

St Joseph's Newsletter



Uniform Changes

Following the recent consultation exercise on our college uniform the governors have decided to introduce changes to the uniform in order to reduce inconsistencies.

In making this decision governors have taken into account a variety of issues including advice from the Department for Education.

The new uniform will be phased in from September 2014. Students coming into Year 7 will be required to wear the new uniform.

For students in Years 8- 11 there will be a transition phase where any current items of uniform may be worn.



The blazer, tie, jumper, and red & black long sleeved Rugby/ Hockey top should be purchased from *Academy School Uniforms*, either online or at an event in the College when *Academy School*

Uniforms come to display and sell their uniform.

Parents will be informed of all such events.

Parents may buy all other items of uniform from local stores.

Ofsted Update from the Principal

I hope you will have seen on our website the latest report from Ofsted based on their two day inspection in February. The three inspectors observed thirty eight lessons, examined all the available data and held various meetings with staff and governors. In the report the inspectors comment on the significant improvements made at St Joseph's. They saw evidence that students are making good progress and noted that the quality of teaching has significantly improved. They commented on the strong relationships between teachers and students. They also commented on the high expectations of behaviour and learning which have been established as an integral part of our community in St Joseph's.

I was particularly proud of the students when I read the section in the report which compliments them on their polite and courteous behaviour around the College.

Well done to them.

Ofsted credited the rapid improvement being made to a relentless focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning. While there are always aspects which can be improved further, I would like to thank colleagues who have really worked hard, not just for this inspection, but above all for the good of the students in our care. The fact that the vast majority of lessons were graded as good or outstanding is important as it represents a real turning point for St Joseph's.

Paul Hughes

Easter Message

We have been preparing for the great feast of Easter through a series of liturgies during Lent. This has included the stations of the cross, an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation in the chapel and Lenten services. I have been very impressed by our students efforts in support of various charities during Lent. Through our chaplaincy, house system, RE and assemblies the importance of caring for those in need is highlighted as a core value for our Christian community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone associated with the college a happy Easter.

Year 11 Update

GCSE Examinations start for Year 11 on 8 May and run until 20 June

All Year 11 students should have received a provisional examinations timetables, which will give details of the date and time of the examination, after Easter they will receive their final timetable which will also include the venue, their seat number and the duration of individual examinations.

Extra revision sessions are now running across the College in many subjects. Details of these can be found on the College website.

Helpful tips for Examination preparations

Eat healthily and get enough sleep.

Revise in regular bite size chunks.

Revise by "doing". Eg, write summary notes, do exam questions, draw mind maps.

Attend revision sessions.

Reminders

Student must arrive for all examination in the correct full uniform.

Arrive in plenty of time for the examination.

Have all the correct equipment. Remember you must write in black pen.

Useful Dates

23rd May 2014 Year 11 Leavers Mass and Study Leave commences

27th June 2014 Year 11 Prom

21st August 2014 GCSE results day

Punctuality

Students should arrive at College between 7:30am and 8:20am. After the Easter Break we will be introducing a new detention system during lunchtimes for late arrivals for students who do not have a reasonable explanation.

Dates for your Diary

APR

7-21

Holiday

APR

22

College reopens

MAY

1

Sixth Form Parents Focus on the Future: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

MAY

15

Year 11 Celebration Assembly

MAY

15

Year 7 Parents' Evening (ABLM): 5.30pm – 7.30pm

MAY

20

Year 7 Parents' Evening (CESW): 5.30pm – 7.30pm

MAY

22

Year 13 Study Leave and Leavers' Mass

MAY

23

Year 11 Leavers Mass and Study Leave commences

Driving on site in the mornings

We have had some reports from parents that there have nearly been some accidents in the College car park while students are being dropped off.

A reminder to all that the car park has a 5mph speed limit, and to take care when driving on site as there are pedestrians, and manoeuvring vehicles.

Sainsbury's



We would like to make all parents/guardians aware that the College is participating in the **Sainsbury's Active Kids** campaign.

If you or your family and friends have any vouchers that they wish to donate to the College, these can be handed into our Reception area.

Many thanks for your support.

Sixth Form Boys Football

The long awaited sixth Form fixture against Bishop Wordsworth School was finally fulfilled in bright March sun and proved a match worth waiting for.

It was a veritable tug-of-war with the score oscillating back and forth, but eventually finishing in a 4-3 reversal.

