

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

From the Headmaster's Study

2 Corinthians 5:7: "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

It has been lovely to welcome the pupils back after the holiday break, and wonderful to see so many happy faces around the school. The energy and enthusiasm in the corridors this week have been inspiring.

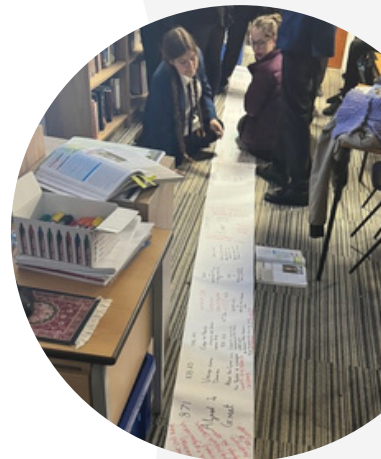
During assembly, I spoke about the importance of setting small, achievable goals for the new year. These small goals enable momentum to be created across the School, helping us all to move forward with confidence. Progress happens step by step, and by focusing on realistic targets, we avoid the frustration of aiming for unachievable goals that often fail to be delivered. Let's make this term one of steady growth and success.

This week, we also celebrated Epiphany, a time to reflect and seek guidance for the term ahead. Epiphany reminds us of the journey of the Magi, who followed the star in faith without seeing the full picture. In the same spirit, let us remember the words: "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." – Martin Luther King Jr. May this inspire us to take those small steps toward our goals, trusting that each one brings us closer to where we are meant to be.

It's a busy week ahead for Year 11, with their Mock Examinations looming. We wish them focus and confidence during this important time. A special well done to the pupils who completed their Food and Nutrition NEA today—your creativity and skill were impressive. Truly, we have some future chefs in the making!

Let's continue to support one another and make this term a successful and fulfilling one.

Have a lovely weekend.



Key Dates: Spring Term 1

JANUARY

12th (week of) – Year 11 Mock Exams; Year 9 Academic Review Week pupil meetings

21st – Year 10 Appren-T-Fest trip

22nd – RSE Parent Information Evening, 5:30pm

26th (week of) – GCSE options booklet published

30th – Science Live Trip – Year 10 & 11

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

FEBRUARY

10th and 11th – Year 10 Synagogue Trip

12th – Options Evening Market Place (Year 9), 5:30pm

In School This Week

MONDAY 12th JANUARY

- Year 11 Mock Exams Begin
 - AM – Biology, PM – English Literature
- AM Formtime – Salisbury Schools' Book Awards book club launch, room 9

TUESDAY 13th JANUARY

- Year 11 Mock Exams:
 - AM – Maths, PM – Physics
- Year 9 Academic Review Week – 9F

WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY

- Year 11 Mock Exams:
 - AM – Option B subjects, PM – Option C subjects
- Year 9 Academic Review Week – 9M
- School nurse drop-ins

THURSDAY 15th JANUARY

- Year 11 Mock Exams:
 - AM – Option D subjects, PM – English Literature
- Year 9 Academic Review Week – 9V
- AM Formtime & into P1 – Pupil Parliament
- Chaplaincy Team to St Osmund's

FRIDAY 16th JANUARY

- Year 11 Mock Exams:
 - AM – RE, PM – Option A subjects
- Year 9 Academic Review Week – 9T



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 begin this New Year together, I hope that all our families enjoyed a restful and joyful Christmas break. We celebrate that Christ, born among us, is a true blessing for each of our families and for our school community. As we move forward into this term, I very much look forward to continuing to work with our pupils to enrich their spiritual well-being and to strengthen our shared commitment to service within the wider community.

Our chaplaincy work continues to grow and flourish. Next week, we will be continuing our visits to St Osmund's Primary School with our chaplaincy group, while also bringing to a close the work undertaken by the previous group who visited both Exeter House and St Osmund's. These visits have provided meaningful opportunities for our pupils to live out their faith through presence, kindness, and service. We are now preparing to welcome and set up a new part of our current chaplaincy group who will begin soon visiting St Osmund's and Exeter House, and we are also exploring the possibility of extending this outreach to Milford House nursing home in the near future.

