



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 7th February 2025



Cultural Exchange Experience

Last Friday, we were delighted to welcome a group of students from Spain to St Joseph's for a special cultural exchange experience. The students had the opportunity to observe various lessons across the school, participate in team-building activities, and gain insight into the British education system. A big well done to **Miss Toro Sanchez** in the MFL team for coordinating this visit, and thank you to all staff and students who warmly welcomed and integrated our Spanish guests. It was a fantastic day of learning and cultural exchange!

Head Teacher Messages

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

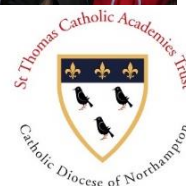
I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the images below to be directed to this week's two Head Teacher Messages.



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!"

Follow Me

Weekly Reflections
9th February 2025
5th week in ordinary time



From the Gospel of Luke (5: 1-11)

At that time: The crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.' And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.' And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Prayer for the Week

Loving Lord, You call us to trust in Your word, even when we doubt or feel unworthy. Help us to have faith like Simon Peter, to follow You with open hearts and leave behind what holds us back. Teach us to "put out into deep water," knowing that with You, all things are possible.

Through Christ our Lord
Amen

Day 1

Discuss with students Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel (Blue text on 1st page).

Then, reflect on the following question:

How can faith guide those who serve in the armed forces, police, and security to become instruments of peace and hope in the world?

Day 2

What do you think Jesus means when he says: "you will fish for people"?

What "nets" in our lives (e.g. comforts, habits, fears) might we need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully?

Day 3

What does it mean (to you) to live **Intentionally** and **Prophetically** as a follower of Jesus?

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 – Follow Me

The Jubilee 2025 calls us to become ‘**Pilgrims of Hope**’. For Christians, hope is rooted in the encounter with Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection reveal God’s transformative love. This hope is continually renewed through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the bond of love between the Father and the Son, which is present and active within the community of believers. Throughout 2025, various Jubilee days have been designated to honour and celebrate specific groups and ministries within the Church. One such occasion is the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel, taking place from Saturday, February 8, to Sunday, February 9, 2025. In a recent address to participants of the 64th International Military Pilgrimage at the Marian Shrine of Lourdes, Pope Francis entrusted to God’s mercy all those who had fallen while serving their countries and defending peace. He encouraged Catholic members of the military to let their faith guide their service, saying:

"The world needs you, especially at this dark moment in our history. We need men and women of faith who are capable of putting weapons at the service of peace and brotherhood."

This Jubilee serves as a powerful reminder that those in service roles are called to be instruments of hope, peace, and reconciliation in a divided world.

Luke’s Gospel reveals the importance of trusting in Jesus, recognizing God’s power, and being willing to follow His call. It encourages humility, faith, and readiness to embrace a new purpose in life. Some of the main themes in this passage include:

Trust and Obedience to God: Despite Simon Peter's doubts, he listens to Jesus and obeys His instruction to "put out into deep water." This act of trust leads to an overwhelming, miraculous catch of fish. The Gospel teaches that trusting and obeying God's word, can bring abundant blessings.

God’s Power and Abundance: The miraculous catch highlights God’s ability to provide beyond human expectations. It reveals Jesus’ divine authority over nature and symbolizes the spiritual abundance that comes through faith.

Discipleship and Mission: Jesus calls Simon Peter to leave his old life behind and follow Him. The phrase “from now on you will be catching men” signifies their new mission: to bring others to God. This theme reflects the call to discipleship, where ordinary people are invited to play a role in God’s work.

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

The actions of Simon Peter and his companions are **intentional**. Peter chooses to trust Jesus’ word and intentionally takes action by letting down the nets. Later, they make a deliberate decision to follow Jesus, showing purpose and commitment to their new calling. Jesus’ words and actions in this Gospel carry a **prophetic** message: a call to transformation and a new mission. When Jesus tells Simon Peter, “From now on you will fish for people,” He is not only foretelling Peter’s future but inviting him to play a **prophetic** role in sharing God’s message with the world. Peter’s willingness to leave everything and follow Jesus marks the beginning of his **prophetic** journey, as he becomes a leader who proclaims the Gospel and brings others to faith.

