



December 2012 Issue 15

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWS



www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk



This as ever has been a very eventful term. The new College day seems already embedded into our routines and practice. Enrichment is well established with sixth formers as well as teachers running some exciting activities. The recent Christmas concert was a testament to the success of 'The Voice', singing enhancement for Years 7-9 and the musical theatre group being run during Enrichment by some of our very talented sixth formers.

You will see from the contents of the newsletter that the work done by our Chaplain, Julia, continues unabated. We now have a student CAFOD team, a Youth SVP group and a newly created Sixth Form Chaplaincy group supporting our Key Stage 3-4 Student Chaplaincy. This all stems from our very successful Mission in the summer, which captured all our imaginations.

Year 11 are to be congratulated on their hard work, positive attitude and commitment since September. A number of students took their linear Maths and/or English GCSE in November and we await their results in January. They are a real credit to the College and are making the most of all the opportunities given to them this year.

This can also be said of other year groups who have shown by their work ethic that they are committed to maximising their 'infinite potential', whilst simultaneously throwing themselves into all aspects of College life from Enrichment through to fund raising for charity. I am a very lucky Principal!

I would like to thank all staff for their continued hard work and I wish everyone a great Christmas and a happy New Year.

Maureen Harries
Principal

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

You came into our world bringing us New Life with New Hope. May we follow your example of loving tenderly those, who this Christmas, have little in the way of comfort – the homeless, the refugee, the orphan.

Let us be truly thankful for all that we have been blessed with and help us share the plenty that we have with those who have little, particularly during this season of giving.

We ask this in your name.

Amen

Review Information

The College is continuing to pilot paperless reviews with Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 this year. To access them please follow the step-by-step instructions below.

Parental Access to Reviews on ePortal

1. Go to the College website (www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk).
2. On the Header Toolbar select 'Resources'.
3. From the Menu select 'Parental Access' (the ePortal log on page will now be displayed).
4. Enter your username and password (previously supplied). Each student has their own tab/page, located in the top left hand corner of the page. If you have a number of children at the College you can navigate between their pages by clicking on the student name.
5. To access the reviews go to the 'Reports' menu, located under the 'Noticeboard' (on the left hand side of the page). Each review will be listed with the review period and date.
6. Double click on the review name required (these are shown in red). This will open the page for viewing on screen. If the review runs to several pages you can use the scroll bar or arrows to display subsequent pages.
7. For additional tools hover your mouse near the bottom of the page. Access to the save, print and zoom options will become visible.

If you experience any problems with logging on to ePortal, you can contact us on our direct line (01793 716977) or e-mail eportal@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk. If contacting us by these methods, please remember to tell us the name/s of the student/s concerned and their Tutor group/s.

For parents and guardians without internet access please notify us using the phone number above or write directly to the College. We will then organise alternative arrangements for you on an individual basis.

End of Term

College will close to students at 1.40pm on Thursday 20th December. Buses will run as normal and students may remain in College until buses arrive.

Dates for your diary

20th December	Christmas Services
21st December	Staff Training Day
24th December	College closed for students
7th January	College re-opens for students
9th January	January exam period begins
17th January	Rock School Concert
24th January	Academic Tutoring Day
30th January	Year 12 Wider Skills
4th February	Year 11 Group Photograph

Important Changes to Detention and Seclusion

As you may know, at St. Joseph's Catholic College, we operate a Seclusion Centre which provides a step in the Behaviour "ladder" before a child is Fixed Term Excluded.

Many of the students who spend time in Seclusion never go on to be Fixed Term excluded. However, there are a number of students who return to Seclusion. As part of deterring these students from returning to Seclusion, the times of Seclusion will be changed from 9.00am till 3.30pm to 8.30am till 4.00pm.

For a similar reason we are changing the time of the Friday detentions from 3.00pm till 4.00pm to 3.00pm till 4.30pm. These changes will come into effect on our return in January 2013. Friday Late detentions will remain unchanged.