Our chaplaincy team will carry on meeting on Tuesday at lunchtime in the chapel and we'll see Fr Anthony as our Parish priest joining us during most of the gatherings. Next week's meeting will focus on discussing the way forward for the term ahead, including how we will organise and alternate pupil groups for these visits. It is always encouraging to see pupils take an active role in shaping our chaplaincy outreach, and their enthusiasm continues to be a great source of hope and inspiration to us all.

This week, we were greatly uplifted by the wonderful and inspirational assemblies delivered by the Headmaster to all year groups.

He warmly welcomed everyone back and shared a clear and hopeful vision for the year ahead, rooted in our identity as a Catholic school. His message reminded us of our shared aspiration to grow strong in faith and in care for one another, placing Christ at the centre of all that we do.

We are also deeply grateful for the generosity of a Catholic church in Gillingham which has recently been decommissioned following its move to a new place of worship. Through their kindness, we have been offered a number of beautiful artefacts for use within our school. These include church benches, which will be delivered later this month and placed around the school to provide additional seating for pupils. In time, it is our hope that these benches will also find a permanent home in our chapel, as we continue to shape it as a sacred space available for pupils to pray, reflect, visit, and spend time together.

We have also been truly blessed to receive an altar, a lectern, and prayer books from this church, all of which are already being used to support our prayer life and worship within the school. We are immensely thankful for these gifts, which will continue to enrich our chaplaincy provision for years to come.

As we move forward, our chaplaincy work remains grounded in service, prayer, and community. As Scripture reminds us, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). May this inspire us all to continue serving with generosity, faith, and compassion.

With every blessing to you all.



Academic Matters

Year 11 Mock Exams Week

Next week sees the arrival of the Year 11 mock week – timetable 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: sjcs.org.uk/resources

A few ways to revise:

- **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 (Biology) 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:

- **Monday 12th January** – Mock Exam Week in the hall
- **Week Commencing 9th February** – Mock Results Report home (pupils will receive their results as and when the papers are marked but we will collate this information and send it to you so that you as parents have the grades all on one page).

Set Changes in January

This week, some pupils began the new year in new sets. This is part of our annual review process where we carefully consider the learning environment for all pupils. After reviewing classroom dynamics and individual progress, we made some adjustments to teaching sets to ensure that every child is placed in the most suitable environment for their learning and development.

These changes are designed to support every child’s academic progress and wellbeing by creating balanced groups where they can thrive. Please be assured that these decisions are based on a holistic view of classroom interactions, learning styles, and the aim to provide the best possible educational experience.

Year 9 Academic Review Week

Next week, we are introducing a new initiative - the 'Academic Review Week'.

What is this?

Each child in the year group having a 10-minute one-to-one meeting held by Form Tutor, HOY, SENCO, SLT to discuss recent reports sent home, school involvement and target setting.

This will happen for all Year groups across the academic year:

- Year 9: Week commencing 12th Jan - this will lead well into the launch of Options this term
- Year 11: Week commencing 23rd Feb - after their mock results are collated
- Year 7: Week commencing 2nd March – one week after AP1 reports sent home
- Year 8: Week commencing 9th March – two weeks after AP1 reports sent home
- Year 10: Week commencing 13th April – leading into their summer mocks

Rationale

- Opportunity to build relationships and have one-to-one sessions with each pupil based on their school attainment and experiences
- Opportunities to discuss academic achievement and progress and set targets for the year ahead
- Opportunity for pupil voice and exploring what works / what doesn't work for individual pupils – an opportunity to gain awareness of barriers to learning and also extra-curricular activities

The Desired Impact

- We are confident that as a result of these meetings:
- Pupils take more ownership of their attainment, progress and involvement in school
- Form Tutors, HOY, SLT & SEN have targets they can refer to throughout the remainder of the year increasing effective relationship building based on school life
- Upturn in sense of belonging, being valued and aspiration for all pupils.

KS3 (Yr7-9) Learning Journeys & 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:

sjcs.org.uk/key-stage-3

Yr7&8 Progress Reports

Year 9&10 received their new look reports home at the end of last term. If you are a Year 7 or Year 8 parent, please rest assured that your reports will be forthcoming in February. This year we have altered our reporting structures to parents this year and rather than send all reports out in one go, they are now staggered throughout the year giving regular contact and information at appropriate times of the year.