The SJCCSFFC was highly commended by both coaches and the referee, demonstrating both great skill and cohesion.

Man of the Match: Wilkinson – a diminutive colossus.

Goal of the Game: Rees – Beckhamesque.

Other performances of note: O'Daly: incisive; Ouldridge: tidy; Moloney: (almost) impenetrable.

Year 7 Girls Indoor Football

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls' football team who beat Commonweal 21-2.

In the first quarter, we managed to score an AMAZING goal in the first 10 seconds which was scored by Shannon King. A few minutes later we struck in another two goals which were scored by Thulani Lewinska and Shannon King.

Unfortunately, Commonweal managed to nick one goal to make the end of the first quarter 3-1.

The second quarter came around as a string performance with another 6 fantastic goals scored by Thulani and Shannon to make it 9-1.

The third quarter was just as strong as we got into double figures with an extra 7 goal scored by Aimee Prinzi, Shannon and Thulani.

As we came in for the team talk, Miss Brett gave us the challenge of getting to 20 goals. We went out in the last quarter with a clear aim of getting to 20 and Thulani scored two great goals to start us off. Amelia Sharp the stepped up and scored an amazing lob from the half way line. This made the score 20-2 and to close the scoring Aimee scored a brilliant goal to make the final score 21-2. Well done!

Aimee Prinzi (Captain)

New Deputy Principal

Jerry Giles will be joining the senior leadership team as Deputy Principal from September.



Jerry graduated from the University of Birmingham with a physics degree and P.G.C.E, and also has a MA in Educational Leadership and Management from the Open University. He worked in schools in the West Midlands, Botswana, Hertfordshire and Wiltshire before taking up his current post of Deputy Headteacher of

Thomas Keble School in Stroud. In addition to his role at Thomas Keble, Jerry works as an OFSTED inspector for Tribal, and has also worked for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust.

Jerry is married with two children and lives in Cirencester.

Jerry said 'I am really looking forward to getting to know the students, staff, parents and wider community of St. Joseph's in September – it will be a real privilege to work with them all and to have the opportunity to contribute to the success of such a great school.'

Craft Club



The Pastoral Team are always looking for new ways to support students at SJCC. With this in mind it was decided to pilot an after-school Craft workshop. Mrs Chivers, with the help of Mrs Rudnik and Mrs Griffiths, initially invited several students to a trial session one afternoon after College. It was an instant hit.

The next stage was to commandeer a room where we could meet and craft. Storage of all the materials was also an issue. Two unused filing cabinets were also put to good use. Craft Club now meets weekly in RO4, and there is usually a theme thought up by Mrs Chivers, although students are encouraged to use their own creative skills. So far we have made butterfly garlands, travelling pets, decorated candles, cards and felt shoes, flowers and brooches.

We have a selection of craft materials, ranging from buttons, beads, fancy paper, felt, ribbons to moulding wax, twigs, and sculptured wood pieces!

Donations of unwanted items for the club, such as broken jewellery that can be recycled, wool, paper and fabric will be accepted.

We are constantly impressed by the talents and ideas of our students; they produce such artistic handiwork!

I go to Craft Club after College. It helps students to realise they can be clever and can achieve different things that inspire them. I love flowers and the smell of flowers, so my next project will be to make a lavender bag for Mother's Day. I was proud of the Butterfly garland and the candles I decorated. I gave my candle to my Nan, but she doesn't want to light it because she wants it to last forever.

Grace Ellis

Challenge Results

Congratulations to Lucy Bailey and Steve Caayao for their Gold Certificates in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, along with a massive 11 Silver Certificates and 5 Bronzes. Lucy also was chosen to sit the next round of the examinations, and we are waiting for the results.

