

Headteacher's Address

Well, where has the last academic year gone?! It has absolutely flown by and as the saying goes 'time flies when you're having fun'. At this time of year it is always natural to review the year and it always amazes me how much goes on throughout the year.

Our pupils have worked hard throughout the year, eager to progress and learn, and it's always a pleasure to walk through the school and see the quality of learning taking place. It especially fills me with pride when conducting tours of the school to hear the compliments of our visitors.

Aside from the classroom activities, I am always amazed by the sheer amount of opportunities that our pupils have throughout the year – whether that be on residential trips, trips to higher and further education institutions, visits from outside speakers, sporting and non-sporting competitions to compete in and also the opportunity to shine in the school production. This year alone, we have had residential trips to Barcelona, Italy, Pencelli and also a Ski Trip! For all these opportunities I am extremely grateful for the efforts of my dedicated staff who always go the extra mile to ensure our pupils can excel and can experience the world outside of school.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you, our families, for your support and help over the last 11 months. We have always stressed the importance of team work in ensuring the best for your children and I am very grateful for the support that you show the school, my staff and myself.

I'd like to wish you a very restful and enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school in September.

Mrs Ridley

Spreading Hope

Had you been flying over Laverstock on Friday 14th June, you'd have noticed a wonderful event unfolding on the fields of St Joseph's School. Looking down on the green grass you'd have seen four large blue letters made entirely out of the pupils! The word 'Hope' was proudly displayed as part of St Joseph's School's celebration of Pentecost.

Traditionally, each year, the school had marked the festival by writing messages of hope, attaching them to balloons and sending them out into the world (some even reached southern parts of France!).

This year, however, following environmental concerns and also the fact that only one person would receive the message of hope, the school decided to use a bit of creativity, a drone and social media to spread their messages far and wide.

During the afternoon, the pupils joined by local primary school St Osmund's, began lining up in their forms and house groups ready to move up to populate the letters on the field. Excitement was building and once each house group was in place on their letter, a drone was launched into the sky by year 11 pupil Sam Harrison who took a series of excellent aerial photographs.

The photograph was then shared on the school twitter account with a link to the school website where all the messages of hope are visible for all to see. Pupils and followers have been encouraged to share and retweet so that the messages reach far and wide!

Speaking after the event, Rachel Ridley, Headteacher, said "We're absolutely thrilled with this celebration and excited to be able to share our messages of hope with the world. It's something that the whole school community has been a part of and is something of which we can all be extremely proud"

Spirited Arts competition.

Key Stage Three have had entries selected to be sent off to NATRE for the Spirited Arts competition. Pupils had to create a piece of artwork in which they contemplated some of the big questions in RE such as "Where is God?" and "windows on the soul". The standard of work was incredible, with some thought provoking pieces of work.



St Joseph's School Sky Dive for Alabare Homes for Veterans Appeal.

Continuing St Joseph's School's fantastic charity work, two members of the school community jumped from a plane at 10,000 feet on Sunday 21st July as part of the D-Day Commemorative sky dive in aid of Alabare's Homes for Veterans campaign.

Teachers, Richard Rooney and Emma Maher, decided to take the plunge after Alabare publicised the event in a celebration assembly following the school's support at the Big Sleep earlier in the year.

Together they pledged to raise £800 for the appeal and through the generosity of friends, family, and the school community they have reached their target.

Speaking prior to the event, Assistant Headteacher, Richard Rooney said "We are delighted to have reached our fundraising target and want to thank all those who have donated to make it possible. We're also very proud to continue our support for Alabare in their drive to end homelessness and are particularly pleased to be able to support Homes for Veterans appeal as many of our families have an affiliation with the armed forces".

Yr9 Graduation

Over thirty year 9 pupils had worked hard behind the scenes for the weeks leading up to the Year 9 Graduation on 18th July and all their hard work paid off to create a lovely event where achievements and talents were celebrated.

Marking the completion of the first year of GCSE, lots of our year 9 families gathered and were treated to a photo slideshow taking us on a journey from year 7 to year 9 and pupil performances. Achievements in subject areas were recognised with a subject award and a highly commended award being presented to the lucky winners. In addition, pupils voted on their 'most valuable form members' and also the hilarious 'teacher awards'. As a result of the awards, many teachers will be rushing to the shops over the holidays to purchase white trousers!

