

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“With God’s love and inspiration, we aspire to achieve excellence.”

From the Headmaster's Study

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the second week of Advent, a time of preparation and reflection, we are reminded of the importance of growth, service and community. These values have been evident in the activities our pupils have been involved in recently.

We recently held a meeting for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated team leading this initiative. The programme is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop essential life skills such as resilience, teamwork, leadership and problem solving, all of which prepare them for future challenges and successes.

We are delighted to share that St Joseph's played in a competitive game of Boccia. A huge thank you to our PE Department for broadening pupils' horizons and promoting inclusivity through sport. This event was a wonderful example of how we encourage every child to discover new interests and talents.

Our Pupil Parliament has met, and discussions have begun around the school menu and food offering. Watch this space, exciting changes are on the horizon as we work together to ensure pupils' voices shape their school experience.

As Advent calls us to prepare our hearts and minds, we celebrate these moments of growth and collaboration within our school community. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). May this season be a time of hope and joy for all.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our pupils flourish in faith.

Have a lovely weekend.





Key Dates: Autumn Term 2

DECEMBER

- 11th** – Year 11 Parents' Evening (4:30–7pm)
- 18th** – Christmas Carol Service St St Osmund's Church (5:30–7pm)
- 19th** – End of Term (12:15pm) – Non-uniform day



In School Next Week

MONDAY 8th DECEMBER

- Year 9 & 10 Assembly

TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER

- Year 7 Literacy Intervention (AM Reg, Rm30)
- BTEC Creative Media NEA All Day
- Year 9 Talent Foundry Skills Workshop
- Year 8 & 9 Girls Football vs Wyvern St Eds

WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER

- Year 7 & 8 Assembly
- Year 9 Literacy Intervention (AM Reg, Rm30)
- School nurse drop-ins
- Year 11 Reports distributed

THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER

- Year 11 Assembly
- Year 10 Literacy Intervention (AM Reg, Rm30)
- Yr11 Drama NEA Prep (All Day)
- Yr11 MFL Speaking Mocks by appointment
- Yr11 Parents Evening

FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER

- Year 8 Literacy Intervention (Rm30)

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

Volunteering Assemblies

We have enjoyed a very successful assembly week, with all Heads of Houses delivering thoughtful and engaging presentations on the importance of volunteering. Their message—that giving our time and skills enriches both our community and our own sense of wellbeing—was shared with real clarity and conviction.

I was especially proud of our chaplains, who spoke confidently about their own volunteering experiences. They shared how they have supported the food bank by delivering donations, helped pack shoeboxes in recent weeks, and contributed meaningfully at St. Osmund's and Exeter House. Their service continues to make a real difference.

Year 7 Mass with Fr. Anthony

Our usual visit to St. Osmund's this Thursday was postponed as we had the joy of welcoming Fr. Anthony, our parish priest, to celebrate Mass with all Year 7 pupils. His explanation of the stages of the Holy Mass was inspiring, and his homily captured the imagination and attention of all pupils present. It was a beautiful opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of our Catholic faith.

My thanks go to Mr. Blakey for practising hymns with pupils and tutors, whose efforts were evident in the reverent singing during Mass as well as Mr Inglis for joining us and assisting throughout the Mass. We welcomed a couple of our School governors who joined us all in the Hall for this special occasion. I was also delighted to see our readers proclaim so confidently in front of their peers.



Cake Donations from Year 8

I would like to encourage Year 8 pupils to bring cakes next week to support our charity projects. Cakes can be dropped off at reception or given to tutors, who will ensure they reach chaplaincy for sale. These funds help us support both the food bank and our shoebox appeal.

Shoebox Postage Fundraising

I am also pleased to share that we have raised £100 towards the postage costs for sending our shoeboxes to Bulgaria. This total comes from cake sales and many small, generous donations across the school, and it will be forwarded to the House of Opportunities.

Christmas Carol Service - Thursday 18th December, 5.30pm

Preparations for our Christmas Carol Service at St. Osmund's Catholic Church are well underway. We warmly invite all parents and pupils to join us on 18th December at 5.30pm as we celebrate this special moment of Advent together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Our community is truly strengthened by your encouragement, generosity, and partnership.



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.

Year 11 Updates

Next Wednesday, Year 11 will receive their interim reports outlining how they are progressing so far this term. They will also receive their personalised mock exam timetable which will include dates and times of exams, papers being taken and also location of the exams.

