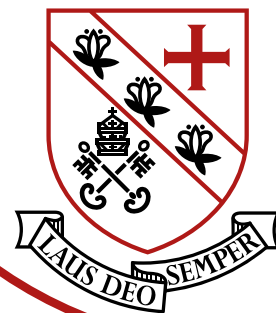


# St. Joseph's Newsletter



## Good Report for St. Joseph's

As you can see throughout this newsletter there is as always a wide variety of events and activities taking place in the college alongside our core purpose of teaching and learning.

In January the focus was very much on this core purpose when we were inspected by Ofsted.

A team of three inspectors led by a HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) looked in depth at the quality of education provided in St Joseph's. We received a telephone call midday on the day before the inspection and were given key areas of enquiry on the day. The process is very thorough including visits to lessons, scrutiny of books, meetings with staff, governors and students who are selected by the team. Inspectors checked:

- Whether leaders have a sound grasp of relative strengths and weaknesses in the college.
- If there is a credible plan to address the areas for concern and maintain the strengths.
- If the safeguarding is effective and the culture is sufficiently aspirational.

In all of these areas the inspection team made the judgment that college remains good. I reported this to parents

when the report became available and there is a link on the website to the full report. I was particularly pleased that the inspectors commented on the behaviour of our students.

"They behave well and share positive relationships with staff. This is because leaders have created an orderly school environment, underpinned by the Catholic faith that forms a key part of the school's identity. This is a school where pupils respect others and, in large part, work harmoniously with each other in a purposeful way."

In the inspection findings Ofsted also noted that, "Strong leadership has led to improvements in teaching and learning in different areas of the school. This, in turn, has led to sustained strong achievement in subjects such as mathematics, English, religious education and languages since the previous inspection".

Safeguarding was judged as effective. "Pupils who spoke with inspectors reported that they feel safe in school."

"One reason for this is that they feel open and comfortable speaking to staff should they have any worries. They are highly positive about the pastoral support they receive. The school's culture promotes this openness".

The report reflects the hard work done by so many people and is a credit to all those individuals who work tirelessly to support our students. It is particularly important that the Ofsted report agrees with our own self-evaluation of the college. We were open about our strengths and weaknesses, our self-awareness shows we are not complacent about what we want to improve to make the college even better.

Very many thanks again, to our dedicated and professional staff, who give of their time so generously, to ensure our students are prepared for their futures.

*Paul Hughes, Executive Principal*



# Lockers!

A reminder to all parents and students that student lockers need to be emptied at the end of each term, including before half term holidays.



## Cashless System

The College has moved to a cashless system for lunches (and breakfasts and breaks) this year and there is a cash converter machine to move cash on to lunch cards. Lunch cards are the only method of payment accepted at the tills.

Parents and carers are reminded that the best way to ensure that your child's lunch card is in credit is to use the ParentPay website to top up the cards: [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

## COMMUNICATION WITH THE COLLEGE

Now that mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the College site during the school day, we would like to request that any communication that parents wish to have with their children is directed through reception. We will be able to get any important messages to your child very quickly and without disturbing teaching and learning.

We also urge parents to be careful with any information that they receive directly from their children about College issues. Children who need to contact their parents during the school day can do so by visiting the Pastoral office. They should not be using their mobile phones, an urgent call can be made using one of the College's phones.

If your child contacts you to say they have permission to leave the site, please question this. Any such information would be provided to you by the College, through official channels.

This is certainly the case during severe weather situations, such as the snow we had to contend with at the start of the month. Any messages about school closure will be sent directly to parents by the College via the website, text message, Twitter or Facebook account. Please do not accept a call, email or text message from your child as proof of such action taking place.

We thank you for your support with ensuring that communication between home and the College is appropriate and accurate.

## Change of Address or Telephone Number

If you move house or update your telephone number, please can you ensure you notify the College as soon as possible. [Many thanks for your co-operation.](#)



### AN EASTER POEM

"Pancakes are shared out on this very day;  
Using up ingredients, following on traditions way.

Palms burnt and ashes shared  
Coming once to perpetuate.

From ashes we're born to new life,  
And to ashes do we cease, to end our strife.

