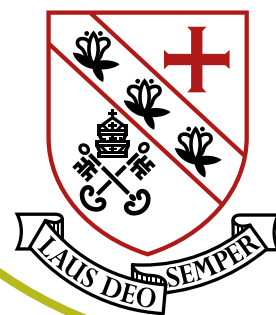


St Joseph's Newsletter



St. Joseph's presents The Lion King Jr

On the 14th, 15th and 16th of October, a spectacular performance took place at St. Joseph's. All three nights, the two casts performed a show stopping production to all friends and families.

My cousin Ethan was in the production and I went to the performance on Friday night. He was Mufasa! So after the show, I interviewed him as I was amazed at the performance and how wonderfully it came together!

Firstly I asked him how easy it was to learn his lines as I would like to do a production whilst I'm at St. Joseph's, he simply replied that it was quite hard but some of the other cast members read their lines with him which really helped him remember them.

I asked him whether he had made any new friends; he answered:

"Yes I made many new friends in all the year groups that took part in the production. We worked for 3 months on the production so we had to support one another through the process."

Ethan Scanlon (Mufasa) was also asked what qualities he thought he brought to the role of Mufasa, he answered:



"I feel I brought professionalism and stage presence. I am a member of Swindon Young Musician's Youth Choir so singing was something that I could really excel in."

He was also asked whether he watched the actual Disney film and whether he took any tips from it and he said that he observed his character's behaviour so that he could mirror it on the stage.

Furthermore, Ethan was asked whether he would like to be an actor when he is older, he said:

"No, it has been a passion of mine for many years and I love acting but it's not something that I would like to professionally do as a job in my life."

Finally he was asked whether he would like to do another production and who he would want to be and why. His response was:

"Yes, I would love to be in another performance, in fact I would like to be in the production at the end of this year, *A Night At The Musicals*, but I'm unsure of whom I'd like to be, but I would love to have another singing part."

I am very proud to have watched my cousin in the production and everyone in the two casts did an amazing job.

WELL DONE!

Elizabeth Warwick



Dates for your Diary

18 DEC	Non Uniform Day	12 FEB	College Closes to students
18 DEC	College Closes to students, 1pm	22 FEB	College Reopens to students
4 JAN	Staff Training Day	22 FEB	Fairtrade Fortnight
5 JAN	College Reopens to students	24 FEB	Year 9 Parents Evening (CESW)
21 JAN	Rock School Competition 18:30	29 FEB	Deadline for Option Choices
28 -31 JAN	Year 11 Kintbury retreat	4 MAR	Year 12 Swanage Visit
2 FEB	Year 9 Options Evening	14 MAR	National Science Week Commences
3 FEB	Uniform Pop Up Shop 15:00	22 MAR	Staff Training Day, College closed to students
4 FEB	Intermediate Maths Challenge	23 MAR	Year 10 Parents Evening (CESW)
10 FEB	Year 10 Science Imperial War & Science Museum Trip	25 MAR	College Closes to students
10 FEB	Year 9 Parents Evening (ABLM)	11 APR	College Reopens to students
11 FEB	Performing Arts Evening, 19:00		

Change of Address

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.

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Admissions Policy

The College is consulting on the Admissions Policy and it can be found on the College website.

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Key Stage 4 News

If you wish to know what controlled assessments and examinations your children are completing within their subjects, you can find out on our College website. Go to the Home Page, click on Curriculum on the top menu bar, then click on Controlled Assessment, Coursework and Revision on the drop-down menu.

This will take you to a choice between Year 10 and Year 11 information, where there are also web addresses for the respective examination boards.

Paul Hughes, Principal



'No Limits'

During the Summer, a group of Year 6 students took part in the No Limits project. They enjoyed learning new literacy skills and attended several fun packed trips, taking part in new activities, such as story writing, canoeing and bush craft.

On Tuesday 28th July, they were given a tour of the County Ground in Swindon and were allowed into areas that only players are usually permitted. They really enjoyed it!

