

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

Parents/Carers Notices Week 2

From the Headmaster's Study

As we begin this new academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic start made by every pupil and staff member. The energy, ambition, and commitment across our school community have been truly inspiring. We are a school moving forward with great momentum, and I am proud of the purposeful atmosphere that fills our classrooms and corridors.



One of the most meaningful experiences so far has been our recent pilgrimage to Glastonbury. This was far more than a school trip—it was a spiritual journey. Pupils walked in the footsteps of countless pilgrims before them, taking time to reflect, connect with their faith, and grow in understanding. These moments are vital in shaping not just academic success, but character, compassion, and resilience.

It was also wonderful to see so many of you at our Information Evening this week. Your presence sends a powerful message to your children: that their education matters and that we are united in supporting them. For those who were unable to attend, I must say kindly but firmly that your engagement is essential. We understand that life is busy, but your involvement makes a real and lasting difference. Moving forward, we ask that you prioritise these opportunities to connect with us and with your child's journey.

To support those who couldn't attend, we've shared the presentation materials at the link below. Please take time to review them and reach out if you have any questions.

<https://sjcs.org.uk/achieving-excellence-evenings/>

As we continue to build a strong partnership between school and home, I am reminded of the wisdom found in Proverbs:

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
— *Proverbs 22:6*

This verse beautifully ties together the themes of spiritual growth, parental guidance, and long-term success.

Have a lovely weekend.

St. Joseph's Students Join Diocesan Pilgrimage to Glastonbury

On Sunday 7th September, six of our students, accompanied by Deacon Steve Godwin and Mrs. Dee Parsons from the Teaching Assistant Department had the wonderful opportunity to take part in the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Glastonbury. Together with Mr. Blaho-Schlogl, we embarked on this special journey of faith, leaving school at 9:30 a.m. and Deacon Steve led us in our prayer of Rosary with number of intentions, some for our school and some for those who are in most need of our prayers, especially those who we pray to get well soon like Mr Kellie who is in our prayers every day.

Our day began with a visit to the Church of St. Mary in Glastonbury, where we spent time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and proceeded to venerate Mary after the Adoration. This was a deeply moving and reflective moment for our pupils, allowing them to connect personally with the heart of the pilgrimage.

At 3:00 p.m. we joined Bishop Bosco and pilgrims from across the diocese for the celebration of Holy Mass. It was an uplifting experience to be part of such a large gathering of the faithful, united in prayer and worship.

Before making our way back to Salisbury, we enjoyed a brief stop at KFC for a well-deserved meal, which gave everyone a chance to relax and share their thoughts about the day. We returned to St. Joseph's in the evening, tired but grateful for such a meaningful experience.

This pilgrimage was a truly memorable occasion for all involved, and we hope that next year we will be able to take even more pupils – perhaps filling one, or even two, minibuses – to share in this wonderful event.

We are proud of our students for the prayerful and respectful way they represented St. Joseph's on this pilgrimage, and we thank the staff and parents who supported their children and allowed them to spend a day away from home.

With many God's blessings,
Otto Blaho-Schlogl
School Chaplain



Funding for the 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>

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Weekly Calendar

Assemblies: Mr Rooney – Academic Developments

Monday 15th September	
Tuesday 16th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 9 &10 Assembly• Lunch: Yr9-11 Basketball club (Hall), Yr7&8 Rugby (Field), KS3 History Club (Rm4)• After School: Street & Break Dance Club (Hall), Yr8 Football (Field), Yr9 Football (Field), Yr9-11 Girls Rugby (Field)
Wednesday 17th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole School Photo• Year 7&8 Assembly• School nurse drop-ins• Lunch: Yr7-11 Cricket Club (Hall), Yr7&8 Girls Rugby (Field), Environmental and Gardening Club for all year groups (Rm8)• After School: Yr 7&8 Netball (Courts), Yr7 Football (Field), Yr10 Football (Field)
Thursday 18th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 11 Assembly• Lunch: Yr9-11 Rugby (Field), Vocal Ensemble (Rm27)• After School: Yr9-11 Netball (Courts), Warhammer/Painting/Modelling Club (Rm27)
Friday 19th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yr11 Assembly – Peter Symonds College Visit• Lunch: House Comp and Yr11 Football (Field), Anime Club (Rm9)• After School: Yr7-9 Girls' Football