Through time to reflect  
Day and night.

Forty days come back  
And testing thoughts arise.

The temptations of this earth  
Are far beyond us.

And when hope seems lost  
There is a light.

Through praises with palms  
And coming in on a donkey.

Then both body and blood are shared  
Through bread and wine.

One meal is given from the Humble Lamb  
Bringing out tears of sorrows and utmost betrayals.

The times drawing near  
And in the very garden of fear, lights do shine.

Bringing forth silent words of prayer;  
To qualms arisen.  
Noise is made and disciples wake;  
And the Son of Man is taken in.

Trialed and tested, hurt and mocked,  
But holding on for our sake is He.

Led up to Golgotha's hill,  
He is soon to join God again.

Stripped of his pride;  
And garments gambled over.

Nailed to the cross,  
Surrounded by two.

Taken upon our sins,  
He draws his last breath.

Saturday follows by, and battered bruised body,  
Is placed and sealed in prophesied stone, cold tomb.

Sunday arrives,  
And rumbling shakes the ground.

The guards have left;  
And the women arrive.

A sight to behold, the tomb holding nothing  
But linen unravelled.

And tears of joy spring from eyes.  
Saying all unsaid words.

For Christ our Lord has finally risen from the dead.  
Joined by renewed lives."

Rezel 8H

## Student Chaplaincy

During my time in the student chaplaincy team I have enjoyed praying to God. It is a good time and place to communicate with God.

My favourite time was saying the Stations of the Cross together. We remember how Jesus died for us and saved us from our sins.

*Oliver*

Every Friday students are invited to attend and take part in The Stations of the Cross. This has helped me to focus more about Easter and to learn about what Jesus went through and how many people were affected.

*Lincy*

## CAFOD Year 10 Young Volunteers

### We visited St Bede's College in Bristol on 10th October 2017.

This was to join with other secondary schools in the diocese to build student awareness of CAFOD and its campaigns.

We learnt about sustainable living and CAFOD's work in disaster relief, how they help and what they provide.

At Christmas the group were involved fundraising. From the CAFOD World Gifts catalogue we were able to buy chickens and a reading lesson.

## CAFOD FAST Lent Fast Day

A total of £534.67 was raised on 23rd February 2018. This year, for each pound donated to CAFOD, it will be doubled by the UK Government.

## Outreach Project

Sixth Form students who are taking part in an Outreach Project to India in the summer arranged a Non Uniform Day. They raised a grand total £1,080.

## Christmas Jumper Day

We were able to give The Medaille Trust, Threshold, Christmas Care and the Harbour Project a donation of £210.00 each from the money raised.

## SVP AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

We are part of the SVP student group at St. Joseph's which visited a care home on a Wednesday after college.

We are lucky to be able to visit the residents and to brighten their day. We all enjoy visiting and go in with big smiles on our faces.

On one of the visits a resident told us that that it was a long time since she had been so happy, she had not had any visitor's for two years. We had tears in our eyes when she told us.

The staff there are absolutely amazing, they work really hard and are very caring.

We all enjoy going to the home and really get a lot of pleasure from visiting; it makes us all happy. We are grateful to Mrs Marcari-Rees for taking us there.

*Annika & Duella*

## Gloucester Museum

On Friday 24th November we went to Gloucester Museum.

My favourite part of the trip was seeing all the different things the Romans used. There were coins, pots and even a skeleton.

We got to dress up like them and also we could smell the spices they put on their food. My favourite was the honey, it smelt delicious.

*By Lizanne*

## Trip to Chedworth Roman Villa

On Friday the 24th November we had a tour around Chedworth Roman Villa.

It was really interesting because we found out that the Romans were very advanced in technologies because they had under floor heating called the Hypocaust. Also we saw all the mosaics and their original patterns.

We could see where they took a bath in hot steam and washed themselves in their own sweat and where they went into the cold water to close their open pores. Then we looked at the little circle full of water to worship the nymphs to say thank you for the water. Finally we saw where the toilets were and it was not a pleasant!

Overall we had a fun time and learned a lot about the Romans.

