



December 2011 Issue 9

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWS



www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk



St. Joseph's Sixth Form continues to go from strength to strength. In 2009, the Sutton Trust Report said that from St. Joseph's, a greater percentage of students went to university than those from other post 16 providers in Swindon and South Gloucestershire. This year, we have over 80% currently applying for a place at university, including 4 students who have been invited for interview at Oxford University.

The first round of Sixth Form applications is now closed and our second round applications will be open until February 10th, 2012. This will enable more time for students to consider applying to St. Joseph's Sixth Form whilst allowing us to manage and process the course requests of all those who have already applied.

The next 12 months hold many exciting opportunities for our students. We are currently working towards extending our Level 2 package provision as well as taking part in a new initiative to increase the use of ICT in A level lessons. Our project would mean every Year 12 student would receive a tablet PC for use in lessons, this would enable them to gain access to the internet and view resources on moodle, both inside and outside the classroom.

We are delighted to have secured direct funding in the form of bursaries for students applying to St. Joseph's Sixth Form. Our Monsignor Twomey Award celebrates success and is awarded to the students who have the highest GCSE grade that continue to study at St. Joseph's. We also have bursaries available for students who require help towards the cost of text books and subject specific resources. Year 12 students are currently investigating the use of a Sixth Form Twitter feed. In addition to this, the focus group will be developing a St. Joseph's Sixth Form YouTube channel. Look out for these in the future.

Richard Blake and Tina Foley
Sixth Form

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth.....

may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us.

As you chose the lowly, the outcasts and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart.

May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen.

Academic Tutoring Day

Thursday 19th January is our College Academic Tutor Day. Unfortunately this year, the GCSE Mathematics exam for a number of students falls on the 19th January. Notification of the number of entries and the date/time from the exam board were not finalised until October. As this is a GCSE examination the College is unable to change the date of the exam.

There are approximately 100 Year 9 students, 40 Year 10 and 50 Year 11 students involved in the Mathematics exam. Students should all have individual forms with dates and times shown of the exam. The Mathematics exam starts at 13:10 on the 19th January.

Parent Pay

We would like to remind parents that ParentPay is a more convenient and secure way to pay for meals and trips.

The College is working towards being a 'cash free' environment whilst giving parents the flexibility towards being able to pay by Credit or Debit card, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you need a reminder of your password or log in details, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Haynes, Reception at the College.

End of Term Buses

College will close at 1.30pm on 16th December. College buses will be running at the normal time, 2.50pm, in case any students wish to wait for them.

Change of details of telephone number?

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.

Wishing all our students and parents/carers a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.



Dates for your diary

16th December	College closes for students
4th January	College reopens for students
16th January	BTEC Performing Arts Pantomime 7.00pm
17th January	Rock School Concert 7.30pm
19th January	Academic Tutoring Day
6th February	Year 11 Group Photograph
8th February	Performing Arts Show 7.00pm
10th February	College closes for Students
21st February	College reopens for students

Meeting Maggie

The delightful Maggie Stiefvater was welcomed on stage by a group of year 9 students from various schools within Swindon on the 7th of November, 2011, at Nova Hreed School.

The author was greeted warmly by her adoring fans who were absolutely thrilled to meet her. Maggie truly connected with her adherents through a range of fascinating stories of her life from early childhood to recent tours. Maggie had everyone gripped. Her amusing tales had everyone in fits of laughter as her story telling skills really came into play. The time flew by as Maggie revealed her adventures with breathtaking wolves and... bagpipes? All in all, a worthwhile event. Absolutely magnificent!

County Ground Trip

Year 11 IGCSE English students visited The County Ground to enhance their studies of creative and factual writing. We were given a tour of the stadium including the changing rooms, pitch and police control room and found out about Swindon Town's numerous achievements and moments in their history. We spent time analysing football writing and considered how writers interest their readers. We used the tour to compose our own factual accounts of our visit and took numerous photographs to use as prompts for future pieces of descriptive writing.

Many thanks to Steven Weller from Swindon Town for helping us with our work.

