

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

## From the Headmaster's Study

**"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds" (Romans 12:2)**



Over the past week, our Year 11 pupils have completed their GCSE Mock Examinations. I would like to commend them for the grit, determination, and resilience they have shown throughout this demanding process. These mock examinations are not simply a rehearsal for the summer; they are a vital learning experience. Detailed feedback will now be given, and pupils will be placed into WIN Sessions, allowing them to benefit from bespoke revision and targeted support. With just under four months to go, it is time for a significant collective push grounded in high expectations, support, and belief in every child's potential.

A central focus at St Joseph's is ensuring that those pupils who need additional support receive it at the right time and in the right way. We are strengthening our commitment to intervention during the school day, ensuring learning needs are met alongside our adaptive teaching strategies in the classroom. Over the Easter term, we will continue building additional provision, with further structures ready to be implemented in the summer term. This approach reflects our belief that no child should be left behind and that excellence is achieved through equity.

Last night, I had the privilege of learning more deeply about the teachings and values of St John Henry Newman, whose philosophy of education remains profoundly relevant today. Newman believed that education was not merely about training for a career or achieving examination results, but about the formation of the whole person—intellectually, morally, spiritually, and socially. He spoke powerfully about the development of conscience and the importance of nurturing young people to become thoughtful, virtuous, and responsible members of society. For Newman, true education enlarges the mind, deepens character, and prepares the individual not only for work, but for life.

This vision aligns closely with the very origins of education. The Greek word *paideia* from which much of our understanding of education originates means far more than instruction or training. It speaks of drawing out the best within a person, cultivating wisdom, virtue, and excellence. Education, in this sense, is transformational. It is about shaping hearts and minds, not simply filling them with information.

At St Joseph's, this is exactly the role we strive to fulfil. As Catholic educators, we do not educate for results alone; we educate for human flourishing. Our mission is rooted in the Gospel and in our belief that every child is created in the image and likeness of God, endowed with gifts waiting to be nurtured.



## 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 Next Week

### MONDAY 19th JANUARY

- AM Formtime – Salisbury Schools' Book Awards book club launch, room 9
- AM Formtime – Reading Age Tests – 7F (Rm28), 7M (Rm30)

### TUESDAY 20th JANUARY

- Year 9&10 Assembly – Academic
- AM Formtime – Reading Age Tests – 7T (Rm28), 7V (Rm30)
- KS4 table tennis competition
- Fixture: Year 9 basketball @ Harrow Way

### WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY

- Year 7&8 Assembly – Academic
- AM Formtime – Reading Age Tests – 8F (Rm28), 8M (Rm30)
- School nurse drop-ins
- Yr10 Appren-T-Fest - 11.10am – 1.45pm
- Kurling competition @ WSE

### THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY

- Year 11 Assembly
- AM Formtime – Reading Age Tests – 8T (Rm28), 8V (Rm30)

## Have Your Say on Next Year's Term Dates

Wiltshire Council invite all parents, carers and school staff to have their say on the autumn half term dates for the next school year (2027/28). Your perspective allows them to make informed decisions that work best for everyone.

If you'd like to share your views, please complete the form below by the deadline of **Friday 6th February 2026**.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

## 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

### FRIDAY 23rd JANUARY

- AM Formtime – Reading Age Tests – 9F (Rm28), 9M (Rm30)
- P1&2 – Year 11 Food NEA (Rm29)
- Chaplaincy Team to Exeter House
- Year 11 Enrichment: Drugs Education and Awareness session



## 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)



## Chaplain's Report

I am delighted to share with you an update on the life and work of our Chaplaincy Team here at Saint Joseph's. It has been a joyful and faith-filled week, full of reflection, collaboration, outreach, and a renewed sense of community spirit.

On Tuesday, we gathered for our Chaplaincy meeting, welcoming those who were able to attend. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly as we shared chocolate chip muffins, reminding us that community is often built in the small, simple moments. We reflected on the successes of last term, particularly from September to December, and celebrated the wonderful Christmas Carol Service, which was such a meaningful experience for everyone involved. Our chaplains spoke fondly of their time working with Exeter House and St Osmund's, recognising the joy that came from serving others.

As part of our discussion, we also looked ahead and set ourselves new challenges. The chaplains expressed great enthusiasm about expanding our outreach work and are keen to begin visiting Milford House in Laverstock. I will shortly be attending the nursing home myself to support and assist with this outreach, and we are hopeful that this will become a regular part of our chaplaincy mission. During the meeting, Riley kindly volunteered to write a letter to Milford House to ask whether they would be willing to welcome our chaplains into their residence. Our aim is simple yet powerful: to listen to residents' stories, spend time with them, and help them feel valued, remembered, and loved by the wider Laverstock community we all share.

