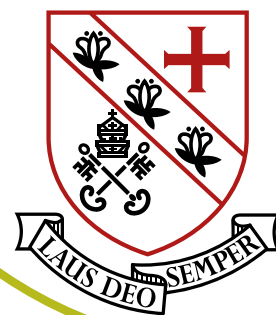


St Joseph's Newsletter



Ofsted Inspection Judgement: St. Joseph's is a Good School

A great deal has happened since our last newsletter in October when we celebrated the great results achieved by St. Joseph's students at GCSE and A level. But the label of special measures was still with us at the start of the year and we found ourselves in the slightly unusual position of really wanting Ofsted to come to St. Joseph's just to show them how much progress we had made.

The removal of special measures is not easy and Ofsted only recommend it when they are confident that the future of a school is secure. Many schools in the special measures category move first to the requiring improvement category. St. Joseph's moved straight to Good.

As I mentioned in my letter to parents and carers following the inspection Ofsted made the following judgements which feed into the overall judgement.

- **Achievement is good**
- **Leadership is good**
- **The behaviour and safety of pupils are good**
- **The quality of teaching is good**
- **The Sixth Form is good**

Throughout the inspection, Ofsted were impressed by the hard work, commitment and dedication of our staff and students. They share our confidence that standards are good. They are impressed by the strong improvements in

the quality of teaching and the changes to the curriculum.

I hope that you will be pleased with the many positive comments that the Inspectors made about our community, in particular they said:

"A culture of working together exists to ensure that students receive a highly effective educational experience"

Students are **"polite...exhibiting good attitudes to learning"**

"Positive working relationships exist between teachers and students"

"Teaching across most subjects and in the Sixth Form, is at least consistently good"

"The quality of feedback and marking students receive is usually of high quality"

"Achievement has risen significantly across the college and continues to improve"

"Our Sixth Form students are making good progress"

I would like to thank all those parents who responded positively to the parent view questionnaire. 86% of the 107 respondents said they would recommend the school to other parents.

I would like to thank all students, parents, staff and Governors for their hard work and dedication since the college was placed in Special Measures 14 months ago. This is an important judgment for the college and our wider community. I am delighted that our combined hard work has been recognised by Ofsted.

We look forward to continuing this positive trend into the future. I am acutely aware that schools are about much more than Ofsted. I am writing this piece just after our DofE awards and our College Performance evening where the wide range of talents in our community were celebrated so well.

It is truly a pleasure to be a part of such a vibrant college which is going from strength to strength.

Policy Update

The board of Directors for the College has met 14 times over the past two terms as either the full board or as one of the committees. During this time they undertake several activities including reviewing the examinations results and student progress. Another of these activities is reviewing and adopting policies for the College. This is to ensure that the College's approach is fair, equitable and complies with the varying levels of legislation as well as aligning the approach to the College vision. There are two new policies this term. A policy in regards to looked after children and a policy for abusive behaviour of visitors. The second policy has been supported by the Directors as they wish to support staff who are dealing with visitors, who are not able to control their actions and also clearly demonstrate to visitors what is expected. Any general queries on policies in the first instance should be directed to the Clerk.

The College is also advertising for a parent director and all parents will have received either an email or letter in the post. If you are interested and would like more information on what this role entails, please contact Michelle Ferris on 01793 714200 or mferris@stjosephscollege.net.

Change of Address or Telephone Number



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

Uniform



As part of the College's approach to setting high standards changes were made to the uniform for all Year 7s this September. Although there is a period of transition for Years 8 to 11, the majority of students are in the new blazer and look very smart.

We are delighted with the very positive feedback we have had from parents, students and visitors about the new uniform.

The vast majority of students are fully compliant with the uniform expectations but we would like to remind you that daps and trainers are not acceptable foot wear. Trousers should not be tight against the leg and tram lines in haircuts are not allowed. Students with extreme haircuts will face sanctions.

If you are replacing uniform over the Christmas break, please refer to the uniform policy on the website. If you are in any doubt, please contact your child's Student Manager.

Thank you for all your support.

Chaplaincy News

The Chaplaincy Team would like to thank our students for their continued enthusiasm and contribution to the spiritual life of the College. Term 2 has continued to be packed with events and activities.

All Year 9 students have taken part in a class mass during RE lessons. The RE department and Canon John would like to congratulate them on their creativity and enthusiasm in planning their mass. Our Faith in Action group has visited Kingsmead nursing home weekly again this term.