Ash Dickinson Visit

On the Friday 11th November, 13 students from St. Joseph's Catholic College went to Isambard Community School to watch the performance poet Ash Dickinson.

Ash Dickinson performed some of his many inspirational poems, one of which 'I think my fridge is in love with me.' was very enjoyable. This poem was about how someone thought their fridge was in love with them and it was actually a tiny woman living inside the fridge. It was very amusing and funny to listen to.

He then set us tasks which involved; writing our own poems, forming sentences with alliteration, similes and metaphors. Overall, it was a very enjoyable performance.

Kintbury Residential

I really enjoyed the residential trip to Kintbury! Initially, I thought it would be like the day trip in Year Seven, but I soon realised that the residential trip would be much better. We did so much in a day, that I found it hard to remember to write down everything we did in my journal. As soon as we arrived, we unpacked and gathered in the Damian Lundy Room where we played a few games to get to know the team and the students from the other school visiting from Colchester, Essex. We then all had dinner. At the end of the day, we said Evening Prayers. This was one of my favourite times of the day because prayers were usually said in the quiet room. I liked this room a lot as it was always illuminated with candles and created a calm and peaceful atmosphere to pray in. The first day alone had surpassed all the expectations I had of this trip and so I was really excited about what was planned ahead.

The next day, we had breakfast at 8.30am. After meals we had regular intervals where we could explore the house, the outside area or just relax in the De la Salle Room. There was always plenty to do like practising walking on stilts, riding the unicycle and playing Jenga. The main activity we did that day was the Emmaus walk. We each had a partner whom we had to walk with. The team leaders tried to pair us up with people we did not know and the aim of this walk was to get to know someone new. I liked this activity, especially the views. When we returned, we were split up into two groups. These were our 'small groups'. Each group prepared a short presentation for the Eucharistic Service. The group that I was in did a mini puppet show. It was fun making each of the characters. I thought that our idea was really unique and original. After the service, we had free time which I used to explore the house and the area outside. As the day came to a close, we said evening prayers, as usual.

The third day seemed like the final day to me as it was the last full day we would spend at Kintbury. After breakfast, we said Morning Prayers which initiated the new theme of reconciliation. Then, one of the team leaders gave a presentation on this theme. Our small groups had to reflect and discuss the questions that were in this presentation. I thought that some of my group's opinions were interesting to listen to and I liked sharing my thoughts as well. Once we had dinner, we gathered in our small groups again to write our affirmations. I think that was my favourite experience of the whole trip.



Student Investor Challenge

City news now... This year 20 teams from St. Josephs Catholic College have entered the Student Investor stockbroker challenge. Details of the competition and the latest leader boards can be accessed by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by visiting www.studentinvestor.org



With only £1000 between the top 5 teams, and £3000 between the top 10, expect to see lots of changes in league positions before the competition ends on 10th February 2012. Congratulations to the current leaders, team "Risk Business".

5-a-side

Congratulations to the Year 7 5Aside Football team who have qualified for the Swindon Schools' Finals on Wednesday 7th December. In the preliminary round, on 23rd November, they were up against Churchfields, Kingsdown, Dorcan and Warneford. They were unbeaten in their first round matches and qualified to play Churchfields in the final. The boys were always in control in the final and won the game 2-0. St. Joseph's Sports Hall was the venue for both rounds of the competition.

St Joseph's squad – Bolton Fernandes, Romario Coutinho, Dominic Finnell, Ben Mazzotta, Jamie Nelson, Declan Lehmann, Erol Ignas

Pantomime

On Monday 5th December, a group of Year 12 students performed their version of the famous Pantomime "Sleeping Beauty". This was part of their BTEC Module "Performing to an Audience". The students performed their show to the Year 3 and 4 students at St. Mary's Primary School. "The students behaved beautifully and laughed all the way through our show. Our performance went exceptionally well and even when the music for the last song failed to play, we improvised our way through it. The best thing at the end, was hearing students say; "We want to watch it again" – That was AMAZING".

