



1 December 2010 Issue 1

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWS



www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk



Welcome to St. Joseph's News. This newsletter will be issued once a month initially. We hope that it will keep you more up to date and informed about all that we do at the College. The News will be put on the College website and, for the moment, all students in Year 7-11 will receive a hard copy.

There is a lot to look forward to over the next month. Our last week will be Charity Week. I would like to personally thank our students for choosing Young Carers as their charity. This is a charity which supports some of our own students. It is also a local, Swindon based charity, very important in these straightened economic times.

The last day of term will be fancy dress for staff and students with contributions to the charity. Last year the PE department won convincingly as Santa's reindeers!

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Concert on 7 December at 7.00p.m..

The featured photograph is the St. Joseph's Christmas card for this year. As it is December, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

M Harries, Headteacher

Houses return to St. Joseph's

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Partners,

Last year, students from across the College, including our College Parliament, worked tirelessly to bring together the best ideas to create a proposal for the House System. So, with a wealth of discussion, debate and creativity behind us, it was our pleasure to launch the Houses: Buckfast, Evesham, Walsingham and Glastonbury. These places of pilgrimage - or journeys with faith as a focus - fit in very well with the vision of St. Joseph's.

If you have been associated with St. Joseph's for a number of years, you may recognise the names. It was decided that, as well as promoting community within

the College, the Houses could provide a link to College communities of the past by using the original House names from the College's 50 year history.

The aim of being in Houses is this: the more that we work with different groups for different purposes - the stronger our community will be. Students have had their first taste of this by competing in Houses during Enterprise Days and will be encouraged to work as Houses during our Charity Week at the end of this term.

The Heads of House, their Assistant Heads of House from Sixth Form and their House Captains and Vice-House Captains from Year 11 are all ready to go. Do join us for the journey.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Master of both Light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Fairtrade

Since the beginning of this term over £1000 of Fairtrade products have been sold. The commission made on the sale of Fairtrade products since the beginning of this academic year has been £200. £100 has been sent to the Subanencraft project in the Philippines and £100 to FIOH (Future In Our Hands) in Swindon. Many thanks to all who support the Fairtrade stalls, without your help we would not be able to help these worthwhile causes.

Change of details or telephone number?

It is important that we always hold up to date address and telephone number information for you and your child/children. This means we can contact you immediately in an emergency.

If you move house or update your telephone number, please ensure that you notify the College in writing as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Charity Week

13th - 17th December 2010

Dates for your diary

2010

7/12	Christmas Celebration Concert
9/12	Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening
16/12	Year 7 and 8 Cinema Trip
17/12	Christmas Services
17/12	College Closes for Students at 2.50pm

2011

4/01	College Reopens for Students
10 - 13/01	Year 7 Kintbury Retreat
20/01	Academic Tutoring Day
26 - 28/01	Year 10 Villiers Park Residential
01/02	Year 9 to 10 Transition Evening

Olympic Mascot

There is still time to enter your regional version of one of the Olympic mascots into the "Make-a-Mascot" competition being run by London 2012. You will need an entry code, your customised mascot and up to 200 words saying why you think your mascot represents your area of community. We have had some great designs but there's still time to come up with something original. Deadline is 10th December. Please see Mr Firth for more details.

Primary Liaison

ICT

The ICT department have started their transition work with our partner Primaries for the current academic year. Colleagues will be going into Primary schools and assisting with ICT delivery. This is to try and ensure that Year 6 students start at St. Joseph's having had similar experiences at KS2. Once this project is complete the ICT department intends to review its KS3 curriculum to avoid repetition and increase student progression.

Chess

Mr Davies from the Maths department is organising a primary cluster chess tournament for early in the New Year. If you are interested in getting involved in Chess and possibly with the St. Joseph's Chess team please see Mr Davies for further details. The chess club welcome all standards of player from beginner to expert.

Sports

Swindon Schools' Hockey Tournament

The Year 8 girls' hockey team travelled to Isambard on a very (very!) cold evening to play in the Swindon Schools tournament. They braved the chill and played brilliantly as a team to finish second. Well done girls! In particular Megan played some fantastic wide passes in attack and Kiera coped well playing in goal for the first time!

Year 8 hockey squad: Kiera Priday, Hannah Lloyd, Emily Musoke, Diandra De Souza, Ginella De Oliveria, Natalia Arciuchiewicz, Leah Formoy, Lucy McNally, Sarah Hardy, Megan Barber.

Swindon Schools' Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to all those students who represented St. Joseph's in the recent Cross Country Championships. It was a very cold Saturday morning and the course was very wet and muddy! The following students represented the College:

Minor boys: Hugh Gallagher, Thomas Ouldrige, Francis Bartoszewski, Alistair Eccleston, Akhil Pinto, Bertram Clement, Henry Ash

Minor girls: Grace Richardson, Limara Holmes, Maria Zmarzlik, Isobel Daghish, Danielle Herbert, Caitlin Dooley, Leighana Checchia

Junior boys: Ryan Hackett, Aramis Ferrari,

Alex King

Junior girls: Shauna Hanrahan, Cassie Coupe, Emma Hancock, Leah Formoy, Erron Larcombe, Neave Root, Claudia Goddard.