*By Indee-Mae*

## Year 11 Kintbury Retreat

The Kintbury team were very welcoming. We enjoyed all the activities and made memories that we will cherish forever.

It was a fantastic opportunity to get to know students from other schools and individually we made many new friends. The Kintbury team organised various activities, presentations, meditation time and interactive group sessions.

It enabled us to escape for a short while the stresses of our daily lives. This experience gave us the opportunity to know the world, God and especially ourselves.

## TRIP TO CORINIUM MUSEUM

Some of Year 7 went to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester. In the museum there were lots of Roman artefacts. We had a quiz to do, which I didn't like very much, but I did like the part where there was a wall and you got to put your head through it.

*By Julietta*



## SEASONAL CRAFT CLUB

Whatever the season is, spring, summer, autumn or winter, this club has something for you to enjoy and make. Throughout the liturgical year we come up with lots of different ideas to make and take home.



During Christmas we created Advent calendars out of lolly sticks and sweet pouches. They all looked like little Christmas trees and were amazing as we all put extra effort into them.

Before Valentine's Day, we made some beautiful cards and heart sun catchers using clear acetate sheets and little jewels stuck onto them.

We also made some beautiful Lent jars that we filled with lolly sticks with our resolutions during Lent written onto them. We decorated the jars with jewels and ribbons.

As we are now moving on to Easter our crafts involve Easter eggs. We are making Easter trees out of tree branches we have gathered and are making decorations to hang on them.

## YEAR 9 MASS

Fr Dominic celebrated his last mass at St. Joseph's with Year 9 in January.



Fr Dominic has left Swindon to take his up his position as Parish Priest at the English Martyrs Parish, Chard.

We thank Fr Dominic for all his hard work and we wish him well in his new parish.

## Year 9 Languages Taster Day at the University of Bath

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My experience at the University of Bath was great. I was able to have a taste of what university would be like and discover new things.

During the time I was there, I got to learn two new languages I never thought about learning. I particularly enjoyed interviewing the students as it gave me an insight of what university life would be like.

The Bath University students were extremely kind and welcoming and I am grateful I had the opportunity to go there.

*By Katie*

# Performing Arts



**The Performing Arts students all worked extremely hard last term. Not only did they perform in the Christmas Concert at the start of the year, they managed to rehearse and prepare for a second concert at the end of Term 3.**

The students showcased their acting, singing and dancing talents that produced an incredibly professional line up. They dazzled the jam packed Hall and left the audience wanting more. But it doesn't stop there. New and existing Performing Arts students are now preparing for the Performing Arts Competition in May. The standard is so high. This again will prove to be the most incredible entertaining evenings.

**Britain's Got Talent? More like St. Joseph's has got talent.**

## Year 11 Mock Interviews Defy Snow Storm

As the 'Beast from the East' thrashed Swindon with snow on the 1st March, a large number of volunteers from the business and education community provided our Year 11 students with the opportunity to have a mock interview.

This was the culmination of a process in which students were tutored in Citizenship sessions about how to fill in application forms and how to prepare for an interview. The team of employers, who kindly gave up their time to provide the students with a realistic interview experience, used the application forms to ask personalised questions to each of the Year 11 candidates.

The Year 11 students were encouraged to come to the

College dressed for the interview. The staff and employers were impressed with the level of effort that the Year 11 students put into this task. They looked magnificent in business dress and many of the female students amazed us with their determination to wear high heeled shoes, despite all the snow that was piling up around the College.

Feedback from the students who undertook interviews was that it was a great opportunity to be taken out of their comfort zone and be questioned by a 'stranger.' The College will now build on this experience by running two interview reflection sessions for the entire year group in Citizenship time. Bruce Oliver, who was

once a Managing Director of a global corporation, will use his vast business experience to talk through the pitfalls of the application process and give the students the employer's point of view of application forms. Bruce will also talk through the key lessons to be learned from the face to face encounter with an employer, giving students tips on presentation and body language.

It is hoped that this process will help prepare our young people for the succession of college, university and job interviews that await them in the near future. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who came in to interview the students and Mrs Green, who organised the entire programme.

