

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – ETHOS REPORT September 2021

1. Catholic Life

The Feasts of St Matthew 21st September and
29th September it is the Archangels
St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
Diocesan Inspection: 'Outstanding'

MONDAY Y7 TUESDAY Y8 WEDNESDAY Y11 THURSDAY Y9 FRIDAY Y10

CALENDAR – TERM 1 – SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES FOR 2021

DATE	THEMES	SPECIAL FEASTS	LEADERS/ SCRIPTURE
6–10 September	FAITHFULNESS New Academic Year and Tree of Values at St Joseph's	WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL YEAR FROM THE HEADTEACHER AND EXPLANATION OF THE CORRIDOR OF VALUES AWARDS	OBL/RRI 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.' Isaiah 43:1
13–17 September	FAITHFULNES New Beginnings– Welcome from the Deputy Head 'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.' Luke 16:10	THE BIRTH OF OUR LADY and 15th September OUR LADY OF SORROWS St Mother Teresa	ABA 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel–and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' Luke 2:34–35
20–24 th September	INTEGRITY Community Cohesion and working together within our Parish/Diocese – Theme of the Stewardship/Environment	18–20th September ROSH HOSHANA – Jewish New Year 21 st September St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist 24th September Our Lady of Walsingham	RRO 'As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.' Matthew 9:9

<p>27th September– 1st October</p>	<p>INTEGRITY Universal Church – our opportunities within school– Youth work+Workshops+SVP/ Environmental Group/Chaplaincy Group etc.</p>	<p>27th September St. Vincent de Paul 29th September Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels 1st October – St Therese of the Child Jesus</p>	<p>OBL/Deacon John Detain/LRE ‘Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’ Luke 10:36–37</p>
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We started our new school academic year by introducing new members of staff and welcoming them all into our St Joseph’s family. Mr Inglis and Mrs Reynolds have joined our RE team, which now includes Mr Blaho–Schlogl who leads the RE department, Mr Valjak who has been with us for past three years, and Mr Rooney who also teaches some RE classes.

We began our Assemblies from the start of September, which we decided to do in Year groups in the hall: Y7 on Mondays, Y8 on Tuesdays, Y11 on Wednesdays, Y9 on Thursdays, and Y10 on Fridays. Until 20th September we managed to see all the year groups for in–person assemblies. We began by focusing on Faithfulness from our Tree of Values, which we aspire to live by in our school community. It was truly wonderful to have Mrs Ridley to officially welcome every year group to the new school year. Mr Blaho explained how our reward system will continue to develop and be recognised around the school by staff, who are going to be nominating pupils for being recognised on the reward charts.

Regrettably, Mr Rooney’s assembly on Integrity had to be moved to our previously accustomed pre–recorded assemblies. We know that this is not ideal, and we would have loved to see our pupils in the hall so we could carry on with a sense of normality, which we were just beginning to return to at the start of the term. However, as you are aware from the school correspondence, we were unable to carry on that way and we started our online recorded assemblies as indicated in the termly programme.

Mr Blaho had a very productive discussion with Mr Monk about his more concrete vision of the Environmental Council and its work, which we agreed would be fully functional from September. Mrs Reynolds is also very keen to be involved in this council. We hope many pupils will be keen to join this group and make a difference in our common approach to look after our school environment as highlighted in Pope Francis’ Laudato Si, which we believe the group will find inspirational. Mr Blaho has already approached a few students and their interest and desire to be a part of this Council is rather promising. Mr Monk put forward some excellent suggestions of plants that could be established in the quad area outside of the Benedict Building.

Mr Blaho discussed ideas about the Environment Council with our new RE teacher Mrs Reynolds, who is very keen to be a part of this initiative. Mrs Reynolds has already put forward some proposals for the outside space of St Peter and St Paul’s RE block, which were warmly welcomed by Mr Bazen and Mrs Ridley. Mrs Reynolds suggested an area to be developed properly by a garden designer who she knows very well and is proposing to develop the area as a garden space for the environmental group to be fully involved in this project. However, due to the safety of that particular area, we are going to be looking at developing other areas instead, as we had to have this original place tarmacked during the summer break.

2. Prayer Life

Diocesan Inspection 'Outstanding'

Morning Prayer continues every Friday between 8.45 – 8.50, led by Mr Blaho. Mr Blaho is keen to involve other members of staff in our morning prayer – Mr Inglis and Mrs Reynolds are keen to be involved. You can access our morning prayer on Teams from the Spiritual Well Being site.

Please, remember to keep in your prayers those who are going through difficult times, especially those who are self-isolating. You may remember that we prayed last time for the father of Gail, one of our cleaning staff, who was unwell. Sadly, he passed away last week, and his funeral was at the weekend. Let us remember Gail and her family in our prayers and May souls of the faithfully departed rest in Peace.

I would also like to thank Miss Clark who has linked to the Jesuits app Pray as you Go (<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>) on our website. You can find this, as well as copies of our reports, on our Catholic Ethos section of the school website. I would like to encourage you all to download the Pray as You Go app to your phones and use regularly as a part of your daily prayer routine. Each prayer begins with welcoming music and contains excellent links to the scripture readings, followed by a deep reflection.

Please, don't forget that the Holy Mass is still available for you to watch either on: <https://salisburycatholics.org/st-osmunds> or alternatively, if you prefer to join our closest Catholic Independent School's Mass at Farleigh School in Red Rice near Andover, their regular Masses are on the following link: <https://www.farleighschool.com/sunday-mass.php>

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK:

Lord, we thank you for your glorious power; we praise your victory over the powers of darkness; for all the angels and archangels who assist you, for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for all ages to come. We also thank you Lord for this New Academic Year and pray that we remain safe and well, so that we can carry on doing ordinary things, extraordinarily well within our St. Joseph's family.

3. Religious Education

Diocesan Inspection 'Outstanding'

We have finalised our baseline assessments for Y7 pupils and made them welcome in our community. We had some introduction lessons to increase their understanding of the Catholic Mass and reassure them that although for many it might be a new experience, they will not need to be anxious or confused about what is going on when we'll be allowed to have our Holy Masses on more regular basis.

Our Y9 RE pupils have started their new GCSE work from the first Catholic paper on Creation and we were delighted with their efforts, especially considering it is a rather challenging journey for some. Y10 pupils were focusing on Redemption and our Y11 groups are going through the Jewish Practices as a part of the Second paper on World Religions.

We completed our RSE programme last term before we left school for a well-deserved break. As you are aware, this programme was based on the TenTen programme and Cinema in Education.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continuous support of our Catholic education and everything you do to promote our school's Catholic Ethos.

With all of God's blessings,

Mr O Blaho-Schlogl
Head of RE