"The tour was really fun, especially seeing the big trophies that Swindon Town have won since they started and all of the photos of the different teams they have had. We were really lucky to be able to go inside the County Ground and see the pitch from the dugout. Clive knew everything about Swindon Town Football Club and it was great to ask him questions".

Lesham, Sven and Jeith

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Advent is upon us and we approach the end of a very busy and successful term at St. Joseph's.

Advent is upon us and we approach the end of a very busy and successful term at St. Joseph's. I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, staff and parents for supporting the work of the College over the last few months. This has been a long term filled with trips and visits, sporting triumphs and exciting enrichment activities. Recent highlights included our College production of *The Lion King* which was of the very highest standard. I was extremely proud of all those involved.

We continue to post regular news items of St. Joseph's events and accomplishments on our College website (many of which are written by our student journalists). Our Chaplaincy Team have now launched a Twitter feed where you can keep up with all their news, particularly information regarding the Year of Mercy. If you have any newsworthy stories about our students' achievements, please let us know so we can endeavour to include them on the website.

We are now looking forward to our end of term activities. I am particularly looking forward to hearing the College Choir performing as I have heard so many good rehearsals as I pass by the music room.

With the general disruption to traffic in Swindon at the moment, the volume of traffic has notably increased in and around the College. As a plea to all parents, could you only drive onto the site if absolutely necessary? We thank you for your help in this matter.

Finally on behalf of the students and staff of St. Joseph's, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Paul Hughes, Principal



Although the weather is very mild at the moment if it becomes necessary to close the College for any reason, please listen to the local radio station for emergency information. Details of any closure will be posted on the College website. We will also try to send a message if we have up to date contact information.

Please let us know if you have recently changed your email address/mobile telephone number so we can update our records.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD

A group of other Year 13 students and I decided to participate in the gold Duke of Edinburgh award which we successfully completed at the end of October with our final expedition in the Lake District.

The final expedition itself involves camping for three nights and walking for a minimum of 8 hours for 4 days; however, luckily for us all 3 campsites had amazing facilities which enabled us to have nice hot showers and forget about the fact we would be spending the next few days in a tent. In addition to this we had to carry out an investigation to then present to members of staff and the company who organises our expedition, OceanRock, in order to show what we had gained and learnt from the expedition.

One group chose to investigate why and how their moods altered

during their expedition and the other decided to investigate the variety of tourism and the main reason why people decided to visit the Lake District.

All in all the whole experience was undisputedly tough; however, the feeling of pride on completion of the expedition over-rides both the bad weather and challenging nature experienced throughout the whole expedition.

Overall, both teams would gladly recommend the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award to those who have already completed bronze or silver

and also to those who have never done either as a handful of the gold students this year had never done bronze or silver yet still managed to complete it very successfully.

The Duke Of Edinburgh Award is a once in a lifetime opportunity offering a chance to see breath taking views, a chance to prove to yourself that you are capable of anything you put your mind to and above all a chance to become closer to existing friends as well as making friends with people you may have never spoken to before!

Megan Nash

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD

We have recently completed the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and we have had so much fun doing the expeditions as a team.



When we signed up, two members of our team had never done a Duke of Edinburgh expedition before and it was definitely a new experience!

We went on three expeditions: one to the Mendips, one to the Brecon Beacons and our final was to Dartmoor. We made some amazing memories and our friendship is much stronger.

We went through a lot as a team, using our strengths and working on our weaknesses to get us through our expedition.

The weather was mostly good and it really stretched our limits both mentally and physically, and took us completely out of our comfort zones, where we could expand our knowledge, while appreciating beautiful scenery in exciting new places.

Overall, we would all definitely recommend it. It is an experience we will never forget.

Written by Eva, Ellen and the amazing Nadia



“If someone had told me a couple of years ago that I would be half way through finishing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award, I would have laughed so hard. But here I am.”