Our Sixth Form CAFOD team attended a CAFOD leadership programme at the end of October, meeting with other groups from across the Diocese. The Sixth Form residential to Kintbury was also a great success. In November our Youth Chaplaincy Team was commissioned by Bishop Declan at the Cathedral. The Mass of Remembrance on the 25 November for members of our community was truly special. Thank you to all our primary schools for your contribution, with special thanks to St. Mary's Catholic primary school for their fantastic choir.

Members of our chaplaincy team can be found at lunchtime in the Chapel and all students are welcome. Year 9 students who wish to be confirmed need to be asking their parish priest for letters in January.

St. Joseph's Chaplaincy team would like to wish all of our community a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Sixth Form Kintbury Retreat



On the 13-16 November 2014, I was able to attend the Kintbury Retreat with six other students from Year 12. The retreat focused on getting in touch with God in different ways, being involved in group activities with other schools, group prayers and some individual meditation.

The Retreat allowed students to become much more open in their faith, and to interact with other students with similar beliefs and to be able to talk openly about these beliefs. During the retreat students from other schools were also able to join in with our group activities, and we were able to get to know them. During the activities we were in mixed groups where we spent time talking about issues we may have had at the time or any problems we wished to talk about.

One group activity that we really enjoyed was where we were paired with another student or teacher and were taken on a walk around the countryside. This activity was very enlightening because we were able to share problems and talk about ourselves to someone we had never spoken to before. This was an eye opening activity, sharing things with someone without being judged.

We felt this Retreat made us think differently about our faith and how our faith is a large part of our lives.

Sophia Davis

Arts & Crafts in the Chapel



This term we have been glass painting in the Chapel at lunch times. We have been decorating candle holders for Christmas and some for the Chapel. The students have made some beautiful designs using the paints and acrylic available. We have also decorated some Christmas baubles with black and gold lead outliner.

All students are welcome to join us in the Chapel at lunch times to join in with our arts and crafts. In the New Year we will continue with glass painting on Wednesdays for KS3 and Thursday for KS4.

If you would like to join us please bring in an old tee-shirt to wear and, while we will provide everything you need please feel free to bring your own glass jars if you have something special you would like to decorate.

Mrs Barkham

Chaplaincy Team Commissioning



The trip to Clifton cathedral was a huge privilege. I was honoured to be asked to be commissioned as a chaplaincy member. Everyone enjoyed the day; there were children from the entire diocese.

The Bishop was really friendly, answering lots of different questions. We also took part in a role play activity. The day ended with us being presented with a Chaplaincy Team badge and certificate.



Martina Svobodova 8S

Writing About Macbeth

In Year 11 English, we have been working hard, studying the Shakespeare play, *Macbeth*.

As part of our studies, we linked up with a Year 6 class who were also studying *Macbeth*. The pupils from Stanford in The Vale Primary sent us letters, giving us their opinions of the play and asking specific questions about plot, character and meaning.

We got the chance to write letters back to them, thanking them for their thoughtful letters and we used the best of our knowledge and understanding to reply to their questions.

Doing this helped us with our Controlled Assessment as we had to find the answers to their challenging questions and it gave us confidence in our knowledge of the play as we were seen as the experts! This made us feel more self-assured in our understanding of *Macbeth* whilst helping the Year 6 students with their queries.



The feedback we got from the primary school was very positive as the pupils enjoyed reading our replies and learned a lot from them.

It was an enjoyable experience for us and we hope we can keep in touch through other language projects in the future.

Shanell Camelo, Swisszel D'mello and Jacob Goddard

Year 10 and Joffre White



Year 10 Alternative Curriculum were fortunate to have Joffre White, a professional, published author to join them for a recent lesson. This lesson was an introductory session which will eventually lead to our students producing copyrighted pieces of creative writing which will also assist them with their ASDAN qualifications.

Joffre engaged the students with his views (and theirs!) on current popular teenage fiction and its presentation on the big screen. We also considered the freedom we enjoy in the UK to enjoy literature and to be creative.

Mrs Fraser

Dates for your Diary

- 18 DEC** College Closes to Students
- 19 DEC** Staff Training Day
- 5 JAN** College reopens for students
- 22 JAN** Academic Tutoring Day
- 4 FEB** Yr 10 Parents Evening Population X (ABLM)
- 12 FEB** Yr 10 Parents Evening Population Y (CESW)
- 13 FEB** College closes to Students

British Rhythmic Group Championships



On Saturday 29th November, Gabriela Caruso participated in the British Rhythmic Group Championships at the University of Wolverhampton.

