

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"With God's love and inspiration, we aspire to achieve excellence."

From the Headmaster's Study

At our recent Academic Assembly, Mr. Rooney spoke to pupils about the vital role feedback plays in learning. He explained how we use the Purple Pen system to ensure pupils actively engage with the feedback they receive, enabling them to make meaningful improvements.

We also emphasized the importance of being an active learner rather than a passive one. This approach is central to the progress pupils make and underpins the conversations we have with you during Parents' Evenings. By working together, we can ensure every pupil achieves their best.

Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce new report cards with the next set of grades. For Years 7, 8, and 9, these reports will be based on Age-Related Expectations, helping you understand both academic progress and attitude to learning. For Years 10 and 11, reports will show the Most Likely Grade alongside the Target Grade, providing a clear picture of where pupils are heading and what support they may need.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education. Together, we can help them thrive.

Have a lovely weekend.



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Key Dates: Autumn Term 2

NOVEMBER

27th – Year 11 Certificate Evening (6–7:30pm)

DECEMBER

4th – Duke of Edinburgh Parent & Pupil Information Evening

11th – Year 11 Parents' Evening (4:30–7pm)

18th – Christmas Carol Service (5:30–7pm)

19th – End of Term (12:15pm) – Non-uniform day

In School This Week

THIS WEEK'S ASSEMBLIES

Tuesday–Thursday – Chaplaincy: Advent

Friday – Andover College for Year 11

MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER

- Languages in Business talks with Tim Penn (throughout the day, Rm24)
- Chaplaincy Group trip to deliver Christmas shoeboxes to Woodfalls Methodist Church

TUESDAY 25th NOVEMBER

- Year 9 & 10 Assembly
- Year 7 Literacy Intervention (AM Reg, Rm30)
- Year 11 Art NEA

WEDNESDAY 26th NOVEMBER

- Year 7 & 8 Assembly
- Year 9 Literacy Intervention (AM Reg, Rm30)
- School nurse drop-ins

THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER

- Year 11 Assembly
- Year 10 Literacy Intervention (AM Reg, Rm30)
- Year 11 Certificate Evening (for last year's Year 11 pupils) – 5:30pm
- Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Launch

FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER

- Year 8 Literacy Intervention (Rm30)
- Chaplaincy Group trip to Exeter House



Funding for a Sports Hall

We continue to raise money, and we will have a new focus which our Heads and Deputy Head Pupils will be leading on with the ambitious goal of raising £10,000.

Every contribution, no matter the size, will go directly to supporting our Sports and Music departments. If each child could raise an average of £20 via our GoFundMe page, we would be well on our way.

Please share the link widely and encourage support:

<https://gofund.me/bc2f38ba>





Co-Curricular at SJCS

TUESDAY

Lunch:

- KS3 History Club (Rm4)
- Year 9-11 Basketball (Hall)
- Year 7 & 8 Rugby (Field)
- SolidWorks Club (Rm30)

After School:

- Street & Break Dance (Hall) – *please note, this is a paid activity*
- All Years Girls' Rugby (Field)
- HW Club (Rm28)

WEDNESDAY

Lunch:

- Year 7 & 8 Racquet Sports (Hall)
- Environmental & Gardening Club (Rm8)

After School:

- Year 7 & 8 Netball (Courts)
- Year 9-11 Racquet Sports (Hall)

THURSDAY

Lunch:

- Year 9-11 Rugby (Field)
- All Years Cricket (Hall)
- Vocal Ensemble (Rm27)
- Inclusivity Alliance (Rm23)
- KS3 Maths Games (Rm14)

After School:

- Year 9-11 Netball (Courts)
- Year 9-11 Trampolining (Hall)
- Warhammer, Painting & Modelling Club (Rm27)

FRIDAY

Lunch:

- House Competition
- Chaplaincy Team (Rm25)
- Anime Club (Rm9)



Chaplaincy Update: A Week of Service & Gratitude

Last week, our Chaplaincy Team had the privilege of spending time at Exeter House School, and what a wonderfully rewarding experience it was. We are deeply grateful to Mrs Morissey-Leggett for organising our Chaplains' work in her classroom and for the warm, heartfelt welcome we received from the pupils and staff.

The kindness and openness of the Exeter House community made our visit truly special, and our Chaplains left each session feeling inspired and uplifted. We are already very much looking forward to returning next week to continue supporting learning, building friendships, and living out our mission of service.

Looking Ahead – Cakes & Shoeboxes

As we continue our outreach over the coming weeks, we would like to invite Year 9 pupils to bring in cake donations. These will be shared with the school as part of our ongoing work within the community. Any contribution, big or small, is warmly appreciated.

This Monday, our Chaplains will also be sorting through the Christmas shoeboxes. If you have any final items or shoeboxes to donate, please do send them in. Every small act of generosity helps us make Christmas brighter for someone in need.

Pupil Voice – What Chaplaincy Means to Us

Our Chaplains have reflected beautifully on their recent experiences. Here are some of their own words:



“Going back to St Osmund’s felt nostalgic. Helping the children with their learning was really special.”