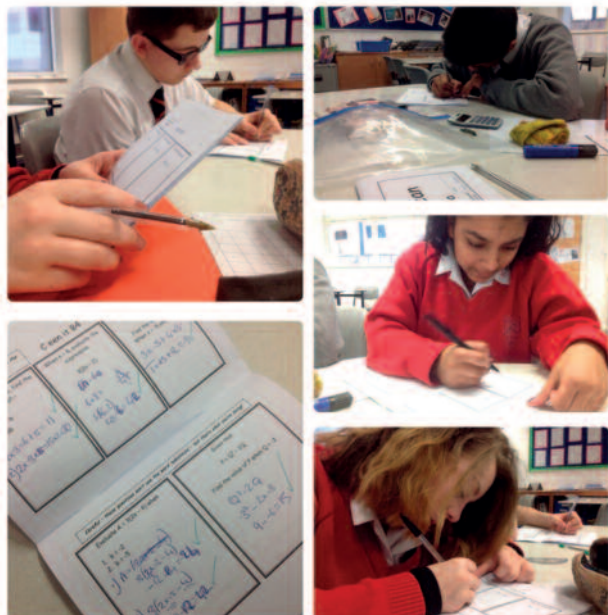
The Year 8 and 9 team also did well against schools from across Wiltshire, coming 10th out of 24.



Well done!

Well done to Daniel Sheerin and Agneta Baranowicz in winning the Year 8 Perspective Challenge to design the street in the school with a liturgical theme. We had some fantastic entries and congratulations to all that entered.

You can see the work on display in the Art Department.



Mathematics Revision

Students in Year 11 have been accessing a wide variety of extra Mathematics lessons, from small group lessons to breakfast revision!

They have all been working hard to improve their grades in their latest mock exam which took place at the beginning of March, resulting in 82 students improving their mock grades from January. Well done to all those involved!

Breakfast revision sessions take place for everyone and anyone to attend on Thursday mornings from 7.30am. with a mini breakfast provided.

These concentrate on C/D borderline topics. There are also two revision classes on Thursdays after College; one for foundation tier students and one for higher tier students. Please make the most of these opportunities.

For further revision, please use the walking talking mocks which are available on Moodle along with the past papers and worked solutions.

Most of us take happy childhood memories for granted - whether it's reading a favourite book, flying a kite, or making a cake with our gran. For some children these special times are being lost because of bereavement, family breakdown, or parental illness.



The Memory Makers Programme offers children from Swindon in their last years of primary school the chance to do an activity, weekly or fortnightly, with a volunteer adult Memory Maker. Our next training programme is on the following dates:

11th June 6pm to 9.30pm / 21st June 10am to 4pm / 25th June 6pm to 9.30pm

Call Lyn on **01793 729748**, email memory.makers@smashyouthproject.co.uk or visit: www.smashyouthproject.co.uk

Year 11 Mock Interviews



On Thursday 13th February Year 11 took part in a Mock Interview event to help prepare them for the World of Work. Students were invited to wear business dress and were interviewed by colleagues representing 25 local companies including Intel, Mercedes Benz, Monahans and Wiltshire Fire Service.

Prior to the event, students participated in a series of careers workshops that focused on how to apply for a job, complete an application form, build a CV and interview techniques.

Although many of our students were nervous during their interviews, they all agreed that the experience was extremely valuable and have taken on board the feedback they received from their interviewer. Their de-brief comments have emphasised the importance of such an event, as most had no experience of a formal interview.

All of the employers, without exception, commented on how professional and well prepared our students were and some individuals have been offered work experience to take place over the Summer holidays.

Artistic Sixth Form



The image with the oranges is an installation where 6000 oranges are placed in a pyramid at Modern Art Oxford, people take the oranges away to create a mass participation piece of art that constantly changes – here are the sixth form choosing the perfect orange!



The image shown left is the students talking to a **real live artist** emerged in his installation at the 03 Gallery, where he was surrounded by a selection of old typewriters that they had to spontaneously use to create prose. It was fantastic to see them asking great questions and, once they got over the hurdle of how a typewriter actually worked, they typed spontaneous prose.

We look forward to welcoming our new batch of Year 12 Artists and Photographers next year!

Good luck to everyone in the examinations!



Get Alive and Kicking in Swindon!

Swindon Borough Council, is launching 'Alive 'n' Kicking', a 10-week programme to encourage healthy eating and physical activity for children, young people and the family as a whole. The free sessions for 5-16 year olds will run throughout the Borough and easily accessible venues from September

If you are interested in attending the service or you would like to make a referral, please contact Emma Sperring on 01793 465412 or 07818 510563.