It was a fabulous evening and it's always a real joy to welcome our families back to school to celebrate the achievements and development of the pupils. Well done, year 9. Here's to a successful year 10 for the year ahead!

Sports Day

Sports Day 2019 will go down in St Joseph's history as the best ever to date! The events ran like clockwork, the atmosphere was electric and perhaps more importantly the support and encouragement displayed by all pupils for each other was absolutely brilliant.

Year 10 led by example and were the perfect role models for all the other year groups. Their dedication and commitment to events and attitude towards the day was admirable and set the tone for all other year groups to follow.

In all six school records were broken and there were some brilliantly contested races – a sprint finish in the year 7 boy's 1200 metres perhaps being the pick of the bunch! The Yr10 javelin also proved to be a real competition with the event being won with the last throw! Away from the traditional sports events, the flag parade was a fantastic array of colour with some very creative designs on display. The introduction of a cheerleading display after lunch was also a brilliant addition enjoyed by all.

Another non-sporting highlight which captured the essence of the enjoyable day would have to be the Macarena being danced by over 60 pupils from all year groups and also a handful of teachers too!

The following day all the achievements were recognised in the whole school awards ceremony. A brilliant end to the week.

We're already looking forwards to next year's sports day!

Baby Boom!

This year has seen a boost in the number of blossoming mummies in the Staffroom and some have blamed the water. Students have enjoyed sharing the excitement of the much anticipated arrival of beautiful bouncing babies!

Congratulations to:

- Mrs Le Rey on the arrival of Niamh
- Mrs Pearson on the arrival of Wilf
- Mrs Maher on the arrival of Tahney
- Mrs Blake on the arrival of Skye and anticipated arrival of No. 2
- Mrs Barratt on the arrival of Felicity and the anticipated arrival of No. 2
- Mrs G on the arrival of her son, Gregory

Congratulations to the new fathers, too:

- Mr. Blaho on the arrival of Otto
- Mr. Sibley on the arrival of Eddie

The Staff have done their bit to ensure healthy numbers on the highly competitive list of entry to St. Joe's.



Italy Trip

The Italy trip was an amazing experience, I am certain many Art, Music and Product Design students enjoyed it. A tour guide ensured we explored Florence in depth. The trip was very well organised, The museums we visited were very interesting looking at the heart of the Italian Renaissance. We got to view and capture the architecture, furniture design and the art work from a number of museums such as the Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Pitti and gardens, even Michelangelo's statue of David in the Galleria dell' Accademia. It is definitely one of the best trips I have been on. There were various moments throughout the trip where we could rest and



capture many unique photographs to take home with us, capturing the beauty of Florence with and without drawings.

One evening we got to enjoy an escape rooms activity which was a real challenge, most of the groups only just completed them in time. The walk back to the hostel was hilarious, we all got soaked in the thunderstorm and while singing through the streets at 10.30 pm we had a water and mud fight with Miss Mallows.

The hostel was very comfortable it had its own swimming pool, table tennis and a pool table which we used in the evenings. Overall, I know that many students wanted to stay longer in Florence. Max Davies 10F



Work Experience Week 24–28 June 2019 Year 10

All of year 10 were given the chance to go out on work experience during the last week in June. Pupils were tasked with finding their own placements by contacting employers and applying by way of letter/CV/interview, as you would for a formal job. Most of our year 10 pupils secured a work placement and experienced what it was like for a week in the "World of Work". For some, this gave them the chance to experience their ideal job, but for others it was about finding out if the job they had chosen and experienced was for them or not. The feedback from employers this year has been outstanding – our pupils have really excelled in the workplace and have been a real credit to themselves and St Joseph's. Some pupils have even secured jobs for the future!



Vocation Roadshow organised by the Clifton Diocese.