We also discussed an upcoming changeover in our chaplaincy groupings. Those chaplains who previously worked with Exeter House will soon begin supporting St Osmund's and Milford House, and those from St Osmund's will move into new roles. This change offers further opportunities for growth, responsibility, and service.

I am also pleased to report on a very successful visit to St. Osmund's on Thursday morning. Although some chaplains were unfortunately unable to attend, four chaplains represented St Joseph's with maturity and enthusiasm. This visit focused on working alongside the young chaplains from St Osmund's. We began with prayer, which I led as the St Joseph's school chaplain, before organising and planning a Liturgy of the Word together. Drawing on the Gospel reading of the day from Mark, the chaplains also began preparing for their upcoming Lent liturgies. Several chaplains volunteered to take responsibility for different elements, and I was particularly encouraged by Edward's eagerness to prepare the PowerPoint and assembly for Lent, linking the Gospel story of Jesus healing the lepers with our Lenten journey of compassion, healing, and renewal.

Next week, our chaplains are busily preparing for a Chaplaincy Cake Sale on Friday. They are very keen to invite parents and carers to support this by donating cakes. If you are able to bake or send in cakes, please leave them at reception throughout the week, ready for the sale. All proceeds will go towards our chosen charities, with a particular focus on CAFOD and Salisbury Food Bank.

We hope to make this a regular and joyful tradition within our school community. I will also be contributing by baking a marble cake – a traditional Austrian-Slovakian recipe that I often share with pupils during enrichment – to help us celebrate "Happy Cake Day" on Fridays.

We warmly encourage all parents to get involved if they can. Happy baking, and thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Together, through these simple acts, we are teaching our young people the power of kindness, service, and charity.

Please continue to keep our chaplains and their outreach work in your prayers.



## Academic Matters

### Year 11 Mock Exams Week

Well done to Year 11 for completing an intense week of mock examinations! It has been a busy week, but hopefully one where you have felt challenged and risen to the task in hand! They have certainly taken the mocks in their stride and shown great maturity and conscientiousness – well done!

Teachers are now diligently marking through the mock exams and will give pupils their grades back as soon as the papers are marked. They will also go through the exams and feedback on how improvements can be made for the real and final exams in the summer.

#### Important Dates coming up:

- **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).

### Year 9 Academic Review Week

The Academic Review Week for Year 9 was a great success! Each child has had a one-to-one meeting with their form tutor/head of year/SENCO or member of SLT discussing their achievement, their merits and attitude to learning and also their extra-curricular involvement. The pupils feedback has been really positive and we are confident that these meetings will help the children feel listened to, valued and that they belong!

We're really looking forward to holding these with Yr11 in February!

### Academic Assemblies

Next week, I will be holding academic assemblies discussing the importance of guided practise and independent practise for the children in their lessons. We strongly believe that if pupils understand why certain strategies and techniques are used in lessons, it will hugely help their learning and, ultimately, their outcomes!

Stay up to date on social media



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



## 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](https://sjcs.org.uk/key-stage-3)

## Year 7 & 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 Year 7 reporting are:

- 16<sup>th</sup> October – Form Tutor Evening
- Week commencing 23rd February - first reports
- 16th April – Yr7 Parents Evening
- July - 2nd reports

### The dates for Year 8 reporting are:

- 20th Nov - Year 8 Parents Evening
- Week commencing 23rd February - first reports
- July - 2nd reports

## Careers Newsletter

In this week's Careers Newsletter, there's all of this and lots more...

- Find links to post-16 open days at Sparsholt, Andover and Wiltshire College
- Learn about various apprenticeship opportunities in various industries
- Learn how to plan your career effectively, including how to set career goals and make confident decisions about your future

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

**Note:** We apologise that in last week's bulletin, we included the wrong newsletter link. Please [click here to catch up](#) on last week's Careers Newsletter!



## Pastoral Update

### Supporting Children Through Bereavement

Over recent weeks, we've been aware that some of our children are experiencing loss within their families and wider circles. Bereavement can be confusing and overwhelming for young people, and they often need reassurance, patience, and space to express their feelings in their own way.

At school, we are committed to walking alongside every child who may be struggling. Our pastoral team is available to listen, offer quiet time, or simply be a steady presence when emotions feel big or uncertain. If your child has been affected by a recent loss, or if you feel they may need a little extra support, please do let us know so we can care for them well.

You may find it helpful to keep routines steady, offer opportunities for open conversation, and remind children that a wide range of feelings is completely normal. Grief takes time, and your continued partnership helps us ensure each child feels safe, understood, and held in a compassionate community.

Please do reach out to your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year, if we can support you or your family in any way.

## Safeguarding Update

### Supporting Children Showing Risky or Concerning Behaviours Linked to Bereavement

As part of our ongoing support for children coping with bereavement or significant change, we want to share some guidance on how we work to keep every child safe, particularly when big emotions start to influence behaviour.

