

# 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 mark Holocaust Memorial Day, we are reminded of our shared duty to stand against hatred in all its forms. We remember the deep suffering endured during the Holocaust and we stand in solidarity with the Jewish community. Scripture calls us, Learn to do right seek justice Defend the oppressed (Isaiah 1 17).

The example of Moses who urged his people, Be strong and courageous Do not be afraid (Deuteronomy 31 6), inspires us to build a family of courage, compassion and respect for all.

We also celebrate our Year 9 students who have completed the first phase of their GCSE Options Process with maturity. My thanks go to Mrs Nobis, Ms Gale and the Year 9 Pastoral Team for their dedicated guidance.

May we continue to nurture a school family where every young person is valued, included and filled with hope.

Have a lovely weekend.



## Key Dates: Spring Term 1

### FEBRUARY

- 11th and 12th** – Year 10 Synagogue Trip
- 12th** – Options Evening Market Place (Year 9), 5:30pm
- 26th** – Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4:30pm

### MARCH

- 3rd** – Year 10 Mock Interview Day
- 5th** – World Book Day
- 10th** – Year 9 Trip to Portsmouth Docklands
- 10th & 11th** – Year 11 Food NEA
- 11th** – Year 8 Trip to Portsmouth Aquarium
- 13th** – Non-Uniform Day & The Big Sleep
- 17th** – Year 8 HPV Immunisations
- 25th** – Year 9 & 11 Trip to see 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

## In School Next Week

### ASSEMBLIES

- Heads of House – LGBTQ+ History Month

### MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

- Year 9 First Aid Training – 9:20am–1:40pm
- Year 7 Rugby @ Trafalgar

### TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

- P5 – Year 9 Army Talk, Rm21 (sign up with Miss Gale)
- Year 10 Football @ Sarum Academy

### WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY

- Year 10 First Aid Training – 10:20am–1:40pm
- School nurse drop-ins

### THURSDAY 5th FEBRUARY

- Rabbi Zvi visiting Year 11 – P1 for all Year 11, P2 for 11re1
- Year 10 Rugby vs Trafalgar (H)
- Year 9 & 11 Netball @ Sarum Academy

### FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY

- Chaplaincy Team to Exeter House
- Science Live Trip (Year 10 & 11 with some Year 9)
- P5 – Year 10 & 11 Army Talk, Rm22 (sign up with Miss Gale)



## 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

### MONDAY

#### AM Reg:

- Salisbury Schools' Book Awards book club (Rm11) (Week 2 only)

#### Lunch:

- GCSE PE WIN Sessions (Rm21)
- Cricket – all years (Hall)

### 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:

- Netball – all years (Courts)

### THURSDAY

#### Lunch:

- Year 9-11 Rugby (Field)
- Year 9-11 Racquet Sports (Hall)
- Vocal Ensemble (Rm27)
- Inclusivity Alliance (Rm23)
- KS3 Maths Games (Rm14)

#### After School:

- Year 9-11 Trampolining (Hall)
- Warhammer, Painting & Modelling Club (Rm27)
- DSTL Lego Spike Club (Rm30)

### FRIDAY

#### Lunch:

- House Competition
- Chaplaincy Team (Rm25)





## Chaplaincy Update

I am pleased to share a brief update on the positive ongoing work of our school chaplaincy. We have welcomed several new chaplains who are already engaging enthusiastically in their roles.

This Thursday, we began outreach at St. Osmund's Primary School with our first new group of twelve chaplains. Split into two teams, some supported classroom activities while others helped with liturgy and assembly preparation alongside the primary chaplains. They are also preparing an assembly for the end of term focusing on Lent. St. Osmund's staff were delighted to reconnect with former pupils, and it was wonderful to see how warmly our chaplains were welcomed back.

Next week, the new chaplain team will return to Exeter House, remaining in consistent placements to build continuity in their work.

Plans for the Year 7 retreat to Kintbury on 13th March are progressing well. Based on initial responses, one to two minibuses will be needed. A letter with full details and sign-up information will be sent out shortly, with places offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

We also held a constructive chaplaincy meeting on Tuesday. Although Fr Anthony is currently on leave, we hope he will return soon and be able to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to Catholic pupils before the end of term.

Anyone interested in supporting chaplaincy is warmly invited to get in touch. We are grateful to parishioners, including Francis Rolleston, for their ongoing involvement, and we welcome others to join us.

The new benches around the school are being well used, and we thank Deacon James and the Catenians for arranging and donating them.

Thank you for your continued support!



*Some of our chaplains preparing the liturgy of the word and assembly.*

### Elsie, Year 7:

"On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 12 Chaplains went to St Osmund's Primary School and it's safe to say, everyone is very excited to go again.

One group went to the reception class where they talked to curious children and played in the mud kitchen. The other group went to a cosy room where we discussed worship, hymns, missions for the week, ideas on how to show others about God, and how it is okay not to be perfect.

It was a success and we all loved it!"



## Academic Matters

### Year 11 Mocks – What Next?

- 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).
- WIN Sessions will be reviewed and a tiered approach will be implemented after February half term
- February half term and Easter break revision sessions will be offered and the programme shared shortly

Year 11 parents, please do not forget that there are 5 videos that you can watch on our website to help you throughout this year and in particular with your knowledge of revision strategies and how to help – these can be found on the following page of our website: [sjcs.org.uk/resources](https://sjcs.org.uk/resources)

Next Monday, we will be sending out a letter detailing the tiers of intervention and the February half term revision session programme.

