

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

Parents/Carers Notices Week 4



From the Headmaster's Study

We were delighted to welcome approximately 100 families to our recent Open Events. It was a joy to see so many prospective pupils and their families exploring our school, engaging with staff, and experiencing the vibrant community we are so proud of here at St Joseph's. The enthusiasm and curiosity shown by our visitors was truly inspiring, and we are grateful to everyone who helped make the events such a success.

This week, we also celebrated **International Languages Day**, a wonderful opportunity to recognise the rich diversity within our school. We are proud to have a community where many of our pupils speak multiple languages, and we believe that language learning is not only a valuable academic skill but also a powerful tool for building empathy, understanding, and global awareness.



Alongside this, we have been raising awareness of **Fairtrade**, helping our pupils understand the importance of ethical choices and global responsibility. These themes tie beautifully into our ethos of compassion and justice, values that underpin everything we do.

We continue to place a strong emphasis on **reading**, as it is fundamental to every pupil's success. Miss McFarlane is leading our reading intervention programme to ensure that every pupil is supported in reaching their appropriate reading age. This work is vital; pupils who struggle with reading often face challenges across the curriculum, from understanding exam questions to accessing key texts in subjects like Science, History, and English. Reading fluency builds confidence, independence, and opens doors to lifelong learning.

As we reflect on these efforts, I am reminded of the words from Proverbs 4:7:

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”

This verse reminds us of the importance of nurturing not just academic success, but deeper understanding through language, reading, and ethical awareness.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another enriching term ahead.

Have a lovely weekend.



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>



Meet the Team: New Staff

In the next few weekly bulletins, we'd like to introduce you to our new staff who have joined us this year. This week, meet our new Art & Design Department!



Miss J. Searl
Head of Art & Design



Miss K. Howley
Teacher of Art & Design



Mrs C. Chapman
Art Technician & TA

Miss Searl has been involved in education for over 25 years and brings a wealth of experience with her. She is delighted to be part of the St Josephs family and has been impressed with the enthusiasm and creativity of pupils. As a new Department we are buzzing with ways to expand the pupils love and experience of Art, Craft and Design.

Miss Howley is a newly qualified Art and Design teacher from the University of Southampton. She is excited to share her passion for the arts and aims to inspire young artists within an inclusive and safe space where all can learn and thrive.

Mrs Chapman has 5 years of teaching assistant experience, and this year has taken on the role of Art & Design Technician alongside being a teaching assistant. She loves to be creative and to escape into the world of art!



Chaplain's Report

On Sunday 21st September, pupils from St Joseph's Catholic School were delighted to join the parish community for the International Mass at 11am, celebrated by Fr. Michael, our former parish priest. The celebration brought together parishioners of many different cultures, and was expressed through prayer, music and the sharing of food. During the liturgy, we sang several Marian hymns in different languages, reminding us of the universality of the Church and the maternal care of Mary.

As we reflect on this celebration, we take inspiration from Our Lady of Walsingham, whose shrine in Norfolk has long been a place of prayer and pilgrimage. Mary always leads us closer to her Son, and we continue to entrust our chaplaincy and school community to her guidance and intercession.

School Chaplaincy Team

In school, Chaplaincy work is already underway. I have met this week with both new and continuing Chaplains. Meetings were held on Wednesday and Friday and it has been very encouraging to see such strong numbers of students volunteering to take an active part in the Chaplaincy Group. The commitment and enthusiasm of our pupils are most heartening, as they seek to live out their faith in service to others.

Several projects have now been agreed upon as part of this work:

- Visits to St Osmund's Catholic Primary School to engage with pupils and build links.
- Support for St Osmund's Pre-school, sharing time and faith with the youngest members of the community.
- A new partnership with St Andrew's Primary School, Laverstock, which will begin very soon. Four Chaplaincy pupils will accompany the School Chaplain on their first visit, marking the start of our outreach in this setting.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal & Foodbank Donations

Our first major initiative will be in support of the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Pupils will assist with the preparation and packaging of shoeboxes, as well as their delivery, helping to ensure that many children benefit from this act of kindness.