Doing Duke of Edinburgh award has inspired me in so many ways, and it has also helped me to overcome so many personal challenges. Before completing the expedition, I had begun to sink into a shell of self-doubt and insecurity, but doing this award has taught me that perseverance and determination is the key to success in all that you do.

Duke of Edinburgh has helped me strengthen some old friendships, create some new ones, and find out more about myself and what makes me happy. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of Mrs Moss and Mrs Hall. Thank you for encouraging me to be a part of the experience and thank you, Pete and Rachel (OceanRock), for supporting me and just being awesome.

Omolola Funsho

G&T Interschool Challenge Day

Nine Year 9 students took part in the first Interschool Challenge Day of the year in November – look out for the Year 8 and Year 7 ones coming next term! They worked as a team in 6 different activities including making a TV or radio advert, solving logic problems, learning some Latin and practising some physical activities. Despite being a couple of team-members short, they still triumphed in a couple of the rounds – well done!

Senior Team Maths Challenge

Lucy, Mark, John and Steve made up the team for the Senior Team Challenge in Chippenham, competing against schools from across the South-West in individual and team maths activities.

Thanks to Mr Timuri for his taxi service! The Junior version for Years 8 and 9 takes place in March, with preparatory activities starting after Christmas.

Senior Individual Maths Challenge

We got one of our best hauls of awards ever in the Senior Individual Maths Challenge, run by the UK Maths Trust. Particularly well done to John Toop-Rose and Hugh Gallagher who achieved Gold awards, and John also qualified for the follow-on round, putting him among the top mathematicians in the country. Overall we achieved 2 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze awards, and the certificates will be given out next term.

INTER-SCHOOL BOOK QUIZ

On the 9th of November 2015, six St. Joseph's students from years 9, 8 and 7 went to Dorcan Academy to compete in the annual Swindon Youth Festival of Literature Interschool Book Quiz.

Apart from St. Joseph's, teams from the ten other Swindon secondary schools also took part in the event.

The teams had to answer six questions for each of the rounds (there were twelve of these), including an 'Author Picture Round', in which the students had to write down the names of fifteen authors, all of which were pictured on a wall. 'The Picture Title' round was another, where the teams received a sheet that had pictures of items related

to a book title, and they then had to guess the titles of the books.

Altogether, the SFL Book Quiz was a thoroughly enjoyable event, which challenged the students' knowledge of books, their authors and 'famous books-that-have-become-films' tunes.

Aquil Rodrigues

Oxford Art Trip

17th September 2015



The jump from GCSE to A Level is significant in all subjects, but never more so than the demands of higher level thinking that are required of Art and Design students. In just their second week of Sixth Form, our new Year 12 artists were treated to an Art experience which took them out of the classroom and challenged their ways of seeing and thinking.

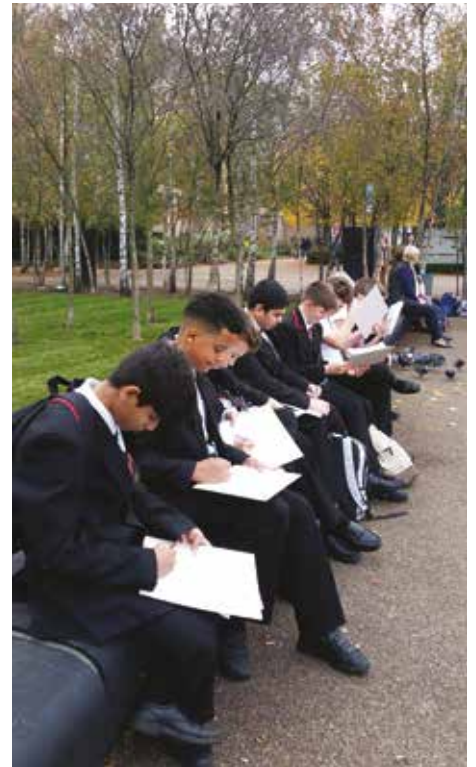
Over the summer, the group investigated the Boyle Family's 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth', a body of work where the Boyles randomly identify sites to visit before recording them in detail and later faithfully recreating their findings in resin and fibreglass. Taking inspiration from these methods, students randomly selected areas of Oxford to explore and make studies by throwing balls at a map and flicking coins.