Grief can be confusing and overwhelming for young people. While many children express their feelings openly, others may show their distress through changes in behaviour. These responses are often a child's way of coping, but sometimes they can involve risks that need extra support.

### Signs to Watch For at Home

You may notice some of the following changes if your child is struggling with grief or emotional overwhelm:

#### Emotional changes

- Increased sadness, anxiety, or fear
- Sudden anger or emotional outbursts
- Seeming numb, detached, or "shut down"

## Safeguarding Update (continued)

### Behavioural signs

- Withdrawing from family, friends, or usual activities
- Taking risks they would not normally take (running away, unsafe online activity, rule-breaking)
- Difficulty sleeping, nightmares, or changes in appetite
- Increased clinginess or separation anxiety
- Struggling to concentrate or complete schoolwork
- Becoming unusually quiet or unusually disruptive

### Physical or wellbeing indicators

- Complaints of headaches or tummy aches with no clear cause
- Self-neglect (poor hygiene, refusing meals, or lack of interest in self-care)
- Statements that suggest hopelessness or feeling overwhelmed

If you notice any of these signs, especially if they appear suddenly or continue over time, it may be an indication that your child needs a little extra support.

### How We Support Children in School

Our pastoral and safeguarding teams work together to ensure that children who are struggling are never left to cope alone. In school we may offer:

- Regular check-ins with a trusted adult
- A quiet or safe space during overwhelming moments
- Small-group or one-to-one emotional support
- Help with routines and stability during the school day

### When We Seek Additional Help

Sometimes a child's wellbeing may require more specialist input. In partnership with parents and carers, we may involve external professionals such as:

- Bereavement support charities
- Educational or child psychologists
- Mental health services
- Social care, if a child's safety or welfare requires closer support

Any decisions to involve outside agencies are made sensitively and always with the child's best interests at the centre.

### We're Here to Work With You

If you have noticed changes in your child's behaviour, or if you're worried about how they are coping following a loss or significant life event, please reach out. Together, we can ensure every child feels safe, understood, and supported with compassion. Please contact [safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk).



Sometimes we all need help.  
The sooner we start finding that help,  
the better the outcome...

# PASTORAL

[safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk)

## TEAM



**Mr McGuinness**

**Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)**

My role is to look after the whole Pastoral Team, with a key focus on all things Safeguarding.

I can normally be found in the office to the left of Room 19.

My email is [kmc@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:kmc@sjcs.org.uk)



**Mrs Maher**

**SENCO**

My role is to support anyone with any additional learning needs.

I can normally be found in ground floor of the Isidor building.

My email is [senco@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:senco@sjcs.org.uk)



**Mrs Nobis**

**Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion)**

My role is to make sure that all of you are able to access all of the learning opportunities in school.

I can normally be found in the office to the right of Room 20.

My email is [fno@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:fno@sjcs.org.uk)



**Miss Brignall**

**Mental Health Lead**

My role is to look after your Mental Health and Wellbeing.

I can normally be found in the office to the right of Room 19.

My email is [dbn@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:dbn@sjcs.org.uk)



**Mrs Rose**

**Strategic Safeguarding Lead**

My role is to look after Safeguarding, making sure you are all safe

I can normally be found in the office to the right of Room 19.

My email is [lro@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:lro@sjcs.org.uk)



**Miss Smith**

**Pastoral Support**

My role is to support anyone struggling to attend lessons, and give them to help they need to attend.

I can normally be found in The Bridge (Room 19).

My email is [rsm@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:rsm@sjcs.org.uk)



**Miss Sheeley**

**Head of Year 7**

[hsh@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:hsh@sjcs.org.uk)



**Mr Brown**

**Head of Year 8**

[nbr@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:nbr@sjcs.org.uk)



**Mrs Hambly**

**Head of Year 9**

[cha@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:cha@sjcs.org.uk)



**Miss Snook**

**Head of Year 10**

[jrn@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:jrn@sjcs.org.uk)



**Mrs Webb**

**Head of Year 11**

[cwr@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:cwr@sjcs.org.uk)

Our role is to look after ALL of you, and make sure you are looked after, feel safe, and able to do your best

We can normally be found in the Head of Year office next to ReSet



**Mr Ramage**

**Behaviour Co-ordinator**

My role is to support you if you find yourself struggling with your conduct.

I can normally be found in ReSet (Next to Room 20).

My email is [mra@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:mra@sjcs.org.uk)



**Mr Bennett**

**Attendance Officer**

My role is to support you in keeping your attendance fantastic.

I can normally be found in the office to the right of Room 19.

My email is [attendance@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:attendance@sjcs.org.uk)



**Mrs Younger**

**Behaviour Support**

My role is to help you in you're finding being in your lessons a challenge.

I can normally be found in ReSet (Next to Room 20).

My email is [syo@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:syo@sjcs.org.uk)



Saint Joseph's  
Catholic School

**HELP, SUPPORT  
& GUIDANCE**