

St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 7th March 2025



International Women's Day

On Thursday, Annmarie
Phelps visited St. Joseph's
to discuss her work
promoting equality in
women's sports globally.
An inspirational speaker,
Annmarie currently serves
as the Deputy Chair of the
British Olympic
Committee. She is also a
former Olympian, World
Record holder, and World
gold medallist in rowing.
More content and pictures
on page 10.

Head Teacher Message

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!"

Lent

Weekly Reflections 9th March 2025 1st Sunday of Lent





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

At that time: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were over, he was hungry.

The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone." '

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, 'To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." '

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." 'And Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." '

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Prayer for the Week

Gracious God,

Let us remember Jesus in His lonely days in the wilderness, His time wrestling with temptation, and the ministry that followed restoring and transforming so many lives.

Create in us a clean heart, O Lord, and put a steadfast spirit within us

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Day 1

Can you state the three temptations posed to Jesus in the desert?
Why do you think the Spirit led Jesus into the desert?
When have you followed the Spirit into your wilderness?

Day 2

How does Lent give us the opportunity of a new Faith experience?
How can you be more Faith-Filled and Hopeful to the Holy Spirit bring it to others around you?

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 4: Jesus is denied by Peter
Station 5: Jesus is judged by Pilate
Station 6: Jesus is scourged and
crowned with thorns

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 – Lent

The temptation of Jesus, the Gospel from Sunday, is one we hear in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. And it is a reading that occurs before Jesus calls His first disciples. Jesus went into the desert to think, to pray and to be close to God before He called others to follow Him in His ministry. Jesus showed us the importance of spending time reflecting on our own lives and drawing closer to God through prayer. We use these forty days of Lent to do this too. It is an opportunity for us to do something for God, to not only show our love to Him but also how sorry we are for the mistakes we have made. It gives us the chance to have a fresh start but by also ensuring we have a relationship with God first.

Sunday's Gospel speaks of a period of forty days that Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying. In Scripture, the desert or wilderness is a place of great deprivation and hardship. It is filled with danger — wild animals, bandits, outcasts from society and even demons. Yet it was the Spirit which led Jesus there. The temptations challenged Jesus to prove his divine sonship. Jesus counters each episode with a reference to Scripture. And throughout, Jesus remains faithful and the devil departs for a time.

Lent, traditionally a time of fasting, prayer and giving, also runs for forty days. It is a special time of preparation, when we are invited to really examine our lives in detail. Our 'desert experiences' often leads us to a new faith experience and a new understanding of God. Which of the temptations of Jesus would you personally find most challenging? What are the great temptations in your life? In what ways have you been **Faith-filled** and **Hopeful** when being 'led by the Spirit' through your wilderness? Spend some time this week contemplating the difficult periods of your life, and how they lead you to new understandings of yourself, others and God. How can you be **Faith-filled** and **Hopeful** in listening to the Holy Spirit and bringing to others this Lent? And during this Lent continue to remember that God Loves you and believes in you so much he gave His son for you.

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.





Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Amelia Sobala and Kris Lindautas for excellent weeks.

Year 8

Rosie Kirke and Maximus Maican

Year 9

Michalina Branska and Perez Mbidom voted for by the form tutors of Year 9.

Year 10

Csenge Bodor and **Dorian Kubiak** for receiving the most positive points.

Year 12

AJ Samar and Emilia Augustyn-Sharma for being caring and attentive mentors to the younger students in the school.

Year 13

Patrycja Artemska for working hard in Geography and **Symon Codico** for making good progress in Chemistry.

Homework Superstars

Year 7	Nicholas Endler
Year 8	Chloe Cinco
Year 9	Adriana Paulusz
Year 10	Marco De Jesus
Year 11	Vince Lacsamana
Year 12	Ann Kavalakkat



Year 7 News

I hope everyone has had a lovely week, especially with the weather getting better! We had a lovely Liturgy on Wednesday to celebrate Ash Wednesday. A massive well done for behaving so well during this!

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Another fantastic week for Year 8, filled with positives (+1200). As a year group, we have received 28 Xs for homework. Please can we make sure homework is completed ready for the lesson.

Well done to the Year 8 football team, who beat St Bernard's 2-1 in a thrilling final 5 minutes.



Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

An exciting sporting week for Year 9, with the Year 9 Girls Netball Team coming 2nd in the Borough Netball Tournament – narrowly losing out to St Bernard's in the final after scoring a whopping 56 goals in the pool stages over 4 games. The girls were out again on Thursday, with the NFL Launch in Raynes Park giving 10 of them the opportunity to build on their success of coming 6th out of 36 teams last year. On Wednesday, we celebrated Ash Wednesday as a year group, coming together to reflect and mark the start of Lent.

Have a great weekend and looking forward to another great week next week.

Miss McCormack - Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

What a week it's been! On Tuesday, the Year 10s watched a performance of *Macbeth*, which was extremely enthralling. On Wednesday, the students conducted themselves respectfully when receiving their ashes during the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Finally on Friday, we had World Book Day, which allowed students to dress up as their favourite literary characters.

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

This week, there has been a particular focus on Careers with Year 12. We have had a number of industry professionals visit the school daily to give talks on: Law, Medicine, Apprenticeships, Project Management, Engineering and Working as an Estate Agent. The students have benefited enormously from these engaging talks and likewise the feedback from the industry professionals about our students has also been very positive. We had a great time celebrating World Book Day on Friday with the rest of the school as well.

Mrs Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

Year 13 students have been working incredibly hard this week and it shows in the increase of positive points. I would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who attended Parents' Evening last night. It was great to see so many of you there and your support will be invaluable in ensuring your son or daughter get the results they deserve. If you have any questions or concerns following the evening, please feel free to get in touch via l.finn@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk. Summer exam timetables will be published shortly and all students will receive an email from Miss Euden with their individual exam timetable attached.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

House Competition: Geography Treasure Hunt

The playground was full of excitement for the Geography Treasure Hunt last Friday! The students were put to the ultimate challenge to test their grid referencing and puzzle solving skills to track down 5 locations around the school and solve the geographic puzzles, with grid references as their only clue to the location. We were so impressed with their skills, and everyone who took part was determined to win!

The winners in each year group deserve a **big congratulations**, however the overall fastest group was **9 Teresa**, who completed it in approx. 6 minutes!

- **7 Peter** Jan, Igor, Victor and Oliwier
- 8 Teresa and Veronica Riley H, Ethan R, Elena R, Kezia A, Michalina, Wiktor, Filip, Coco
- 9 Teresa Marlon, Joseph, Alex, Arin
- 10 Cecilia Celine, Natalia, Ava
- 11 Jerome and Veronica Kara and Evie

Thank you to all the students that took part, and all the staff that supported the competition to run smoothly. It was a great success!



Current Standings

		XH Comp			Christmas	Lip	Synonym	XH Comp	Rock Paper	Paper Plane	Hook &	Spaghetti	XL Comp	Minute	Dance	Scavenger	Positive	
Standings	House	1	Poetry	Countdown	Card	Sync	Smash	2	Scissors	Flying	Chase	Slurp	1	Madness	Off	Hunt	Points	Total
1	Veronica	600	0	200	800	600	600	600	400	800	800	1000	1000	800	1000	1000	17782	27982
2	Peter	1000	800	1000	1000	100	1000	100	800	100	400	600	200	1000	100	600	19109	27909
3	Jerome	400	1000	800	600	800	400	800	100	400	1000	400	800	800	600	400	17834	27134
4	Teresa	200	0	400	400	200	0	1000	600	1000	800	800	400	400	800	800	17928	25728
5	Mark	800	0	600	200	400	200	400	1000	200	400	200	600	600	1000	100	17968	24668
6	Cecilia	100	0	100	100	1000	800	200	200	600	100	100	100	100	200	200	16334	20234

TVLP Writing Competition Winner: Celebrating World Book Day!

This week, our school has been buzzing with excitement as we celebrate World Book Day! From creative costume competitions to engaging book-themed activities, students have been embracing the joy of reading and storytelling.

Author Helen Comerford visited St Joseph's to deliver a writing workshop, give an inspirational talk on her journey to becoming a published author, as well as share her experiences as a theatre Stage manager (in which she worked with the Shakespeare Globe and The Wise Children Theatre Company).