Good luck to the following students, who go on to represent Swindon in the Wiltshire championships held on 22nd January at Grittleton House School. They are: Hugh Gallagher, Grace Richardson and Shauna Hanrahan.

Girls' cricket coaching

The College are very lucky to have secured a professional cricket Coach to run training sessions. These sessions are running on Tuesdays between 3-4 pm. All girls are welcome and we are training in preparation for the County Indoor Championships, to be held in January 2011. Come along and have a go!

Swindon Schools' Year 7 5-a-side football competition

St. Joseph's qualified for the finals, winning the group which included Dorcan, Highworth Warneford and Swindon Academy. In the finals, on the 24th October, after losing their first game to Isambard the team fought hard and drew with the eventual champions, Ridgeway.

Year 7 Squad: Henry Firth, Thomas Ouldrige, Cavan Smith, Joseph Kirby, Biagio Mazzotta, Rory Peacey & Dillon Gibbs.

Nous sommes des poètes

As part of the all new French AS preparatory course, Year 11 have been busy looking at music and poetry. After having studied some of Jacques Prévert's poems and in particular *Le déjeuner du matin*, students were given the opportunity to put their creative French pens to paper. Voilà quelques poèmes....

J'aime ça de Adam Davies 11M

Le vent, c'est très agaçant, mais

J'aime ça, et

La pluie, c'est vraiment froide, mais

J'aime ça, et

L'arbre, c'est extrêmement effrayant, mais

J'aime ça, et

La cité, c'est parfaite, mais

Je déteste ça parce que ce n'est pas Naturelle

L'anniversaire de Dana Farah 11M et Ellen Forrester 11L

C'est l'anniversaire de ma sœur,

Le gâteau a la forme d'une fleur,

Elle est avec ses amies,

Quand elle éteint les bougies.

We now move on to look at the French world of Fashion with a focus on the life and legacy of the internationally renowned designer Coco Chanel.

Swindon Ten Youth Festival of Literature

The St. Joseph's Catholic College team won The Inter-School Book Quiz Shield beating all the other Secondary Schools in Swindon!

Our team; Daniel Aldred, Francesca Bell, Alex King, Katie Smith, Konrad Wysocki and Laura Daley were each awarded a £10 Waterstones' voucher

The twelve rounds covered: Openings, Classics, Twilight, Locations, Mythical Creatures, Music, Illustrations, Charlie Higson, Food, Series, Characters, and Know Your Library. Two further tasks, the Picture Quiz and the Titles from Abbreviations had to be completed during the session.

Buon Appetito

Thanks to Mrs Curran, Year 12 Italian students enjoyed a unique opportunity to prepare and cook an Italian recipe as part of their topic Food and Diet. Lasagne, Pollo Principessa and Tiramisù were amongst the culinary delights which were prepared and savoured by Alex Barrett, Elizabeth Bason, Nat Colquhoun-Butler, Jessica Lepore and Josh Witts. Our thanks to Mrs Curran and Buon Appetito!



Inter school book quiz

When I was asked to be on the Quiz Team, I was in shock because I didn't think that I knew much about books.

Being on the team gave me a chance to show off one of my talents. I love reading because it just brings joy to me and it is way better than watching TV.

The first thing we did was to complete the picture round and then I knew that it was going to be easy!

It was so much fun taking part in the quiz, making new friends and just being a part of the team.

Francesca Bell

Our students worked exceptionally well as a team and were a real credit to St Joseph's. The Shield was presented by The Mayor of Swindon at The STYFL's Celebration and Prize-giving Ceremony on Thursday 25th November



Boring book trial

On Thursday 11th November, St. Joseph's Catholic College held yet another enjoyable event when Twilight by Stephanie Meyer was on trial accused of being 'a tedious tome'!

The trial was held at lunch time in the drama studio where Mrs Ash, was transformed into The Honourable Judge Ash. The prosecution team consisted of Beverley Collins, Thomas Kendal and Harry Loveless, the defence Georgia Leach and Phoebe Leach.

The trial began with the entrance of Judge Ash announced by the Clerk to the Court, Mr Gilks. Many fair points were made by the team leader, Beverley Collins including the belief that hardly anyone could find a novel on a rambling, self-centred teenage girl interesting! The defence, led by Georgia Leach produced quite a few equally good points, such as the fact that millions of copies have been sold, so it must be popular.

The next step was to question the Character Experts, Katie Bannon, Katie Bryan and Lizzie Beckett. It was the prosecution, Beverley Collins who asked whether they thought Twilight was in any way dull. She particularly focussed on Bella being the basis of the book. After the defence had made their case, focussing on the same subject but on a different point of view, the consensus was on the defence's side.

After five minutes the foreman announced the jury's agreement.....