We will be performing our Pantomime at St. Joseph's Catholic College on Monday 16th January 2012 at 7.00pm.

Please come and support us!

For more information about life at St. Joseph's, visit our website at:

www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk

Art and Photography

The Art Department is always grateful for any donations of resources, if you have any old equipment, cameras, textiles, maps, books, objects that you want to get rid of please pass them on to a member of the Art Department. In regard to resources, students at Key Stage 3 are given a sketchbook that is their responsibility, lost sketchbooks need to be replaced at a charge of 50p made through the front office/reception. Key Stage 4 students can also buy additional sketchbooks for their studies for £3. If students did not purchase the Art Pack we also have a range of resources GCSE students may borrow so they can complete work at home. A-level students are expected to fund some equipment themselves and although we don't ask for any payment towards equipment as some colleges do we do expect them to buy a basic range of media and to buy their own canvases and paintbrushes, however we do carry second hand canvas's for students also to use. In Photography we also provide the basic equipment and don't have a standing charge, however if a student is completing a lot of darkroom work we would ask for £2 towards the price of photographic paper.

Art Deadline for Coursework

All GCSE, AS and A2 Art and Photography courses coursework units are due in on the 31st January 2012. As of the 1st February we start our exam period and we wish all our students the best of luck.

Proposed Change to Exams

As you are probably aware, there has been a lot of discussion in the press regarding changes to exams and exam boards.

We are still waiting for a definitive decision regarding the proposed Department for Education changes. We will send out an update once these changes have been clarified and confirmed in the New Year.

January Exam Dates

Various Mock Examinations will take place during the first week back after Christmas.

Formal Examinations will take place during the following periods:

Year 9	19th January Only
Year 10	19th - 25th January
Year 11	19th - 30th January
Year 12	10th - 20th January
Year 13	11th January - 2nd February

Girls Extra-Curricular Sports

After College - 3 - 4.30pm	
Tuesday (Week A)	Hockey (Astro)
Thursday (Week A)	Football (Astro)
Lunch Time - 1.20pm - 1.50pm	
Thursday	Girls' Cricket (Sportshall)

Linguist Awards

Congratulations to Elizabeth Bason and Josh Witts who received prizes at the Sixth Form prize giving evening, for being the two outstanding linguists in the College this year.



International Day of Languages

To celebrate the International Day of Languages Claudio Donatelli, the fitness coach at Swindon Town Football Club and Domenico Dorado, the goalkeeper's coach, met Year 8 students and students from 6th Form. The two coaches were accompanied by Mr Mark Isaacs the Stadium and Operations Manager at the club, who is an ex-pupil of SJCC. Students asked them many interesting questions and we were not at all surprised to learn that they both have difficulties driving on the Magic Roundabout.

Here are some comments from our students:

For the International Day of Languages we met Claudio Donatelli. It was great meeting Italians that are working in Swindon. It was very interesting and I asked him if he liked living in Swindon. He said that he really likes it here.

For the International Day of Languages we met Domenico Dorado, the goalkeepers' coach at STFC. It was great meeting Italian people who work in Swindon. I asked him if he likes it here and he said that he does.

Italian Teaching

Year 12 student, Emma Hall, helps support 7L Italian and this week she resourced and delivered a very successful session aimed at revising adjectives of colour. Eva Lovejoy, Grace Dabner and Shannon James in 7L all said afterwards that Emma is a great teacher. This is how Emma describes her experience:

I delivered a lesson for the first time and I really enjoyed it. I had previously taught a starter to the class but being able to teach an entire lesson was a great experience. My lesson was received extremely well by the class and I hope that I managed to teach it in the correct way to enable them to learn about the topic. I would love the chance to teach another lesson one day and I would like to thank Mrs Carbone for giving me the opportunity in the first place. I now realise how hard it is to deliver a lesson and keep the class interested.

Bonjour! Buongiorno! Hola!