She performed two routines: a ribbon and ball routine and a clubs routine with four other members of her group. They came first in both of their routines and retained their title as British Senior Champions.

After college training

Well done to the Year 7 **RUGBY** players for training hard this Autumn. We have the base of a good team for next year.

BASKETBALL sessions are due to run in Term 3.

FOOTBALL sessions are due to run in Term 4.

P.E. Department

County Cup Football

Congratulations to our year 11 football team for winning through to the quarter finals of their cup competition. The very best of luck to our Year 7 and 9 football teams as they face their cup games in the coming weeks.

P.E. Department

Year 11 Football

The Year 11 football team played Avon Valley on the 26th November in the National Cup and ended up as 5-2 winners with goals from Luc Howell (2) Tommy Ouldrige (2) and Kyle Parker.

We can look forward to a fixture against either Swindon Academy or Dorcan (a bit more local than Salisbury!).

The team consisted of:

Valenco Pires, Bertram Clement, Mark Siaw, Cavan Smith, Kyle Parker, Rob Janksworth Ebbsworth, Tommy Ouldrige, Biagio Mazzotta, Martin Kotowski, Rory Peacey, Joe Kirby, Alex Serrtaore, Luc Howell.

Well done boys!

Mr Barkham

Year 7 5-a-side Football

The Year 7 5-a-side squad took part in their preliminary round of the Swindon 5-a-side competition on the 26th November, acquitting themselves very well.

Our first game against Churchfields was the classic game of two halves. St. Joseph's dominated the first half, controlling possession and creating a host of very good chances, only for the Churchfields goal keeper to pull off save after save to keep them in the game. In the second half the tide turned and we paid by being caught on the counter attack and lost 1-0. The second game was a close affair which we again lost 1-0. The third game against the eventual winners of the group and best team Bradon Forest finished in a well-deserved and hard fought draw 0-0.

Well done to the team and with better luck on the night it could have been a very different story.

Mr Iles

Catenian Public Speaking Success

Niamh Smith and Connor McGilligan (Year 11) took part in the Catenian Public Speaking Competition on 12th October, in which they had to talk for 4 minutes on a choice of topics, and were given a score for their performance.

Niamh chose to speak on "Is there privacy online?", and referred to the recent celebrity photo scandal as well as Wikileaks, where Connor presented on "Does prison work?", and spoke eloquently from memory on deterrence, rehabilitation and punishment. We were delighted that they came second and third respectively from a field of 8, and Niamh has qualified for the national competition next year. **Well done both!**

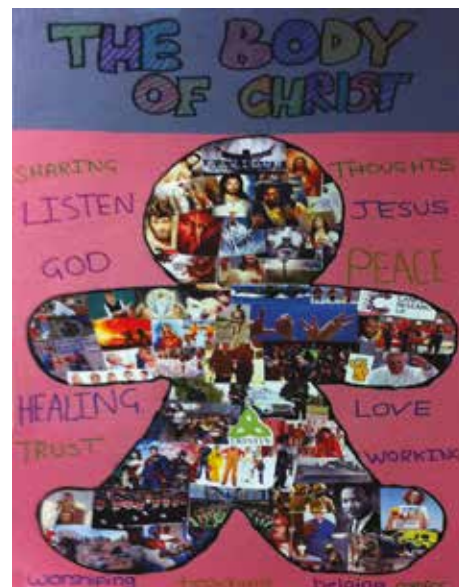
It was a dreary Sunday morning on the day Niamh and I prepared for our speaking and listening competition. Both of us having got full marks in our speaking and listening exam gave us a glittering hope of confidence; however, I think I can speak for both of us in saying it was still a nerve-racking experience!

We had our topics, mine being whether prison is the answer, and Niamh's being that there is no privacy online. Whilst we felt confident on our topics, convincing the audience was the hard part. Humour and statistics were fully involved in each of our speeches, whilst we were eagerly watched by the audience including a very encouraging Mrs Sanders I might add! A group of judges put together by the Catenians stood before us whilst we made our enthusiastic speeches on our chosen topics. The speech had to be between 3 and a half to 4 minutes long, so procrastinating was not encouraged, neither was listing. We came up against private schools with more awards badges than the population of China and being placed in Bristol, we also discovered some potentially Bristolian accents.