This project will be promoted more widely as we approach the Christmas season, but in the meantime, if you have any empty shoe boxes, please consider donating them to the school so we can fill them with goodies for children to enjoy at Christmas.

Until the end of term, we will also be collecting for Salisbury Foodbank as part of their harvest appeal. They are particularly looking for the following items: Tinned meat/fish, tinned veg/fruit, tinned tomatoes, tea/coffee, sponge/packet pudding, rice pudding/custard, jam,

fruit juice (long life), milk (long life), and biscuits/snacks. There will be crates in the canteen for all donations. Please consider giving generously for this great cause what you can!

I am most grateful to all parents for their continued encouragement and support of their children who are part of our Chaplaincy group. The group remains open to all pupils, who are all welcome to attend meetings held in the Chapel (Room 25) during lunchtimes on Wednesdays and Fridays.

We look forward to building further on these excellent foundations, confident that the Chaplaincy will continue to flourish in the year ahead.

Let us now turn to Mary in our final prayer:

Prayer to Our Lady of Walsingham

O Mary, Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us and for all families, that we may live in faith, hope and love, and always walk in the way that leads to your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

With many God's blessings,

Mr Otto Blaho-Schlogl
School Chaplain



Above: Pupils packing last year's Christmas shoeboxes in November 2024

Weekly Calendar

Assemblies: Heads of House Assemblies, CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday

Monday 29th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa House Assembly • SWGS ROCstars starts on Monday September 29th for 6 sessions - Year 11 revision skills sessions led by SWGS Year 13 pupils, 3:40 - 4:30. Room 22
Tuesday 30th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret House Assembly • Lunch: KS3 History Club (Rm4), Yr9-11 Basketball Club (Hall), Yr7&8 Rugby (Field) • After School: Street & Break Dance Club (Hall), Yr8 Football (Field), Yr9 Football (Field), Yr9-11 Girls' Rugby (Field), HW Club
Wednesday 1st October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francis House Assembly • School nurse drop-ins • Lunch: Environmental and Gardening Club (Rm8), All years Cricket Club (Hall), Yr7&8 Girls Rugby (Field), Chaplaincy Team (Rm25) • After School: Yr7&8 Netball (Courts), Yr7 Football (Field), Yr10 Football (Field)
Thursday 2nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vincent House Assembly • Lunch: Yr9-11 Rugby (Field), Vocal Ensemble (Rm27), Inclusivity Alliance (Rm23) • After School: Yr 9-11 Netball (Courts), Warhammer/Painting/Modelling Club (Rm27) • Careers & Progression Fair in the Hall, 12.40-4pm for Yr8-11 students and 5.00pm-6.30pm for all parents and students
Friday 3rd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAFOD Family Fast Day • Lunch: House Comp, Yr11 Football (Field), Chaplaincy Team (Rm25), Anime Club (Rm9) • After School: Yr7-9 Girls' Football (Field)

Upcoming Key Dates

Date	Event	Timing & Additional Information
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

Recent LA Visit

This week, on Wednesday, we welcomed two executives from the Local Authority who visited a number of lessons across all curriculum areas, spoke to pupils and staff and held meetings with SLT and our Beacon Teachers. We are very pleased with the feedback we received; they commented on how the academic life of the school has changed dramatically over the last year and that the quality of education the children receive is more rigorous and more consistent. This is testament to the hard work and dedication of all of our staff and pupils and it was a very proud moment to receive such positive feedback on the direction that the school is taking!

