

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

From the Headmaster's Study

It gives me immense joy to share the outstanding achievements of our pupils in their recent GCSE Art and BTEC Design & Technology examinations. Their creativity, dedication, and resilience have truly shone through, and these results are a testament to the hard work of both our students and staff. Last night, we gathered to celebrate last year's Year 11 cohort as they returned to collect their certificates and awards – a wonderful evening filled with pride and gratitude for their time at St Joseph's.

Our new school strategy is moving forward with gusto, and the importance of creative subjects has never been greater. In a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, creativity is not just an asset, it is essential. These disciplines nurture imagination, problem-solving, and innovation, equipping our young people to thrive in a future where human creativity will remain irreplaceable.

A special thank you must go to Ms Searle, Miss Howey, Mrs Evans, Mr Sibley and Mrs Dunn for their tireless work in providing our artists and designers with the opportunities to excel. Their commitment and passion have been instrumental in these successes.

As we begin the season of Advent, let us remember what it truly stands for: a time of hope, preparation, and joyful expectation. Advent reminds us that growth takes patience and purpose, and that every step forward brings us closer to the light of Christ.

In this spirit, let us embrace our shared mission – to ensure that every child at St Joseph's is prepared not only for success but to make a meaningful difference in the world. As Scripture reminds us:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

— Jeremiah 29:11

Have a lovely weekend.





Key Dates: Autumn Term 2

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

MONDAY 1st DECEMBER

- Year 8 football vs Stonehenge (home - 2.30pm kick off)

TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER

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

WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER

- Year 7 & 8 Assembly
- Year 9 Literacy Intervention (AM Reg, Rm30)
- School nurse drop-ins
- Boccia tournament @ Sarum (12.30-2.30pm)
- Year 11 football vs Stonehenge (home - 2.30pm kick off)

THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER

- Year 11 Assembly
- Year 10 Literacy Intervention (AM Reg, Rm30)
- Chaplaincy Team to St Osmund's / Year 7 Mass in the Hall
- Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening Launch
- Year 7 football vs Stonehenge (home - 2.30pm kick off)
- Year 9 football vs Trafalgar (home - 2.30pm kick off)

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER

- Year 8 Literacy Intervention (Rm30)
- Talk About Trust - P5 Yr7 Vaping Awareness, Yr10 Drugs Awareness

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>

Follow us on social media

Stay up to date with what's happening at St Joseph's! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X.

X   @sjcssalisbury



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 Time for Giving: Our Chaplains at Woodfalls Methodist Church

On Monday, 24th November, our dedicated student chaplains represented St Joseph's during a meaningful visit to the Methodist Church in Woodfalls. They were delivering the many shoeboxes collected as part of our school's charitable initiative.

Upon arrival, they dedicated three hours to sorting and organising the large number of donations at the collection point. It was truly delightful to witness our chaplains embodying Catholic Social Teaching in such a practical and meaningful way. Their commitment and enthusiasm were evident throughout the day, and the joy they demonstrated while working tirelessly was truly inspiring. This act of service not only supported a worthy cause but also reflected the core values we uphold as a community.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium*: "***The Church's social teaching is called to be lived in daily life, where love for the poor and vulnerable becomes concrete.***"

Their efforts have made everyone at St Joseph's immensely proud, and we commend them for embodying the spirit of generosity and compassion that lies at the heart of our mission.

Pupil Voice: Reflections on our Outreach Service

Our chaplains thoughtfully reflected on their experiences, describing their work as:

- "Nostalgic and uplifting — helping younger children reminds us how far we have come."
- "Amazing and really fun — it feels great to help pupils improve in their learning."
- "A reminder that even small acts of support can mean a lot."



These comments highlight the depth of empathy and social awareness our pupils are developing through their vital chaplaincy work.

A Flourishing Mission

This term has been marked by remarkable growth in our chaplaincy provision. Students have stepped forward in large numbers to serve, lead, pray, and support others, living the mission of St Joseph's with sincerity and joy. Our partnerships with St Andrew's, St Osmund's, and Exeter House continue to flourish, and our environmental initiatives reflect a forward-looking vision rooted firmly in Catholic teaching. I extend heartfelt thanks to all pupils, staff, and families whose generosity, encouragement, and faith make this work possible. Together we continue to build a school community grounded in compassion, hope, and the Gospel message of service.

Wishing You a Blessed Advent

As we conclude this reflection on service and look ahead, I want to wish all members of our community a peaceful and holy Advent season. We begin this special time of preparation and waiting this coming Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent. May the light of the Advent wreath bring hope and peace into your homes as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.



Our Chaplains visited the Methodist Church in Woodfalls to deliver the many shoeboxes collected as part of our school's charitable initiative. They spent 3 hours sorting and organising the donations!



Academic Matters

Assessment & Reporting – Yr 9 & 10

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 (ie, 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.

Yr 10 Duke of Edinburgh

We will be hosting a DofE 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!

Year 11 Updates

Year 11 have 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.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Thursday 11th 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

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: <https://sjcs.org.uk/resources/>

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

Year 11 Certificate Evening

It was wonderful to welcome so many families from our previous Year 11 cohort to school for the Certificate Evening. The atmosphere in the hall and canteen was full of pride and celebration as we reflected on the achievements and hard work of our pupils. We've always emphasised the importance of teamwork, and this event truly showcased the strength of the partnership between pupils, families, and staff. Thank you for your continued support and for joining us in recognising these fantastic accomplishments! See some photos from the evening below.



Careers Update

This week's issue of the Careers Newsletter is focused on finance and accountancy, as well as business and economics. It includes...

- Introductions to the world of finance, accounting and banking, including virtual experiences from Deutsche Bank and more
- Tips on how to build a personal brand and make a lasting impression online
- A talk with graduates from Sheffield Business School
- ...lots more!

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





Safeguarding Update: Coercive Control and Domestic Abuse Support

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we want to raise awareness about coercive control and the support available for families affected by domestic abuse.

What is Coercive Control?

Coercive control is a pattern of behaviour used to dominate or isolate someone. It can include:

- Restricting access to friends, family, or finances
- Monitoring movements or communications
- Threats, intimidation, or emotional manipulation

These behaviours can have a serious impact on wellbeing and safety. Recognising the signs early is key to protecting those affected.

Support Available

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse or coercive control, help is available:

- Police - 999
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (24/7, free and confidential)
- Local Support Services: www.fearfree.org.uk
- Online Resources: <https://refuge.org.uk/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

What We Do in School

Our safeguarding team is here to support children and families. If you have concerns, please contact safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk.

Together, we can create a safe environment for every child and family. Thank you for your continued support.

Pastoral Support

We will be hosting an Exam Stress workshop for Year 11 students, hosted by the Mental Health Support Team, on Wednesday 3rd December during the school day.



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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