TWILIGHT was found NOT GUILTY

Phoebe Leach

Challenging Sixth Form Mathematicians

Year 12 and 13 students took the individual Maths Challenge recently. Congratulations to Genevieve Aylott, who achieved a Silver certificate in this difficult paper. Jacob Holliday and Yasmine Yule also scored highly enough to get a Bronze certificate.

A team of sixth formers doing Further Maths also competed against schools from across Wiltshire in the Senior Maths Team Challenge, and had a good day out at Hardenhuish in Chippenham. They have vowed to practise before next year, and come back stronger than before!

GCSE Music and Swindon Big Band

On November 9th the Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music students and the College Singers put on a joint concert with the Swindon Big Band. The first half of the concert featured solo, ensemble and compositional performances that the students were preparing for their exam as well as songs from the College Singers. The standard and quality of the work demonstrated by the students was very high. We are hoping to be submitting some of their work into local and national competitions.

In the second half of the concert, two of our Year 11 students sang with the Swindon Big Band and delighted the audience with their performance.

St. Joseph's College has recently forged a link with the Swindon Big Band. We look forward to joining them in the future when more students will have the opportunity to sing or play an instrument with the band.

Wales v Fiji

On 19th November 40 students travelled to Cardiff to see the Wales v Fiji Rugby International in the Millennium Stadium. There were over 50,000 people in the ground and although the game was not brilliant, the atmosphere and singing made up for it. It was also Children In Need day, so The Saturdays came on to the pitch at half-time to sing and Only Men Aloud sang before the game. Apart from one student asking a scarf-seller if he could use English money, the students were all very well behaved. We hope to make it an annual trip every Autumn (at least until Wales win a game!).

Mr Firth and Mr Casey

Kintbury, October 2010

I enjoyed Kintbury this year because I met loads of new people, the leaders were amazing and I got closer to my friends.

I have been to Kintbury every year at St. Joseph's and I'd still love to go again. If you haven't been then you should go, because it is an amazing experience where you learn about yourself and others.

Also, you meet great people from all over the country.

Dana Farah

Examinations

External Examinations will take place in January 2011 between Monday 10th January and Wednesday 2nd February inclusive. Results will be available to students for these exams on Thursday 10th March 2011

Student Exam information can now be found on Moodle by navigating to the following route...

Student Resources -> Examinations

Exam Board Regulations

The Examination Boards have strict rules and regulations which all exam students must follow. These regulations apply to all external assessments, which include; written exams, producing coursework, ICT exams and taking part in practical or controlled tests.

These regulations are available to view or print on Moodle from the following route...

Student Resources -> Examinations -> Exam Regulations

Park 'n' Stride

The safety of our students is paramount, we therefore ask parents not to drive onto the College site to drop off at the start of the day or to pick up on site at 2.50pm, as these are the busiest times and we need to limit the number of vehicles onsite.

Parents are allowed to drop students in the Tesco car park as stopping on Ocotol Way, a freeway, is illegal and warrants a £30 fine. It is also dangerous.

Please support us by using this facility and not breaking the law.

Enterprise Day

Year 11 students were invited to wear business dress for the day as they participated in the NatWest Prom tender challenge. The overall winning team was 11A and their team Top Nosh.

Year 10 students had an extremely varied day as their activities included; a workshop designed by NatWest where students were asked to tender for a contract to supply a visit to New York, Designing a Wenlock Mascot for the Olympic Games; a fitness activity and a problem solving activity.

This was a fantastic day where students

were encouraged to use all of the enterprise competencies.

Year 9 students took part in various activities that challenged them both physically and mentally.

Activities included; Innovation in sport, Christmas Lyrical Challenge and Christmas design Challenge.

All of these activities were designed to encourage students to be innovative and to let their imaginations run wild. It was a really exciting and fun packed day enjoyed by all.

St. Joseph's Students Score at Swindon Town

In partnership with Swindon Town Football Clubs, the Art department produced work for the family area of the County Ground. On the 12th November, KS3 Enterprise Day students produced mural paintings, fabric hangings and footprint stencils. They used their



enterprise skills of working to a brief and using their ingenuity and creativity.

The work was paraded on the pitch at the Swindon v Colchester Match on the 13th November which Swindon won 2-1.

There was also an unusual P.E. challenge where students played football blindfolded. Students were lead by a partner who had to guide them to the ball. Many students commented on how they had not really ever considered what it might feel like to be visually impaired and found this challenge thought provoking.

Other football themed activities included a workshop on Fairtrade footballs and the people who make them in India. There was also an ICT activity where students designed Pod Casts to promote family football.

This was a great day which was enjoyed by students and staff alike.

Well done to all Year 8 students who took part in this day.

Reviews

Year 11, 12 and 13 Autumn 2010 Student Reviews are now available to view on ePortal.

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Autumn 2010 Student Reviews will be available on ePortal during December.

Animation Club

Students interested in developing their computer animation skills using Flash or Scratch, are welcome to come to S15 on Tuesday lunchtimes. There is a competition to create a 1 minute animation linked to a topic in the College curriculum; the winners will spend a day in Manchester and could win prizes such as a PC and an iPod.