Year 11 Updates – SWGS ROCstars

We're delighted to rekindle our relationship with South West Grammar School for Girls and we will be welcoming a group of Year 13 SWGS pupils to school to lead Year 11 revision skills sessions. The programme is called SWGS ROCstars and will run from Monday 29th September for 6 weeks. They will be held at 3:40 - 4:30 in Room 22

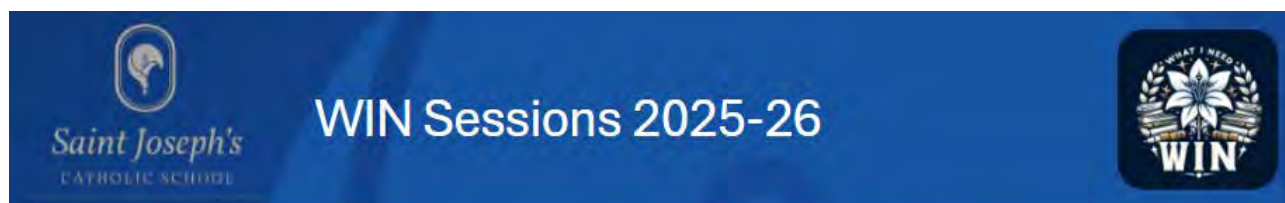
Year 11 Updates – WIN Sessions continue!


It's great to see Year 11 motivated to progress and achieve and attendance at the WIN sessions has got off to a good start! As mentioned on the Mock Results Reveal Sessions, the WIN programme will be a real booster for the children and help them achieve their potential!

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.

In assembly this week, we also discussed effective revision strategies and how to revise – I sign posted pupils to the website and the revision resources there, particularly the subject specific guide which contains links through to exam boards and past papers and mark schemes: <https://sjcs.org.uk/revision/>



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)	

Assessment & Feedback

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.

Classrooms & Resources

As you will be aware from last week's update, we informed the children of the investments we are making in the school and their education – we shared that we spend £10k each year on Sparx and that we are surveying our IT facilities in classrooms too. In particular we are surveying our projectors screens and speakers in classrooms to ensure we have a first class learning experience and environment for the children!

Home Learning & Homework Club

Sparx is our main vehicle for core subject home learning. 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!

Tuesday's after school will be our Home Work club – this will be from 3:30-4:30 in a computer room and enable pupils to meet the weekly Sparx deadlines if they have technical issues at home.

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 are adding new key term lists and personal learning checklists for each subject area on our website. These are excellent resources for the children to engage with for reinforcing key vocabulary and also checking their learning across the term.

Safeguarding Update: Children and Friendships in KS3 & KS4

As children move through Key Stage 3 and 4, friendships play a vital role in their emotional, social, and academic development. These years are a time of significant change, and strong, healthy friendships can provide stability, support, and a sense of belonging.

Why Friendships Matter

- **Emotional Support:** Friends help children navigate challenges, reduce stress, and build resilience.
- **Social Development:** Positive peer relationships teach empathy, communication, and conflict resolution.
- **Academic Impact:** A supportive friendship group can encourage engagement and motivation in school.
- **Identity Formation:** Friendships help young people explore their values, interests, and sense of self.

Signs There May Be Problems

While ups and downs in friendships are normal, some signs may indicate deeper issues that require attention:

Emotional or Behavioral Changes:

- Sudden withdrawal or isolation
- Increased anxiety or low mood
- Changes in sleep or appetite
- Reluctance to attend school or social events

Friendship Dynamics:

- Frequent fallouts or exclusion from groups
- Being overly dependent on one friend
- Reports of bullying or peer pressure
- Feeling left out or targeted online

Academic or Physical Indicators:

- Drop in academic performance
- Unexplained injuries or physical complaints
- Avoiding certain areas or people in school

How Parents Can Support

- **Open Conversations:** Encourage your child to talk about their friendships without judgment.
- **Monitor Online Activity:** Be aware of their digital interactions and promote safe online behaviour.
- **Model Healthy Relationships:** Show empathy, respect, and good communication in your own relationships.
- **Work with School:** If you're concerned, reach out to pastoral staff or safeguarding leads for support.

If you have any concerns about your child's friendships or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to contact the school's safeguarding team. We're here to support every child's safety, happiness, and growth. Email: safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk



Pastoral Support

Pastoral Update

As we settle into the term, we want to take a moment to share some reflections from our pastoral team. This season has brought many opportunities for growth, connection, and resilience among our students. We continue to be impressed by their kindness, curiosity, and commitment to supporting one another.