Key Dates

Date	Event	Timing & Additional Information
Wednesday 17th September	Whole School Photograph	
Thursday 25th September	Open Events for Prospective Families	Morning: 9:30am–12:30pm Evening: 5:30pm–7:30pm
Friday 26th September	International Day	Non-Uniform Day
Thursday 2nd October	Careers & Progression Fair	12.40-3.30 student's yr8 – yr11 5.00-6.30pm - all SJCS Parents & Students
Thursday 9th October	Open Events for Prospective Families	Morning: 9:30am–12:30pm Evening: 5:30pm–7:30pm
Thursday 16th October	Year 7 Form Tutor Evening (Online)	4:30pm–7:00pm – Discussing transition and settling in
Friday 17th October	Year 7 House Party	Period 5 – Celebrating their first half term


Academic Matters

Year 11 Updates

I would like to express a huge thank you to all Year 11 families who attended the mock results reveal sessions last week – it was fabulous to see so many of you and to start the year on such a positive setting. As mentioned during the evening, the results are not the final results, and they are very much a starting point showing all of us what is needed for the year ahead.

We have been busily collating all the information regarding the dropping of subjects and WIN sessions and today your child was given a letter detailing which (if any) subjects have been dropped and which WIN sessions your child has been selected for. The children were also given a physical copy of the WIN programme so that they (and you) can see when the sessions are happening.

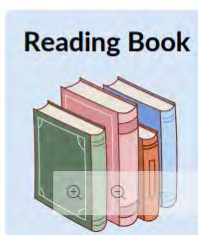
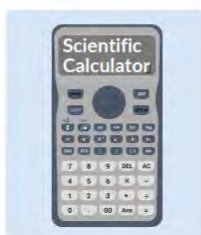
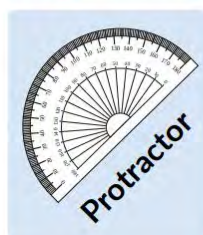
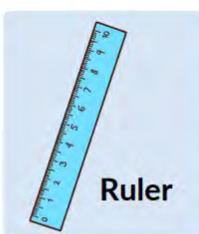
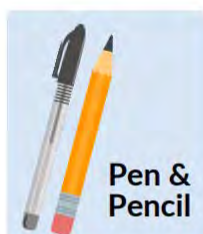
As mentioned during the evening, the WIN sessions are 30-minute sessions focused on retrieval of key information and exam technique. They will prove incredibly valuable for helping the children grow in confidence with the different subject area and with tackling exams.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	GCSE PE	Maths (Foundation)		History	
After - School	RE (OBL) French	English Lit & Lang Food tech Combined Science Separate Science	English Lit & Lang Sociology Music Combined Science Further Maths	BTEC Creative Media (+ GCSE Comp Sci) History Combined Science RE (DIN and RRO) Spanish Maths (Higher)	

Equipment

I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of our approach to equipment and ensuring the children are ready to learn. Pupils are expected to have the correct equipment as outlined in the visual below.

However, we know that from time-to-time pens run out or a child may simply forget their equipment. On these occasions, for this not to create any disruptions or to slow the learning down, we have decided to put an equipment pack on each desk. This includes the basic equipment needed and also mini whiteboards and whiteboard pens. Having all equipment to hand really helps with the pace of the lesson and ensures that everyone can be ready to learn in every single lesson.



Assessment & Feedback and Home Learning

Following the Parent Information Evenings this week, you'll know that our big focus for this academic year is assessment and feedback. We are placing much more emphasis on feeding back to the pupils regularly to help them to improve their understanding and their work – this will take the form of verbal feedback in lessons and written feedback on selected pieces of work. As shared during the information evenings, you will see a lot more purple pen work in your child's books this year – when a child uses purple pen, it is in response to feedback they have received and is evidence of their improvements made.

During the Information Evenings, we also mentioned that we will only set Home Learning when it adds value. It will not be set for the sake of setting it! Each week, on a Wednesday, pupils in all year groups will be set Sparx Reader, Sparx Maths and Sparx Science tasks for their home learning – these will be due in on the following Tuesday. All other subjects will set home learning in accordance to the subjects' needs – that may be consolidation of learning, research for upcoming learning or applying information in exam style questions or even extended projects. All of these tasks will be set via Class Charts.

We will be awarded merits for completion of home learning to an excellent standard which will build up pupils' currency for the reward store and enable them to buy rewards and use them towards rewards trips. We will also be giving demerits if home learning is not completed to the expected standard and this will take away the rewards points and thus the ability to buy rewards. It really is important to engage well with the home learning that is set – not only will it help your child's progress, it will also impact on their rewards!