Delivery was key. This was something everyone knew. This was not the time for crying or nervousness in front of a crowd. Prior to the competition, it was made aware to me that there was a cash prize; of course this was not why I entered the competition... It turned out that the supposed cash prizes were actually book tokens. So instead of adding money to my gaming savings, I was pleased to walk away with the knowledge that I could buy Moby Dick at Waterstones. I was thrilled. When both of us found out that we achieved second and third place we were overjoyed. I could have been certain that my Nan spat out her false teeth when she realised I achieved third place. As a result, within the next month the complex infrastructure of my Nan's social group including her friends from the Catenians were made aware of our achievements. Deep joy.

I do feel that this opportunity however was a great one given to me by this school. If anything it improved my speaking and listening skills. I am now able to talk to a religious group about how prison isn't the answer, amazing. We were both delighted with our achievements and in particular would like to thank Mrs Sanders who gave up her time to aid us in our efforts. Overall I enjoyed it and would recommend anyone who aspires to be a great speaker to take part in it.

YEAR 10 RE



Artwork produced by Year 10 students in their RE.



The students were reflecting on the teaching of St Paul in 1 Corinthians where he uses the image of Christ's body when referring to the Church.

WELL DONE YEAR 10

Remembrance Mass

The remembrance mass, led by Canon John, was a special time. We remember all those who have sadly passed away, in particular people linked to the school. The whole service had a calming feeling and I am glad that I was there. It was lovely to share the experience with other members of our larger community.

Joe Morse

Year 10 Workshop with Fred Blunt, Professional Artist



Today we went on an Art trip to Warneford School in Highworth where we met an artist called Fred Blunt whose job was very fascinating.

He showed us some of his work which was amazing and then he encouraged us to do some of our own drawings and turn them into cartoon strips. We were given a story 'brief' and we had to design our own characters and recreate the story using our own illustrations. It was a great day and experience.

Ellen Causer and Nadia Tarkowska

Mathematics

The Sixth Form and Year 11 have been really challenging themselves in Maths recently – first was the Senior Girls' Olympiad, which was a 2.5 hour paper with a total of 5 questions, requiring full written answers to complex problems. Lucy Bailey managed to crack a couple, and was awarded a Merit.

This was followed by the Individual Senior Challenge, and for the first time in a few years we had two students through to the next round, in addition to achieving their Gold awards. Greg Winiarski and John Toop-Rose are now awaiting those results.

Greg was also part of the team for the Senior Team Challenge at the beginning of December, where he joined Naomi South, Mark Crasta and Mufaro Chingozho in a team to compete against the best of the South-West, and they behaved excellently mathematically by finishing around the median position (ask your children if you can't remember what this means!).

Maths challenge

"It was a fun and competitive experience to go to the Senior Team Maths Challenge in Chippenham. It was enjoyable to compete with others under time and pressure, and although we didn't win, I loved being involved and felt privileged to be one of the four to represent the College and would recommend it for anyone who enjoys Maths."

Inter-school Book Quiz 2014



During the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature schools from all over Swindon sent six representatives to Dorcan Academy for the annual Book Quiz.

Representing St. Joseph's, Annais Barros, Gianfranco Booth, Joe Morse Anna Maria Tandecka, Chelsea Fernandes and Janusz Wychowaniec faced 12 rounds of questions.

Each school was given a Joker card which doubled the points gained for the chosen round. We chose book/movie characters but all the other schools used theirs for 'The Fault in our Stars' round.

Our two other challenges were identifying authors from their photos and a Book Title task in which words from the title were represented by images.

Despite St. Joseph's best efforts, this year's winners were Dorcan Academy. All participants were awarded with a certificate.

Chelsea Fernandes

The World Around Us



Year 7 students have been busy this term making Roman Villas as part of their research into why the Romans invaded Britain. They have also learnt about all the things the Romans gave us and how important they were for us.

Making a Roman villa was very creative and fun! We used lots of teamwork and independent enquiry because we were given the task and had to work out how to do it. There were lots of things we had to make, such as bathrooms, fountains, a garden and a hypocaust (central heating system). This task helped us to form new friendships too, as we had to work with others.

Abigail Brown

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



We started by making posters to raise awareness around the College! Students and staff at St. Joseph's Catholic College were very generous with their donations; we also received donations from Boots as well. In addition there were some significant donations from family members which we are very grateful for! We received lots of things, from loom bands to colouring books to high-end perfume, Versace for example.

The Faith in Action students then started to wrap and pack shoe boxes into different categories for the mothers and children.