We were greeted in Oxford by glorious sunshine. After assembling at the Bodleian Library, students set about locating their selected areas and making a range of photographic and experimental studies. The great weather combined with fabulous architecture to provide the group with outstanding images which will underpin their class studies in the coming weeks.

Following lunch, the group broadened their conceptual horizons still further as they visited Modern Art Oxford. They were particularly enthused by the work of Josh Kline, a contemporary artist who explores race relations, and inequality in the US through sculpture and installation. By seeing such responses to relevant and poignant social issues, the students were very active in the workshops which followed, creating protest responses of their own and puppets with which to present a satirical political speech.

The students were excellent ambassadors for St. Joseph's and enjoyed an excellent day pushing the boundaries of their creativity. Many thanks should also go to the excellent education staff at MAO who made the afternoon's workshop possible.

Year 9 Trip to the Tate Modern



With a grant from the Eridge Trust we were able to take the whole of Year 9 to the Tate Modern in London for only £7.50 per student. This was a great day seeing students go over 2 days in November.

The trip supported our classroom learning on galleries and our year theme of collaboration. It supported their arts education by giving them the experience to reflect and use this in curating their own galleries. They also developed their relationship with art and the context of art.

Students commented on the curation of exhibitions, made copies of their favourite pieces of art investigated the use of space. Students were well behaved and a pleasure to take out on this trip.

Well done to all staff and students involved.

Boulogne Trip

On Friday 10th July 2015, Year 7 (now Year 8) went on the traditional day trip to France. The students had a great time and some of them have written about what they did!



Last year my group went on a trip to France. It was a great journey down there in the coach with all my mates. The ferry was also very enjoyable as we were allowed free time to walk around the boat and buy things. When we got to France we went to a supermarket and bought ourselves our lunch. I got a French baguette and ham. During the day we visited a chapel and walked around the beautiful streets of Boulogne. Later on in the day we went to the beach and had a picnic and played football. I really enjoyed this trip and best of all the weather was great.

Ben Causer

As we got off the coach in France. We got into our groups and set off and set off for the supermarket to buy some delicious food to eat on the hot sandy beach. Ben, Josh and I went and bought a ham baguette each, some crisps and a drink. We went and ate our lunch on the beach and enjoyed the sun whilst playing some football. It was a really good day out and we took the ferry and the coach and had even more fun. We got home at midnight after a superb journey.

Rowan Doyle

Last year, when we were in Year 7, we went on a fantastic trip to Boulogne-sur-Mer in France to learn more about the French language and culture. Early in the morning, we set off to France. For some us it was the first time on a ferry! After arriving in Boulogne, we went to a French supermarket where we had to buy lunch with a certain amount of money. Next, we went to town and visited the Notre Dame Basilica and bought gifts on the market street. We used our French in practise; I ordered an ice cream in French! It was strange hearing a different language all around you. Lastly we ate a picnic on the beach before playing football and other games. Overall it was a very fun (and sunny) day.

Ines Przychodzka

In Year 7 I went on the best trip ever: Boulogne. First, we met at school at 4:45am, ready to get the ferry at Dover. In my opinion the ferry was the best bit because we were allowed to go anywhere we wanted in our groups! When we got to Calais, the coach driver drove us to a supermarket, where we bought our lunch. This was fun, but extremely difficult, as nobody spoke English! After that, all the girls bought tiaras and we walked around Boulogne in our day groups. It was such a hot day!

Then, (the best part), we ate our lunch on the beach for a couple of hours. Finally, we had to go home and everybody loved it. We all agreed it was the BEST TRIP EVER!!

Jenna Tucker

We will be running the trip again this year for the Year 7s, so keep your eyes out for more information in the new year!

Coming in 2016: a new competition for all Year 9 French & Italian students!