Next Thursday is Year 11 Parents Evening – an ideal chance to discuss attainment and progress with your child's subject teachers. This will be held in person in the school hall and canteen area from 4:30-7pm.

If you have not yet made your appointments, please click here to do so

<https://saintjosephs.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

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

Key Stage 3 (Yr7-9) Learning Journeys and Age-related Expectations

On the curriculum and subject pages of our website you will now be able access Learning Journeys and Age-Related Expectations (ARE) for each subject area.

The Learning Journeys outline the learning that your child is exposed to term by term and the AREs are a set of standards for what a child should know and be able to do at a specific age or grade level, based on a national curriculum. They are used to assess whether a child is on track with their peers and help teachers identify areas where a child may need more support. They will also help to inform you as parents as to how your child is progressing as this is also the language we will be using in reports home.

Please click on this page and then select the subjects you want to see for the specific pages: <https://www.sjcs.org.uk/key-stage-3/>

Yr10 Duke of Edinburgh

It's always brilliant to welcome families into school and last night we hosted the Duke of Edinburgh launch for Year 10 pupils and parents. As well as the well-known expedition element, participants also engage in volunteering, skills development and physical activity over a period of 3 months minimum. It's such a great opportunity for the children to take advantage of and we can't wait to get going with this year's cohort!

Careers Update

This week's issue of the Careers Newsletter primarily focuses on careers in construction. Inside you'll find...

- Online sessions and virtual experience opportunities which take you behind the scenes to showcase the range of careers available in construction.
- Talks from expedition leaders who've faced challenges in the world's most extreme environments – learn how teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving in the wild translate into powerful lessons for leadership in any career path.
- ...lots more!

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





Pastoral Support Update

At St Josephs, we remain committed to supporting the wellbeing and personal development of every student. Our pastoral team has been working closely with pupils to ensure they feel safe, valued, and supported both inside and outside the classroom.

How Parents Can Support Wellbeing at Home:

- Encourage Open Conversations: Ask your child about their day and listen without judgment.
- Promote Healthy Routines: Ensure regular sleep, balanced meals, and time for relaxation.
- Celebrate Effort, Not Just Results: Praise persistence and progress to build confidence.
- Model Calm and Positivity: Children often mirror adult behaviour—showing calm helps them feel secure.
- Stay Connected: If you notice changes in mood or behaviour, reach out to us early for support. If you'd like to learn more or discuss additional support for your child, please contact your child's form tutor, Head of Year or the Pastoral team

Together, we aim to create an environment where every child can thrive academically and emotionally.

Understanding Teenage Relationship Abuse and Coercive Control

Why This Matters

Teenage relationships can be exciting and formative, but they can also involve unhealthy dynamics that parents need to recognise. Abuse among teens isn't always physical, soft, it starts with subtle behaviors that exert control and erode independence. One of the most concerning patterns is coercive control, which can have serious emotional and psychological impacts.

What is Coercive Control?

Coercive control is a pattern of behaviors aimed at dominating a partner and limiting their freedom. It often includes:

- Isolation: Discouraging or preventing contact with friends and family.
- Monitoring: Constantly checking their phone, social media, or whereabouts.
- Jealousy and Possessiveness: Accusing them of flirting or cheating without cause.
- Manipulation: Using guilt, threats, or emotional blackmail to get compliance.
- Control Over Choices: Dictating what they wear, who they talk to, or what activities they do.

Signs Parents Should Watch For

- Sudden withdrawal from friends or family.
- Changes in behavior or mood, such as anxiety, fearfulness, or secrecy.
- Excessive communication demands from their partner (e.g., constant texting).
- Loss of independence, like giving up hobbies or interests.
- Fear of upsetting their partner or making decisions without their approval.

How Parents Can Support

- Create a Safe Space for Conversation - Ask open-ended questions without judgment and listen calmly.
- Educate About Healthy Relationships - Discuss mutual respect, trust, and boundaries.
- Watch for Warning Signs Without Invading Privacy - Respect independence while staying observant.
- Offer Resources and Help - Share information about teen dating abuse hotlines or school counselors.

Local and National Support Resources

<https://reducingtherisk.org.uk/abuse-in-teenage-relationships/>

Wiltshire Healthy Schools - https://www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org/documents/campaigns/DM20_764_SL%20-%20Teenage%20relationship%20abuse%20booklet%20ONLINE%20VIEWING.pdf

<https://wiltshirefamilyhubs.org.uk/family-hub-support/domestic-abuse/>



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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