

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

## From the Headmaster's Study

As we approach the final days of this busy term, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and partnership. Please note that the end of term is on **Friday 19th December**, with school finishing at **12:15pm**. Buses will be available to the town centre for pupils who need transport home.

We are looking forward to celebrating your child's success in their year group assemblies, followed by a reflective moment on the importance of Christmas during our Advent services.

This week has been a wonderful reflection of the strength and ambition within our school community. The Year 11 Parents' Evening was both positive and professional, and it was heartening to see so many constructive conversations taking place.

A special well done to our Year 11 Drama pupils for their NEA performances, the Year 11 Creative Media students, and the Year 9 pupils who engaged so enthusiastically in the recent Business workshop. These achievements are just a small part of what we offer, and they are helping us become increasingly recognised within the Salisbury community as a school that is rising and ambitious—a reputation we can all be proud of.

As we draw near to Christmas, I am reminded of the words from John's Gospel: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* In a world that often feels hurried and uncertain, the message of Christmas calls us to pause, reflect, and celebrate the hope and joy that Christ brings.

Carols have long been a cherished part of Christian tradition, not only for their beauty but for the way they proclaim the story of Christ's birth and the promise of peace. Singing together reminds us that faith is lived in community, and that the light of Christ shines most brightly when we gather in worship and fellowship.

Our **Carol Service next Thursday** is a wonderful opportunity to do just that, coming together as a school family to share in music, reflection, and celebration. I warmly invite you to join us at **St Osmund's Church on Thursday 18th December**. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served from **5:30pm**, and the service will begin shortly after. I am especially looking forward to hearing our choir (pupils and staff alike) lift their voices in celebration of this season.

Thank you for everything you have done to support your children and our staff throughout this term. Your commitment makes all the difference, and I hope you will join us for what promises to be a truly special evening.



# 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

   @sjcssalisbury

sjcs.org.uk  
01722 335380  
admin@sjcs.org.uk



## Key Dates: Autumn Term 2

### DECEMBER

**18th** – Christmas Carol Service St St Osmund's Church (5:30–7pm)

**19th** – End of Term (12:20pm) – Non-uniform day

## In School Next Week

### MONDAY 15th DECEMBER

- Yr11 Health & Wellbeing Questionnaire
- Foodbank Visit
- Year 9 football vs Stonehenge (home) – 2.30pm kick off

### TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER

- Year 7 Literacy Intervention (Rm30)
- Year 11 Maths Mock P1&2 (Hall)
- Christmas Lunch!
- No HW Club

### WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER

- Year 9 Literacy Intervention (Rm30)
- School nurse drop-ins

### THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER

- Carol Service at St Osmund's Church (5:30pm for mince pies and mulled wine, 6pm start)
- Year 11 Winchester Trip
- Year 10 Literacy Intervention (Rm30)

### FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER

- Final day of term
- Non-uniform – donations via SchoolGateway
- School finishes at 12:20pm



## 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.

   @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

As we come to the close of the year, our community naturally turns to remembrance. Last month, we have been holding in prayer all those who have gone before us, especially the men and women who gave their lives in times of war. This commitment to prayer and memory is beautifully echoed by Mrs Ingham who is fully behind the installation of the Laverstock Lantern—a new beacon of remembrance for the soldiers from Laverstock who died in WW1 and WW2.

The Lantern will be lit on the anniversaries of each fallen service member and on significant days such as Remembrance Day, standing as a quiet but powerful reminder of the debt we owe to those who sacrificed so much. The first lighting will take place on 18th December, marking the anniversary of the death of Private Thomas Bundy of Lynwood Cottage, Laverstock. Having served on the front line since March, Thomas tragically died when a German shell struck the canvas huts where he and others were resting. He was later buried in Bazentin-Le-Petit Military Cemetery in France and is commemorated on the St Andrew's war memorial in Laverstock. His story calls us once again to be people of gratitude, peace, and prayer—values at the heart of our Catholic mission here at St Joseph's.

Over recent weeks, our Chaplaincy Team has continued to live out this mission through service. This week, we were delighted to return to Exeter House with our student chaplains. Although this marks our final visit for 2025, we are very pleased to confirm that we will continue these visits in 2026. We are grateful to Mrs Morrissey-Leggett who welcomed us to her class and organised the chaplains' activities during our visits. We also hope to be welcomed next Thursday morning at St Osmund's for our final visit of the year, before we start our new rota of chaplains in January.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for our Christmas Carol Service, and we warmly invite every family to join us (please see the poster for details). Parking will be available free of charge in St Osmund's Primary School car park, just a two-minute walk from the church.