# CHELSEA'S CHOICE

Last month Year 8 students watched the play *Chelsea's Choice* as part of their Citizenship programme. Here is what two students felt about the experience.

The play we watched yesterday was about child exploitation. It portrayed the vulnerability of the victims and how they can easily be tricked.

Gary, the criminal was manipulative and put together a game to persuade Chelsea. Although it had its few humorous themes, the main objective was to educate young children about this drastic topic.

The acting was magnificent and really stressed the importance of this very serious issue.

Unfortunately, the play was a true story which could

potentially frighten people but at the same time it makes them aware.

It is vital to report any signs leading to this and be more aware of our surroundings. The overall message of the play is: if we are thoroughly educated about his topic, it means we can live in a safer environment.

I think that this play should be shown to all children to prevent any child exploitation. No child should have to suffer through this.

**Shannon Mandel 8A**

*“Chelsea's Choice” was a play which focussed on child sexual exploitation. It presented difficult topics that are huge problems in today's society.*

*I thought the play was very informative and was a visual way to convey a powerful message and clearly showed the different stages of the grooming process. I thought that the play really immersed the year group into the struggles that Chelsea faced and*

*aided us to stay vigilant of such situations ourselves.*

*The true stories in the play also gave us examples of the consequences of letting a situation get worse. Overall, the performance left everyone aware of what a healthy relationship really is and what we could do to prevent ourselves getting into such situations as well as who we can contact if we are in trouble.*

**Monifa Rodrigues 8A**

## World Tap Championships

**In December, I was fortunate enough to go and represent Team GB in the World Tap Championships.**

**I travelled to Riesa, Germany on a coach on the 26th of November and stayed there until December 3rd. Whilst I was over there, I trained everyday and also took part in a couple of workshops with world class tappers!**

**We had to go through a few rounds but the hard work eventually paid off when, on the Friday, we won Gold for our Junior formation. The team achieved 8 Golds, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze medals which is the best they have ever done.**

**I would like to say a massive thank you to the college and students for the endless support given. As part of my fundraising, the school let me do a bake sale. I raised just over £100, which was a huge help in my fundraising. Again, thank you St. Joseph's for supporting my team GB journey.**



# MAGISTRATES' COURT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

We were gifted with the pleasure of attending the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition in Chippenham, on Saturday 10th March.

We were accompanied by Shefali, Fiona, Sean, Kesler, Rebeca, Joshua, Merle, Sneha, Olamide, Ninoshka, Carrie, Sheonia and Jessica.



In the competition, we had to defend and prosecute a fictional character, Sam Fenton, who was accused of carrying a knife in public.



Everyone on the team had to take on different roles for the competition as lawyers, magistrates, legal experts, witnesses and even an usher.

Although we may not have won, we did come third and learned a lot from this experience. It was an awesome experience and something we will all truly treasure and be able to tell the story to our children.

We would like to thank Ms. Scott, Ms. Curran, Ms. Foley and Ms. Bailey who came and supported us on day and a big thank you to Ms. White for all the hard work she put into training us, her endless support and for giving up her spare time to enlighten us.

*By Sean Maponga, Fiona De Souza and Shefali Ferndandes*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 28**  
MAR Easter Services
- 29**  
MAR Staff Training Day
- 30**  
MAR Bank Holiday
- 2**  
APR School Holidays Start
- 13**  
APR School Starts
- 30**  
APR Feast Of St. Joseph The Worker
- 1**  
MAY Year 8 Parents Evening School A
- 7**  
MAY Bank Holiday
- 9**  
MAY Year 8 Parents Evening School B
- 14**  
MAY Year 10 & Year 8 Exam Week
- 17**  
MAY Year 9 Kintbury Residential
- 6**  
JUN Year 10 BTEC Exam Performance
- 26**  
JUN Year 7 & Year 9 Exam Week
- 27**  
JUN Year 6 Information Evening
- 28**  
JUN Year 10 New College Experience Day
- 1**  
JUL Year 9 Visit To Plas Pencelli
- 3**  
JUL Year 6 Induction Day
- 13**  
JUL Year 7 Day Trip To Boulogne
- 13**  
JUL Year 13 Prom