

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

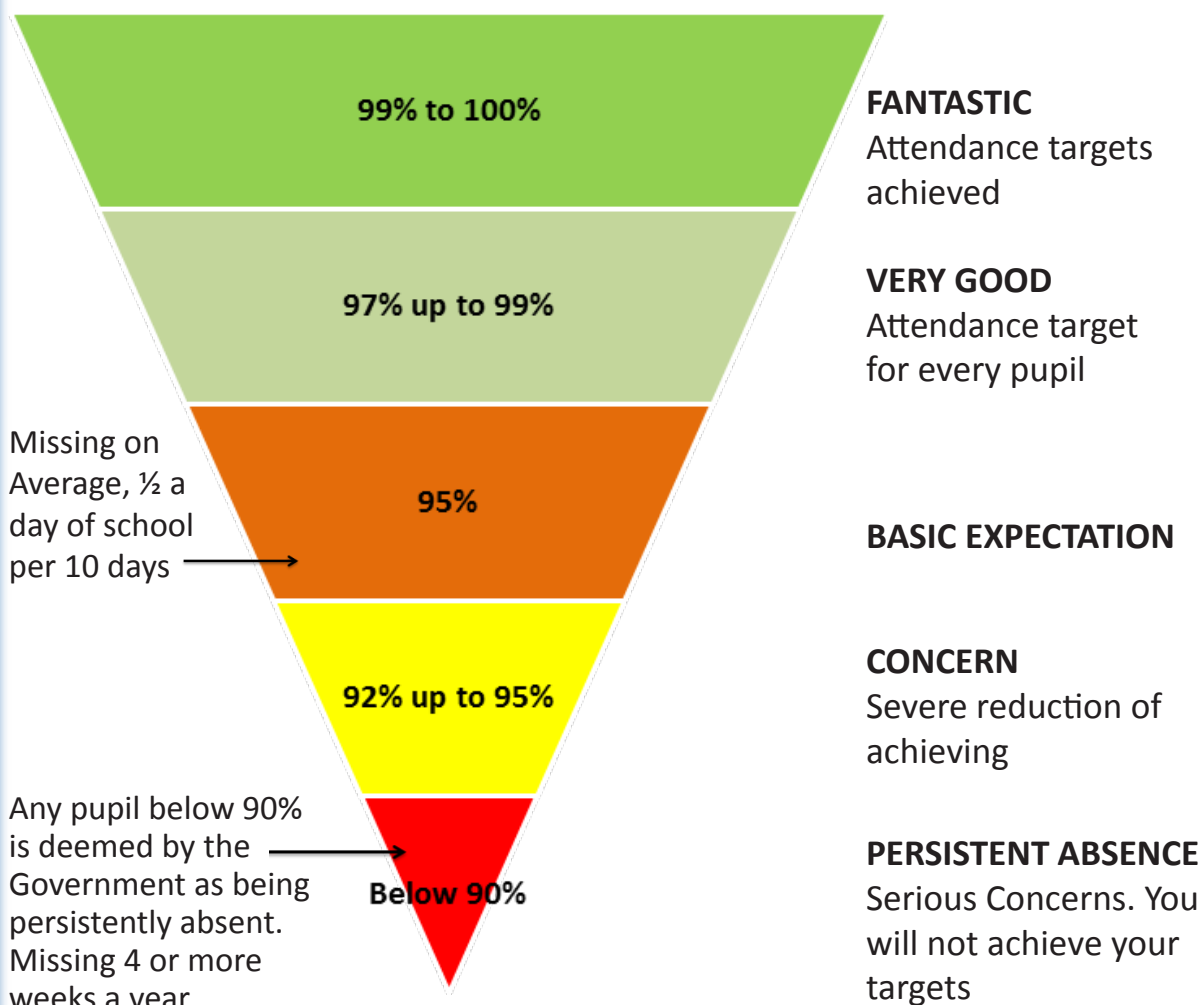
I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of attendance. Attendance is directly linked to achievement and is essential in supporting your child's success throughout their time with us at Saint Joseph's Catholic School.

Our attendance target is to sustain above the National Average of 95% and hence we need all parents and pupils to have a clear understanding of its importance and support us to reach our target.

Thank you for your continued support in our drive for excellence.

Mrs R Ridley

Attendance Expectations for ALL pupils at St Joseph's Catholic School



Below 85% - A pupil misses, on average, almost a day a week. (Around one whole term)

Below 80% - A pupil misses, on average, a day a week. (About 8 weeks per year)

Welcome to the 3rd KS3 half termly newsletter

I hope that everyone in our community had a restful and enjoyable half term break following the last relatively short but very busy term.