Some of our Chaplaincy members attended last term's Vocation Roadshow at St Augustine's Parish Centre in Trowbridge, which gave them an opportunity to think and reflect about what kind of calling we might have in our lives. The main focus of this event was to listen to a priest, monk, nun and married couple who explained their personal calls to the vocations of their choice. This vocation trip gave our Chaplaincy team an opportunity to prepare a presentation which intended to pass on what they have learned and share their findings with others in our school. The Chaplaincy team also decided to go to St Osmund's Primary school where Mr Sanderson welcomed them with his own Chaplaincy group where we had a wonderful presentation delivered by Gabriela Covill with the rest of our team.

RE Trip to Buddhist Temple

This term 24 Year 7 pupils visited a Buddhist temple in Woking. After an introduction to Buddhism, resident monks allowed our pupils to tour the temple, which is a former Christian church. Pupils also tried a guided meditation led by another Buddhist monk. The trip forms part of learning about World Religions. Organised by RE teacher, Mr Valjak, he explained: "The opportunity to experience places of worship enriches the learning from lessons. Our pupils showed great respect to this sacred place and asked inquisitive questions. So the temple have already invited us back for another visit next year."

Missio postcard competition

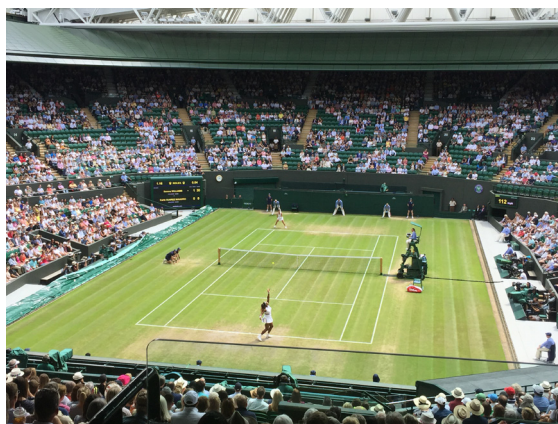
Pope Francis is asking children to make a special effort to share God's love around the world. Year 7 and 8 pupils were asked to design a postcard around this theme. These designs were then entered into a competition by Missio, with the winners having the chance to have their designs printed as a postcard that will be handed out during Pope Francis' Extraordinary month of mission in October.

Climate change– pupils taking action

Pupils have been studying climate change in RE and had the opportunity to hear from a speaker from CAFOD about what they could do that would help to reduce carbon emissions. The pupils voiced that they would like to take action to help take care of our world. This led to the school getting involved with the Emmaus project, a project aimed at helping to reduce carbon emissions by planting trees in the UK but also by supporting communities in Africa to do the same.

Wimbledon

We were lucky enough to get Court 1 tickets for Wimbledon this year and took a group of GCSE and VCERT PE pupils. Behaviour was exemplary and enjoyment/fascination levels were 'through' (the recently completed new roof!!! Further fortune allowed us to watch matches including Venus and Serena Williams, Cori Gauff and eventual champions Simona Halep and Novak Djokovic. Great experience for all and even the weather was 'ace'!



Barcelona

A group of year 7, year 8 and year 9 explorers ventured off to the sunny climes of Barcelona at the beginning of the May half term. Unfortunately, on arrival at Barcelona airport it was actually raining, putting to bed the myth that the rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain!

Unphased by the rain, we headed to our lodgings for the next three nights and got acquainted with the local area – walking the boulevards and catching the metro to our fabulous buffet restaurant not far from the centre of town. A good night's rest followed with some pupils claiming to have clocked up four hours sleep (the first night is always the most excitable!)

The following three days were packed full of adventure. We visited cultural hotspots such as the Sagrada Familia, Parc Guell, Las Ramblas and the Gothic Quarter. Other highlights included sampling authentic tapas, finally finding a stall to feast on some keenly anticipated churros on the last day and seeking thrills at Port Aventura theme park. Oh, and of course, who could forget visiting the Nou Camp!

It was an absolutely fabulous trip and, unsurprisingly, our pupils were exemplary throughout and their achievements were recognised in our awards ceremony on the last day. Every child got an award (and souvenir keyring) – remind me, who won the prize for losing keys?! Hopefully, lots of fond memories have been made during our unforgettable three night stay in Barcelona and I hope it has inspired the pupils to visit and explore again one day.