For more information about Alive 'n' Kicking visit the website at www.ank.uk.com

Dance World Cup

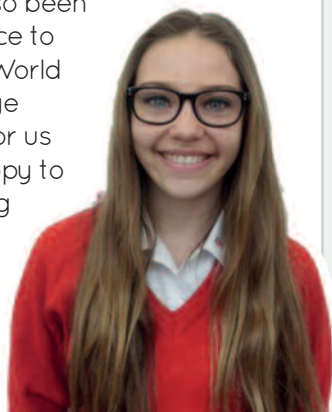
One of our Year 10 students, Charlotte Payne, has been offered a place to dance at the Dance World Cup in Portugal.

Of this opportunity, Charlotte said:

"I danced about seven dances for the England panel to judge. Out of the whole of England I got three dances through to the World Cup, which will be in Portugal.

"My modern solo came first in the whole of England for my age group, as did my ballet solo. My song and dance solo was also chosen, which I will be performing with my friend, Amy.

"Some other members of my dance school have also been offered a chance to dance for the World Cup. It is a huge achievement for us all. I feel so happy to be representing England and to be competing against other countries."



Governor Update

*Deacon Terry Aspell
Chair, Interim Executive Board*

As it's been a few months since the Interim Executive Board was set up I thought I'd let you know what our main focuses have been.

I'm delighted with the robust and diverse strength that the five of us have in driving the College. We have been a critical friend to Paul Hughes in our task of securing a sound strategic base that improves our Ofsted rating and also rebuilds the strong brand and achievements that St Joseph's has always had.

To date our three main areas of focus have been: Management Structure, Governing Body and Curriculum.

We have critically assessed current Management Structure within the College, challenging Mr Hughes and ensuring that he has the right support in place that uses the strengths of the whole leadership team. We are delighted to have appointed Jerry Giles as Deputy Principal and look forward to him joining us in September.

In terms of the Governing Body, we have examined not only what it does but also how it is set up ensuring we have the right mix of skills from both business and education. This review is continuing to

ensure there is the necessary variety of skills in order to challenge and support the leadership of the College.

With the Curriculum we have looked at how much lesson time we should give to each subject area with a real focus on English, Mathematics and Science as well as the subjects that contribute towards the English Baccalaureate Certificates. We have paid close attention to progress being made by our students in Year 11 to see what support they need to achieve the results they deserve.

The IEB members invest a lot of time into making a real difference to the College. We meet monthly to review the improvement plan, the structure to achieve this and the progress made. Although we still have a great deal to do, the report back from our Monitoring Inspection last month tells us that we are heading in the right direction. Together with our governors, teachers, parents and students, we will get St Joseph's back to the strong standing it has always had.

EXCITING TIMES for ART, PHOTOGRAPHY and TEXTILES STUDENTS!

If you are a Year 10 or a Year 12 taking Art, Photography or Textiles then you might want to consider coming to Paris in July to visit the Louvre, the European Museum of Photography and the Musée de la Mode et du Textile. We will also be taking in the sights and atmosphere of this European City.

Letters will be given out by your teacher. There are only 20 places, so please express interest early.



Italian Exchange 2014



Taking part in this experience has given me a large confidence boost, especially since I did not have any previous knowledge of the language. Within the first couple of days I felt comfortable with the new friends that I had made and I barely noticed the language difference. I also began learning the language which made it easier to understand the family's conversations in which I was involved.

By travelling into Florence regularly, we began to discover the history and culture of the area and it soon became familiar to us. I enjoyed spending time in their school, especially being in an English lesson because I saw the comparison of learning English in a foreign country. My favourite day was travelling into Siena with our exchange partners because the scenery was fascinating, and it also gave us the

chance to mix with other Italian partners and I found myself touring around Siena in our free time with the Italians.

My partner and I were well matched and we became close within the space of that week – being involved in her family/friend activities seemed normal to me and I found that we had the same interests.

Going on the exchange proved to be a massive shock to me since I often struggle being out of my comfort zone and, looking back, I can see the change in my confidence throughout the week. I would definitely take part in the exchange again, I think that it is a great character boost and I have made some amazing friends that I will remain in contact with for a long time.

Hollie Sweeney



During the Italian Exchange I was offered the opportunity to do work experience in a nearby book shop. I was interacting with members of the Italian public everyday which helped to improve not only the quality of my spoken Italian but also my confidence in the subject. There was a noticeable improvement in my Italian after the exchange and I would strongly recommend anyone studying Italian to do the exchange as this was the third time I had gone and I would jump at the chance to go again.