On the 10 December some of the female students and staff will be delivering these presents to the women's refuge hoping to make a difference to those who will be in the refuge over the Christmas period.

Melissa Butler, Sophia Fruci and Emma Hancock

Make Your Mark for a Tenner



At the start of October, all Flexible Pathway students started a new Key Skill Problem Solving which involved a project called 'Make your Mark for a Tenner.' The challenge is for young people aged 11-19 who want to get a taste of what it's like to be an entrepreneur. It gives

them a chance to think of a new business idea and make it happen, using real money to take calculated risks in the business field, make a profit and make a difference. It is a national competition and young people from all over the country can get involved.

This was an individual project so everyone had to choose a charity to donate their profit to. I decided to give my profit to WWF UK and other students in my class chose Red Cross, Macmillan cancer support and some students chose CAFOD as well. Then we had to choose a business idea.

I did a cake sale but there were other ideas like hot chocolate sale, doughnuts sale, sweets and popcorn sale, penalty shoot out, car wash and fortune cookies.

With the profit we made we had to deduct the tenner and give it back and give the profit to charity. I raised £62 from my cake sale and overall I really enjoyed the project as it is a learning curve. Overall the class made £327.

A big well done to everyone.

Ann Gitau

Post-Sixteen Information Evening



We were extremely pleased with the number of Year 11 students who attended the Post-16 Evening in November to gain information and advice about Sixth Form study.

Subject teachers were on hand to give an insight into A Level and BTEC subjects. Gloucester University, Student Finance England, Outset, BMW and the Army who were able to offer advice on Higher Education, setting up your own business and apprenticeships. Swindon College demonstrated the vocational courses they offer. Current Sixth Form students acted as ambassadors throughout the evening, giving students informed and personal advice about life in the Sixth Form.

Students also provided the musical entertainment and Senior Students were on hand to greet parents and give out the information bags.

Further details and application forms are available on the College website.



Gloucester University Mentor SJCC Sixth Form Students

We are very pleased to be part of the Mentoring Scheme offered by our partner university. Gloucester have committed three mentors to weekly sessions with ten of our Sixth Form students. The mentors will offer advice and guidance to students on applying to universities, selecting courses, exam and revision tips and helping present yourself on a CV, personal statement or interview, whether it is for higher education or a work place. Pictured are two of the students taking part, Shefano and Ed, with their mentor Fiona Ting.



Post Sixteen Education

In order to secure a Sixth Form or College place, it is extremely important that applications are completed and sent, ideally before Christmas, to wherever students are intending to study after Year 11.

Applications can be submitted to more than one place. Please take the time to look at each establishment's website and the individual course details including the entry requirements.

If students are unsure of what they want to do, it is vital that they make an appointment with Miss Green our Careers, Advices and Guidance Coordinator, who will talk through the options available and help complete the paperwork required.

Miss Green can be contacted on 01793 714213 or agreen@stjosephscollege.net

UCAS applications and deadline

Students have had an amazing response from the applications already submitted. Students have been applying for a wide range of courses including Sport Science, Maths History, Languages, Sciences, Physio and many more.

Several students have applied for combined honours courses. Offers from Exeter, Warwick, Loughborough, Bristol, Birmingham and many more have been made to our students. We have four students attending Oxbridge interviews in December and many students attending interviews around the country.

We wish them all the best of luck.

The deadline for UCAS applications is Thursday 15th January at 6pm.

Geography on Tour 2016

40 St. Joseph's students will be braving the arctic conditions and making a once in a lifetime trip to Iceland at Easter in 2016.



The spectacular country of Iceland, full of boiling mud pools, spurting geysers, glaciers, waterfalls, volcanoes, lava flows, ash deserts, mighty rivers and stunning coastlines, makes an unforgettable adventure land for any budding geographer.

We will be visiting diverse volcanic landscapes: from Eldfell, which was formed as a result of a fissure eruption on Heimaey in 1973, to the country's most active volcano, Hekla. We will take a trip to the world heritage site of Pingvellir where you can see the European and North American plate boundary or visit Skaftafell National Park where you can walk to the snout of Skaftafellsjökull glacier or Svartifoss waterfall.

In a recent list of National Geographic's "Wonders of the World", the Blue Lagoon was quoted as being one of the most remarkable places in the world. The Blue Lagoon is an extensive lagoon of mineral-rich, geo-thermally heated sea water, located in the midst of an extensive, undulating, fractured and fissured, 900 year old lava field. An afternoon here will be the perfect way to end a hard working week of geography exploration.