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.

Find Hope in Prayer – Our New Prayer Bowls in the Chapel

This year, we are embracing **hope**, and what better way to do so than through **prayer and reflection**? Our school chapel now has a beautiful new addition – **prayer bowls** – a simple yet powerful way to express your thoughts, worries, and hopes.

Whether you're a student or a teacher, you are warmly invited to take a moment out of your day to visit the chapel. The process is simple:

1. **Take a glass pebble** from the main bowl.
2. **Place your prayer or intention** into one of the smaller labelled bowls, each representing different aspects of life – gratitude, healing, strength, peace, or personal intentions.

By doing this, you are joining a quiet but meaningful act of collective prayer, filling our school with **hope and unity**. No words are needed – just a moment of reflection and faith.

In this **Jubilee Year of Hope**, let us remember that small acts of prayer can bring great strength. We encourage everyone to take part and find comfort in this peaceful space.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13



Pupil Nominations of the Week

<p>Year 7 Amelia D'Souza and Kacper Zborowski for excellent weeks!</p>
<p>Year 8 Amelia Odindo and Kaelen Geca Njie</p>
<p>Year 9 Tesia Teji and Thomas Walls</p>
<p>Year 10 Isla Slessor and Aidan Vaughn for receiving the most positive points this week.</p>
<p>Year 11 Simona Teckle and Esinam Deynoo for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week.</p>
<p>Year 12 Freda Lourenco and Kacper Mozumanski for the most positive points on ClassCharts – well done!</p>
<p>Year 13 Rodnie Coroza for making excellent progress in Computing and Mia Marshall for great work in English.</p>

Homework Superstars

Year 7	Maya Bonczuk
Year 9	Mia Brennan
Year 12	Ana Passos



D&T Stars



Maddie Robinson (Year 7), **Orla O'Connor** (Year 8), **Travis Arunde** (Year 9) and **Ava Bellamy** (Year 10) for being **Active and Curious** in all lessons. Well done!

Year 7 News

We are closely approaching February half-term but Year 7s continue to do so well in each of their lessons. One lucky Form will win the *Zorb Football House Competition* and get to try out this great and exciting opportunity.

Please remember that it is a full day on Friday 14th February, students will then be off the following week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Well done on another fantastic week. Year 8 managed to achieve **over 1500 positive points** this week.

The majority of the X's are coming from equipment and homework. Please make sure that homework is done for your lessons and that equipment is packed the night before.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Another exciting week as we go in to the last week before half-term, meaning that we celebrate with our Rewards Assembly next Thursday, highlighting the achievements across all subjects and also the students that have represented the school values the most. Parents' Evening this Thursday was the final opportunity for parents/carers and students alike to get 1-1 time with students' teachers and their opinion on **Options Choices, which close Friday 14th February.**

Hope you have a fantastic weekend.

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 9

Year 9 CIAG Evening and Options

All parents/carers of Year 9 students will have received a message on ClassCharts yesterday (Thursday) to a Microsoft Form that will allow you and your child to choose their options for GCSEs. Also attached with this message is the CIAG Options booklet outlining information regarding our Key Stage 4 curriculum. If any parent/carer has any questions about the process, please do contact Mr Gibbons at j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk. The **Microsoft Form will need to be completed by Wednesday 12th February.**

Year 10 News

Only 1 more week to go until half-term. Year 10s have been commended for their hard work in lessons and 50% of their positive points have been awarded for '**Good Work**' and '**Learned and Wise**' – please keep up this positivity! Next week, we will have our Celebration Assembly on Wednesday, where the students will be awarded for their hard work across all subject areas. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 10 Netball

On Tuesday, the Year 10 Netball Team played against Herschel Grammar School. The girls played some exceptional netball and won 18-8. Well done to **Sam, Licia, Arina, Ava, Mikah, Natalia** and **Abby**.