Although this report began with the topic of remembrance, we now approach the Third Sunday of Advent; a time of joyful expectation. May the nearness of Christmas fill your homes and families with peace, hope and joy that only Christ can truly give us.

With my very best wishes and every blessing to you all.

**Otto Blaho-Schlogl, School Chaplain**



## Academic Matters

### Teaching & Learning

Over the first term of school, we have welcomed many visitors to school – the Local Authority, The Diocese, The Governing Body and many other professionals and also prospective families.

It has been genuinely a great experience visiting classrooms and showing off the excellent teaching and learning that has been happening across all curriculum areas. What makes this all the more satisfying is the praise that we have received from external eyes who recognise the strides forward that the school is making! It is a real source of pride to receive such feedback and motivates us to continue to drive forward to ensure that your children receive the best learning resulting in the best possible outcomes.

### Year 11 Interim Reports and Parents Evening

Thank you to all Year 11 parents for your continued support – Parents' evening last night was very productive and we hope you found it a valuable experience having the interim reports to hand and being able to discuss progress, attainment and most likely outcomes. It is by working together that we will ensure the best possible outcomes for your children!

After the Christmas break, Year 11 will have 4 days of their normal school timetable and then will enter a week of Mock exams as outlined below.

To help them prepare effectively for these exams, I will continue banging the revise 'little and often' drum!

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/>

- **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 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM – Science (Chemistry) PM – English Language
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM – Maths PM – Science (Physics)
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM – Option B PM – Option C
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM – Option D PM – English Literature
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM – RE PM – Option A

## KS3 (Yr7-9) Learning Journeys and Age-Related Expectations

On the curriculum and subject pages on 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/>

## Assessment & Reporting – Year 9 & 10

This week, departments have been reviewing Year 9 and 10 attainment and progress in preparation for the reports that will be distributed next week. These will be their first school reports of the academic year. These will include information on their progress and attitude to learning across all 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.

## Screens

All the new screens will have been erected in rooms by the end of next week! A truly transformative move to enhance the pupils' learning experiences!

## Salisbury Library

Salisbury Library are thrilled to announce that they have successfully relaunched their teen book group! The group have named it the 'Book Nook Reading Group'. The reading group encourages teens to read for pleasure. This helps them develop emotional literacy as well as the group being a social opportunity to meet people from different schools and year groups.

### Salisbury Library's 'Book Nook' Teen Reading Group

Meets every 4 weeks, Saturdays, 3:15-3:45pm.

Ask at the library or check social media for the next meeting date



All secondary school age children welcome!

No specific reading required for the first meeting you come to (or at all really!).

Join us for book talk and games. A great way to meet new people! All welcome, from school Years 7 to Year 11.

For more information, ask at the library or email [libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk)

**Hope to see you there!**



## Pastoral Support

### Finding Calm in the Christmas Rush

The festive season sparkles with joy, but it can also feel overwhelming - packed schedules, financial pressures, and the expectation to make everything perfect. It's okay to pause. Give yourself permission to slow down, sip a warm drink, and enjoy the twinkle of the lights. Focus on what truly matters. Laughter, connection, and moments of gratitude. Remember, the best gift you can give yourself and others is peace of mind.

### Top Tips for a Stress-Free Christmas:

- 🎄 **Plan ahead** – Make a simple list and prioritize what really matters.
- 🎄 **Set realistic expectations** – It doesn't have to be perfect to be special.
- 🎄 **Take breaks** – Step outside, breathe deeply, or enjoy a quiet moment.
- 🎄 **Stay connected** – Share how you feel with friends or family.
- 🎄 **Practice gratitude** – Focus on small joys like festive lights or a cozy evening.

This Christmas, let's embrace simplicity, kindness, and a little extra joy, because the magic of the season is found in the small, meaningful moments.

## Safeguarding Update

We understand that the festive season can bring added pressures for families. For some, this time of year may be particularly challenging, and we want to remind you that support is available.

If you have any safeguarding concerns during the Christmas break, please use the following contacts:

- **School Safeguarding Email:** [safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk)
- **Integrated Front Door:** 0300 456 0108
- **Out of Hours Service:** 0300 456 0100
- **Emergency:** Contact the Police on 999

Your child's safety and wellbeing remain our priority. If you are worried about a child, please do not hesitate to reach out using the details above.

## Careers Update

We're looking at history and heritage in this week's Careers Newsletter! Included:

- Upcoming talks on museum culture, representation, how history shaped familiar traditions we know today, and more
- World Human Rights Day and how you can get involved
- Lots of tips and advice on starting university, finances, apprenticeships and more

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