Very few students (less than 4% of the College population) have needed time in our Seclusion Centre, so far this year.

It is our hope that these changes will further improve behaviour at St. Joseph's.

This information will also be available on the College website and on ePortal.

Swindon Shoe Box Appeal

Over the past few months Year 13 RE students have organised and prepared boxes full of goodies for a worthy charitable foundation in Swindon. Not only have we had kind donations across the College, particularly from our peers, but many students also contacted shops such as Boots and Debenhams to ask for any donations.

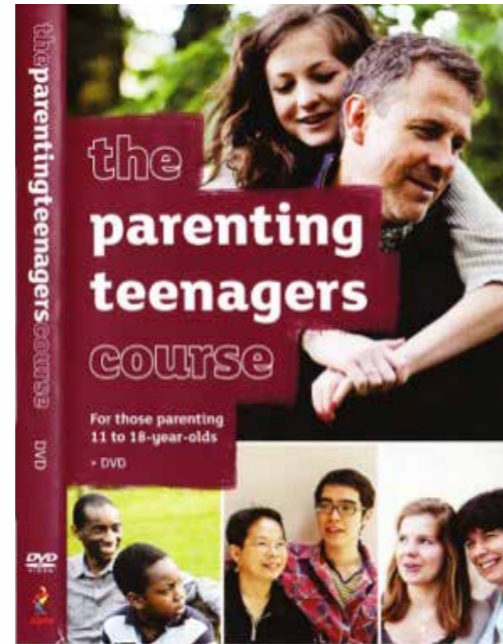
Sophie received a bag of Clarins samples to add to the boxes and Charlotte received kind donations from the Clinique store in Debenhams. As well as these kind donations, the RE department were also able to go shopping to buy essentials to go with luxury items.

On a Flexible Friday Olivia, David, Connor, Angelo, Nigel, Ben, Kiristina, Alice, Sophie, Alice and Charlotte volunteered to come in for the day to help wrap, pack and decorate all the boxes ready to give to the Refuge. It then became apparent how many kind donations we had received. Other students in Year 13 General RE beautifully wrapped and prepared the remaining gifts on the 29th November, ready to send them off in the coming weeks. Thank you to everyone that has supported this appeal, whether through time or donation.

Parenting Teenager's Course

Would you like some down-to-earth and sensitive help on how to build a great relationship with your teenager? In partnership with St. Joseph's, the Swindon Catholic Deanery is offering a new course designed to explore issues around parenting teenagers.

Held in the main hall at St. Joseph's, parents, step-parents, or prospective parents or carers of children aged 11 – 18 years are all welcome. It is also open to those with younger children who wish to prepare for the teenage years. Childcare will be provided free on site for those who need it.



There will be five sessions, each running from 7:30 – 9.30 pm (doors open at 7:00pm). The topics and dates are:

- Building strong foundations, Feb 27th
- Meeting our children's needs, March 5th
- Setting boundaries, March 12th
- Teaching healthy relationships, March 19th
- Our long term aim, March 26th

There is no charge for the course – donations will be accepted with pleasure. More details are available at <http://relationshipcentral.org/parenting-teenagers-course>.

Please enrol in advance by either completing the online form at http://www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk/Parenting_teens_enrollment_form.htm, or fill in a paper form and post or hand it to reception at St. Joseph's Catholic College (marked for the attention of Mrs Ruth Chivers, Parental Support Advisor). Paper forms are available in each of the Swindon Catholic churches or to download at <http://www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk>

New Parent Governor

Following the recent election, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Liz Barrett has been elected onto the Governing Body.

GCSE Music Take to the Stage

On 13th November the GCSE Music students from both Years 10 and 11 came together to showcase their work.