There were two main events that dominated last half term – the Rock Challenge and the St Joseph's Ski Trip! In this addition we have a student contribution from Isobel Humphrey's from Yr7 on her experience of Rock Challenge. Well done for contributing! There is also news from across the departments and celebrations of achievements particularly in Art & PE.

Achievement Point Raffle

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:

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|------------------|----|
| Sam Harrison | 9M |
| Becky Culverwell | 7V |
| Ryan Pepper | 8T |
| Michael Bale | 9T |
| Elliot Regnart | 7F |

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

Rock Challenge

Isobel Humphreys writes about the culmination of months of rehearsing on the day of the Rock Challenge competition

Rock Challenge 2016/2017

It was the day of Rock Challenge and we had to be at school for 8:15am. When we arrived at school everyone was there: backstage, dancers and teachers, all waiting for the arrival of the coach.

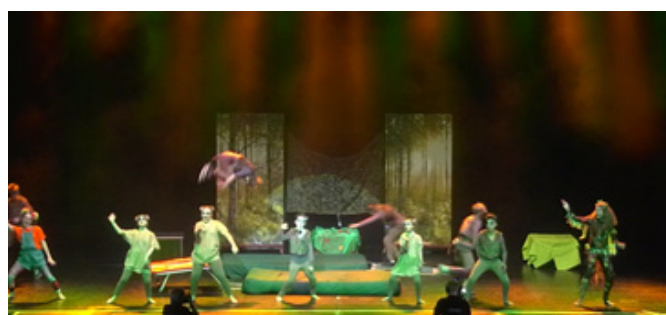
People were loading the staging set into the van and getting more and more excited by the second. At about 8:45am the coach arrived. We all bundled on and we were on our way to Southampton Guildhall. When we arrived we went into the auditorium and waited excitedly as the backstage team carried, pushed and pulled the set into the building. The presenter introduced himself and we then raved for hours.

As we entered the afternoon we were given an hour lunch break to get some food from various places. When we returned from lunch, we were told when we would be rehearsing. St Joseph's being second to last to rehearse, we watched the other academies, colleges and schools practice. Finally we were up to practice so we went backstage and tried our hardest. It was pretty scary to do in front of hundreds of strangers but we all did it! After all the rehearsals we did much more raving. Even the teachers danced up on stage for a mini competition, of course St Joseph's killed it; Mrs Blake, Mrs Hooper, Mr Brown and a year 12 girl were doing air guitars and we won an inflatable guitar.

At around 5pm we were all told when we were performing the real performance. We were performing first! Everyone was worried because we only had 45 minutes to get in our costumes and to do our hair and makeup so we hurried back to our dressing room and all got dressed. We only had half an hour to do our face paint and hair so we all chipped in and helped each other. Finally, after hours of excitement and worry it was time! So we all went backstage for our final performance, it had to be our best. We had come so far with the help of our team and now we were seconds away from going on stage. The lights dimmed and the music played and we truly did our best performance.

We won a few awards but sadly we didn't win so we don't get to go to the finals.

Overall the day was amazing and I 100% recommend next year for people to do it. It was an amazing experience and I will never forget that great day at Rock Challenge.



Ski Trip 2017

Over half term, 23 pupils embarked on an Italian adventure as St Joseph's took to the mountains of Italy to learn the Winter Sport of Skiing.

Despite a couple of long coach journeys, the pupils had a fantastic week with everyone progressing so well that they were able to complete red runs by the end of the week. On the first 2 days, I'm sure most people wouldn't have thought this evenly remotely possible, especially whilst being shouted at by some angry instructors "WHY YOU SIT DOWN?" and "SNOW PLOUGH MORE, SNOW PLOUGH MORE!". As the week progressed, everyone found their ski legs and became very competent skiers indeed!

The weather was perfect with clear blue skies with plenty of snow on the ground! It's not often you get 'too hot' on a snow covered mountain but the weather helped the experience along.

The evenings were spent with Snow Ball Fights, Bowling, Swimming, eating at a local Pizzeria and visiting the local town of Folgaria. The pupils were able to practice their Italian and experience a new culture up close and personal.

The pupils represented the school extremely well and should be proud of their achievements. Some were even going over jumps in the Snow Park by the end of the week!

Thank you to all the pupils and staff who contributed to the trip. It was a huge success and I hope that this is just the start of a skiing future for you all.

This Ski Trip is run every 2 years so keep an eye out for information on the 2019 Ski Trip in the future.



Safeguarding Update

Safeguarding can be defined by promoting the health, safety and welfare of all pupils.

We invite all parents/carers and pupils to look at the Safeguarding tab on our website so they are aware of the different avenues of support available in helping to keep children safe. The safeguarding page contains useful links for pupils and parents, our school policy for safeguarding and child protection and two term-time monitored email accounts that can be used to quickly notify the school of any safeguarding concerns (safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk) or incidents of bullying (stop@sjcs.org.uk).

