

## St Joseph's Catholic High School

# Newsletter

Friday 31st 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!"

# Former Students Visit St Joseph's

It was a pleasure to welcome back two former students, Shalom Jamshaid and Shayan Jamshaid, to St Joseph's. Shalom is currently the **Associate Director of** Operations at the United States House of Representatives, supporting Senator Tom Cotton and the Senate Committee on Intelligence in Washington, DC. Shayan works in the Creative Media & Marketing industry, collaborating with some of the biggest names in the field. We're thrilled to have had them visit and look forward to seeing them again in the future!

### The Presentation of the Lord

Weekly Reflections 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 The Presentation of the Lord





#### From the Gospel of Luke (2: 22-32)

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons'.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed — and a sword will pierce through your own soul also — so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

#### Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus, You are the light of the world, revealed to all nations. Help us to carry Your light in our hearts and share it with others through our words and actions. May we, like Mary and Joseph, dedicate our lives to You with faith and love.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

#### Day 1

Discuss with students the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Blue text on 1<sup>st</sup> page).

Then, reflect on the following question: How can you bring the light of Christ into your daily life, just as Jesus was presented as a light to the nations?

#### Day 2

In the context of Luke's Gospel, what do you think Simeon tries to say about Jesus through this quote: "you may now dismiss your servant in peace"?

#### Day 3

How can you be grateful and generous, just like Simeon and Anna, in everything that you do this week?

#### 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 - The Presentation of the Lord

The Catholic Church celebration on February 2, 2025, is the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. The feast commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, 40 days after His birth, in accordance with Jewish law (Luke 2:22-38). It marks the moment when Mary and Joseph brought Him to Jerusalem to dedicate Him to God, as well as Mary's ritual purification after childbirth.

This feast is also called Candlemas, as candles are traditionally blessed during the liturgy, symbolizing Christ as the "light of the nations," as proclaimed by Simeon in the Temple. It highlights themes of dedication, light, and fulfilment of God's promises.

The meaning of this Gospel passage lies in the recognition of Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises to Israel and to the world. Simeon and Anna, both devout figures, represent hope and faith in God's salvation. Simeon, moved by the Holy Spirit, recognizes Jesus as the Messiah and praises God for revealing His salvation. Anna, in her old age, responds with gratitude, sharing the good news of Jesus with others. This moment in the temple emphasizes several key themes:

- God's faithfulness: God keeps His promises, as seen in Simeon's words that he has seen the salvation of the Lord.
- Revelation to all people: Jesus is described as a "light for revelation to the Gentiles"—
   a sign that His salvation is not just for Israel but for the whole world.
- Hope in God's plan: Simeon and Anna live with the hope that God's work will be fulfilled, teaching us to trust in God's timing.

The gospel passage from Luke connects to many virtues from our Pupil Profile, including being **Grateful** and **Generous**:

Anna expresses deep **gratitude** upon meeting Jesus, recognizing that her hope for the Messiah has been fulfilled. She thanks God and shares the good news with others waiting for redemption. Her **gratitude** extends beyond God, as she freely speaks of Jesus' significance.

While **generosity** isn't explicitly stated in the passage, it can be inferred through the actions of both Simeon and Anna. Both characters exemplify **generosity of spirit**, showing how giving, in the form of praise, worship, and sharing God's promises, is an essential part of living out faith. Simeon blesses Jesus and His family, offering more than just a greeting, recognizing God's larger plan for salvation. Anna generously shares her experience with others, telling all who awaited redemption about Jesus.

#### Jubilee 2025 – 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.

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

#### Year 7

Lorcan Daly and Avleen Singh for excellent weeks!

#### Year 8

Alan Lackrage and Natalie Gogola

#### Year 9

**Chloe Webster** and **Adriana Paulusz** for achieving the most positive points.

#### Year 10

**Dawid Kociolek** and **Gloria Restel** for receiving the most positive points this week.

#### Year 11

**Anna Larionova** and **Kye Simpson** for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week.

#### Year 12

Nicola Szuba and Jonathan Sam for the most positive points on ClassCharts.

#### Year 13

**Patrycja Artemska** for her participation in the Philosothon and **Weronika Lewandowska** for making good progress in Geography.

#### **Homework Superstars**

Year 7	Logan Ashdown
Year 8	Chloe Cinco
Year 9	Brianne Barrozo
Year 10	Evadne Vermeulen
Year 12	Styne Carvalho



#### **Year 7 News**

I hope that we have all had lovely weekends!

A reminder that Journals need to be signed by Parent/Carer on a Friday or over the weekend ready for Monday morning. Students are picking up lots of X's for this, which is unfortunate.