Curriculum Visibility

Many subject pages have their Learning Journeys and Curriculum Checklists visible on the subject pages of the website. <https://sjcs.org.uk/curriculum/>

We have reviewed many aspects of the curriculum and have updated the aforementioned documents accordingly. We will be publishing our complete Learning Journeys and learning checklists and Key Terms lists for each subject area on our website in the next fortnight. We will update you when they are ready for viewing.

Safeguarding Update

Welcome Back

Welcome back! As we begin the new school year, we want to reassure parents and carers of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding every student at SJCS.

Meet the Safeguarding Team:

- Mr McGuinness – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Mrs Rose – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Miss Brignall – Deputy DSL, Mental Health Lead & Pastoral Manager

Our team is here to support students with any concerns they may have, whether related to safety, wellbeing, or mental health.

Support & Resources:

Students will receive updated guidance on online safety and security throughout the year. Parents can access a range of support materials and guidance on our Early Help, Mental Health and wellbeing, Online safety pages via the school website: <https://sjcs.org.uk/>

Keeping Our School Safe:

All visitors must report to reception and wear a visible ID badge.

- Students are reminded not to open external doors for anyone.
- Our pastoral and safeguarding teams are available throughout the school day for any student needing support.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school directly: safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk

Pastoral Support

It was wonderful to see so many of you at this week's Information Evenings, I hope they proved useful and gave you some insight into the support available.

During the sessions, a number of aspects related to the school's expectations were shared, and I mentioned they would be shared with all. Below you will find two guides related to Attendance, and Early Help.

If you require any further information, or have any questions, please do contact your child's tutor as first point of call.

UNIFORM



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

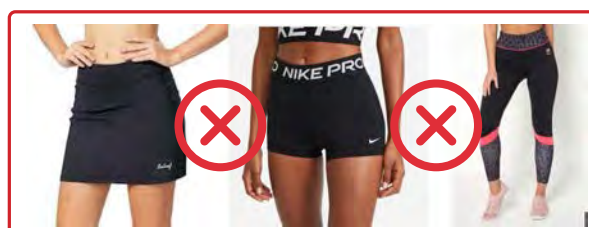
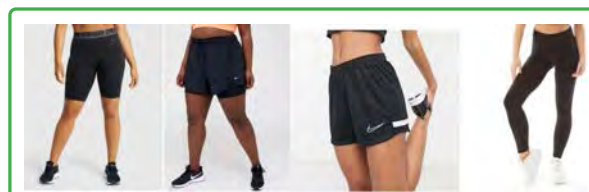
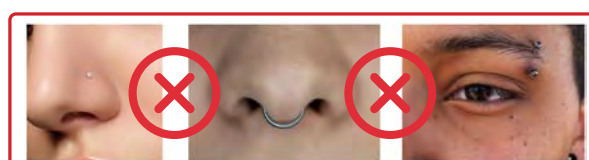
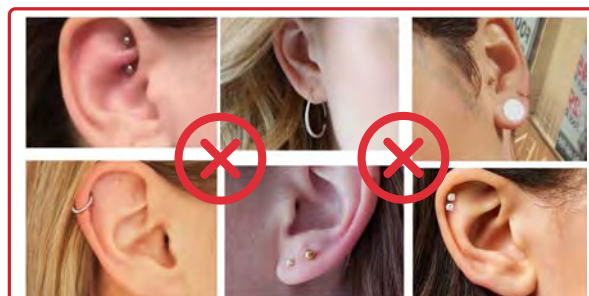
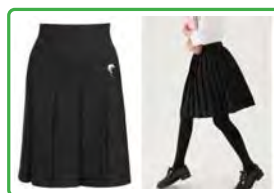
TOP - School polo shirt - house colour.

SHORTS - Black sports shorts, plain with no distinctive branding (shorts must be loose fitting, mid-thigh, not tight fitting Lycra).

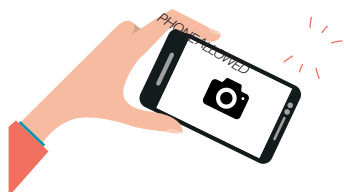
SKORT - This is an optional item and must be the SJCS branded item to ensure it is appropriate.

TROUSERS / LEGGINGS - Black tracksuit bottoms or leggings, plain with no distinctive branding.

TRAINERS - Practical and suitable for sports performance.