### Year 9 Options Process

Tuesday's enrichment session introduced Year 9 to the Options Process, and they have now received the booklet outlining all KS4 courses available to them. In addition to their core subjects (English, Maths, Science and RE), pupils will choose three further options.

On Thursday 12th February, we will hold our Options Evening Marketplace for pupils and parents to learn more about each subject. After half term, the first Thursday will be the Year 9 Parents' Evening—an ideal chance for final conversations before students make their GCSE decisions in March.

### Gifted & Talented Pupils

Next week, we will send home celebratory letters to Year 7–10 pupils identified as gifted and talented in various subjects. It's wonderful to recognise these achievements—some students excel across many areas, while others show a particular strength, such as art or sport. With this recognition comes responsibility, and we are committed to nurturing their talents and passions by providing enriching experiences.

## Year 7 & 8 Reports

Teachers of Years 7 & 8 are currently working on the progress reports for the classes they teach. The reports, once processed, will be distributed in the first week back after the February half term. They will include:

- An age-related expectations grade
- A progress grade (how the child is performing against their target grades)
- An attitude to learning grade (their effort, application and focus)

We're very much looking forward to sharing these new look reports with you and are confident that they will give you valuable updates on how your child is progressing at school.

## Careers Update

In this week's edition of the Careers Newsletter...

- See the full programme for **National Apprenticeship Week 2026 (9–15 Feb)**, including webinars, activities and resources for exploring apprenticeship pathways.
- Find out about exciting and informative **employer-led events**, including from Nestlé's Lunch & Learn and Lloyds Banking Group's Skillsfest LIVE.
- Opportunities to build your skills and career prospects.
- Learn about upcoming careers events, including the Festival of Apprenticeships Online Careers Fair and an online "Ask the Apprentices" session.
- Where to find ongoing support if you're an aspiring apprentice, as well as mock interviews, application tips and employer connections.
- Parent/carer resources, including a dedicated webinar and a guidance booklet on supporting young people exploring apprenticeships.



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

## Pastoral Update

### Attendance – Every Day Makes a Difference

We'd like to take a moment to chat about something that makes a big difference to children's learning and wellbeing: regular school attendance. When children are in school every day, they stay connected with their friends, keep up with their learning, and feel part of the daily classroom routine.

#### Why It Matters

- Children learn best when they're present and involved in lessons.
- Being in school every day helps build confidence and consistency.
- Good habits now set children up for success later on.

#### How You Can Help at Home

We know mornings can be busy, and life gets hectic for every family, so here are a few simple ways to support strong attendance:

- Set up a calm, predictable morning routine.
- Try to book appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Encourage early bedtimes to help children feel rested.
- Reach out to us if your child is worried about school or finding things difficult, we're here to support you.
- Let us know quickly if your child is unwell so we can keep our records up to date.

#### We're In This Together

Thank you for everything you do to support your child's learning. If you ever have concerns about attendance or need a bit of help, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're always happy to talk.

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

## Safeguarding Update

### Social Media Guide for Parents and Carers

Social networking is hugely popular. Many young people are sophisticated in the way they use social media apps and websites, tailoring their communication for different audiences, and accessing them from a range of devices including smartphones, tablets, and games consoles.

But social media, like all forms of public communication, comes with some risks. Not all of these risks turn into actual problems; and if children never face any risks, they never learn how to deal with them. By helping your child understand what the risks are, you can play a big part in preventing them from turning into problems.

*(continued on next page)*

## Understanding the risks children may need to deal with

### What they could see or do:

- Seeing or sharing of violent, sexual and pornographic content
- Inaccurate or false information and extreme views
- Promotion of harmful behaviours including self-harm, anorexia and suicide
- Over-sharing of personal information
- Actively or unintentionally getting involved in bullying or hurtful behaviour

### How this could affect them:

- Fear of missing out leading to excessive use or exaggeration
- Getting upset by things they have seen and being uncertain about what to do
- Engaging, or being pressured into engaging in more risky behaviour either by accident or by design
- Developing unrealistic, and perhaps depressing ideals of body image and gender
- Becoming subject to peer pressure or interactions that are intense or too difficult to handle
- Creating an online reputation that may create problems for them in the future

### Who they might meet:

- People who might bully, intimidate or frighten
- People posing behind fake profiles for: mischief-making, sexual grooming and stalking, blackmail and extortion, identity theft and hacking

## Practical tips to help minimise the risks your child might face

Apps and websites usually have safety advice and privacy features which can make a real difference to how safe your child will be when using them. It's a good idea to work through these features on the apps that your child is using, or might use. Make sure they understand the point of these and how to use them. Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you: the tools are actually quite easy to manage.

- **Ask them to show you** which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging.
- **Explain** how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts and images.
- **Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location' enabled**, sharing their location unintentionally.
- **Show them how to report offensive comments** or block people who upset them.
- **Check 'tagging' settings** so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.
- **Encourage your child to come and talk to you** if they see anything that upsets them.
- **Keep talking and stay involved** – [safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk)

[nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety](https://nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety)

[parentzone.org.uk](https://parentzone.org.uk)

[childnet.com/parents-and-carers](https://childnet.com/parents-and-carers)



# 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.

**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.