The Year 11 performances featured elements of their work for Unit 3 (Performance) and Unit 2 and 4 (Composition). As well as live performances this year, for the first time we featured the recordings of the students' work, composed using Sibelius music software. These were presented with slides that explained the students' intentions for their work. The recordings included the work of Niall Westman, Daniel Devis-Cabrera, Frank Mazzotta, Jordan Isgin and Joe Forrester. Both Roberta Ngetu and Theo Altieri performed their compositions live and Roberta used members of the Years 7 and 8 Enrichment Choir to help perform her song. The entire Year 10 GCSE music group took part in the performance element of the concert, preparing them for next year when their coursework will be featured.

There were some outstanding performances, with parent feedback about Year 11 Music student Jordan Isgin's performance of the Chopin piece rated as 'amazing'. A fantastic performance from a student who has only been learning the piano for three years!

If you are interested in learning more about GCSE Music, and what it entails, please come and see Miss Collins.

"The GCSE Performing Arts Concert was a great opportunity to see a wide variety of music performed by students at St. Joseph's. It was different to other concerts, as compositions written by students were played for the audience to listen to. It was a lovely evening."

Karolina Smolicz, Year 11 GCSE Music

"It was brilliant to hear compositions on loudspeakers, as opposed to headphones, and it was good to hear what Year 10 were up to."

Daniel, Year 11 GCSE Music student



Welcoming Canon John

A group of students from the College Singers represented the College at Holy Rood Church on Thursday 29th November, singing with the Holy Rood Choir. Bishop Declan conducted the mass for this special service to officially welcome Canon John to Swindon and to Holy Rood Church. The students taking part were Omolola Funsho, Morenika Funsho, Niamh Smith, Leanne Horgan, Bethanie Hale and Laura Brown.

Swindon Youth Festival of Literature – literally a great success!



Students and staff recently had a week of literary inspiration, with a visit from hit children's author Joe Craig, a trip to the Wyvern Theatre to see the Two Steves (the authors of some 70 books) and an illustration workshop with local artist, Fred Blunt. Students also took part in the inter-school book quiz, only narrowly being beaten to 3rd place in a nail biting final where there was just 6 points between 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Well done to Keisha Ishani, Katrina Dilag, Ciara Lewis, Xavi Diaz-Butcher, Rapheal Adekunle and Harry Packer, who all did so well.

Later in the week, students got to see Liz Pichon (author of *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*) and performance poet Ash Dickinson, who was at the College showcasing his poetry.

Congratulations to Niamh Smith (9L), who won this year's Festival of Literature Short Story Competition, in the Years 9, 10 and 11 category. Her entry was judged the best in her age group from amongst the entrants from all the secondary schools in Swindon. Quite an achievement!

Her story, *Is That Myself I See Before Me?*, was judged by Gary Lawrence, Swindon Advertiser Group Editor, who said, 'This won because it had the best twist, which was set up very well with some neat description. The story rattles along at a good pace and by the time we reach the climax we are wondering who the old man really is. Very well done.'

Also doing very well was Year 10 student Francesca Mason-Edmonds, who won second prize in the illustration competition. Competing with students from across Swindon in a workshop with professional artist Fred Blunt, the competition was judged by Fred himself. Francesca's winning cartoon and Niamh's winning story can both be seen on the College website (www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk).

Change of Address or Phone Number

If you move house, or update your phone number please can you ensure you notify the College as soon as possible. Many thanks for your co-operation.

ICT visit Central Library

Year 12 ICT students recently visited Swindon Central Library to gain an understanding of how the library uses IT to help them run their organisation. Students were shown the RFID systems behind the checking in and out of books, the online access systems and how some documents are still accessed through 1970s technology, on microfiche.

Practical visits like this enable the students to better understand the information needs of organisations and how ICT can be used as a relevant and efficient alternative to paper based systems. To help with this understanding, students will also visit BMW and WHSmith to see how they use ICT.



Peer support: No Smoking Course

On the 4th and the 5th of October 40 students went to Legge House in Wroughton. The purpose of the course was to teach young students about the dangers and effects of smoking. Three of us in 8C went on the course. When we got there we were split into two groups. The 'tutti fruitz' was the name of our team.