Sean Mortimer



I decided to take part in the Italian exchange this year for the second time but instead of attending the school I took part in work experience. For this, I spent my time as a barista, making espressos and serving lunch in a lovely bar-restaurant. Despite being shy at first, I quickly got used to it and felt comfortable speaking Italian to the barmen and customers. Overall, it was a brilliant experience and helped me to gain confidence in speaking Italian with a range of people.

Isabelle Di Pierro

Jubilee Gardens Project

During March we visited the 'Jubilee Gardens Project', a charity supported by Buckfast House. The charity aims to give those with mental and physical difficulties a sense of individuality and the opportunity to develop 'life skills' through horticultural activities. We were given a tour around the site and see the variety of produce

grown. They proudly grow different nine types of tomatoes and a variety of other produce, from chillies to herbs, all are available for purchase on a stall run by the charity's students. During our visit we got an insight into the physical hours required to maintain the crops. It was awfully sad to hear that the charity may be in threat of closure

due to a reduction in government funding and having to become dependent on donations. They may be a relatively small organisation, but the impact 'Jubilee Gardens' has on the local community is tremendously significant. It would be a shame to lose a charity; we hope the other Houses become involved and help prevent this.

Buckfast

Congratulations to Angel, Kyle and Lily from 7S who have had great success in the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature Illustration and Short Story Competitions this term. Thank you also to those who entered the World Book Day competitions too. All entrants have received house points.

Recently, a small group of students were able to visit Jubilee Gardens to deliver the money we had raised for our house charity. We have received a note of thanks from Jackie and Bruce for your generosity. Once we have this read in assembly, this will be displayed on the house board along with some photographs. You can read about our visit to Jubilee Gardens on page 5 of the newsletter.

This term we have been on and off leading the race to the Easter Cup, it

is clear we are still benefiting from our amazing Charity Week total so thank you to everyone for their on going hard work. A special mention should be made for Year 10 who, despite not having the most commendations, have accrued an impressive number of awards including Students of the Month and Praise Post Cards. Following all of the hard work in our House we hope the Easter Cup will be red this year.

Good luck everyone!

Glastonbury

Glastonbury house is continuing to do very well with positive contributions to all the events and the raising money for our chosen Charity Prospect Hospice. As Head of Glastonbury, I am proud of all the effort and involvement of every member of our house, in particular our hard working MPs that make sure all students' voices within the College get heard in our regular Parliament meetings. I'm sure this hard work and community spirit will continue to flourish into the future.

A message from your House Captain

I believe the College Parliament is the most effective way for us as students to get our voices heard and our ideas considered. I encourage you all to support your house representatives as they plan vigorously for you as a College. At this time many competitions, events and activities are being organised by the Parliament, so please look out for those in the near future. I would also like to encourage you all to get involved as much as possible with your houses, to earn house points and make your house stand out from the rest. In particular my fellow Glastonbury house members! Let's see if we can take one of those cups home by earning as many points as possible. If you have any questions or enquires about the Parliament or what is going on in your house, please ask your house representatives or even myself and we will try to assist you as much as we can.

Walsingham

Walsingham House started the term exceptionally well, carrying over many House Points gained from our successes last term in the Charities Week.

To further the connection with our charity, The Harbour Project, House Captains Filip Zolopa and Francesca Bell paid them a visit to see first-hand the exceptional work that the charity does in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Swindon. We also welcomed the appointment of 6th Form House Captain, Hollie Sweeney.

House representatives have also worked hard to re-establish Student Voice within the college. Led by the new Head Boy and Girl Team, House Captains met to discuss an agenda in their first Student Parliament meeting. Liaising with their constituents has been an enjoyable challenge for our Walsingham Captains, as they visited tutor groups to gather items for the agenda and promote student events.

Evesham

Well done to Sofia Anthulakis for winning the World Book Day competition run by the College library. Many thanks to all Evesham students who entered, it was a team effort!

Please have a look at this thank you letter from Swindon Young Carers:

Dear Evesham House,

On behalf of Swindon Carers Centre I would like to thank you for your generous donation of £466.40. We are delighted to be the recipients of your charitable giving.

The money will greatly benefit our young carers and support them to have a quality of life alongside their caring role.

Carers tell us that all they want is to be recognised and acknowledged for what they do and be able to have a break from their caring. We will be able to continue to raise awareness with professionals and the wider community and support carers with events and activities.

Yours sincerely, Cath Jonston (Chief Executive)