There was a hive of activity in the Languages Department on the International Day of Languages on Friday 23 September. A number of fun language activities were organised and delivered by our 6th form students for year 7, 8 and 9 students during lunchtime. Activities included French Bingo, Pelminism, Re-phrase and beat the 6th Former! Many of our students commented on the value of being able to use their linguistic skills outside formal lessons and they particularly enjoyed being able to work alongside our French and Italian students in year 12 and 13. Until next year, au revoir, arrivederci, hasta luego.

Year 6 Open Evening

Language students took centre stage at this year's Open Evening for prospective year 7 students when they showed parents how we learn and teach languages at St. Joseph's. Armed with interactive whiteboards and pens, students confidently delivered exemplary French and Italian language lessons to a class of parents. A group of year 9 students also modelled our newly implemented Group Talk strategy which enables learners to express likes and dislikes as well as agreement and disagreement on a range of interesting topics. Parents were extremely impressed by the level of fluency which our students achieve.

French Poetry

A Poem written by one of the Year 11 AS preparatory students:

'Dans la montagne
J'ai bu du champagne!
J'ai gagné le Grand Prix,
Maintenant je suis au Paradis!
Mais, j'ai démoli la voiture, violemment
et tout ce qui me reste est le sentiment.
Mais, dans la montagne,
J'ai bu du champagne!'

Liceo Calamandrei Exchange

Following last year's extremely successful exchange with the Liceo Calamandrei we are hoping to return again to the beautiful renaissance city of Florence in March. Some of the highlights last year included visiting the Uffizi and seeing Michaelangelo's David, trips to Siena (home of the Palio) and San Gimignano and the staging of an international football friendly whose defeat we are eager to avenge this year! The students will again, no doubt, see their Italian improve immensely and will also enjoy a cultural and artistic experience that they will never forget in Italy's City of Art.

Maths Flexible Fridays

Flexible Fridays within the Maths department this year have seen Year 8 students combining their abilities in Olympic athletic events with the analysis of their achievements, a Top Trumps day and a Puzzle and problem solving day. Year 7 have had a Maths Olympic day to look at how Maths can be used as a tool to analyse event results, symmetry in the flags of the Olympic Countries and looking at distances around the Olympic race track. Year 9, as part of the data handling section of their GCSE, have been analysing data about water in Africa and deciding who is in most need of it.

Students have been improving skills in various areas including their communication, problem solving, team work and enquiry skills. They were able to demonstrate that they can effectively apply their maths to other contexts outside of the normal syllabus.

Year 13 students have also had Maths flexible Fridays to further their understanding of Numerical Methods to support them with their coursework. Sixth Form students have also been helping younger students across various year groups with their Maths days.

Maths Inspiration Trip

"On Thursday I went to Reading with Mrs Bailey and three other Year 11s and four Sixth Form students to listen to three speakers talk about maths related subjects. The first spoke about maths on the back of an envelope which is quick, simple maths and told us about 'zequals' which is when you round every number up to 1 significant figure for a rough estimate of the total. The second speaker, an engineer, spoke about how the Olympic Stadium was built. He had diagrams of the structure of different parts of the stadium, such as the roof and how they had to build it so that it could withstand the weight, change in weather and would still be in good condition in the future and so that there was not too much wind as if there was more than 2 miles/hr of wind behind the athletes at ground level on the track the world records for short sprints, hurdles and jumps would not count. The third speaker spoke about juggling. He was performing lots of different tricks, starting with very basic skills and doing more complicated ones as the time went on. He spoke about how to juggle and how the balls are only in your hand for half the time, no matter how many balls you are juggling.

All the speakers used humour and stories to make the talks entertaining and the overall atmosphere of the trip was very relaxed. It was a lot better than I expected it to be and I am very glad I went on it!

For tips on Maths revision, visit our website at: www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk

Further Maths

Ever wondered why you can't square root a negative number? Or why you slow down when you start cycling up hill, or how fast you can go when you ski? Further Maths might be for you. If you have or are predicted an A or A* in GCSE maths, and want to do a maths or related degree (any science, engineering, etc) at university, then you should seriously consider the maths and further maths combination. It is particularly useful for applications to the top 20 universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial and Durham.

