

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the second half termly newsletter.

Firstly, I hope that everyone in our school community had a very restful and peaceful Christmas and wish you all well for the New Year!

We have had some additions to the St Joseph's family over the Christmas period and I'm sure that you'd all like to join me congratulating three teachers on the arrivals of their new born babies – Mrs Le Ray, Mrs Blake and Mr Sibley!

Another new creation is also taking shape – if you've driven past the school site recently you'll notice that the new building is really starting to come on – it's practically water tight now and lots of internal fixtures and fittings are being put in place. Teachers have had the opportunity for tours and are all suitably impressed by the space and facilities. It's all looking good for being on target for a post Easter opening!

After arriving back after the Christmas holidays and reflecting on last term, I can only say 'Wow, what a half term that was!'. It was packed full of trips, sporting events, competitions, the first progress reports and lots of student achievements. In this newsletter we'll celebrate lots of our pupils' achievements (there are lots of students named and praised!). As always, the newsletter includes updates from across a variety of subject areas and important upcoming dates for the next half term.

Achievement Point Raffle Winners!

Each week in KS3, each form has its own weekly competition where the top point achieving girl and boy for the week each win a chocolate bar! These 2 winners from each form then qualify for the weekly raffle to win a £10 shopping voucher.

Last half term's lucky winners were:

Jasmin Fernando	7V
Elliott Regnart	8F
Alice Walker	8F
Rachel Moody	9V
Madison Marsh	8M

Well done to all winners and keep getting those achievement points!

Award Assemblies

The Awards Assemblies at the end of every term are always my favourite assemblies. We recognise achievement across the school and give out awards, certificates and badges.

Across Year 7–9, many pupils have returned back from the Christmas break proudly wearing their gold/silver or bronze badges in recognition of achieving 100, 75 and 50 points respectively! Keep up the excellent achievements and you'll be able to trade your badge in for the next step up in the Easter assemblies!

In summary 127 students have bronze badges (50–74 achievement points), 36 students have silver badges (75–99 achievement points) and 10 have gold badges (100+ achievement points).

There were also certificates and awards given to the top points achieving boy and girl for each year group. Congratulations to the following for topping their year group!

Year 7	Clayton Fordham (7T)	Venisa Karalo (7M)
Year 8	Joseph Natelson–Carter (8V)	Becky Culverwell (8V)
Year 9	Joshua Withers–Jones (9F)	Martha Stephens (9F)
Year 10	Jakub Godlewski (10F)	Hannah Palmer (10T)
Year 11	Jack Travers (11T)	Mary Reodique (11F)

In addition, we recognised the achievements and contributions to the school community from a number of our students. Congratulations to the following award winners:

Most Helpful in the School Community:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Gabriela Covill & Kye Johnson	Matthew Darg-Forsyth & Beau Gilmour	Penny Baker & Tom Booth	Riley Lamb & Alfie Cridge	Darci McHoul & Jayden Atkinson

Most charitable:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Jaya Renner	Katherine Herbert & Rebecca Mallo	Edward Smith	Megan Hamlin	Helen Blake

Christmas Carol Service

A week before we paused for our well deserved Christmas break, we welcomed our parents, staff and pupils for our annual Carol Service at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Bishopdown. Fr Michael greeted us and led the opening prayer and blessing. We had a selection of pupils performing and leading us in the main liturgy, which was noticeably of a very high standard and well prepared by those involved. Music was led by Mr Blakey who accompanied us in all of the Carol singing. We had some incredibly talented performers, whether they sang, read or played musical instruments to give us such an amazing, as well as, respectful spiritual experience which helped us to pause and prepare well for celebrating the birth of our Saviour. We completed the annual Carol Service in St Joseph's tradition by offering those present mince pies and mulled wine – many thanks to the Friends of St Joseph for providing them and Mrs Prior for preparing them!



News from our Departments

RE

Candle Conference

In November 2017 Mr Blaho-Schlogl accompanied 12 pupils from our Year 11 to the 'Candle Conference'. They had an opportunity to meet with Professor Peter Vardy, an academic and university lecturer who is a renowned Christian theologian with many years of experience of preparing pupils to excel at GCSE and A level studies. Professor Vardy delivered a set of lectures throughout the day, which dealt with the new AQA GCSE course and gave our pupils an opportunity to experience a university style of teaching and meet with other KS4 pupils from seven other secondary schools who sent their delegates to this amazing one off event. All the pupils benefited from this experience as they were given exceptionally useful tips and exam skills, which were truly targeted to master their mock exams as well as in the long term to gain extra confidence to perform well at their final GCSE examinations this summer.

