

### Welcome Back!

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

As you are aware, we were visited by Ofsted last half term and we are all delighted that Ofsted confirmed all the areas of excellence that we have as a school. The report is a glowing endorsement of the school and is packed full of compliments and positive affirmations of all our efforts. Some highlights from the report include:

- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is a particular strength of the school.
- Pupils speak positively about their school experience because they feel supported and valued.
- Pupils typically receive relevant feedback on how to improve their work. Many pupils benefit significantly from this.
- Pupils behave well. They are courteous, polite and respectful.
- Pupils benefit from very positive relationships with staff because they are based on mutual respect.
- Teachers are keen to engage pupils with their learning and encourage participation. Pupils' contributions to discussions are valued and they enjoy their learning as a result.

Coupled with the report, you may also have seen that our year 11 cohort last year achieved the same progress 8 scores as Bishops Wordsworth's year 11 cohort. Another fantastic achievement for our school. (Progress 8 is a new accountability school performance measure introduced by the government to replace the old 5 A\*-C measure).

Many thanks for your continued support over the years – it is a real team effort that ensures that the school continues to be the thriving and achieving community that it is.

(If you have not yet seen the report, it is available on the school website).

Last half term was packed full of exciting opportunities for our students – the WW1 Battlefields Trip, Year 7 History exhibition, the Maths Challenge, attendance at a Spanish play, The Big Sleep and many sporting activities to boot!

In this addition we have a student contribution from Olivia Webling on her experience the WW1 battlefields trip. Well done for contributing! There is also news from across the departments and celebrations of achievements.

### 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:

Dorothy Buntkowska-Lopacka	7F
Ben Harrison	8M
Niamh Stewart	9V
Shannon Read	7F
Georgia Beer	7V
Paul Mansfield	8T
Leo Targett	7V

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

### The Big Sleep

On Friday 2nd February, Amy Clarke (11F), Lewis Proctor (10M), Thomas Green (10T) and Sam Harrison (10M) all braved the elements and took part in The Big Sleep organised by Alabare. At 8pm the students met outside the Cathedral armed with cardboard boxes, sleeping bags and lots of layers of clothes! The students all slept rough in The Cloisters area of the Cathedral with another 200 people from the local area. The night gave the students an eye opening experience of what homelessness is like. As part of the evening Alabare organised for Jamie (one of the people they have helped to get off the streets) to tell his story of how his life changed dramatically from having a family and a job to having nothing and subsequently how Alabare helped him to get back on his feet. It was a truly humbling experience and I'm glad to report that as a school we raised £985 for the charity – many thanks to all those who donated and also for all the students taking part in the non-uniform day. Your contributions will make a huge difference!



### Fundraising

#### Friends of St Joseph's

The quiz night was great success. The stars of the show were definitely Mr Rooney and Mr McGuinness, they were superb. It was very well supported and we raised just over £240. Thanks to all pupils and families who supported this event. Please watch out for our next event which will be a Race Night. Dates to be confirmed.

### Careers

#### Bath Spa University

On Thursday 18th January Bath Spa University came into school to work with some of our year 7, 8 and 9 pupils. During the sessions they were able to take part in activities relating to Higher Education, learn about university life and the courses that may be available to them. Pupils were inspired by the visit and by the end of the session realised that anything is possible and university was definitely an option available to them.

#### Interview Preparation Day

On Thursday 8th February the whole of year 10 were taken off timetable to take part in workshops provided by CSW Enterprise to learn how to write CVs, Application Forms and Letters of Application. They learnt about the skills and qualities they possess and how to transfer these onto paper to help them complete their paperwork in preparation for their Mock Interview Day in March. In the afternoon they were taught about Interview Techniques and were then given the opportunity to interview the CSW team for a job of their choice, which they enjoyed immensely. The day was very successful and the feedback has been very positive.



### News from our Departments

#### Humanities Department

In History, to complement the work done in class on Medieval England, the Year 7's 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: poems, short stories, pictures and models. The projects were show cased in a mini exhibition and prizes were awarded for the favourite student choice and for the best as chosen by our official judge Mr Mchale.