Year 11 News

This week, we have seen some great engagement from Year 11 students, with **550 positive points** awarded—well done to those continuing to show commitment and focus. However, we also recorded **121 negative points**, with the most common reasons being **not attending intervention (19), homework issues (34), and equipment (19)**.

It is concerning to see students missing **compulsory interventions**, as these sessions are designed to provide targeted support in key subjects. With exams fast approaching, it is vital that students take advantage of every opportunity to strengthen their understanding and improve their performance.

Upcoming Events & Support

PPE Results – Next Week

The **results from PPE exams** will be shared next week Tuesday 11th February. These results provide a clear indication of where each student currently stands and what work still needs to be done before the final GCSE exams. I encourage students to reflect on their performance and approach these results with a growth mindset—learning from their mistakes and planning the next steps for improvement.

Careers Interviews – Continuing for the Next Two Weeks

For the next two weeks, students will continue their **careers interviews**, discussing their future options, whether that's continuing at **St. Joseph's Sixth Form** or exploring other pathways. These conversations are an excellent opportunity to gain insight into available choices and receive guidance on next steps.

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**. The timetable is as follows:

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

The list of required students is available during **form time/reading time** and at the **Head of Year Office entrance**.

Final Thoughts

With each passing week, we move closer to the final exams. Now is the time for students to show discipline, consistency, and a strong work ethic. Small improvements made now will make a big difference in the months ahead. Let's focus on getting into good habits, staying organized, and making the most of every learning opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's keep pushing forward together.

Mr Romero – Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

This week has been another busy one for Year 12, with a number of assessments taking place and a study skills session on Thursday led by Mr Kuczynski on Academic Writing. We continue our good relationship with PwC as they contacted us again to offer an online session on Careers in Accountancy over the half-term. Some of our students are also being proactive in organizing their own Work Experience and Summer School placements at colleges and universities that they are keen to attend in the future – **congratulations to Isabelle Pace for applying for one such experience at Imperial College**. Last Friday, our Year 12 Scholars Group also visited Cambridge University and the feedback from the day was very positive.

Year 13 News

Year 13 have had a fantastic week. It is great to see the students earning so many positive points this week and maintaining high standards of engagement in their learning. On Monday, they will receive the results from their PPE's and it is really important to celebrate their successes as well as recognise the areas for improvement. As parents, quite often you will be wondering how to support your child moving forward. If I could please ask just a couple of things:

- Ask your child where their areas of weakness are and what they are going to do to improve.
- Encourage a distraction-free study environment at home, that includes study without phones.

It will be a team effort to help all of our students achieve the best results they can in the Summer, and the work starts now.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

Spaghetti Slurping: House Competition

Last Friday, the school was buzzing with excitement as students gathered for the annual Inter-House Spaghetti Slurping Competition—a tradition that never fails to entertain!

Students from every House competed against their peers, each determined to be the fastest *Spaghetti Slurper*. The competition was intense, with noodles flying and laughter echoing through the halls.

The atmosphere was electric as classmates cheered on their housemates, creating a wave of encouragement and house spirit that could be felt throughout the hall.

This event is more than just a fun competition; it's a celebration of camaraderie, teamwork, and school spirit. It brings students together in a unique and entertaining way, fostering a sense of community and friendly rivalry.

Congratulations to all the participants for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship and a massive thank you to Mrs Hill, without whom the competition just wouldn't happen.

The fastest slurpers in each year were:

- Year 7: **Nathan Daniels**
- Year 8: **David Butkus** tied with **Noel Kavalakkat**
- Year 9: **Szymon Bogacz**
- Year 10: **Evadne Vermeulen**
- Year 11: **Maksymilion Oleszak**



House Competitions 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	Spaghetti Slurp	XL Comp 1	Positive Points	Total
1	Peter	1000	800	1000	1000	100	1000	100	800	100	400	600	200	16700	23800
2	Veronica	600	0	200	800	600	600	600	400	800	800	1000	1000	15471	22871
3	Jerome	400	1000	800	600	800	400	800	100	400	1000	400	800	15135	22635
4	Teresa	200	0	400	400	200	0	1000	600	1000	800	800	400	15791	21591
5	Mark	800	0	600	200	400	200	400	1000	200	400	200	600	15693	20693
6	Cecilia	100	0	100	100	1000	800	200	200	600	100	100	100	14052	17452