Do you want to prove that you are the best at Languages? Do you want to challenge yourself to how much new language learning you can do?

Or do you just want to win a cool prize? If so, we are running the first ever **ST. JOSEPH'S LINGUATRIVIA** quiz competition!

Look out for more information in the New Year!

Salamander Project



Several Swindon schools are working in partnership with Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service on a youth empowerment and reward project that aims to improve student confidence, self-esteem and develop personal character through teamwork and team building activities.

Four of our students from Year 9 and 10 were given the opportunity to attend this 1-week session.

The students were fully supervised by fully trained and qualified Instructors from the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and our colleagues from Swindon Police (PCSO's). A 'passing out' parade was held on the last day of the course to which parents and school staff were invited to watch a demonstration of skills acquired, and certificates distributed.

The students who were involved in the Course were: **Joseph Poole, Brogan Cremin, Kayden Connolly and Anderson Bishop.**

Mrs Rudnik

Well done to everyone who participated in raising £456 for CAFOD's Harvest appeal. Part of this money will be used by CAFOD to support their partnership work with refugees.

Paul Hughes, Principal

Mend it Mondays



Throughout November and December each Monday after school students have been able to benefit from having their bikes checked and made safe when necessary.

New brake cables have been fitted, brake blocks have been replaced, chains oiled and tyres inflated to the correct pressure, front and rear lights have been provided along with high visibility bands.

In addition to this students have been able to have their bicycles security marked to deter thieves and help to recover the bike if it is stolen.

Team St. Joseph's wins again!

At the start of November it was announced that the **St. Joseph's Active Challenge Team** had once again topped the leader board and won the prize for October.

St. Joseph's is the only school in Swindon to have won this prize this year and the only team to have won twice. In addition to winning two Fair Trade hampers, individual team members have won tee shirts, drinks bottles, cycling jerseys, shopping vouchers and Amazon vouchers.

Congratulations to all the staff and students that have participated in this event!

St Mary's Primary School Swinging 60s Workshop and concert

The College Singers were invited to sing at St Mary's for their Swinging 60s event. We prepared a number of songs to perform to the students. We arrived to do a workshop with their Gifted and Talent Musicians and in the afternoon we performed our 60s set list.

Here are some quotes from students who took part:

"I think it was a great opportunity. The children were great and really loved the music. I think they were inspired and wanted to join in. I enjoyed it because it was lovely hearing all the Year 6's singing and dancing with us."

Ellen Barrett

"We could've inspired and been role models to the children which could persuade them to take part in musical activities in the future."

Hannah Tagalogan

MEETING JAMIE CULLUM

Three of our students had the great fortune to be invited to attend Commonweal School to see the amazing Jamie Cullum give a workshop and concert to a selected audience. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to see a master of jazz piano at work!



The event was a very inspirational experience and I learned a lot about how to embrace your dream and I thought he was very relatable as a person and as a musician. It was a very enjoyable experience and I feel lucky to have had it.

Raj Burman

I thought the performance was absolutely amazing. I particularly enjoyed the opening as Jamie quickly entered and immediately began his first song, a cover of "Don't Stop the Music" without delay. The performance was stunning, featuring very unusual techniques such as using the piano casing as percussion. One of the highlights of the evening was when Jamie improvised as song using a key shouted out by the audience (if I recall correctly A Major), featuring some quite amusing lyrics involving other audience members. The performance concluded with a very well done performance from Commonweal students on Jamie's piano and finally pictures with Jamie himself. *Michael Yap*

PRIMARY VISITS

BTEC PERFORMING ARTS YEAR 12

As part of the Year 12 BTEC Performing Arts Diploma, the students have been working on the Unit: Theatre in Education.

They were required to devise a performance and workshop for a younger target audience, with the main criteria focusing on them "entertaining and educating".

The Year 12 students have worked tirelessly and have devised an outstanding practical piece focusing on encouraging Year 6 students from some of our feeder schools on improving self-esteem and having more confidence.