All pupils have been informed that they should speak with their 'go to' person (i.e. their Form tutor) or a member of staff they trust if they have any concerns about the safety of themselves or a fellow pupil.

We are also delighted to announce the introduction of Kooth, an online confidential counselling service, which is open to all pupils to utilise. A Kooth Representative delivered an assembly to our Key Stage 4 pupils on Wednesday 22 February whilst Key Stage 3 pupils will receive their Kooth assembly on Wednesday 15 March. Parents wanting to find out more about Kooth can do so online: www.kooth.com or by email: parents@xenzone.com

Mr McHale
Designated Safeguarding Lead

English News

Year 7 and 8 have been busily preparing to enter the BBC 500 Words competition. There have been some fantastic entries and we are very hopeful for some winners. Those who have entered will receive a certificate.

The BBC schools report team are progressing well. Please look out for the news reports to be on the website soon.

Master Chef



PE News

Gymnastics & Trampolining

There are gymnastics and trampolining competitions coming up this term and the pupils are hard at work learning their routines!

Year 8 Football

The Year 8 Football team had a strong season this year, one example being them having a highly contested league game against Bishops where they drew 1-1. Lots of positives to take from this season with closer games and showing vast improvement from Year 7. They have two friendlies to finish the year against Lee Hurst Swan School and Wyvern.

Year 7 Football

Year 7s have played their first two games of the season against Wyvern and Bishops and have started to gel as a team. They have 2 final matches this term against Trafalgar and Sarum; two stars which have come from the first 2 games have been Charlie McClure and Rhys Keating.

Up and coming

Term 5 rolls onto the Athletics Season with Years 7, 8 and 9 having a chance to compete in the following competitions:

- Super 8s (team event)
- Indoor League (team event)
- Area Sports (individual competition).

KS3 Options Process

A reminder for all those students taking their GCSE options this year, all the resources you need can be found on our website by downloading our curriculum booklet.

Don't forget to make your personalised curriculum meetings with Mr McHale.

Tolerance

From looking at the media recently, it would seem that in our world there has been a rise in intolerance of people who are seen as 'different', be that religious, racial, ability or gender wise. As a Catholic school with one of the most culturally diverse school communities in Salisbury we pride ourselves on our tolerance and celebration of each other differences – most visibly notable with our International Day celebrations in October. With this in mind, students have had assemblies on tolerance where we have discussed the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect.

Year 9 & 10 Visit to St Mary's RC School

Seventeen of our pupils from Yr9 and Yr10 went to St Mary's RC School in Shaftesbury when they had a unique opportunity to listen to an inspirational talk given to us by Barry and Margaret Mizen. They spoke about their journey of life as a family who had to deal with the loss of their 16 year old Jimmy who was killed in an unprovoked attack, just a few yards away from their London home in Lewisham. They talked about how as a family they came to terms with forgiving the killer who took away their son's life at such early stage. They spoke about how their Catholic faith and strong belief in God managed to get them through that time and how setting up a charity 'For Jimmy' aims to educate others about the power, as well as, the need of love, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace in our world today. Those are the key areas that Margaret and Barry Mizen both try to promote when they go to visit various Catholic Schools all around the country. We hope to invite them to our school in the near future, so that we all can benefit from such a powerful talk we have had on the 23rd of February in St Mary's Chapel in Shaftesbury.



Mary Reodique 10F with others from Yr9 and Yr10

Art Display



A collection of Year 8 final responses have been displayed in the bus shelter along Church Road in Laverstock. These responses were completed for the project Wiltshire Landscapes, capturing Stonehenge inspired by the abstract artist Hundertwasser.

Work produced by Ed Smith, Tamzin Gilkes, Penny Baker, Max Davies and Cassa Mai Lewis

Upcoming Dates

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 22nd Feb: | Yr9 Options Evening |
| Week commencing 27th February: | Yr7 & 8 Progress Reports distributed |
| | Yr9 Written Reports distributed |
| Tuesday 28th February: | Yr8 Options Evening |
| Wednesday 1st March: | 9F & 9M Parents' Evening |
| | Ash Wednesday Service |
| Thursday 2nd March: | World Book Day |
| Friday 3rd March: | Visit and talks from Lord Geddes (House of Deputy Speaker) |
| Wednesday 8th March: | 9T & 9V Parents' Evening |
| 13th – 17th March: | Science Week – science activities throughout the week |
| Wednesday 15th March: | Kooth Assembly |
| Friday 17th March: | Yr7 Science Diorama Competition |
| Sunday 19th March: | St Joseph's Feast Day |
| Wednesday 5th April: | Yr8 Elevate Study & Revision Skills Seminar |