Additionally, a few Home-School Agreements have not been signed and need to be by the end of this week. This can be found on Page 40 of the Journals. A reminder as well that students should have all of the required equipment, which can be found on Page 23 of the Journals. This does include calculators, which some students currently do not have.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

#### **Year 8 News**

Another fantastic week for Year 8! This week, our students earned over **1,200 positive points**. A special congratulations to **Chloe** and **Noel**, who topped the leader board with the most positive points this week.

The majority of our points were awarded for "Good Work" and "Active & Curious" in learning. A huge well done to 8 Peter, who led the way as the top-performing tutor group with over 300 positive points.

Across the school, **equipment** and **uniform** standards have dropped. Can we ensure that bags are packed the night before with the correct equipment and that our uniform is always to the highest standard.

Keep up the good work.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

#### Year 9 News

Students are asking some excellent questions of myself, their Tutors and Subject Teachers after an informative CIAG evening last Thursday. As a reminder, it is **Year 9 Parents' Evening on 6<sup>th</sup> February**. Tutors and myself will be sending reminders for Parents/Carers to accept on ParentPay; just to reinforce how important attendance is with regards to GCSE Choices.

Have a great weekend and look forward to seeing you all on Thursday Evening.

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 9

#### **Year 9 GCSE Options**

After Parents' Evening (6th February), all Parents/Carers of Year 9 students will receive a Microsoft Form that will need to be completed by you and your child for your child's chosen options for GCSEs. Please find attached the PPT from the CIAG evening that outlines some information regarding our Key Stage 4 curriculum. If any Parent/Carer has any questions about the process, please do contact Mr Gibbons

at <u>j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk</u>. The Microsoft Form will need to be complete *by Wednesday* 12th February.

#### **Year 10 News**

A good week for Year 10s, with the majority of positive points be awarded for 'Learned and Wise'. On Wednesday, Year 10s watched a performance of *A Christmas Carol* in the hall, which is very beneficial for their GCSEs.

A gentle reminder – please can Parents/Carers sign Journals ready for checks on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

#### Year 11 News

This week has been a challenging one for Year 11, and I want to take a moment to reflect on both the positives and the areas we need to improve. We recorded 385 positive points, acknowledging the continued hard work and dedication of many students. However, we also saw a significant rise in negative points (106)—nearly double from last week. The main reasons were lateness (35), homework issues (22), equipment (11), and uniform (8).

This increase is concerning, particularly with punctuality. Arriving late to school and lessons disrupts learning, and as we approach the final stretch before exams, it's crucial that all students take responsibility for their time management and organization. I urge every student to reflect on these areas and commit to improving in the weeks ahead.

#### **Upcoming Events & Support**

#### **PPE Results - Next Week**

The **results from PPE exams** will be shared next week. These mock results provide a clear picture of where each student currently stands and what needs to be done to achieve target grades. I encourage students to reflect on their performance and approach these results with a growth mindset—learning from mistakes and identifying the next steps for improvement.

#### Careers Interviews - Next Three Weeks

Over the next three weeks, all Year 11 students will have a **careers interview** with a teacher. This is a fantastic opportunity to discuss future options, whether that's continuing at **St. Joseph's Sixth Form** or exploring alternative pathways. Students should prepare by thinking about their interests, career aspirations, and any questions they may have.

#### After-School Interventions – Updated Timetable

Interventions remain a key part of our support strategy and will **continue running next week from 15:15** to 16:15:

Monday: MathsTuesday: ScienceWednesday: English

Starting from the first week of February, additional subjects will be added to the timetable. The full intervention schedule is shared below. Attendance at interventions is crucial for those identified, and the list of required students is available during form time/reading time and at the Head of Year Office entrance.

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

#### **Final Thoughts**

As we enter February, I urge all Year 11 students to raise their standards. Time is moving quickly, and every lesson, every homework, and every intervention session counts. Take responsibility for your learning, stay organized, and make the most of the support available to you.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support. Let's finish this term on a high note.

Mr Romero – Head of Year 11

#### **Year 11 History Revision Session**

On **Friday 7**<sup>th</sup> **February**, Year 11 will have a revision session after school in the History Department. This will start promptly at 3.30pm and finish at 5pm.

This session is for students to watch the documentary, "Norman Conquest 2", which covers the majority of the Normans in great depth. This session is compulsory for all Year 11 historians as it is no longer available to watch online, and should not clash with any other interventions. If, for any reason, it is a case that your child is unable to attend, please do let Ms. Weir know by email (E.Weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) or a note in their journal before Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

There will be pizza available for students on the night also.