“Our work with St Osmund’s has been amazing and really fun. The staff have been so complimentary, and it feels great to help the children exceed in their maths.”

“Working with younger pupils makes me realise how much a little support can mean. I would’ve loved someone to help me like this when I was younger.”

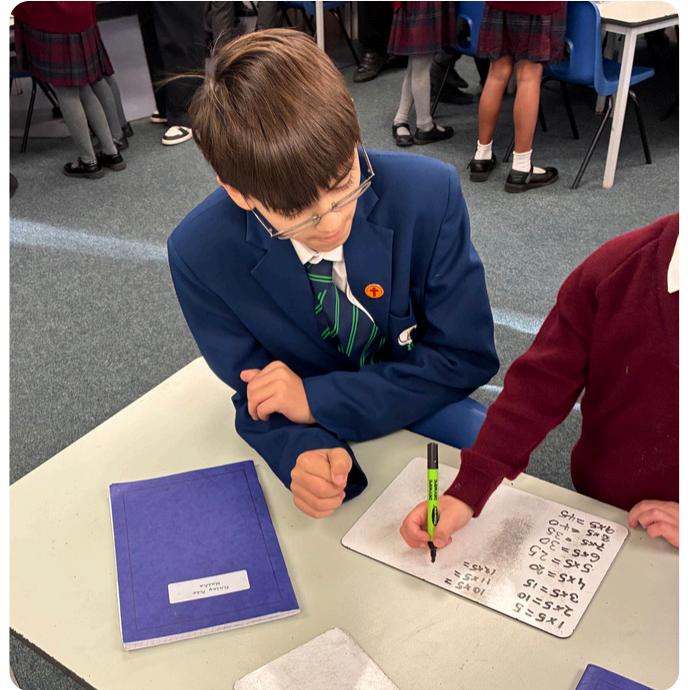
These reflections show how deeply our students engage with Catholic Social Teaching, especially through acts of kindness, solidarity, and service.

A Heartfelt Thank You

To all parents and carers: thank you. Your support, encouragement, and generosity make all of this possible. Together, we help our young people grow in compassion, faith, and service as part of our St Joseph’s family. We are so grateful for everything you give to enrich our Chaplaincy work. Year 9 parents, please make or send some cakes next week for our chaplains to sell at the reception area, as our continuous effort to support charities like The House of Opportunities in the forthcoming week.



Snapshots From Our Chaplaincy Group Visits



Our Chaplaincy Group continued their regular visits to St Osmund's Primary School this week, and they enjoyed working with the children! We really appreciate these opportunities to connect with other schools in our Parish.



Last week, our Chaplaincy Team spent time at Exeter House School, where we received a heartfelt welcome from the pupils and staff.



Academic Matters

Academic Assemblies

This week, all year groups were treated to an academic assembly where Mr Rooney shared how active learning and ratio of response links into the St Joseph's Way and also how these benefit the children's learning!

Active Learning

We shared how active learning (where pupils are engaged in the learning, problem-solving, discussing, sharing ideas in pairs, voting and using mini-whiteboards to show their understanding) is much more effective than passive learning (where pupils receive information without interaction).

We discussed how active learning is more challenging than passive learning but ultimately benefits them more as it makes them more effective learners and increases their enjoyment and engagement in the learning!

Ratio of Response

This refers to the proportion of pupils actively responding in a lesson. Gone are the days of a sole 'hands-up' approach to answering questions in a classroom – this only gives the teacher information about one pupils' understanding!

What we do in lessons now is employ a range of strategies to gauge the understanding of the whole class – these can include; the use of mini whiteboards, voting on multiple-choice questions, paired discussion, responding to True or False statements as a class).

By employing these strategies, pupils can demonstrate what they have learnt which gives the teacher valuable information to aid future planning and learning!

Assessment & Reporting – Yr 9 & 10

Next Thursday P5 at the beginning of the enrichment lesson, we will be launching the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Programme. It is a brilliant scheme that helps the children's personal development, gives them experiences of volunteering, developing physical and sporting skills and also the opportunity to go on an overnight expedition.

Following the launch with the pupils, we will also host a parent and pupil information evening on Thursday 4th December at 5:30pm. This will be the ideal opportunity for you, as parents, to find out more and ask any questions that you may have!

Yr 10 Duke of Edinburgh

It was lovely to welcome many Year 8 families to school on Thursday evening. There was a lovely buzz in the hall and the canteen as we discussed progress, attainment and attitude to learning. We've always stressed the importance of teamwork and this is one of the most important aspects of the team we form. Thank you for your support and attendance!



Academic Matters

Assessment & Reporting – Yr 10 & 11

Towards the end of term, Year 9&10 will receive their first school reports of the academic year. These will include information on their progress and attitude to learning across all of their subjects.

For Year 9, there will also be information on their performance against Age Related expectations (i.e. is your child working above, on, or below age related expectations – this mirrors the language and approaches that you are familiar with from primary school).

For Year 10 pupils, there will also be information on their Most Likely Grades – in essence these are predicted grades based on their current work and attitude to learning.