We did some fact finding about the effects of smoking and all the chemicals and then we made a cigarette. Evangeline Rouse and Luke Wood were the people who did the cooking; it included honey, tar and various other ingredients. This opportunity has offered me so much and I am now ready to take this on board and help my peers to not smoke!

Sasha Brady, Luke Wood and Rapheal Adekunle, 8C

Investigating Portraiture

All Year 11 Art students have the opportunity to visit the National Portrait Gallery in London, offering them an excellent way to support their portrait module studies.

Students were taken around the Gallery and saw work from the impressive Tudor portraits of Elizabeth I and Henry VIII to the Stuart and Renaissance period. In stark contrast were images of the 19th Century Industrialists and a scene from inside Parliament. The 20th and 21st Century offered more experimental portraits; as the camera grew in popularity there was more freedom of expression. Images by Julian Opie and Marc Quinn caught students' imagination and we watched video installations of the swimmer Duncan Goodhew and David Beckham sleeping.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Completion

Congratulations to the amazing team of Sixth Formers who have successfully passed their Gold Expedition.

'On the 23d October Beverley Collins, Adam Davies, Ryan Perkins, Gavin Cowie, Conor Lawrence and myself, Isabelle Di Pierro, set off on our long journey to the Lake District for our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Final Expedition; it's safe to say we were all nervous but also so eager to arrive and begin our walk.

Throughout the four days we all got on really well and spent more time laughing than not, despite the tough walk and heavy rucksacks. The weather also held out for us during the day by remaining dry, although the wind did reach incredible speeds, particularly at the top of the mountains, and we did also camp with slight snow on one of the nights.

One of the most difficult parts of the expedition was having to start walking in the dark, early in the morning, which made navigation much more difficult. Overall it was a really enjoyable experience and reaching the finish line on the final day was a brilliant sense of achievement for all six of us; I wouldn't think twice about doing it again!

Isabelle Di Pierro



Spirituality Conference

The Philosophy and Ethics conference at Totworth Court Hotel was a great success. It was a very inspiring day with a lot of points that I hadn't necessarily looked at from the point of view of the speakers. Fr. Nicholas King from Oxford University described the story of Moses in Exodus, with the journey representing the journey of the soul, crossing the Red Sea away from sin and the River Jordan into the promised land (Heaven). I hadn't looked at it this way before and he showed me how you can read the Bible in a non-literal, but still meaningful, sense.

The second speaker was also very interesting with lots to say about how the Bible is viewed and how it can be used. There was much to say about the Psalms and we left with a list of helpful psalms to read. The chance to meet other students from the Diocese was helpful, in that we could see how others view philosophical and ethical matters. It was fun to socialise with other students and overall my group found the day a great success.

Sidney Akhurst, Y13

Visit to opening of CAFOD offices

I really enjoyed the CAFOD opening day in Bishopston because I met really interesting people and got to talk with them. Everyone was really nice and they complimented me on my poster! The new offices are beautiful and so is the Church of St Bonaventure. I was very glad to be a part of the day as it was very important to CAFOD.

Kate Molloy, 9L

I enjoyed the official opening day of the CAFOD offices because we played a part in the Mass. I and another two students read the bidding prayers. We also met some really amazing people who give up so much time to help and organise CAFOD events. Overall I think the day was really good and I'm glad to help and participate in CAFOD!

Aquiline Lobo, 9C

I enjoyed the CAFOD Mass. I was nervous at first but eventually had the courage to read in front of a crowd of friendly strangers! I also enjoyed the refreshments given after the Mass as well as the buffet lunch. On our way back to Swindon we had a McFlurry from McDonalds. A really nice day.

Meryl Fernandes, 9W



2041: Not Just a Number, an Agreement

A treaty has been signed to protect Antarctica because it contains many fossil fuels and precious elements. However, from 2041 any country can mine its resources, destroying this picturesque landscape and unique habitat for millions of animals, including penguins.