#### Year 13 News

This week, we completed and sent UCAS applications for all students who are looking to apply to university. Some students have already received some fantastic offers and we wish everyone else the best of luck with their applications. On Monday, we will be holding a session on next steps for UCAS. This session will be to explain how accepting offers works and what the students can expect in the Summer on Results Day. I would like to extend my congratulations to the Year 13 Philosophy and Ethics class who all took part in the Philosothon on Tuesday. The students conducted themselves extremely well and competed against students from Eton, Herschel, Windsor Girls, Lynch Hill and many more. Special mentions must go to Patrycja Artemska who was the top performing student for our school and Roza Gorna who performed really well on the night. Have a great weekend.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

#### **Hook and Chase: House Competition!**

Excitement and curiosity filled the air last Friday as students from Years 7 - 10 gathered for the anticipated "Hook and Chase" House Competition. This event was a first in St Joseph's and was nothing short of exciting, from the participant bringing their A-game and a supporting crowd cheering them on! With sharp and quick reflexes, the students demonstrated talent, determination, and house spirit.

After the 'dust had settled', the winners emerged as follows:

- Year 7: Congratulations to Riley Barros Bain (Teresa) for his victory!
- Year 8: A huge well done to Florence Tambwe (Cecilia), who dazzled everyone with her calmness.
- Year 9: Hats off to Loikita Mendonca De Jesus (Veronica) for her incredible victory!
- Year 10: Kudos to Evadne Vermeulen (Peter), whose precision was unmatched.

Thanks to all staff, participants, and spectators who made this successful. Here's to more thrilling competitions ahead—let's keep the spirit alive! – *Mr Spencer* 



#### **House Competition Standings**

Standings	House	XH Comp 1	Poetry	Countdown	Christmas Card	Lip Sync	Synonym Smash	XH Comp 2	Rock Paper Scissors	Paper Plane Flying	Hook & Chase	Positive Points	Total
1	Peter	1000	800	1000	1000	100	1000	100	800	100	400	16002	22302
2	Jerome	400	1000	800	600	800	400	800	100	400	1000	14624	20924
3	Veronica	600	0	200	800	600	600	600	400	800	800	14986	20386
5	Teresa	200	0	400	400	200	0	1000	600	1000	800	15201	19801
4	Mark	800	0	600	200	400	200	400	1000	200	400	15021	19221
6	Cecilia	100	0	100	100	1000	800	200	200	600	100	13498	16698

#### **Celebrating Our Students' Success at the TVLP Philosothon**

A huge congratulations to all our students who took part in the recent TVLP Philosothon! This unique and inspiring event brought together students from 11 schools to engage in deep philosophical discussions, exploring complex ethical and philosophical issues in mixed-age teams.

Our students impressed the judges with their thoughtful contributions, collaborative spirit, and ability to consider multiple perspectives. A special well done to **Patrycja A in Year 13**, who was awarded **Best Student for our school**—a fantastic achievement!

The evening was made even more memorable by the presence of the charity **Hopefull**, who served delicious pizzas from their van. This van typically operates in Ukraine, delivering food and hope to those in war-torn areas. Our school has been proud to support this charity, particularly through the Christmas Pillowcase Appeal, and it was wonderful to see their work in action.

The event was a resounding success, filled with meaningful discussions, new friendships, and a shared love for philosophy. Well done to everyone who participated—you have done our school proud!

















#### **Year 8 Geography Trip to the Living Rainforest**

On Wednesday, Year 8 Geography students went on a trip to the Living Rainforest, Newbury. This was a great opportunity for our students to learn Geography outside the classroom setting. They had a great time learning about various plant and animal adaptations in the tropical rainforest. Our students presented themselves so well by being **Active, Curious and Intentional**, displaying our School's Pupil Profile Values. The Staff working in the Living Rainforest praised students and the School for having high standards in terms of learning and behaviour. – *Mrs Rodrigues* 



#### **Science Club**

Students enjoyed making custard slime, which is a non-Newtonian fluid that changes its properties when a stress or force is applied. – *Mrs Lionel* 



#### **Sustainability Elective**

Celebrating Our Sustainability Stars! 🎉 🔵

This week, students in the Sustainability elective took their learning beyond the classroom on a nature walk, exploring local biodiversity. They conducted biodiversity surveys to identify the most ecologically rich areas around our school, played species bingo, and engaged in discussions about the importance of protecting our natural environment.



Their efforts support the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Climate Action (SDG 13) and Life on Land (SDG 15), by raising awareness of local ecosystems and the need for conservation. This also reflects Catholic Social Teaching, especially Care for Creation, reminding us of our responsibility to protect the Earth as stewards of God's gifts.