The reports will be released prior to the Christmas break.

Year 11 Updates

This Thursday, Year 11 had their mock exam assembly. At the assembly we distributed statements of entry for the pupils to check through. These documents include dates and times of their mock exams for January and also any tiers of entry (if applicable). This will help the pupils begin their preparations and check all details for their entries. Once all details are confirmed exam timetables will be published and ready for distribution on the Year 11 parents evening.

We also discussed the 3 most important aspects of revision:

- **Creating revision resources** (flashcards, mindmaps, lists, visuals) – we emphasised that the resources they make now will also be used for the final GCSE exams in the summer!
- **Recalling the information** – testing themselves using their resources – can they recall the information? Can they ask family / friends to test them on the key information?
- **Applying the information** – answering past questions in timed conditions. This will help train the pupils to cope in timed and exam conditions.

DATE	EXAMS
Mon 12 th Jan	AM – Science (Chemistry) PM – English Language
Tue 13 th Jan	AM – Maths PM – Science (Physics)
Wed 14 th Jan	AM – Option B PM – Option C
Thu 15 th Jan	AM – Option D PM – English Literature
Fri 16 th Jan	AM – RE PM – Option A

Important Dates coming up:

- **Thursday 4th December:** Yr11 Parents' Evening 4:30–7pm, Progress Report Out
- **Monday 12th January:** Mock Exam Week in the hall
- **Week starting 9th February:** Mock Results Report




Academic Matters

Revision & WIN Sessions Continue!

My weekly reminder to revise 'little and often' - the key phrase for Year 11. Don't forget on our website we have lots of resources to help both pupils and parents. For pupils, particularly the subject specific guide which contains links through to exam boards and past papers and mark schemes: sjcs.org.uk/resources

WIN Sessions Timetable:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	GCSE PE	Maths (Foundation)		History	
After - School	RE (OBL) French	English Lit & Lang Food tech Combined Science Separate Science	English Lit & Lang Sociology Music Combined Science Further Maths	BTEC Creative Media (+ GCSE Comp Sci) History Combined Science RE (DIN and RRO) Spanish Maths (Higher)	

New Screens

Very exciting times ahead! The first batch of new screens for classrooms arrived this week – 12 new screens are going to be put in place over the coming fortnight and all classrooms will be kitted out by the Christmas break! This will ensure that pupils have a much better learning experience!

Careers Update

Is your child interested in pursuing a career in medicine or related fields? This week's edition of our **Careers Newsletter** has a medical focus, with a whole range of opportunities including:

- Lots of virtual work experience placements and online courses to get a great taste of what a medical career might look like
- Chances to learn from the professionals about the process of applying for medicine-related degrees
- ...lots more!



[Click here to read the Careers Newsletter!](#)



Safeguarding Update: The Impact of Parental Conflict on Children

We want to remind everyone that children are deeply affected by the environment at home. Research shows that frequent or intense parental conflict, whether arguments, shouting, or silent tension, can have a significant impact on a child's emotional wellbeing and development.

Children exposed to ongoing conflict may experience:

- Increased anxiety or stress
- Difficulties with concentration and learning
- Challenges in forming healthy relationships
- Lower self-esteem

It's important to remember that disagreements are normal, but how they are managed matters. Constructive communication and resolving issues calmly can help children feel secure and supported.

If you need advice or support, please reach out to our safeguarding team or visit

wiltshiretogether.org.uk/alltogether.

Spurgeons are running two Reducing Parental Conflict Programmes – see on the images below (click to see the full-size versions).

Thank you for helping us create a safe and nurturing environment for every child.



Triple P Family Transitions

Struggling With Co-Parenting? You're Not Alone.

Are you finding co-parenting challenging? Can't agree on the decisions being made for your child?

Parenting after separation isn't easy — but you don't have to go through it alone.

Join our co-parenting programme and connect with other separated parents/carers on a similar journey.

This supportive programme is designed to help you navigate the challenges of shared parenting and will empower you to put your child's wellbeing first.

Call us for more information or to ask for a space on: 0800 970 4669 or use the code opposite to sign up directly.

<https://wiltshiretogether.org.uk/alltogether>



Spurgeons | Family Hub Wiltshire Council | All Together Supporting families in Wiltshire



Within My Reach

Time for Us

Would you like some support communicating as a couple?

Do you need help to understand each other and be better listeners to make positive changes in your relationship?


If so, then come along and join our group of like minded couples.

Call us for more information or to ask for a space on: 0800 970 4669 or use the code opposite to sign up directly.

<https://wiltshiretogether.org.uk/alltogether>



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ST. JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

ST OSMUND'S CHURCH, SALISBURY

Join us for a heartwarming evening of
traditional carols and festive cheer!

MINCE PIES & MULLED WINE
- SERVED FROM 5:30 PM



THURSDAY, 18TH DECEMBER
- AT 6:00 PM

Come together with friends and family
to celebrate the season in song.

All are welcome!



Free entry • Festive refreshments
Warm atmosphere



Follow us on social media

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