



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Joseph's Newsletter

December 2019

Headteacher's Address

Putting together this newsletter always brings it home to me the amount of opportunities and experiences that the children at our school get to take advantage of; the trips and extra curricular activities, the visits from external speakers, the collaboration with other schools, the enrichment opportunities and also the chance to give something back to the community. I must firstly thank my dedicated staff for going the extra mile to provide all these opportunities but also you, our parents and carers, for supporting the school as we seek to provide the best possible education for your children.

We will endeavour to offer more and more experiences as we enter the new year to help mould and shape the pupils in our care to become the young adults of whom we are all immensely proud.

To recognise those pupils who embody the ethos of our school and are role models for others to follow, I have been awarding special Head Teacher badges at the end of each half term.

Our Head Teacher badge winners at the end of the first half term were: Yr 7: Raffy Baluyot, Yr 8: Sophie Wright, Yr9: Daniel Meyer, Yr10: Becky Foscett, Yr11: Matthew Davies

For this half term the badge winners were: Yr 7: Molly Weller, Yr8: Noah Tonkin, Yr9: Cailen Lancaster, Yr10: Barbara Velliou, Yr11: Cody Netton. Congratulations to all the badge winners!

You can now follow the school on Twitter to get updates on activities and events in school @sjcssalisbury

Mrs Ridley



International Day

This year, International Day was celebrated on Friday 18th October and was preceded the week before with assemblies celebrating cultural diversity and the values of tolerance and respect.

The canteen played an absolute blinder in the week leading up to the Friday by cooking a fantastic range of international cuisine for us to sample each day of the week. The Friday itself was celebrated with its traditional vibrancy; pupils and staff fully embraced the themed day by wearing national dress or colours of their heritage. The school was looking incredibly colourful and vibrant with flags, costumes and face paints all being proudly displayed

It was a great day for St Joseph's and culminated in the evening with the well-attended International Mass held in the school hall where over 20 countries were represented amongst the 280 strong congregation.

We're also very proud of the amount of money raised during the day's activities – a huge £500 was raised and given to Team Rubicon to support the emergency aid efforts in the Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian.



Kintbury Visit: St Cassian's Retreat Centre

In October a group of 30 yr7 and yr8 pupils went to a retreat centre for a whole day of fun activities and reflection. On arrival our group was welcomed warmly by the retreat centre staff who were all young enthusiastic adults. The centre is an amazingly beautiful huge old stately home type building accompanied by some beautiful grounds (which hosted a very competitive treasure hunt!) The centre never fails to impress and is always a brilliant place to take time out and to give the children a chance to get to know themselves and their friends better.

At the end of the day, as is tradition, the group went to the atmospheric 'quite room' and reflected on what had been done and achieved during the day. STOP PRESS: Year 10 have an opportunity in the new year to attend a 3 night residential retreat at Kintbury! Watch this space!



Safeguarding

As the holidays approach, please be reminded that if you think a child is in immediate danger or at risk of serious harm, contact the police directly.

For all other concerns that may involve a child being at risk, the contact number, as displayed on the school's website is 0300 456 0108. With the rise in electronic devices and social media platforms, it is important that our young people are protected from potential harm – if they are using social media, please be vigilant and ensure that their accounts are monitored and that the people they are in contact with are known – the increase in grooming, sending of texts and inappropriate images amongst young people is concerning.

In the New Year we will be looking at information evenings on Safer Internet Use to support parents and carers.

In addition to this, we are launching our Mental Health and Well-Being strategy which we have been planning this term in partnership with Oxford Health. It will see us developing and expanding the Pastoral Team and helping our young people to develop their awareness of their well-being, mindfulness and resilience.

For a detailed look at some of the issues young people face when using social media and its dangers:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

For a helpful guide to a range of issues, including social media, having conversations with your child about internet safety:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>



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Primary Liaison

This term we have welcomed Year 5 pupils from St Osmund's to school for a morning's activities using one of our newest facilities – the food technology room. Over two days, the 30 pupils created their own pizzas as part of a healthy eating initiative; fantastic creativity on behalf the pupils and a great opportunity to showcase our stunning new facilities.