A special congratulations to **Logan Ashdown in Year 7**, who won first place in the TVLP Creative Writing Competition, beating entries from schools across the Trust! His outstanding piece of writing showcased incredible imagination and skill—what an achievement!

Well done to everyone who took part in the celebrations. Keep reading, keep writing, and keep sharing your love for books! \square \triangleright





















Year 10 and 12 Students Celebrate International Women's Day at St Mary's School, Ascot with the TVLP

Students from Year 10 and Year 12 had the incredible opportunity to visit St Mary's School in Ascot to celebrate International Women's Day. This important day is a global reminder of the achievements, struggles, and progress of women worldwide. It serves as a call to action for gender equality and highlights the ongoing challenges that many women still face.

During the event, students engaged in discussions on crucial global issues affecting women, including their increased vulnerability to climate change, human trafficking, prison conditions, and representation in STEM. These topics offered valuable insights into the social, economic, and political barriers that many women continue to encounter, fostering a deeper understanding of the need for change.

A highlight of the visit was hearing from **Annamarie Phelps CBE**, a former Olympic rower and influential sports administrator. As a trailblazer in British sport, she shared her experiences of leadership, resilience, and breaking barriers, inspiring students to pursue their ambitions fearlessly.

This visit was a powerful reminder of the importance of education, awareness, and advocacy in striving for a more equal world. Our students returned motivated to champion positive change in their communities and beyond.

Well done to all the students that got involved and continue on their journey to spread awareness!





History News

This week, our Year 7 students presented their elections campaigns on who they believe should be the next King of England in 1066, and why. Their options were William, Duke of Normandy, Harold Godwinson and Harald Hardrada. A **huge well done** to each of our students that put a great deal of effort into creating props, writing speeches and performing in front of their peers. Below is just a small sample of our students' creations.



















Geography Club

In the Geography Club, students engaged in a simulation of a volcanic eruption in Soufriere Hills, Montserrat. They worked as a team of volcano experts invited to the Montserrat Volcano Observatory. Assuming roles as information coordinators, geologists, and crisis managers, they collaborated to make critical decisions aimed at safeguarding lives during the volcanic crisis. This immersive experience not only enhanced their decision-making skills but also involved creating a hazard map to visualize and assess the risks associated with volcanic activity. Well done to all the members of the Geography Club!

Sustainability Elective: Students Leading the Way in Sustainability!





This Lent, our Sustainability Elective students have been putting their faith into action by taking part in a litter-picking initiative around our school and local community. Their hard work reflects the Catholic Social Teaching value of the Common Good, showing care for our shared environment and ensuring a cleaner, healthier space for everyone.

At our school, we believe in serving others and protecting God's creation, and these students have truly embodied that mission. Their dedication reminds us that even small actions can make a big difference especially in this season of reflection, giving, and renewal. Well done to all involved! * *







Science Club

Students enjoyed making polymer bouncy balls.







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 link 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.

Fundraising - India Challenges Abroad

On **Friday 28th March 2025**, Mrs Burby and 5 students from St Joseph's in Year 12 (Oskar B, Freda L, Milena O, Emilia A, Purity) are visiting India and will be embarking on a Global Citizenship Programme to India. The students on this programme will be working with the **FutureSense Foundation** and its local teams to support rural, local communities.

FutureSense Foundation is a grassroots, international development charity that works in seven countries around the world, with the aim of supporting local communities to help them build a better future and ensure that no one is left behind. As part of this programme, students will get involved with a range of activities, working with local children supporting the FutureSense Foundation's Educational programmes, running workshops on STEM, conversational English or raising awareness on environmental issues.

The FutureSense Foundation programmes are guided by the United Nation's Goals for Sustainable Development and it's local in-country teams work around the year to understand the local issues and look for creative ways to address these. Each year, the charity delivers 15,000 workshops, reaching over 5,000 children and a further 3,000 adults in these rural communities with the aim of improving the quality of education, ensuring the health and wellbeing of the community members and looking to provide opportunities for improving livelihoods.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about some of the challenges faced in the world and be able to contribute directly to the effort to find a solution. With a large percentage of the global population still living in poverty and hunger without basic health, quality education or clean water and sanitation, it's now more important than ever for us all to come together as a global team and work together to find solutions. We are looking forward to the students on this programme returning as empowered Global Citizens.