#### Battlefields Trip written by Olivia Webling (9V)

On the 10th February 2018, 37 KS4 St Joseph's students went on the Battlefields Trip along with Mrs Nobis, Mr Monk, Miss Lowe and Mrs Evans. It took us 9 hours to get there. First, we went to a museum called Flanders Field Museum which had a lot of artefacts from the First World War. My favourite part of the museum was a screen that you could put your last name in it and it would tell you all the people with your surname that fought in World War One.

Then we went to a chocolate shop. After that we went to Essex Farm cemetery which is where the poem 'In Flanders Fields' was written. There was a cemetery there and Joe Weedon paid his respects to a family member buried there. Then we went to the Menin Gate Ceremony, which is done every night: St Joseph's was given the honour of laying a wreath which was laid by Darci Mc Houll, Jack Travers and Catherine Bayada.

The next day, we went to the Somme in France. When we got there, I was surprised because the front line was covered in trees and wildlife: if the sign wasn't there, you wouldn't know it was the front line. Then we went to Canada: the French gave the Canadians the land where their regiments died; and walked through the trenches. We visited the Thiepval monument and some of us found the memorial to the Wiltshire Regiment. We also went to the Lochnagar Crater which is one of the biggest craters in the war. It would have taken 20 tonnes of TNT to make it.

On the last day we walked along the front line of the English and German trenches, and went to Langemarck, a German cemetery which was very different to the British, but it shows how many the Germans lost as well as the British. We also visited the cemetery where Amy Brain and Jasmine Jacob found the grave of the real Private Peaceful. Lastly, we went to Tyne Cot which is the largest Commonwealth Grave Commission cemetery in the world: Jack Travers paid his respects to family members that were commemorated there, and we all considered the nature of loss.

We all learned a lot on the trip, and would highly recommend it for future year groups!

#### MFL Department

##### La casa encantada – The enchanted house

This term, students from year 9 and 10 Spanish classes attended the Spanish play "La casa encantada" (The enchanted house) by Onatti productions. The play was performed using a mixture of English and Spanish; and student participation. It was a crazy theatrical piece using relevant Spanish for our GCSE students. Students and staff absolutely enjoyed the performance.





### Science Department

The chocolate fountain was a reward party for all the pupils who have worked especially hard in Science for the term. Two pupils were selected from each class by their teacher. Pupils came and dipped fruit and marshmallows into warm melted chocolate.

Well done to the following pupils:

Year 7	Maisie Forbes, Noah Searle, Jasmine Sheherd, Marisha Weakley, Charlie Archdale, Ellie Shields, Emilia Niemczuk, Leo Targett, Emilia Chitenje and Connor Weeks.
Year 8	Isobel Walker, Dylan Hunter, Becky Culverwell, David Hanna, Charlie McLure, Michaela Billington, Kyle Lucas, Millie Proctor, Hannah Shergold and Jacob Tren-dall
Year 9	Adele Hillier, Charlie Scruton, Adele Thireau, Luke Mawdsley, Adam Linscer, Ryan Fernando, Ryan Pepper, Dylan Wells, Martha Stephens and Matthew Davies
Year 10	Joseph Thompson Catherine Bayada Lauren Morgan Lewis Proctor Angell Emmanuel Luke Prevett Hannah Palmer Jakub Godlewski Lenny Gumm Lexi Bradley
Year 11	Max Ewers, Michael Tarrier, Matteo Coppola, Millie Blyth, Emily Hilton Alice McGonigle, Kieran Barnes, Charlotte Morelli, Shannon Kerley and Lewis Court

### PE Department

10 Pupils entered the new age curling competition held at St Edmund's School. They played in pairs and the aim of the game is to roll their stones onto the target. All teams played well and had a fantastic day with 2 teams coming first and second! These teams are now through to the county final held at Dauntsey School. A massive well done!

### Maths Department

#### UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

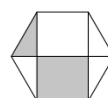
On the 1st February 59 pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This involved pupils attempting to solve up to 25 tricky problems. Of these 59 pupils 9 achieved Bronze and 1 achieved Gold which is a fantastic result from such a challenging paper.

Cody Netton (9M) was over the moon when he heard that he had reached the next stage (The Kangaroo Round) which he will take part on 15th March.

Have a go at the two questions below from this year's paper.

11. The diagram shows a regular hexagon which has been divided into six regions by three of its diagonals. Two of these regions have been shaded. The total shaded area is  $20 \text{ cm}^2$ .  
What is the area of the hexagon?