We are incredibly proud of these students for their enthusiasm and commitment to sustainability. Their actions inspire us all to care for our common home. Well done! \( \gredot\) \( - Mrs \) Burby

#### **Bowling Fun**

This week, a group of St Joseph's students took part in a Bowling Competition. The students had a fantastic time and all took part with great enthusiasm. The team came second overall, earning themselves silver medals. Well done to **Adrian**, **Ben**, **Suela**, **Danna**, **Molly** and **Michael!** – *Mrs Anstiss* 





#### 'A Christmas Carol'

Year 10 and 11 were fortunate enough to watch a performance of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' on Wednesday afternoon. Quantum Theatre really brought this novel to life and highlighted the importance of the Christian messages of redemption and benevolence. The troupe of three delighted with their slick costume and role changes and their phenomenal story telling ability. Both Year 10 and 11 voiced how much they had enjoyed the play and how they felt it had helped to remind them of the key quotations and themes.

The English Department have the philosophy that students should have a close familiarity to all of the texts that we study and work hard to ensure there are many enrichment activities to aid this. With this in mind, we look forward to further theatre productions and opportunities. – *Mrs Ward* 







#### **Bikeability Level 3**

The school is organising *Bikeability Level 3* for **Friday 21**<sup>st</sup> **March 2025**. This is available for any student who has already completed the Level 2 course.

If you would like your child to take part, please <u>CLICK HERE</u> or scan the QR code for the parental consent forms. The **closing date is Monday 10**<sup>th</sup> **February 2025**.

More information on the Bikeabiltiy courses can be found <u>HERE</u>. If you have any other questions, please contact Mr Silver via <u>h.silver@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk</u>.

### **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!

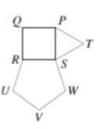


### Solution to last Week's Puzzler

E The four angles at point S include an interior angle of each of an equilateral triangle, a square and a regular pentagon. These are 60°, 90° and 108° respectively. As the sum of the angles which meet at a point is 360°, ∠TSW is (360 − (60 + 90 + 108))° = 102°.

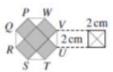
The equilateral triangle and the square have side PS in common and the square and the regular pentagon have side RS in common, so the triangle, square and pentagon have equal side-lengths. Therefore SW = ST and hence triangle SWT is isosceles.

So 
$$\angle WTS = \angle TWS = \frac{1}{2}(180 - 102)^{\circ} = 39^{\circ}$$
.



### Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

C The diagram on the left shows regular octagon PQRSTUVW and the shaded rectangles, PQTU and RSVW. The right-hand diagram shows how the four unshaded triangles fit together to form a square of side-length 2 cm. So the total area of these four triangles is 4 cm².



### Puzzler of the week

My recipe for apple crumble uses 100 g of flour, 50 g of butter and 50 g of sugar to make the crumble topping. When my family come for a meal, I have to use two and a half times each amount to provide enough crumble. In total, how much crumble topping do I then make?

A 0.5 kg

B 2kg

C 2.5kg

D 5kg

E 50 kg

### Break-time Teaser

In the Caribbean, loggerhead turtles lay three million eggs in twenty thousand nests. On average, how many eggs are in each nest?

A 15

B 150

C 1500

D 15000

E 150 000

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



### **EAL NEWS**

### (English as an Additional Language

### The Importance of Mother Tongue Language in Education



Research indicates that having a strong mother tongue foundation leads to a much better understanding of the curriculum as well as a more positive attitude towards school, so it is vital that children maintain their first language when they begin schooling in a different language.

Developing the mother tongue is very important because when children develop their mother tongue, they are simultaneously fostering a whole host of other essential skills, such as critical thinking and literacy skills. It is this skill-set that they take with them into formal education, and research tells us that any skills and concepts gained in the learner's home language do not need to be re-taught when they transfer to a second language. For example, if a child has developed the ability to guess the meaning of a word through its context or to infer meaning by reading between the lines, these skills are easily transferred when they begin studying in a second language.

It is much harder, however, to teach these abstract skills directly through a second language.

Language and mother tongue also play a huge role in the development of personal, social and cultural identity. Children with a strong foundation in their first language often display a deeper understanding of themselves and their place within society, along with an increased sense of wellbeing and confidence. Certainly, this flows down into every aspect of their lives, including their academic achievement.

It is crucial to note that it is through language we learn about culture, whether it is someone else's language or our own. To deprive children of their mother language to deprive understanding his or her cultural identity, and for children growing up in UK society understanding one's cultural identity can become compromised or changed inevitably. Children who become balanced bilinguals and develop mother language proficiency (ideally from an early age), in addition to acquire languages such as English, are equipped to become global citizens. In conclusion, Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for both people and the planet.



#### 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**<sup>th</sup> **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.** 