We also worked with a choir from St Osmund's who rehearsed a beautiful Spanish Carol to perform at our Christmas Carol Service.

We will be working with other local primary schools in the new year on similar initiatives. If you know of a primary school that would like a similar experience, please let us know!

Advent Act of Kindness Campaign; The Reverse Advent Calendar

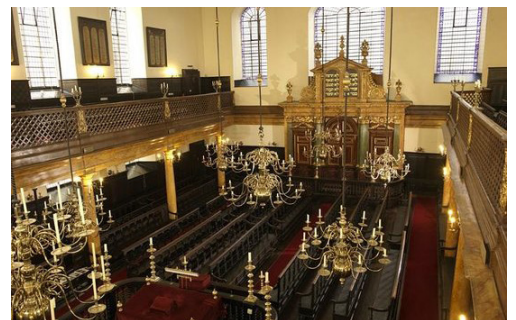
During Advent, the RE department focussed on helping to end hunger and poverty in the UK by encouraging students and staff to bring in food donations for the Trussell Trust Foodbank here in Salisbury. This forms part of the school's 'Reverse Advent Calendar' which encourages the idea to give rather than receive. All donations make a real difference to members of our community who have been referred in crisis, as well as offer support to help people resolve the crises they face.

We are very grateful for the kindness and generosity of donations and would like to say thank you to everyone in our school community who helped with this important cause.



September 2019– RE trip to Bevis Marks Synagogue and St George's Cathedral

A group of 37 Year 9–11s set off to London early on 27th September (too early for some!) to explore Bevis Marks Synagogue and St George's Cathedral. When we eventually made our way through the London traffic, we found Bevis Marks Synagogue, hidden in the middle of the busy streets. The pupils were given a history of the synagogue by the Rabbi and were able to see all the key artefacts inside a synagogue that they had been learning about. We then moved on to find St George's Cathedral. Pupils enjoyed looking at the architecture and spotting items that they were familiar with from their studies. After the Cathedral, it was time to head for home, luckily we had our resident tour guide Mr Rooney pointing out all the sites to keep us entertained as we were stuck in the traffic!



Year 11 News

Year 11 – started in earnest towards their Prom fund raising by offering to wash (and in some cases being requested not to wash) teachers cars. This has so far raised over £100.

Year 11 – Highly commendable conduct during the Mock Exams this term. Acting with maturity and on the whole calmness. Great effort year 11. Interventions will continue in earnest in January ready for the final 6 month push!



McMillan Coffee Morning

For the 5th successive year students excelled themselves with the McMillan coffee morning, earlier this year. Cakes arrived at the school in their masses before school, so much so that we had to ask for an additional table to place the cakes on. Students were able to purchase the donated cakes in order to raise money for the McMillan charity.

When the bell for break time rang, the cakes flew off the tables and it was only because of the many students who had volunteered to help that we were able to keep track of all the sales. 20 pence here, 40 pence there, it all added up! By the end of break time it was clear that it would have to continue into lunchtime to sell the vast quantity of cakes. Finally, with about 10 minutes of lunch left the last cake was sold!

I would like to thank the volunteers who were able to donate their time to be able to sell the cakes. I would also like to thank Mrs Prior for helping organise the event and for arranging the staff cake sale. In total we raised over £220 to go to the McMillan nurses. Roll on next year!



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PE Updates

Our GCSE Dance trip this year took us back to the Mayflower Theatre to see *Some Like It Hot*. The pupils were inspired to see a different style of dance and how this could tell a story on stage. Overall, it was technically brilliant, incredibly funny and dynamically powerful! A performance which pupils thoroughly enjoyed and which has inspired them to perform on the stage!

The netball girls have worked really hard this season playing 5 matches and 1 tournament. We have won a few matches, scored lots of goals and made massive amounts of progress since last year! We are celebrating a great season with a pizza party on our last training session!