Year 10 Creative iMedia & Business Students Visit Harry Potter Studios



Geography Club

Congratulations to our young Geographers for their incredible effort in creating amazing volcanic models! Using old newspapers and cardboard, they crafted colourful, detailed models that will serve as fantastic teaching resources for our Geography lessons. They even had the thrilling experience of erupting a volcano and understanding the process.



Science Club

Students enjoyed making Cartesian Diver by using different materials.



Bikeability Level 3

The school is organising *Bikeability Level 3* for **Friday 21st 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 [CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code for the parental consent forms. The **closing date is Monday 10th February 2025**.

More information on the Bikeability courses can be found [HERE](#). If you have any other questions, please contact Mr Silver via h.silver@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.



Design and Technology Department



D+T Make It Elective

We have been so impressed by the work and attitudes of the pupils in this term's DT elective..... A few *purrrrrrrfect* containers taken home and a couple more gifts made to spread kindness. Well done ☺



Year 8 - Designer Soaps

Year 8s have been busy designing and making 'designer' soaps. Mr Mall's class this week were really lucky when Miss Weir offered some dry lavender to add to their soap bars as they set in their moulds. A3 was smelling particularly lovely on Thursday!

Any plastic from the moulds will be recycled and used in the next unit of work as pupils learn about sustainable design and work to create products that are made from reclaimed and recycled materials.



GCSE Choices - Food Preparation and Nutrition.

As part of the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, pupils work through 2 NEAs (non-examined assessments). The second NEA is to create 3 dishes that fit within a set context. Unfortunately, we cannot share current GCSE work but we are delighted to show some highlights from last year's Year 11 group. Our pupils developed many high quality skills to research, prepare and create these fine dishes.



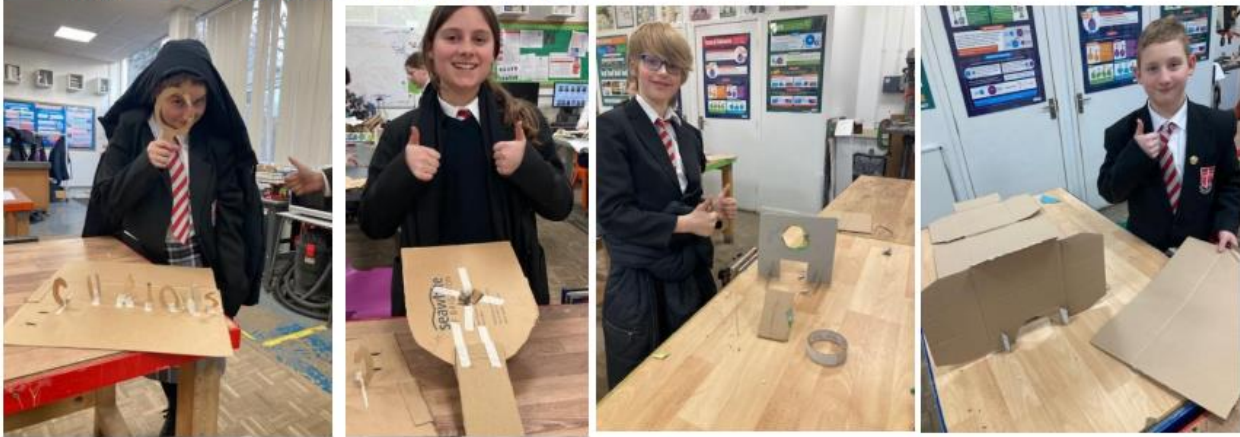
GCSE Choices - Design and Technology.

As part of the Design and Technology GCSE, pupils design and make a product that fits within a set context. This year's projects are nearing completion, and we anticipate some high quality final outcomes. Please enjoy some of the products made by the Year 11 group last year.