2041 may seem a long way off but the majority of us who are currently St. Joseph's students will be in our 40s with our own children by then. We need to protect Antarctica. If it's not protected it could have devastating effects on the planet. We can already see some of the effects, such as more frequent flooding. It's all down to us, we are the future and if we don't do something now the problems will be even greater. So walk or cycle to school instead of using the car and turn off the TV, don't leave it on standby. You can also sign a petition to save Antarctica by going to <http://antarcticoccean.org/home.php>. For more information visit 2041.com.

Greg Winiarski, Year 11

Get your 2013 College Calendar Now!

The 2013 College Calendar is now on sale, with all proceeds from the sale going to the El Salvador Outreach Group, who will be helping the Arcatao Christian Community build a memorial chapel in memory of those who died in the Civil War.

Showcasing students' artwork, the calendar will be on sale from the main reception at just £2 a copy (students can buy copies at the Student Reception). Perfect for a Christmas present or just for yourself!

Password Policy

From the first week of term we will be enforcing a new password policy for all students.

Passwords will need to be changed every 90 days to one which contains at least six characters. This enforcement will be staggered over the first few days of term for each year group.

Year 9 Arts Award

This year the Art Department is trialing the Bronze Arts Award for our students. A fantastic way of exploring the Arts beyond the classroom, it is hoped that the award will encourage greater creativity and enjoyment from students interested in progressing to Art GCSE, or maybe even a future career in the creative industries.

Challenged by the College Christmas Card competition, our Arts Award students embarked on a photography project, creating many excellent images. Working through a process of idea development in the same way as our GCSE students, they created many outstanding images, with several submitted to the competition. Caitlin Dooley eventually won with an excellent image. Look out for the cards come Christmas time!

In the mean time, all Year 9 students have been working hard on mini galleries, displaying famous work as they would wish to view it. Working in a range of media, those created by our Arts Award students have been truly excellent, with many of B grade quality a year before even beginning their GCSE course! A fine achievement indeed, the finished articles will make outstanding material to support their award.

With such a positive response to the award this year, there is every likelihood the College will offer it again in the future, so if your child is a Year 7 or 8 and excited by the creative arts, I hope they will look forward to involving themselves in future cohorts.

Flexible Friday: Science evolving to Art

Art and Science came together on a recent Flexible Friday, putting the imaginative, creative and debating skills of Year 8 to the test by tasking them with designing and creating an 'extreme' animal.

Having looked at how animals evolve to adapt to extreme environments, students then had to design their own 3D models. Dividing into House teams, each team created an animal who had attributes which would help them to survive most easily in their designated environment. Having created their models students then debated with each other, trying to convince the class that their animal was the most well-suited for its environment.

There was a fantastic selection but Evesham girls and Buckfast boys' excellent evolutionary creations triumphed in the end. Well done to all who took part!



Art and Design

Year 8 had to design a 3-D quotation, using what we could find in our Art and D&T classrooms, to be displayed in the College corridors. It was amazing - great fun to do with your friends. We had to work as a team to try get everything completed in a way our class would like. We also had to communicate with each other to see what was going on.

As a class we were shocked at how well we worked as a team, using the strengths of everyone to get the best out of all of us. It really brought out the best in each student.

Nadia Tarkowska, 8L



Food Technology

For the Year 6 Open Evening, a group of students prepared a range of tasty ingredients for the young children to make, either crostini, smoothies or decorative cakes. Some of the ingredients used were Fair Trade, all in support of Fair Trade Fortnight.

Don't forget catch-up clubs

A reminder to Y10 and Y11 GCSE students in all areas of Art, Design and Technology that catch-up clubs are run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school until 4pm. A list of the rooms where the club is held is displayed around the school.

ADT on Twitter

Join us on Twitter - @ADTstjosephs - for tips, G&T suggestions, clubs and news from the world of Art, Design and Technology.