GCSE Dancers have been working incredibly hard in the run up to Christmas and are looking forward to the dance display at Easter. The Y10 GCSE Dancers completed a brilliant workshop where they created their trio assessment pieces and worked on their physical skills. It's an incredibly technical piece which our dancers have excelled at and are continually pushing themselves to develop.

Disco zumba – is a huge success and a lot of fun! Over 70 people taking part with glow sticks and neon lights created a real buzz in the hall!

Football Update: It's been a mixed season so far for football. The Year 11 team have been leading the way and recorded an impressive 3-0 win against Pewsey. The year 7s are still gelling as a team and are yet to record their first win. We also have some budding referees in our ranks as a number of yr10 and 11 boys and girls have taken part in an officiating course. They also had a chance to put their skills to the test in a local primary school football tournament.

Basketball update: Our basketballers are practicing regularly and entered their first tournament in December. Our inexperience showed as we competed in the Yr9 basketball tournament at Bishops and we came 2nd in all our matches. However, basketball continues to grow now that we have 3 sessions per week.



Samaritans Purse – Shoebox Appeal 2019

Samaritans Purse – Shoebox Appeal 2019

This year the students of St Joseph's carefully wrapped 26 empty shoeboxes in colourful wrapping paper and filled them with fun items like games, puzzles and toys as well as items of stationery like pens, pencils, rubbers and sharpeners and notebooks to write and draw in which the children receiving them could use at school. They also put in items for hygiene; bars of soap, flannels and toothbrushes. Some boxes had a card with a message of hope and love to let the children know they are not forgotten and a photo so they could see the person who sent the box. Some of the boxes were done by individual pupils and their families, others were done as a corporate form box where everyone contributed.

In January Samaritan's Purse will let us know where our boxes were sent which could be either Africa or Eastern Europe, to orphans between 2 and 14 years old who may not receive any other present this Christmas. Thank you to all those who contributed to such a worthwhile cause and may your Christmas bring you everything you wish for. Mrs J Prior





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Chaplaincy articles:

On 4th December fourteen of our Y8 and Y9 pupils visited St Edwards Independent School in Romsey where they have been involved in the afforestation project work that we set up for them last year. Steve Wheelan, Head of RE welcomed us at the school where he explained to the pupils the project itself and gave every pupil a pack, which explained all the necessary details. After the introduction to the project we went to their back meadow where we carried on planting nearly 100 trees as a follow up from their own pupils' involvement earlier. After speaking to the pupils, they all seemed to like the experience and would be interested to do the tree planting again. The idea behind the project is that once our pupils were trained how to be involved successfully in the afforestation project, they would be able to teach others in our school to do the same around the grounds of St Joseph's as well, which would help to improve our environment and contribute positively towards net zero emissions goals, which we still fall well short as a country at this stage.

The chaplaincy team prepared and delivered an assembly based around Service and Vocations. Their inspiration came from Diocesan Vocation Roadshow organised at the end of last academic year and the current chaplains explained how to serve as they understood it in our community. They have visited St Osmund's Primary school on several occasions where they helped with Art and Reading in Years 1 and 2. They had been praised for their excellent work by Mr Sanderson, who was delighted with their good work with the pupils in St Osmund's. The current Chaplaincy team invited new potential members for a meeting last week and we have already had a few showing interest, which is good news for the Chaplaincy work ahead of us. If any pupils are still considering a call to serve through Chaplaincy, please watch for the announcements in the registers of future meetings in the New Year or see Mr Blaho-Schlogl in the Chapel (Room 25) where he can provide further information and projects that Chaplaincy team is interested to be involved in. Please remember that you don't need to be Catholic in order to join our team everyone is welcome!

Show my Homework: Feedback, updates and logging-in.

We introduced this system of recording and sharing homework with students and parents over a year ago and we are keen to get some feedback.