Science

Marine Engineering workshop

On Wednesday 29th November we were lucky to hold a Marine Engineering workshop. We were taught about all the jobs a marine engineer does and how they are not only responsible for the running of the engine of the ship but for the electricity on board; temperature and oxygen levels in a submarine. Pupils in two classes from Year 8 and 9 were then given the task to design their own boat made from wire and cardboard to carry as many marbles as possible. The winners overall were Elliott Regnart and Paul Mansfield.



Science Club

Science Club runs every Wednesday and we are pleased to have Vincent Brain from Year 9 assisting. Many Year 7 pupils have taken part and they are a joy to have experimenting in room 6. We have cooked eggs by candle power, make crystal snowflakes, sour dough Christmas decorations, dissected a sprat and fired rockets on the field to name but a few activities.

Your child is welcome to attend any Wednesday from 1pm until 1.30pm in room 6.



Spanish Traditions

KS4 GCSE Spanish students reenacted the Spanish tradition of eating 12 grapes to welcome the New Year. Whether by habit, belief or fun, some people in Hispanic countries do a ritual to welcome in the New Year in the hope that it brings abundance, love and success for the year ahead.

One of these rituals is the widely known eating of 12 grapes. A wish is asked for each grape that is eaten; each grape also represents prosperity for each month of the year.

When it is midnight in Spain and other Hispanic countries on New Year's Eve, each time the clock chimes, all the people put a grape in their mouth. Some children eat sweets instead. By the time the clock has finished chiming for the twelfth time, everybody has to have finished their grapes and the New Year starts.

Eating the grapes is very funny because everybody starts the New Year with a full mouthful of grapes. It's almost impossible to finish eating the grapes by the time the clock finishes chiming and quite often people still have all the grapes in their mouths causing all participants to look a little silly and thus prompting laughter!



La Pinata

Students in Spanish club made their own "Piñatas" last term. Students had a lot of fun recreating the traditional Latin American piñata and learnt the meaning and traditions surrounding this colourful star filled with delicious treats.

Symbolism of the piñata:

- The seven peaks symbolize the seven deadly sins: gluttony, greed, arrogance, lust, laziness, anger and envy.
- Bright colours mean the temptation of evil.
- Fruit and sweets mean the grace of God.
- The stick is the struggle of man against temptation.
- The bandage means faith in God.
- Breaking the piñata means the destruction of evil.



What's Happening

St Joseph's & Salisbury's Big Sleep

This year, we're excited to announce that we're getting involved in Alabare's Big Sleep fundraiser for the homeless.

The event involves 'sleeping rough' in the Cloisters of Salisbury Cathedral and will be held on Friday 2nd February. It is open to all students aged 14 and over. As a student, to take part you need to register your interest with Mr Rooney and also raise a minimum of £50. Adults and staff who wish to be involved have to raise £100 to be involved.

Maths Club

Wednesday lunch time
Room 15 starting at 1PM

Play Chess, Rummikub, Blokus, cards and puzzles

Monday 22nd January 2018	Year 9/10 Spanish Theatre Trip to Lee Hurst Swan
Tuesday 23rd January 2018	Year 8 Curriculum Evening
Wednesday 31st January 2018	Year 11, Burgate Sixth Form interviews
Monday 5th February 2018	Maths Enrichment
Tuesday 6th February 2018	Public peaking Competition
Thursday 8th February 2018	Year 10 Interview Preparation Day
Thursday 8th February 2018	Year 11 Parents Evening

Extra-Curricular Timetable

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School		Table Tennis (Hall) Gym available		Table Tennis (Hall) Gym available	
Lunch Time	HIIT Fitness (Hall) Year 9 Football (Field)	KS4 Badminton (Hall)	Dance Club (Hall)	Year 7/8 Football (Field) KS4 Football (Hall)	House competitions
After School		Year 7/8 Football (Field)	Trampolining Club (Hall)	Year 9 Football (Field)	