SSCo News

Rugby News

On the 15th November we took both Year 8 and Year 9 Rugby 7s squads to the Supermarine Rugby Club. The event was organised as a round robin tournament, where each team plays everyone else in their respective age groups. If anybody has played 7-a-side rugby they will know it is a very physically demanding game! The tournament was very competitive, with very little between the teams and the SJCC boys gave a very good account of themselves - cute hands and good running lines and support in attack, with an organised, committed and aggressive defence. Both teams managed to battle to 3rd position overall, although oddly the Year 9 team did manage a very impressive victory against the eventual tournament winners - slow starters these St. Joseph's lads! All the students involved gave their best and were a credit to the College. Well done, gents!

Leadership

Our Year 12 Sports Leaders are making good strides towards achieving accreditation. This term they were tasked with organising a Flexible Friday event for the whole of Year 7. They had to run practical sessions where the students could perform activities which enabled them to gather a variety of data that they could use for the maths element of the day. In fairness to our Sports Leaders they did a fantastic job! Communication skills and rapport with students was very good, as was time and equipment management, a direct result of the work they had put into planning this event. The Year 7 students were totally engaged and enthused throughout the entire morning and successfully recorded lots of useful information for their maths sessions. Well done to our Sixth Form.

"As part of Sports leaders we were asked to organise and run a sports session with the whole of the Year 7 girls. As a group we were challenged to prepare everything for the day, including getting the right equipment out and ready, planning the activities and successfully running the day. Rising to the challenge, we set up the Sports Hall ready for Year 7 and, before we knew it, the students were ready and it was time for us to take control.

"As a team we had to divide the four tutor groups into smaller groups and decide which activity we would run so that the Year 7's could participate in all of the various activities that we had planned. The leaders learnt to use good communication throughout the day and used excellent team work skills to lead the year group. I think that we needed a little better time management because we spent a little too long at the start explaining the activities, but at least the students knew what to do. Overall the day went really well and everyone successfully filled in their score card ready for the other half of the day, which was maths."

Ashleigh Loftus-Baker

Primary Schools

We have nearly finished Young Leaders training at St. Mary's and have set up some dates for St. Catherine's. We hope the Young Leaders make very good use of their skills and are an asset to their schools.

Swindon Schools Cross Country

The Swindon Schools' Cross-Country Championships took place on Saturday 1st December 2012, after being postponed from the previous Saturday due to a flooded course.

The weather was frosty and bright; thankfully the forecast of the possibility of fog proved to be incorrect, although the course had improved considerably over the week, it had to be altered as much of the original terrain was still not fit to run on.

Twenty-two St. Joseph's students took part in the competition, with the outstanding performances coming from Stephanie Piatek, Bolton Fernandes and Hannah Gaffney. Stephanie came 7th and Hannah 19th in the minor girls and Bolton 16th in the junior boys. We are expecting Stephanie to be selected to represent Swindon in the county event in January. All the students who took part should be congratulated for putting in an excellent effort in challenging conditions.

Reaching the 5-a-side Finals

Year 7 students played excellently in the Swindon schools 5-a-side football tournament, reaching the finals - a fantastic achievement. The boys played very well and represented the school and themselves in a very positive manner. A special mention should also go to Mr Dixon who was presented with a tie for his services to Swindon School's football.

Sixth Form Football

The Sixth Form football team kicked off the 2012-13 campaign with a typically disciplined performance against Wellington Academy. It was a well-contested affair, in which ultimately both defences proved impenetrable and chances were of a premium. But the 0-0 score line belied the tenacity of both teams who, when they find their shooting boots, could well both be aiming for the top of the league. Particular performances of note were from F. Michienzi (both resolute and creative) M. Flatman (the Lawrenson to Michienzi's Hansen) and M. Crasto (unruffled).