We encourage you to speak with your child about what they've been learning and experiencing. These conversations can be a powerful way to reinforce positive values and help them feel supported at home as well as at school.

As always, our pastoral team is here to listen, guide, and support. If you have any concerns or would like to speak with a member of the team, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

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

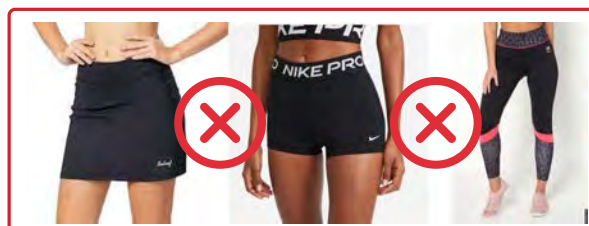
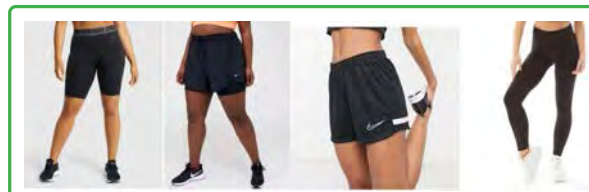
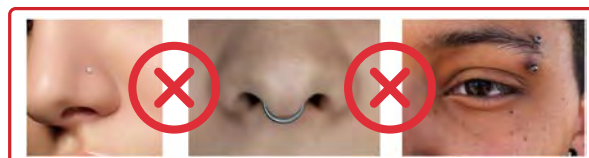
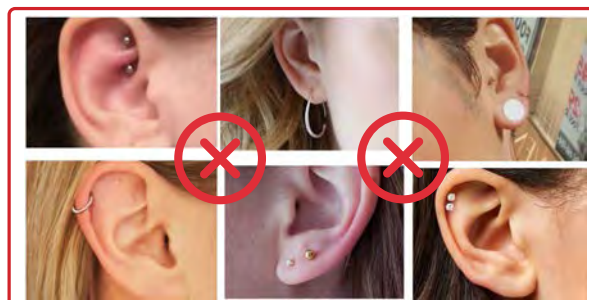
TOP - School polo shirt - house colour.

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

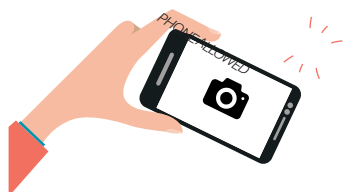
SKORT - This is an optional item and must be the SJCS branded item to ensure it is appropriate.

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...



Saint Joseph's

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



SJCS
SAFEGUARDING
HUB



SJCS
WELLBEING
HUB



**HELP, SUPPORT
& GUIDANCE**

CAREERS AND PROGRESSION FAIR



Parents/ Carers
and students
5:00pm- 6:30pm
Year 8 - Year 11



Exclusive Time
3.30pm-4.00pm
Invite only

PLEASE BOOK

[https://forms.office.
com/e/DBGXJwxJCD](https://forms.office.com/e/DBGXJwxJCD)



Find out about T-levels,
Apprenticeships, Vocational
courses and various careers
from companies including
Thales, Wiltshire Council,
The Army, Wiltshire Wildlife,
Wiltshire College and more ...





SJCS PE Extra-Curricular

<u>TERM 1</u>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.40-2.20pm	GCSE PE WIN Sessions Room 21 (RSN)	BASKETBALL (Y9, 10, 11) Hall (DBA) RUGBY (Y7 & 8) Field (MRE)	CRICKET (All Years) Hall (BBR/TSP) Girls RUGBY (Y7 & 8) Field (EWE)	RUGBY (Y9, 10 & 11) Field (MRE)	HOUSE COMP Y11 FOOTBALL Field (NBR)
After school 3.30- 4.30pm		STREET & BREAKDANCE Hall (paid activity) Y8 FOOTBALL Field (NBR/BBR) Y9 FOOTBALL Field (RSN) Girls RUGBY (Y9, 10 & 11) Field (MRE)	NETBALL (Y7 & 8) Courts (EWE) Y7 FOOTBALL Field (RSN) Y10 FOOTBALL Field (PCA/TSP)	NETBALL (Y9, 10 & 11) Courts (EWE)	Girls Football (Y7, 8 & 9) Field (RSN/Year 11 Prefects)