Our aims were as follows:

- To allow users to know what homework was set and when it is due
- To provide resources and/or links to websites or learning platforms, such as GCSEpod, to help with homework tasks

We did this because feedback at parents' evenings was suggesting that it was not always clear what was required. This may have been because homework was not properly recorded in planners and/or because worksheets and resources had been lost.

By introducing the service we hope that parents and students can see exactly what needs to be done, by when and for which subject or teacher.

We hope that this has made the conversations about homework easier, less stressful and in time will allow our pupils to learn to take control of their learning, organising their time effectively, using the system's 'easy to view' task organiser.

In the New Year we will ask for your feedback but in the meantime, if you wish to share any comments about how the system is working for you, please use the email admin@sjcs.org.uk.

I am delighted to be able to feedback that Team Satchel have listened to requests to provide even greater control over parental notifications. If you do not wish to be informed about tasks set or due dates, there are silent periods pre-set to avoid unnecessary intrusion or you can simply turn these off – something you could not do before and something school had no control over either.

If you need to have your parental login details reissued, do contact admin@sjcs.org.uk – you can see for yourself what is expected to be done and by when and this may help avoid detentions for incomplete work set.

Finally, if your child is having difficulty logging in there are 2 options:

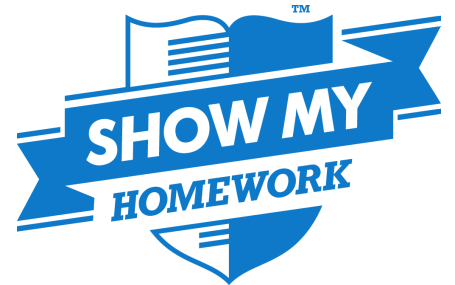
1. contact Team Satchel directly
2. Or contact school who will reset using their school email address as the username and then a 10 character password (this has to include a capital letter, a number and a special character, such as !)

Assemblies

Since September, we have been using our Corridor of Values to theme our weekly assemblies. These are based on Matthew's Gospel and Jesus' teachings about respect, tolerance, dignity, service, faithfulness, integrity, holiness, to name a few.

We would all recognise these values as being at the heart of who we would hope our young people are growing up to become. We believe that with these values being explored in assemblies, our pupils are able to recognise the goodness in each other and the importance of these for when they take their place in the world when they leave us.

We have introduced certificates to recognise the students in each tutor group who have best shown these values and pupils have been nominated by their form tutors for these awards. This will continue into the new term.





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Student Voice

From January 2020 we are expanding our student councils. In addition to the Pupil Parliament, there will be new opportunities for students to learn about democracy (having a say and listening to others), plan for events, problem solve and communicate their actions to the wider school community.

If this is something your child would be interested in, please encourage them to register their interest with the staff leading on this initiative.

We have already set up an Environmental Council and students are working on trying to get sponsorship for redeveloping school space.

Our next opportunity to get involved will be our Well-Being Council which will look at how we are an inclusive school that celebrates the rights and dignity of every individual; how we can develop mentoring; our approaches to being a place where pupils know how to be safe and what to do when this may be challenged.

Future councils, such as Arts, Sports and Community are being planned – in this way we hope that at any one time, there will be a wider number of students who can develop their leadership skills.



Odd Socks & Antibullying

In November we joined a large proportion of the country with assemblies and activities based around anti-bullying week. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on the roles in bullying, how those are often fluid and how we all at some point may contribute to someone else not feeling positive.

With a theme of 'Change Starts With Us' a large number of staff and pupils donned their odd socks on the Friday to show solidarity for each other, the messages they had received and the knowledge that we all had a role to play in preventing and stopping bullying.



History HA Group – Look Again Project

The History HA group have continued to be involved in the Look Again project at Salisbury Museum. They have been working as a collective with other school groups to redesign the Fashion Gallery at the museum.

This term students have been creating drawings of some of the fashion accessories from the museum archives which are to be included in the redesigned gallery. They got to view and handle a variety of artefacts including shoes, jewellery, belts and buckles, some of which were over a hundred years old.