They have visited three different Primary Schools: Holy Family, St Mary's and St Catherine's and each performance and workshop has been gratefully received.

Some of the feedback from the Year 6s includes:

"Wow! They are awesome and so talented"

"I have learned to be more confident"

"I can't wait to go to St Joe's next year!"

Mrs Mobey and Mr English are incredibly proud with the Year 12s and how beautifully they engaged with the Year 6 students.

No Pen Day

As part of a country-wide oracy initiative, St. Joseph's had a "no pen day" on 25 November 2015. In each lesson, students put away their pens and discovered that you can remember facts and make new discoveries about their various subjects without having to take lots and lots of notes.

Research shows that if students are able to speak well, this improves written skills, as well as improving their confidence in spoken communication. The RE Department wishes to share its experience of the day, where Mrs Payne said that the day was "a wonderful combination of communication, presentation and performance".

The Year 7 groups acted out stories from the New Testament about the life of Jesus, which included teachings of Jesus, miracles and the death and resurrection.

Seven scenes in total where the students were able to share their understanding of the New Testament stories with each other.

Our Year 9 students are developing their understanding of evil and suffering in the world and spent the lesson analysing newspaper stories that showed natural and moral evil. Following a class debate on how this links to people's understanding of God, the students worked in groups to create collages showing their understanding. These were presented to the class to share each group's beliefs on the subject of theodicy.

As part of our topic on the sacraments for Year 10 students, students need to develop an understanding of the meaning and importance of Baptism, Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick plus the other sacraments. In groups the class worked on a sacrament each to be acted out to share their understanding of what happens during these sacramental acts and why they are important.

The students enjoyed preparing their props and performing for the class.

BMW 'Girls Go Technical'



We started off the course with a dexterity test, where we had to recreate an intricate assembly of plates and were judged on how quickly and accurately we did so. Our group, which also comprised of two girls from other Swindon Schools, were challenged by our mentors to create an iconic world landmark out of whatever we had available in the room (which wasn't much).

On our first day, we travelled to the Oxford plant where we were given a tour and an introduction of BMW and the programme. The next two days were spent in the Swindon plant where we were assigned jobs in different sectors of the plant, which included: pallet repair, press shops, sub-assembly and tool room. On our last day, we did soldering and cylinder assembly, later we rounded off the experience with some fun team building activities.

As a whole, we developed our interpersonal skills and gained essential work experience. We will certainly utilise these skills and more in our future endeavours.

Shout out to Mrs Green and BMW Group for the opportunity to explore our potential careers.

Vanessa Iwuoha, Jasia Rodrigues and Amy Whelan

Trip to see David Gatward at Highworth Warneford School

Twelve Year 8 and 9 students from St. Joseph's were lucky enough to visit The Warneford School in Highworth on Friday 13th November, where Schlock Horror author David Gatward entertained students from all the Swindon Secondary Schools with hilarious and engaging stories about some of the life events which had helped to shape him as an author.

Meeting author Phil Earle on 11th November at

Swindon Youth Festival of Literature



I enjoyed meeting Phil Earle; he talked to us about his books and what inspired him to write books like *Being Billy*, *The Bubblewrap Boy* and *Demolition Dad*.

It was really funny while we chose our wrestler's name – also I loved it when two people came up and got disguised as wrestlers.

It was hilarious! He told us that we don't need to read normal books to read, we can read anything, like poems, comics and loads of other things.

I hope there will be more meetings with poets and book writers because this was fun!

Olivia Bruska

THE FESTIVAL LAUNCH AT THE PLATFORM

On the 19th of October, Martina Svobodova and I went to the Platform in Town Centre to celebrate the opening of the 2015 Swindon Youth Festival of Literature.



Secondary schools from all over Swindon came together to outline the event and everybody showed their excitement.

The Mayor was present, along with Joffre White (Patron for Swindon Youth Reading). The experience had hyped me up to participate in many different activities and I greatly enjoyed the experience.