Run with Ridgeway school for the past 4 years, students travel there by bus on a Wednesday afternoon and then have small tutorial type classes at St Joseph's, which allow students to focus attention on any difficulties they are having. This is excellent preparation for the lecture and seminar/tutorial approach taken by most universities.

Previous pupils are studying at universities including maths at Southampton and Exeter, achieving good results in their university exams.

Finally, the Further in the title does not necessarily mean harder, but should be taken to mean "more and more interesting!".



Senior Maths Challenge Results

It has been a busy time for A-level mathematicians, with the Senior Individual Challenge, the Senior Team Challenge and the Maths Inspiration trip.

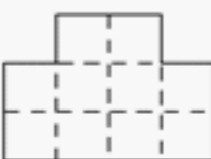
Lewis Carney came top in the school with his Silver certificate, and Izabella Smolicz and Tom Kendal also achieved Silvers – commendable in this difficult exam. Jacob Holliday and Connor Perrin got Bronze. This is a typical question:

A 2×3 grid of squares can be divided into 1×2 rectangles in three different ways.



How many ways are there of dividing the bottom shape into 1×2 rectangles?

A 1 B 4 C 6 D 7 E 8



House News

Buckfast

All of the Arrowsmith and Sherwin Tutor Groups rose to the occasion of Charity Week in an effort to raise funds for their House charity, Jubilee Gardens. We are very proud of the efforts of the Buckfast students who gave up their lunch break to organise numerous money making ideas.



7A offered calories and design with their cup cake decorating stall; 8A rigged up a bike training machine for a sponsored bike ride that covered many miles and raised many pounds, but did not actually go anywhere. 8S and 9A both had people guessing, teachers' ages and how many sweets in a jar respectively. 10A championed Jubilee Gardens and set up an informative display that let people know how their donations were going to assist local adults with learning difficulties. 10S offered more calories in the form of a cake sale. There was a combination of Tutor Groups for the organisation of a 'sponge the teacher' event. 7S, 9S and 11S all helped provide their fellow students with the opportunity to soak a number of brave teacher volunteers, Mr. Johns; Mr. Harney; Miss Howell; Mr. Kasperczak; Mr. Stoten and Mr. Chappell all took a sponging for charity. The Year 12 students organised a penalty shoot-out and a leg waxing event. Many thanks are due to Mr. Barkham, Mr. Clapton and Mr. Stoten for agreeing to volunteer their legs for this activity. Their discomfort proved to be very popular with the observing students. Every event was well attended by the students from all of the other Houses, who generously contributed to the Jubilee Gardens appeal.



Mr. Bruce Potter, from Jubilee Gardens, visited St. Joseph's on the 28th November and accepted the cheque for the £350 raised by Buckfast students. He thanked all of the Buckfast students for their hard work in raising money during the House assembly and told them that their support would make a huge difference to the people supported by Jubilee Gardens. He also invited Buckfast students to visit the Jubilee Gardens site to meet some of the people their money will have helped. We look forward to continuing our association with this excellent Charity and doing more to help in the future.

Walsingham

Walsingham are made up of all E and M Tutor Groups across the school and all came together on Thursday 17th November to raise money for their own local charity, The Harbour Project. The Harbour Project helps refugees in Swindon providing a safe area for people to come together and communicate and organising events for people to participate in. In total we raised £315 on this day, all credit to the dedication and enthusiasm of the students who, with the help of their tutors, organised a wide range of events as reported by some of the House Representatives below:

Last Thursday for Charity Week we did the cross bar challenge in the Sports Hall. It was fairly popular and people came to take part. We also did a cake sale on the street and everyone helped with ideas and posters and selling the cakes. Also people took part in the baking during lunchtime. The stall was very popular. Everyone did their bit!

Charity Week was really successful. Walsingham had a large variety of events and stalls raising money for the Harbour project. 10E did a Mexican Theme Day with piñatas and other party games. It was very fun and two out of the three piñatas were broken and the winners received all the sweets inside. We also made fake moustaches which we wore to advertise the event.