Next term students will be collaborating with Bexi Harris, a graphic designer from Unstuck Design who will help them to make their drawings into display panels for the new gallery.

The History HA group are looking forward to seeing their designs in the new gallery and excited to think that their work will be informing future generations who visit the Fashion Gallery at Salisbury Museum.

History Mini-Exhibition – Creative Homework

This term in History, to complement the work done in class on Medieval England, the Year 7s were set a creative homework project. Their task was to produce a creative piece on the Battle of Hastings or any other aspect of Medieval England. The response was fantastic and there were some amazing pieces created including shields, battle axes, plague masks and poems. The projects were show cased in a mini exhibition where students voted for their favourite. The overall winner was Kacper Ostrowski for his fantastic medieval castle.





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Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)

Arnold Barks School Lecture held at Bishop Wordsworth School – 11 December 2019
Behind the wheel with "The Stig" from F1 to Top Gear

"Some say he naturally faces magnetic north, and that all of his legs are hydraulic... All we know is, he's call the Stig." Jeremy Clarkson, Top Gear Season 6, Episode 6
Year 10 and 11 pupils were invited to BWS on Wednesday 11th December to listen to a talk by Perry McCarthy, the original Stig! Perry provided a first-hand account of what it means to be a racing driver, including his time racing everything up to F1 and then testing the world's fastest production cars as "The Stig" on the BBC's Top Gear show.

Perry was inspirational and enthused pupils about STEM topics. He told of his aspirations to make it to the top, including working on the oil rigs to save enough money to fulfil his ambition. There were lots of question and answer opportunities during the talk for which St Joseph's pupils took full advantage, showing their enthusiasm and knowledge.

The talk was informative, inspirational, personal, enthusiastic, funny and above all it showed the pupils that anything was possible if you had a dream to make it! It was a fantastic talk!



Upcoming Dates for the half-term ahead

Weds 8th Jan Pupils return to school
Tues 14th Jan Wear it Pink Day for Cancer
Tues 14th Jan Battlefields Trip Information Evening 6pm
Weds 15th Jan Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thurs 16th Jan Year 10 Work Experience Launch evening
Fri 17th Jan HPV 1st dose Boys & Girls

Tues 28th Jan Andover College Taster Day Information Session (Year 10)
Mon 3rd Feb Year 8 Options Meeting begin
Tues 11th Feb Year 10 Army Presentation
Friday 14th Feb Royal Marines Visibility Day (Year 10 & Year 11)
Friday 14th Feb Battlefields Trip Departs

Housepoints to date

Date	House Competition	Results			
		F	M	T	V
13 th Sept	Bench ball	15	10	5	20
20 th Sept	Dodgeball	10 = 25	20 = 30	5 = 10	15 = 35
27 th Sept	Tug of War	x	x	x	x
4 th Oct	Netball (Y7-9)/ Basketball (Y10-11)	10 = 35	20 = 50	5 = 15	15 = 50
11 th Oct	Netball (Y10-11) / Basketball (Y7-9) Netball (Y7-9)/	15 = 50	5 = 55	10 = 25	20 = 70
18 th Oct	MFL	5 = 55	10 = 65	20 = 45	15 = 85
	Achievement points	5 = 60	10 = 75	20 = 65	15 = 100
	Overall Total Term 1	F = 60	M = 75	T = 65	V = 100
8 th Nov	Tag Rugby (Y7-9)	20 = 80	5 = 80	20 = 85	10 = 110
15 th Nov	Tag Rugby (Y10-11)	20 = 100	15 = 95	10 = 95	5 = 115
22 nd Nov	X country	10 = 110	20 = 115	5 = 100	15 = 130
29 th Nov	Cycling	15 = 125	20 = 135	5 = 105	10 = 140
6 th Dec	Y7-9 Maths relay	5 = 130	15 = 150	20 = 125	5 = 145
13 th Dec	Staff vs students Dodgeball				

House competitions have been well attended this term with Vincent house taking an early lead. Pupils have enjoyed competing in a number of different sports and subjects including recently an epic maths relay.