Joe Morse

Year 7 and 8 trip to see Young Bond author Steve Cole

On November 12th students from all Swindon secondary schools met up at the Wyvern Theatre for a special treat. Once we had settled down in our seats, the headmistress of Kingsdown School told us a little about Steve Cole. She described him as crazy, energetic and funny, and we all eventually saw that she was telling the truth!

Finally Steve Cole came on stage and started to tell us a little bit about himself and why he decided to be an author as his full-time career. Then, he started to show us loads of different kinds of gadgets used by spies. It was really funny



because almost every gadget had some sort of flask hidden in it.

I had a great time because I got to join in on the action and go up on stage, where I had to compete against a boy from Warneford

School. We had to shoot at a Bond-style target with a Nerf gun... it was awesome! I think everybody that got to experience this trip was greatly inspired.

Olivia

CAFOD, Harvest Family Fast Day and Refugee Crisis

Students feel that the work of CAFOD to bring hope and compassion to poor communities and work towards ending poverty and injustice is very important so the whole College takes part in both the Harvest and Lent CAFOD fast days each year.



This year the 'Harvest Fast Day' money was going towards supporting CAFOD partners responding to the refugee's crisis. Students had been discussing this issue in Citizenship and took part in a day of prayer on the 25th September for the refugees. Students raised £457 for 'Family Fast day'.



CAFOD Youth Leadership team

CAFOD Youth Leadership team have met twice since September, they had their first meeting at St Bede's School in Bristol and met again with Kate Edwards who has recently joined the Youth Ministry Team at Clifton Diocese in November at St Joseph's. Our new team of Youth Leaders are learning how to inspire and enable young people to make a difference to global justice.

Our Chaplaincy Team joined with 800 young chaplains on the 12 November at Clifton cathedral to receive their badges and certificates from Bishop Declan.

They said "We really enjoyed meeting other people and finding out what they did for their school Chaplaincy. We liked the idea of setting up an interfaith group that meets once a term. Being at the Cathedral for such a special occasion gave us a real sense of being part of one large Catholic community. Bishop Declan's message was that we are all important, not just the old or young, everyone matters, we are all valued and we all make a difference. We came away inspired to make a difference in our communities."

They are now working on how St Joseph's will celebrate the Year of Mercy.



Wiltshire Climate Change Declaration

Bernadette Barrett from St Joseph's represented Wiltshire's young people on November 27 when she spoke of the need to take action now to protect the environment. She was one of several speakers at the launch of the Wiltshire Declaration on Climate Change, held at Nationwide's headquarters

in Swindon and attended by many representatives of the 20+ companies and institutions who signed the declaration, committing themselves to supporting the legal UK target of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

The event was organized by the Wiltshire and Swindon Climate Action Network. Bernadette quoted Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, saying "Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is first and foremost up to us," and giving concrete examples of how our determination to take action in our individual lives can make a huge difference.



CAFOD Young Volunteers get going!

Year 10 students from St Joseph's are taking their passion for social justice and turning it into action by learning new skills in campaign planning, engaging with the community and leadership skills. The group joined students from 5 other secondary in the Clifton Diocese in October for the first of 5 CAFOD Youth Volunteer sessions.

Illustration Workshop Competition



On the morning of Friday 13th November, Mr Rutter took six talented Year 10 artists to Lydiard Park Academy to take part in an Illustration Workshop with professional artist Fred Blunt.

The work produced was entered into Fred's prestigious Illustration Workshop Competition, competing against all the Illustration Workshop entries produced over the course of the Festival week, across all the eleven Swindon secondary schools.

Taking part in the workshop were Audrey Phillipe 10C, Jay Lalli 10S, Daniel Sheerin 10E, Oskar Rosa 10E, Ellie McCracken 10S and Casper Andersen 10E.

The week after the Festival, it was announced that Daniel was the

overall winner of the Illustration Workshop Competition, and he and his family were invited to the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature Prize-giving Ceremony at 'The Platform' to receive his First Prize from the Deputy Mayor.