Our tutor organised face painting which made £52 for charity. We did very well and many people had their face painted and donated money even if they didn't want their face painted. We all worked as a team which was probably the main reason it was such a successful event.

Our charity event was called 'Trolley Dollies'. We walked up and down the street with a trolley full of food/ drinks. We sold out within forty minutes of lunchtime and made approximately £63. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



House News

Glastonbury

A big well done to all those who took part in Glastonbury House's Charity Fundraising Day on Wednesday 16th November and helped make the day a huge success. At lunchtime the Street came alive with a range of vibrant stalls, all prepared and manned by dedicated Glastonbury students hoping to raise all the money they could for the Prospect Hospice.

7C led the way with a well decked-out stall selling sweets and bric-a-brac; their already impressive total added to by Mrs Ash and Mrs Griffiths who were both sponsored to relieve their youths and don school uniforms for the day.

It wasn't long before the girls of 11L were completely sold out of their colourful, handmade selection bags. All the while, outside the brave pupils of 9L shrugged off the cold and made even more money washing staff's ever-so-muddy cars.

Year 13 students made an amazing pot luck game filling large bubble wrap pockets with different coloured paints. Prizes were available if they popped a bubble of a certain colour An ingenious game we had not seen before

There were many other wonderful activities organised on the day but special mention must go out to the huge contribution made by our Sixth Form pupils who all gave time to help in the fundraising. Declan and Harry from 12C gave more than just their time; they also sacrificed worrying amounts of hair (by way of razors and hot wax - ouch!) all in the name of Charity and raised a massive total between them - well done boys!

Overall, Glastonbury House did themselves and their charity proud. Thanks to the efforts of these conscientious pupils, £350 will be given to Prospect Hospice to help them in their noble cause to deliver end of life care in the local community.



Evesham

This Term we have had lots to celebrate in Evesham House. We've had lots of success in the Cooking Competition 'Make it with Mince' with winners from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 gaining a total of 20 House Points! Success followed in the final with the two joint winners Laura Brown and Caitlin Dooley both being in Evesham!! Well done to everyone who took part!

Well done to Henry Ash and Connor McGilligan for winning the Poetry Competition!

Congratulations to Emily Baker(10B) and Natalia Arciuchiewicz (9B) for their winning entries in the House Art competition. Their work was exhibited at Steam on 12th November.



Charity week was a huge success this year with many events and activities being run to fundraise for our House Charity Swindon Young Carers. There were some fantastic events including 10W's chocolate fountain, 7W's Quiz, 8B and 8W's Penalty skills, 9B's Art Attack, 12B's Tuck Shop and 13B's coloured hair spraying!! A grand total of £350 was donated to Swindon Young Carers.

What the students did:

"Our tutor organised two enormous activities, both to take place on Tuesday 15th November, at lunchtime where anyone could come into the classroom, dip their hands in paint and make hand prints on paper, to form the first initial of all four of our school's houses - Buckfast, Evesham, Glastonbury and Walsingham; or could have their hair braided by girls from our Tutor Group.

I managed to sneak a peek of our classroom during lunchtime and was surprised by the effort that everyone had put in and the amount of people that had turned up to put their hand prints on paper."

"7W's Charity Day was a great success and we all really enjoyed raising money for our charity; Young Carers. We did a quiz all about chocolate in which there were 20 questions about chocolate related things. For example, which chocolate is minty and bubbly?"

Congratulations to Hannah Lloyd from 9C who got eighteen right answers out of a possible twenty, and for all her effort she was commended with a box of Heroes.

"I really enjoyed Charity Day because everyone was so eager to take part and support us so we could make as much money as possible for Young Carers." Thanks Evesham for all your hard work this term!