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



EARLY

SAFEGUARDING@SJCS.ORG.UK

HELP

MENTAL HEALTH & STRESS

YOUNG MINDS

 Mental Health Support

KOOTH

 Online Counselling

MIND

 Exam Stress

GIVE US A SHOUT

 Mental Health Support

SELF HARM

YOUNG MINDS

 Self Harm Support

BARNADOS

 Self Harm Advice

HARMLESS

 Self Harm Guidance

HEALTH & WELLBEING

NHS

 Health for Teens

TEEN HEALTH

 All Things Body & Health

SMOKE FREE TEEN

 Quit Vaping or Smoking

CRIME & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

FEARLESS

 Support with Crime

THE MIX

 Crime and Safety

ESCAPELINE

 Support to Escape Exploitation

BULLYING & RELATIONSHIPS

CHILDLINE

 Bullying and Abuse

THE MIX

 Relationships and Friendships

EXPLOITATION & ABUSE

NSPCC

 Child Exploitation & Abuse

CHILDLINE

 Exploitation & Grooming




**HELP, SUPPORT
& GUIDANCE**



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

 [Listen to this newsletter](#)

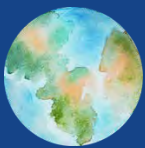
OPPORTUNITIES



Now in its 22nd year, Recycle Week is Recycle Now's flagship annual event. A celebration of recycling across the nation, galvanising the public to recycling more of the right things, more often. Continuing last year's campaign theme, 'Rescue Me! Recycle', Recycle Week 2025 will run from 22 to 28 September, [watch this space for more information coming soon](#).



National Parks throughout the United Kingdom are inspiring future generations to embrace incredible landscapes and connect with nature. [Green Pathways](#) - our collection of programmes and learning resources for outdoor educators and youth leaders - is designed to support accessible and inclusive opportunities for young people wherever they live. There are three Green Pathways to explore - Green Shoots, Green Beacons and Green Leaders.



Building a Greener Future: Constructing a Sustainable World with Deborah Bunce from University College Birmingham. In this experience, you'll discover how sustainable construction is essential for reducing environmental impact and protecting our planet. [Try this university course before you apply!](#)



Are you considering going to university, but are not sure how to choose the right course and university for you? The University of East Anglia webinars are live online sessions that include a short presentation, after which you can ask questions via text chat. [Free to join, click here for more](#).



On Thursday 25th September, join Dr Johanna Forster, an environmental social scientist, as she discusses "Coast to Coast - Livelihoods, Gender, Disasters, Environmental Change & Governance - A Social-Ecological Systems Approach". [Register here](#).

If you have any questions or need support, please email Miss Gale: vgl@sjcs.org.uk

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Nature Conservationist](#)

Nature conservationists manage and protect the natural environment for current and future generations by promoting sustainability, educating others and shaping policy. You will visit natural sites as part of your fieldwork. Office work includes planning, data analysis, reporting and other admin tasks. Learn more by watching the video.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) indicates in April-June 2025, people got 1.5% more work done per hour than before COVID.

This means workers are a bit more productive than before and may be working fewer hours, but getting more done in that time.

[Source](#)



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

OPPORTUNITIES



This free service from Middlesex University aims to help students write a personal statement that stands out. Get your personal statement reviewed [here](#).



The [virtual work experience programme](#) from DEFRA will introduce you to the Environment Agency in England, and its critical role in creating better places for people and wildlife and supporting sustainable development.



Check out the University Application Masterclass series from Unifrog, with top tips of applying, portfolios, personal statements and interview tips. [Watch here](#).



[Listen to the CareersBU Podcast](#) from Bournemouth Uni Careers Service. Hear from alumni, students and employers to find out about different careers, explore opportunities available to you and discover how to stand out to employers.



Working with the Environmental Agency means protecting and improving the environment for generations to come, tackling issues of national importance across a huge variety of disciplines and professions. [Learn more about their early careers offerings here](#).



The number of new 18-25-year-olds choosing to join the National Trust grew 39% in the last year, the charity's annual report has revealed. Read more about jobs at the National Trust [here](#).



Science, Why Bother? - Ecology. [Watch this video](#) from MYPATH to understand how science studies can link to the world of work.



We invite you to bring your imagination, passion, and ambition to Arcadis. Whether you're a graduate, intern, or apprentice, you'll play a crucial role in our community. Read the Early Careers brochure [here](#).

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"[Arcadis](#) is the world's leading company delivering sustainable design, engineering, and consultancy solutions for natural and built assets. We are more than 36,000 people, in over 30 countries, dedicated to improving quality of life.

At Arcadis, we see a world of new opportunities, we are committed to delivering positive change and improving quality of life through the work we do."

UNI SPOTLIGHT

Did you know, you can access lots of University subject guide videos, to learn more about what it's like to study certain subjects when you are 18years or older.

Take a look at the [Subject guide videos](#)

If you have any questions or need support,
please email Miss Gale: vgl@sjcs.org.uk