, as many digits of $Pi(\pi)$ they can remember. We hope to have a winner for each House, Year group as well as an overall St Joseph's Champion.

Here's a <u>link</u> to get you started!

Pi Web Sites

Pi continues to be a fascination of many people around the world. If you are interested in learning more, there are many web sites devoted to the number Pi. There are sites that offer thousands, millions, or billions of digits, pi clubs, pi music, people who calculate digits, people who memorize digits, Pi experiments and more. Check this <u>Yahoo page</u> for a complete listing.

Memorization of Pi

Akira Haraguchi holds the current unofficial world record (100,000 digits) in 16 hours, starting at 9 a.m. (16:28 GMT) on October 3, 2006. He equaled his previous record of 83,500 digits by nightfall and then continued until stopping with digit number 100,000 at 1:28 a.m. on October 4, 2006. The event was filmed in a public hall in Kisarazu, east of Tokyo, where he had five-minute breaks every two hours to eat onigiri to keep up his energy levels. Even his trips to the toilet were filmed to prove that the exercise was legitimate.

His previous world record of 83,431 was performed from July 1, 2005, to July 2, 2005.

On Pi Day, 2015, he claimed to be able to recite 111,701 digits.

Despite Haraguchi's efforts and detailed documentation, the Guinness World Records have not yet accepted any of his records set.

Haraguchi views the memorization of Pi as "the religion of the universe", and as an expression of his lifelong quest for eternal truth.

A Brief History of Pi

Ancient civilizations knew that there was a fixed ratio of circumference to diameter that was approximately equal to three. The Greeks refined the process and Archimedes is credited with the first theoretical calculation of Pi. In 1761, Lambert proved that Pi was irrational, that is, that it can't be written as a ratio of integer numbers.

How many digits are there? Does it ever end?

Because Pi is known to be an irrational number, it means that the digits never end or repeat in any known way. But calculating the digits of Pi has proven to be a fascination for mathematicians throughout history. Some spent their lives calculating the digits of Pi, but until computers, less than 1,000 digits had been calculated. In 1949, a computer calculated 2,000 digits and the race was on. Millions of digits have been calculated, with the record held (as of September 1999) by a supercomputer at the University of Tokyo that calculated 206,158,430,000 digits.



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

A 40% of 50% of 60 equals 40% of 30 = 12. Also, 50% of 60% of 70 is 50% of 42 = 21. So the required difference is 21 - 12 = 9.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

E As x is greater than 2022, then $\frac{x}{2022}$ and $\frac{x+1}{2022}$ are greater than 1, whereas $\frac{2022}{x}$ and $\frac{2022}{x+1}$ are less than 1.

So we can eliminate A and C. As the remaining three fractions all have the same numerator and positive denominators, the smallest fraction is that with the largest denominator, namely $\frac{2022}{x+1}$

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows a shaded semicircle of diameter 4, from which a smaller semicircle has been removed. The two semicircles touch at exactly three points. What fraction of the larger semicircle is shaded?



 $A^{\frac{2}{\pi}}$

 $B \frac{1}{2}$

 $C \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$

 $D \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$

 $E \frac{3}{4\pi}$

Break-time Teaser

A rectangle with integer side-lengths is divided into four smaller rectangles, as shown. The perimeters of the largest and smallest of these smaller rectangles are $28\,\mathrm{cm}$ and $12\,\mathrm{cm}$.

Which of the following is a possible area of the original rectangle?

A 90 cm²

 $B 92 cm^2$

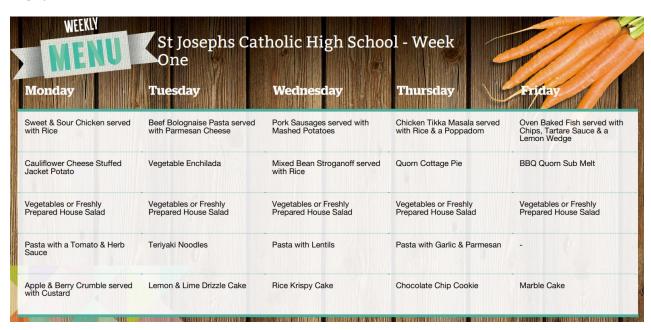
C 94 cm²

D 96 cm²

E 98 cm²

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



EAL NEWS (English as an Additional Language)

Here are some educational apps, websites, and online resources that parents can use to reinforce language skills and support their child's learning at home:

- 1. Starfall (Website): Click Here
 - Starfall focuses on phonics and early reading skills. It includes interactive games, songs, and stories to help children build a strong foundation in language and literacy.
- 2. Storyline Online (Website and App): Click Here
 - Storyline Online features videos of famous actors reading children's books aloud. It helps enhance listening skills and promotes a love for storytelling.
- 3. Reading Eggs (App and Website): Click Here
 - Reading Eggs is an online program that focuses on reading and literacy skills. It includes interactive games, lessons, and e-books to make learning to read enjoyable.

Creating Opportunity to Talk Create a story together

Take turns adding a sentence to build a story.

Why it helps:

This strengthens creativity and teaches your child how to build on the ideas of others in conversation.

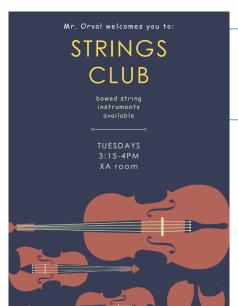


SCHOOL CLUBS



Languages Department

Our KS3 students are thriving in our MFL club, which meets after school on Wednesdays from **3:30pm to 4:30pm** in **T5** with Ms Shaw. Our aim is to explore languages, cultural ideas and activities, have fun with friends, and forge new friendships – full of (jelly) beans of course!



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.

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

Please see, or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams** and join us a **DESIGNeers Club** on a **Monday afferschool 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.





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 9-11 boys Football THU Trampolining KBR		Fitness - all year groups