The dates for Yr7 reporting are:

- Form Tutor Evening – 16th October
- Week commencing 23rd February - 1st reports
- 16th April – Yr7 Parents Evening
- July - 2nd reports

The dates for Yr8 reporting are:

- 20th Nov - Yr8 Parents Evening
- Week commencing 23rd February - 1st reports
- July - 2nd reports

Careers Update

Welcome back to the first Careers Newsletter of 2026! There's a whole range of opportunities in this edition, including:

- A talk for students about business and entrepreneurship
- An inside look at the fast-paced world of broadcast journalism
- Everything you need to know about doing a degree in Interior Design
- Information about university finances, giving you clarity and confidence about the financial side of university life
- Get ready for National Apprenticeships Week!
- ...and more!

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





Pastoral & Safeguarding Update

Welcome back after the Christmas break! As we begin the new term, we want to remind all parents and carers of our ongoing commitment to keeping every child safe and supported.

- **Open Communication:** If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or safety, please speak to a member of staff or contact our Safeguarding Team – safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk
- **Online Safety:** Many children receive new devices over the holidays. Please check privacy settings, monitor usage, and talk to your child about staying safe online.
- **Attendance & Punctuality:** Regular attendance is vital for learning and wellbeing. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please inform the school promptly.
- **Mental Health Support:** Returning after a break can be challenging. If your child is feeling anxious or struggling, let us know so we can provide support.

Our safeguarding policy is available on the school website for your reference. Thank you for working with us to ensure a safe and positive start to the term.

UNIFORM

The school believes that a high standard of appearance and presentation enhances the dignity of the individual and raises self-esteem. To that end, school uniform should be worn properly to and from school and throughout the school day.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS ON UNIFORM CAN RESULT IN SANCTION. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

TROUSERS - Black or dark grey. Tailored. No jeans, leggings, corduroys, or casual trousers. May be supported by a dark, narrow, unbranded belt.
SKIRTS - Black. Must be pleated. No tube skirts. Knee high.
SHORTS - Black. Smart, tailored (no cargo or sports shorts).
SHIRT - Plain white. Full button and collar.
BLAZER - Blue blazer with school logo.
TIE - House Tie - Red, Blue, Green or Yellow.
SOCKS/TIGHTS - Socks, short (ankle/trainer). Black, navy blue, or white. Or plain natural/black tights.
SHOES - Black. Shoes must be completely black (including the soles) with no logos, laces, or trims of a different colour. No sports trainers. No foam soles. No visible "air bubbles". Leather or canvas.

APPEARANCE EXPECTATIONS

HAIRSTYLE - Students whose hairstyle is reasonably deemed offensive, of a non-natural colour, or in any other way disruptive to learning, will be asked to modify that hairstyle, and could be asked to remain in Inclusion until such time as the hair has grown back sufficiently, or the style has grown out.
MAKEUP - Tidy, natural look, minimal make up.
NAILS - Nails should be of a natural look, colour and length. We will ask for nail varnish or false nails to be removed.
JEWELLERY - A watch and, if desired one band (charity) that can be removed for PE. All other jewellery must be removed when in school uniform. All jewellery must be removed for PE. Incidents of theft are rare at SJCS but we do ask, to aid us in minimising this, that students do not bring items of value to school.
PIERCINGS - One earring per ear, which should be a stud for safety reasons, and be in the lower lobe. All piercings must be removed for PE. No facial or body piercings at all.

PE KIT EXPECTATIONS

TOP - School polo shirt - house colour.
SHORTS - Black sports shorts, plain with no distinctive branding (shorts must be loose fitting, mid-thigh, not tight fitting Lycra).
SKIRT - This is an optional item and must be the SJCS branded item to ensure it is appropriate.
TROUSERS / LEGGINGS - Black tracksuit bottoms or leggings, plain with no distinctive branding.
TRAINERS - Practical and suitable for sports performance.

The illustrations show various examples of school uniform. Correct items include a black pleated skirt, black shorts, a white shirt, a blue blazer, a black tie, black socks, and black shoes. Incorrect items include a black tube skirt, a black cargo short, a white t-shirt, a black blazer with a logo, a red tie, white socks, and black shoes with white laces or soles. The PE kit section shows correct items like a school polo shirt, black sports shorts, and a black tracksuit bottom, and incorrect items like a black tube skirt, a black Lycra short, and a black tracksuit bottom with a logo.