A  $40 \text{ cm}^2$  B  $48 \text{ cm}^2$  C  $52 \text{ cm}^2$  D  $54 \text{ cm}^2$  E  $60 \text{ cm}^2$

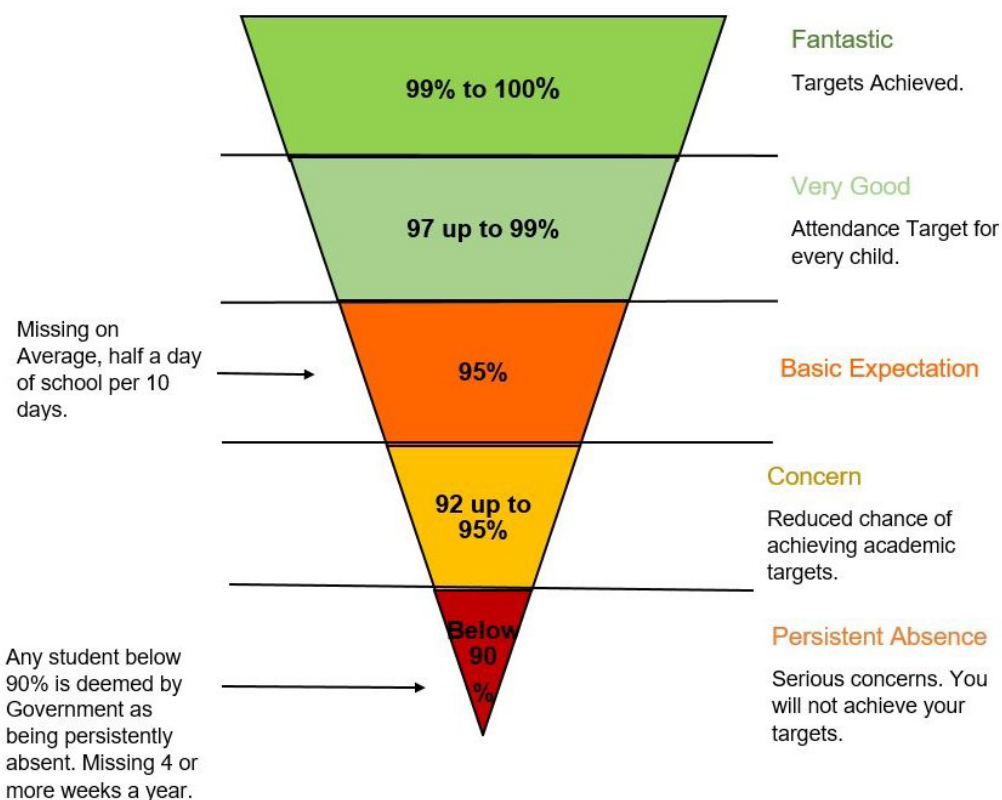


12. Someone has switched the numbers around on Harry's calculator! The numbers should be in the positions shown in the left-hand diagram, but have been switched to the positions in the right-hand diagram.  
Which of the following calculations will *not* give the correct answer when Harry uses his calculator?

7 8 9	9 8 7
4 5 6	6 5 4
1 2 3	3 2 1

A  $79 \times 97$  B  $78 \times 98$  C  $147 \times 369$  D  $123 \times 321$  E  $159 \times 951$

### Attendance



Please note that attendance codes are currently updated or changed on a weekly basis. For that week absences will appear as unexplained. If you have informed the school of your child's absence you will not need to take any further action, however; if you have not notified the school for the reason of absence it will be unauthorised.



Friday 9th March 2018	Year 9 Wiltshire College Young Enterprise Day
Tuesday 13th March 2018	Public Speaking Competition, Bournemouth
Friday 16th March 2018	Year 7 Science Diorama
Thursday 22nd March 2018	Year 10 Mock interview Day
Friday 23rd March 2018	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

### World Maths Day (7th March)

Some pupils taking part in number races via mathletics competing globally. Every 250000 points gained money is donated to UNICEF by the government.

The Wiltshire competition will run from 12th-18th March using the same platform with competing pupils accumulating as many points as possible in the number races. The 10 levels covering basic numeracy up to the more challenging tasks for our more able Year 11's.