Extend

Make it with Mince

Students were set the challenge to create a main dish using Red Tractor beef or lamb mince with a salad or vegetable accompaniment. There were certain rules:

The original recipe had to: Include 225g of Red Tractor beef OR lamb mince, Serve 2 people and be within a budget of £10

Students had to: Keep within the £10 cost, Follow a recipe, Ensure the dish was well presented

There were lots of brilliant entries across all year groups including Spaghetti Bolognese, lime and chilli burgers, pasties, meatballs and a meatloaf. Judging the competition were Miss Shaw-Giles and Miss Suckling. The standard of food was outstanding and judging was a tough (but enjoyable!) job. The final winners were as follows:

Year 11- Macauley and Richard (Evesham) with minced beef pie and mash, Year 10- Kiara Wakely (Evesham) with a chilli filled tortilla, Year 9- Connor Buckingham (Buckfast) with pasties, Year 8- Caitlin Dooley with chilli and lime burgers and Laura Brown with Moroccan lamb pie and couscous (both Evesham), Year 7- Morgan Powell with a meatloaf (Buckfast)

Congratulations to all those that took part and look out for more Competitions in the New Year!

A Visit to the Library

In early November, the Year 12 ICT students visited the Central Library in Swindon to see how the library makes use of ICT to support their operations. The students were shown a number of systems including the automated returns machines, special access terminals and check-out stations. It was interesting to see that the library still makes use of microfiche machines to access some of the older census and borough history records. As part of their ICT course, students study how ICT supports organisations in achieving their business goals and visiting companies helps the students to better understand ICT's role.

For those of you who haven't visited the library in a while or haven't looked at their website, you might like to know that there are free on-line driving theory tests available and they also have a large collection of images showing Swindon through the ages - these are categorised by road, so you may be able to easily find an image of your road from years gone by.

Sixth Form Football

The St. Joseph's Sixth Form football team opened their new campaign in emphatic fashion with a 6-1 home win over Cirencester College. The team, overhauled in the closed-season, quickly found a new groove and the match had all been closed out by half-time. However, in typical SJCCFC style, a professional second half display ensued where they found the net a further three times. Making an early bid for Golden Boot is A. Souza with a brace, J. Rejek-Aldridge, J. Willoughby, R. Wilkinson and C. Endicott with a curled 20-yarder.

Other noteworthy performances included confident glove-work by D. Bannon, an industrious but cultured debut by F. Berry and clever wing-play by M. Flatman.

Road Safety

On Tuesday 22nd November, 13 year 11 students attended the annual Road Safety Quiz at Arval in Windmill Hill Swindon. The quiz takes place every Year with the aim of raising awareness of Road Safety to year 11 students across Swindon who may be considering learning to drive in the near future.

This year there were six schools that took part with a total of 54 students. The 13 St Joseph's students made up 3 teams, and all did very well with one team coming in 4th place, one in 3rd place and one team coming in a fantastic 1st place and winning the trophy for the first time with a team made up of Charlotte Haynes, Naomi Fleet, Olivia Acott and Nicole Anyango all from 11C (Glastonbury House).

Here is what the winning team had to say about the day:

We went to the ARVAL centre to do a Road Safety Quiz and we found that the experience of the whole thing was very worthwhile. We found that we learnt lots of new things about road safety and ways to help us keep safe on the road when we start to drive. We all went along to take part in the quiz and gain some new knowledge and never thought that we would come back with the trophy and free driving lessons for coming first for the first time for St Josephs. We would all say that it is a worthwhile thing to go to as we felt that we were able to learn lots of new things and also we enjoyed the free food, drink, sweets and goodie bags at the end.

IGCSE Workplace Visit

Students studying IGCSE English as a Second Language have been studying a unit on Work and Education. Our Year 10 students were thrilled with the opportunity to visit the BMW plant on a Flexible Friday. As BMW is local to the college, students were able to walk from St. Joseph's.

This is what one of our Year 10 students had to say about their trip: "Going to BMW Factory Tour was an excellent experience. I was amazed by how the robots were programmed to do different things and if there was mistake, then they would shut down. I was also amazed by how the machines were worth £250,000 pounds and some were worth more. There was one machine that was worth more than a million pounds and it was 60 feet below the ground. Other than that, it was amazing because we met different people and we also asked questions to the apprentices about their careers and how they became apprentices."