As part of this initiative, we are also fundraising for the FutureSense Foundation to help the charity to not only continue the work it does, but also to grow its impact. As a small charity, they have a very small team in the UK and 90% of the money raised is used towards delivering its programmes overseas.

Please do support our students and donate here.

Here are some examples of how your donations can help:

- £15 provides one month of free supplementary education for a student in Cambodia (includes supplies and a healthy snack, and clean drinking water)
- £50 enables an entire school to have access to clean drinking water for a month
- £100 will enables us plant 50 trees
- £200 enables the delivery of a series of 20 workshops covering one theme

Thank you for your support!



Support Resources - from the Safeguarding Team

Please use the links below to see a list of current resources available in Slough for both children and adults. If you require more information on any of the events/programmes being advertised, please contact the provider directly.

Children's Padlet: Slough's EH Community Offer for Children

Adult's Padlet: Slough's EH Community Offer for Adults

Oracy

Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language (Voice21).

Following from the Head Teacher video from our Oracy Champions, please see below the two resources referenced (Student Talk Tactics and Discussion Guidelines). We utilise these in lessons to help facilitate and direct student discussion. Considering oracy as a big buzzword of the moment, we are doing all that we can to promote student talk and allow your children's voices to be heard.

If you have any suggestions/questions/tips of methods you use at home to facilitate oracy, please let Miss Crabtree know via c.crabtree@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk - we'd love to hear from you!



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St. Joseph's Discussion Guidelines

We give proof of listening

We respect our peer's ideas and time to talk

We invite other's opinions

We react and refocus

We are prepared to change our mind

We try to reach a shared agreement



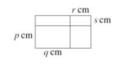
Solution to last Week's Puzzler

B First note that the radius of the larger semicircle is 2. So its area is $\frac{1}{2} \times \pi \times 2^2 = 2\pi$. Let the radius of the smaller semicircle be r. Then, by Pythagoras' Theorem, $r^2 + r^2 = 2^2$. So $r^2 = 2$. Therefore the area of the smaller semicircle is $\frac{1}{2} \times \pi \times 2 = \pi$. So the shaded area is $2\pi - \pi = \pi$. Hence half the area of the large semicircle is shaded.



Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

D Let the largest rectangle measure p cm by q cm and the smallest rectangle measure r cm by s cm, as shown. Then 2p + 2q = 28 and 2r + 2s = 12. Now the perimeter, in cm, of the original rectangle is 2p + 2q + 2r + 2s = 28 + 12 = 40. Hence p + q + r + s = (p + s) + (q + r) = 20.



Puzzler of the week

Reflection in the line l transforms the point with coordinates (5,3) into the point with coordinates (1,-1).

What is the equation of the line 1?

A y = x - 2

B y = 1

C x = 3

D y = 2 - x

E y = 4 - x

Break-time Teaser

Aroon is asked to choose five integers so that the mode is 2 more than the median and the mean is 2 less than the median. What is the largest possible value of the range of Aroon's five integers?

A 2

B 5

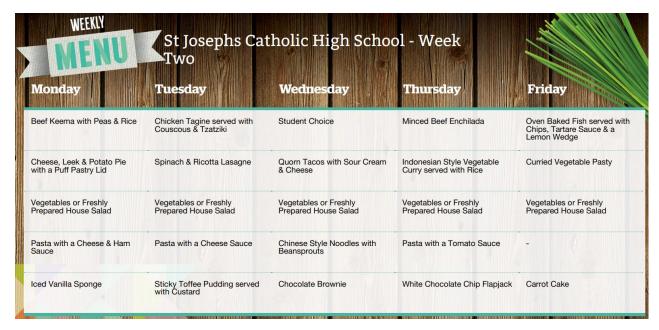
C 12

D 15

E The largest possible range depends on the integers chosen

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

Menu





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 every alternate Tuesday (each Week A) 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 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.





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 7-9 Basketball JCO	Netball- all year groups AAN MJO KBR	Year 9-11 boys Football THU		Fitness - all year groups	
	Rugby Girls and Boys HMC/THU Girls Football MJO Year 7+8 boys	Dance HST Basketball year 10, 11, 12 and 13 JCO	Trampolining KBR			
	Football FWA					