CAREERS NEWSLETTER


**IMPORTANT NOTICE: SJCS CAREERS & PROGRESSION
FAIR ON THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2025, 5.00-6.30PM.**

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




This October, we're Raising the Volume for Dyslexia Awareness Week from Monday 6th October – Sunday 12th October 2025 – making sure dyslexia is heard, understood, and celebrated like never before. Check out these podcasts on 'Lessons in Dyslexic Thinking and hear from the world's most inspiring dyslexic people.




“Join us on the 7th October for UCB Live, an interactive online open day! This is your opportunity to explore everything University College Birmingham has to offer – from inspiring courses to award-winning student support.” Click here to take part.




Join this Springpod Sprint to try a real employer-designed assessment that focuses on your potential. It looks at things like resilience, creativity, learning agility and digital thinking. Built by Amberjack, a leading assessment provider used by companies like BDO and Atkins, this is your chance to see how assessments really work and where your strengths lie.



Are you member of a book club? Then reading and discussing for a sci-fi or space themed book, short story or parts of books are a great idea! Check out this list of the Top 100 Science Fiction and Fantasy books.



“The Schools' Aerospace Careers Programme Charity exists to support all young people and educational establishments across the UK with up-to-date careers advice in respect of engineering based industries, especially aerospace, and aviation.” Find out more here.



“Springpod worked with Airbus to create a bespoke and interactive, two-week Virtual Work Experience programme that required students to complete assignments. Work was reviewed and upon approval, students would receive a digital certification which could be included on their CV and/or LinkedIn profile.” Read the Case Study here.

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Astrobiologist](#)

One of the main questions in space exploration is whether there is life in space. Astrobiologists try to determine what is required for life, where these conditions may be found in space and what the signs of life we could detect may be.

They will design experiments on Earth to simulate conditions we may expect in space.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

In May to July 2025, the number of people aged 16+ in employment was 34.24 million, and the employment rate for people aged 16-64 was 75.2%.

The employment rate has increased over the last year.

[Source](#)

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



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

OPPORTUNITIES



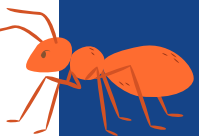
World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition. The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4th-10th. These dates highlight two historical events:



- October 4, 1957: Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, opening the way for space exploration
- October 10, 1967: The signing of the Treaty governing the Activities in the Exploring and Peaceful Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Planets.



With technologies like wireless power transfer and space-based solar power, Matteo Madi, Managing Director of Sirin Orbital Systems, believes the next leap in clean energy will come from space. Read the interview [here](#).



Join this 2-day, [virtual experience](#) in the October break to discover the amazing complexity of ant colonies, how ants contribute to ecosystems and how you can become an ant keeper from the comfort of your own home. Not to mention, gain insights into how you could build a career in Entomology and what avenues there could be to explore



Want to know what it is like to work in the Space industry? Check out the 'UK Space 101' introduction from Space Careers [here](#).



Ever wondered what chemical engineers do and how they tackle global challenges like energy and sustainability? In this short, online session, you'll explore the real-world impact of chemical engineering and even get hands-on by designing a bioethanol production plant. Hosted by Uni of Sheffield, [join now](#) to see if Chemical Engineering is the right course for you.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"At NASA, we explore the secrets of the universe for the benefit of all. Your work will advance the next frontier of aeronautics, human spaceflight, science, and technology. Help us take on exciting and meaningful missions that inspire the world and future generations through discovery. [Learn more](#) about what a career at NASA could look like, including our mission, culture, values and benefits."

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"As a global top ten university, Imperial College London uses science to try to understand more of the universe and improve the lives of more people in it. Across nine campuses and throughout our Imperial Global network, 22,000 students, 8,000 staff, and partners work together on scientific discovery, innovation and entrepreneurship." [Find out more here.](#)

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