D+T Club - KS3 DESIGNers

Our KS3 pupils have started work on their new project of St Joseph's Golf Quest, they have individually and in groups started to model and develop their ideas for a St Joseph's themed mini-golf hole.... We are very excited to begin making and testing these soon!



D&T Social Media...



We hope you enjoy some of the posts as we begin posting some of our successes, challenges and updates onto our [@stjosephsdt](#) page again. This QR code should direct to our Instagram page.



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

A The amount of topping required is $2\frac{1}{2} \times (100 + 50 + 50) \text{ g} = 2\frac{1}{2} \times 200 \text{ g} = 500 \text{ g} = 0.5 \text{ kg}$.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

B The average number of eggs per nest is $\frac{3\,000\,000}{20\,000} = \frac{300}{2} = 150$.

Puzzler of the week

Workers digging a tunnel for an underground railway complete 5 metres of tunnel on a typical day. Working every day, how long will it take them to dig a tunnel of length 2 kilometres?

- A three months B six months C just under a year D just over a year
E nearly two years

Break-time Teaser

Which of the following has the same value as $10\,006 - 8008$?

- A $10\,007 - 8007$ B $100\,060 - 80\,080$ C $10\,000 - 8002$ D $106 - 88$
E $5003 - 4004$

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

Menu

WEEKLY MENU				
St Josephs Catholic High School - Week Two				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef Keema with Peas & Rice	Chicken Tagine served with Couscous & Tzatziki	Student Choice	Minced Beef Enchilada	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips, Tartare Sauce & a Lemon Wedge
Cheese, Leek & Potato Pie with a Puff Pastry Lid	Spinach & Ricotta Lasagne	Quorn Tacos with Sour Cream & Cheese	Indonesian Style Vegetable Curry served with Rice	Curried Vegetable Pasty
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad
Pasta with a Cheese & Ham Sauce	Pasta with a Cheese Sauce	Chinese Style Noodles with Beansprouts	Pasta with a Tomato Sauce	-
Iced Vanilla Sponge	Sticky Toffee Pudding served with Custard	Chocolate Brownie	White Chocolate Chip Flapjack	Carrot Cake

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



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

The Importance of Mother Tongue Language in Education



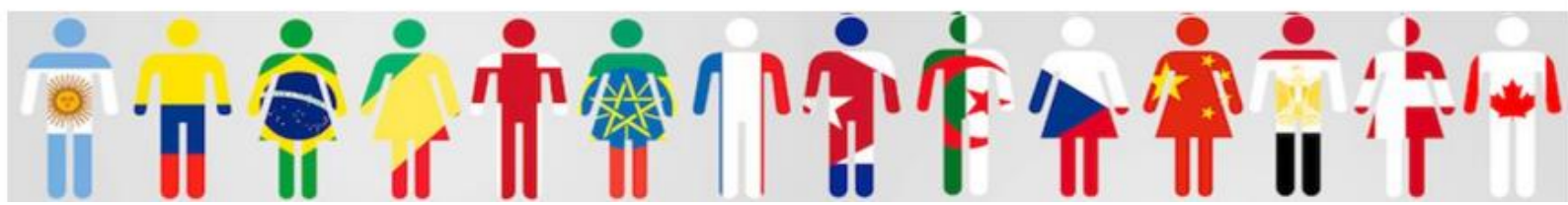
Research indicates that having a strong mother tongue foundation leads to a much better understanding of the curriculum as well as a more positive attitude towards school, so it is vital that children maintain their first language when they begin schooling in a different language.

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 literacy is to deprive them of 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!).

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



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.



Ham Radio Club

Most Fridays 15:15-16:15, at the top of the Tower Block,
An interesting club for everyone.
For any questions, please message Mr Allinson







Radio Society of Great Britain
Advancing amateur radio since 1913



YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

WEDNESDAYS FROM 3:15PM TILL 4PM

Come along and see why Science is so cool!

Led by
Mrs. Lionel & Ms. Jetwani

For more information please contact Mrs. Lionel

PE After School Clubs

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