Young Enterprise teams prepare for Christmas Challenge



In September Year 10 students were invited to form their own companies and start trading as part of the Young Enterprise Project. Their companies will be competing with those formed in schools all over Wiltshire to win a place in the Young Enterprise county finals which are to be held in May.

There was an enthusiastic response from the Year 10 students, with six companies being formed by students. Of these teams, two have developed their own brands and products, ready to be sold to the public at a Christmas trade fair in the Nationwide headquarters on the 10 December.

The students could see that the principles of business that they had been following with the development of their companies on a huge scale. GWP kindly offered to help the teams prepare for the Nationwide trade fair by creating packaging for their products.

These two companies, 'Made for You' and 'Aroma,' recently prepared for this trade fair by visiting a local business, GWP, to discuss their products and brands with the Managing Director.



The students were inspired by this opportunity to discuss their business ideas with a professional. They were then given a tour of GWP's plant, seeing the full process of marketing, producing and distributing a product.

They are now looking forward to trading with the public and making profits from their hard work.

Mr Stoten

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Follow us to see details of trips, events and general news.

- Twitter @stjosephscc
- Sixth Form Twitter @SixthFormNews
- Find us on Facebook **St. Joseph's Catholic College**

Year 9 Interschool G&T Challenge Day



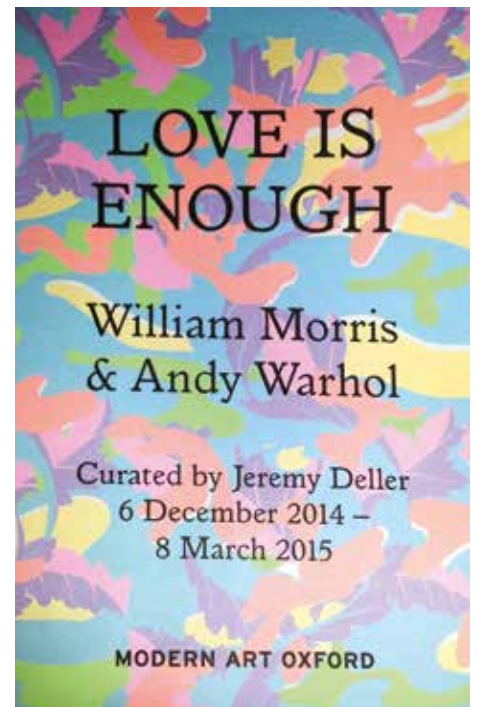
On 15 October St. Joseph's hosted the first 2014-15 Interschool Challenge Day, in which 12 Year 9s from 6 different schools experienced a workshop from each school, including Drama, Maths and Business Studies.

It was a great day with an excellent atmosphere of teamwork and full participation, with our two teams being praised from teachers from all schools.

Both teams finished in mid-table, though one of them would have come close to winning had they had more experience of French rather than Spanish! The next interschool day will be for Year 8s, with Year 7s following in the Summer.

For full details of G&T activities, listen out for Student Briefing, items from which also appear on the front page of Moodle.

Art Students attend new preview show at Modern Art Oxford



Sixth Form Art students attended a preview of a new show at Modern Art Oxford curated by Turner Prize winner Jeremy Deller.

The show features on the work of William Morris and Andy Warhol.

Artists from the Gallery will be coming into St. Joseph's to do a practical workshop with Sixth Formers based on the show.

The real presents of Christmas



A display has appeared in the street that reflects "The real presents of Christmas". The ADT department have really enjoyed getting up this new display for students to enjoy and reflect upon.

St. Joseph's Catholic College

Adult Community & Family Learning

Providing you with the chance to try new skills and experiences

Join us for...

Everyday English

Starting at 9am

30th January 2015

THIS IS A MEET & GREET SESSION WITH
CLASSES STARTING THE WEEK AFTER



*Learn in a relaxed and friendly
atmosphere and make friends*

In a venue near you!

Have your say in what you want!

At a time to suit you!

...and it's FREE!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?

Learn how to use
language in everyday
situations such as:

Answering the phone and leaving
a message

Making an appointment

Talking to your doctor

Ordering food

Filling in forms

Shopping

Asking and giving directions

Help to find a job

How to answer interview questions
and write your CV



YOU WILL NEED TO BRING A NOTE BOOK AND PEN OR PENCIL

Please contact Catherina Whitmore at St. Joseph's Catholic College

For further details, email CWhitmore@stjosephscollege.net or telephone 01793 714230