House News

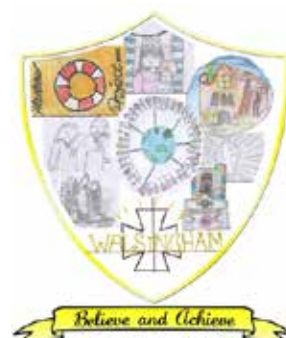
Walsingham

Walsingham are currently third with their total house point score. Do not worry though; we still have 2 weeks until Christmas to boost our position to second or even first for the Christmas cup!

The House Day that took place Friday 7th December was a huge success with students and tutors working incredibly hard to create Christmas cards, decorations, write songs, poems, raps and plays as well as taking part in a Christmas quiz and talent show! It is great to see how much talent Walsingham students have! Well done to all that took part!

Our charity fund raising day takes place on Tuesday 11th December. Many students have come up with fantastic ideas which will be carried out in the street, gym, sports hall and classrooms. Let's raise as much money as we can for Wiltshire Air Ambulance!

Keep working hard in lessons until the last day of term and well done to all who are earning commendations and praise postcards.



Glastonbury

A big well done to Glastonbury pupils Luke Wood and Raphael Adekunle, who won 1st and 2nd place respectively in November's National Poetry Competition. Raphael also represented the house wonderfully during the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature and was awarded a Kobo e-reader in reward for all his hard work!

Student of the Month certificates have been awarded to the following Glastonbury pupils Alexander James, Keisha Ishani, Poppy Winsbury, Amber McGory, Thomas Cummins, Charlotte Daley, Connor Kemp, Michael Prinzi, Eleanor Lovejoy and Custodio Costa; well done to you all for representing the house so well.

It is a very exciting time for the House as we gather for our House Celebration in December; well done to the following students who have volunteered their talents to the show: Poppy Winsbury, Morenike Funsho, Michael Prinzi, Chris Waite, Nigel Nunes, Rhoda Mwangi, Phoebe Leach, Daniella Faircloth and Abbie Fiore – you are all a credit to your house!

We are also preparing for Charity week, in the hope of raising lots of funds for our charity Swindon Foodbank. Pupils have lots of exciting events planned and we are confident we can beat last year's total.

Buckfast

Buckfast House have had much to celebrate this term. Francesca Mason-Edmonds' (10S) work from the 'Workshop with Professional Artist, Fred Blunt' was awarded 2nd prize, having been compared to that of fall participants in the 7 workshops across Swindon. In Year 8 Andrea Napoli also won a Swindon-wide literary competition. Astria Rodrigues joined 9S at half term and has since gained the most House Points in Year 9 Buckfast. Well done to those students and all who have made Buckfast so successful this term.

This term we have also been planning for what looks set to be an exciting charity week in the run up to Christmas. A reminder that our House charity this Year is Swindon Children Without A Diagnosis, please see www.scwad.org.uk for more information.

Finally, I would like to thank all students in 7S and their tutors for their fantastic contribution to Buckfast House this term. 7S have the most students in any class contributing Buckfast, notably with the most volunteers for the talent show, the whole tutor group involved in charity fundraising, and as a class holding the most commendations in Buckfast. Well done to them!

Evesham

There have been lots of successes this term in Evesham House. During a Science and Art Flexible Friday students were asked to design and create a new animal that would survive in specified conditions. Students were divided into House groups and I'm pleased to report that Helena Azevedo Sampaio, Lydia Blackley, Florence Evans and Amelia Wright were awarded Praise Postcards for their animal model. Well done girls!!

Congratulations to Caitlin Dooley 9W for successfully winning the House Photography competition. Caitlin's photo was selected by Mrs Harries to be this year's official St Joseph's Christmas card!

Elsewhere Year 8 has been very successful at gaining House Points this term. A big well done to the following students:

Joseph Inglis 8B for receiving 3 Praise Postcards and 2 'Student of the Month' certificates

Jordi Mathew for receiving 4 Praise postcards and a 'Student of the Month' certificate

Sanshia De Souza for receiving 3 Praise Postcards and 2 'Student of the Month' certificates.