Pencelli

This year's Pencelli trip was another huge success! In terms of adventure, challenge and conquering fears, the OAA centre in Wales has it all and the 2019 cohort approached all of this with a smile and great deal of commitment. As ever they were a credit to the school and went away with a load of new skills, friendships and self-confidence. Congratulations to any 'stars of the day' and a special congratulations to our 2 stars of the week. A great trip all round!



Maths

In June, six pupils from year 7 attended a maths enrichment event hosted by Sarum academy. They were very well behaved, got stuck in and thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

Mrs Morgan was incredibly proud of the way they tackled their initial fears of attending another school with pupils from 5 other schools, St Joe's pupils at their best.

They were commended by another teacher for the way they conducted themselves throughout.

Drama

In Term 5, Mrs Evans' Drama class created their own set design for *The Twits* by Roald Dahl. Once again we were amazed with the creativity and effort some of the pupils put in. Below are some pictures of some amazing work. Well done Year 7 and thank you for all your hard work in Drama this year.

Year 7 have been preparing for the end of year assessments in Drama. All classes had the choice of preparing a scene from *Oliver Twist* or *Alice in Wonderland*. The pupils were required to learn their lines and demonstrate all the performance skills they have developed throughout the year. We have seen some amazing performances and were really impressed with pupils who had learnt three pages of script in 6 weeks, especially as we only see them in Drama once a week.



Food Technology

On the 11th of July the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students were treated to a trip from Tesco's head butcher and fishmonger, from their Southampton Road store. They were invited to show the students how to prepare and segment a whole chicken as well as gut and bone a fish. Both of these are considered high level cooking skills on their GCSE specification and hopefully some of the students will use the skills to improve their GCSE results. All the students were treated to a demonstration from the skilled professionals, carefully demonstrating and explaining each step of both the chicken and the fish. Once this was done, the visitors were kind enough to bring in samples of whole chickens and whole sea breams that the students could cut up and prepare for cooking. It was a fantastic demonstration from our students about getting stuck in and I would like to thank each one of them for being so proactive about getting involved. A big thank you must also go to Mark and Marion from Tesco's for sharing their skills with the students.

Year 10 Andover College Taster Day 2 July 2019

On Tuesday 2nd July, all of our Year 10 pupils experienced a day in the life of a student at Andover College. The event was aimed at giving our pupils the opportunity to find out about the many different subjects on offer at Andover College, both vocational and 'A' level. Pupils were able to choose taster sessions from a wide range of subjects – some experiencing new subjects that they might not get the opportunity to do and others sampling a taste of what they would like to do once they leave school. It was a chance for pupils to sample the different types of learning pathways available to them, thus enabling them to make informed decisions to achieve their full potential. Pupils learnt first-hand about future career and job opportunities within subject areas. They also had the chance to talk to lecturers and understand what each subject entailed. Everyone had a great day and we would like to thank Andover College for inspiring our pupils. "It was awesome and I enjoyed everything!!"



Armed Forces Youth Engagement Day Friday 28 June 2019

A group of Year 10 pupils were taken to the Armed Forces Youth Engagement Day as part of work experience week. The aim of the day was to provide pupils with the opportunity to engage with members of the Armed Forces and be made aware of the exciting careers available in the Royal Navy, Army and RAF. Pupils rotated between various activities during the day. There were activity stands and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) assets for our pupils to interact with.

Pupils had the opportunity to explore military vehicles such as aeroplanes, helicopters and tanks. They were also encouraged to speak to service personnel from a wide variety of different arms and trades and ask lots of questions.

This was a fantastic event to highlight to our young people the vast array of education and careers on offer from the Royal Navy, Army and RAF. The hands-on and interactive experiences throughout the day brought STEM to life and has hopefully, started meaningful conversations for the future.



Year 8 – Visit to Sparsholt College STEM Taster Day 13 July 2019

As part of our Year 8 career education programme, we were given the opportunity to take the whole of year 8 to Sparsholt College to attend a STEM taster day. This was the first event of its kind in the South East. Sparsholt was showcasing the STEM-based careers available in the land and environment industries both at post-GCSE and degree level. The event was supported by employers and universities with whom Sparsholt have strong links in the areas of technology and science. There were lots of hands-on activities for future careers in areas like agri-tech, ecology, horticulture, equine science and other animal science/health-based careers.