Also, Rebecca Fernandes in 9W won 1st prize in the Inter-schools' Illustration Competition for Years 9-11, and both students were awarded WHSmiths vouchers.

An amazing achievement from St. Joseph's artists and Art Dept!

Poetry Workshop with Poet Ash Dickinson

On Monday the 9th November poet Ash Dickinson treated Year 7 to an assembly of poetry creating and inspiration. He coached them in Haikus, Clerihews and Sense poems and left us the challenge of creating our own. He inspired many children to take part in producing poems and you can watch him on YouTube. Here is our Sense Poem we wrote on the subject of 'Bonfire Night'...

*I see a flicker of fire dance across the midnight sky
I taste the crispy bacon feeling as it passes my lips
I touch the air as I attempt to catch the coal-black ash
scattered across the sky
I smell the burning red wood as s'mores are toasted lightly
over the fire
I hear the gunfire of WW3, the bullets exploding over my head
I feel a dagger embedded in my heart as the sparks cease
and the people depart*

Oliver Byrne and Jason Aguen Dia

Jubilee Year of Mercy



Pope Francis has designated a **Jubilee Year of Mercy** beginning on 8 December 2015 and closing on 20 November 2016.

The Chaplaincy Team will be exploring some of the themes of the Year of Mercy including, pilgrimage, the sacrament of reconciliation, and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

The corporal works of mercy are the kind acts by which we help our neighbours including:

*feeding the hungry
giving drink to the thirsty
clothing the naked
sheltering the homeless
visiting the sick*

Our College charities this year include the Harbour Project, CAFOD, Crisis at Christmas, Young Carers and Fairtrade. Mercy is central to all these charities.

Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth

Bring healing to our lives,

Protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Help us to become more merciful in all aspects of our daily lives.

Amen

Sports Captains



At the start of the year the PE (Physical Education) Department started its search for 8 St. Joseph's Sports Captains.

This new and exciting opportunity was promoted to every student with the aims of giving a voice to students and further advancing the lifelong skills which PE can offer.

The criteria put forward to students was for someone who is enthusiastic about PE, someone who is reliable and confident, someone who can be a role model for others through sport, and someone who attends at least one extra-curricular PE club.

In return the St. Joseph's Sports Captains will be given responsibilities such as representing their year group at meetings with PE staff, taking responsibility for the sporting

opportunities offered, making a difference to their year group through sport.

After many impressive application forms being received the PE department did struggle to make a final decision. However, a decision had to be reached and the St Joseph's Sports Captains for the academic year 2015-2016 are as follows:

- Lauren Usher, Maciej Demidowicz, Grace Fitzgerald, Ethan Parker, Shannon Whiteley, Matti Tarkowski, Jessica De Mello, Alex Henstridge.*

The PE team would like to congratulate the St. Joseph's Sport Captains and we know that you will wear your badge with pride. We would also like to thank everybody who applied and we wish you luck on your application next year.

Netball

Netball seems to have really taken off this season with an increased number of students turning up for Wednesday training sessions.

We have all been overwhelmed by the commitment, determination and teamwork shown by all year groups.

St. Joseph's entered a team in each section of the Swindon Schools League following mixed fortunes we are hopeful that the Year 7 and 9 teams will have performed well enough to play in the finals scheduled to take place during the week beginning 7th December.

Year 7 Netball

On 6th October St. Joseph's Year 7 Netball team beat Swindon Academy. It was a great achievement so everybody was pleased.

The players were Olivia Bath-C, Lorna Kamu-WD, Jessica De Mello-GA, Jessica Beby Bena-GS, Chantelle Mwangi- GK, Ashley Boby- GD, Hannah Barr-WD, Lexy Moore-WA. The girls tried their best!

Also thanks to Miss Jones and Miss Brennan for being there and supporting the team.

During the first half the girls were staying in their attacking side mostly for they kept scoring. Lexy, Jessica, Olivia and Jessica worked really well together. Ashley, Chantelle, Lorna and Hannah were really good at defending our net. There was lots of teamwork and support from each player. During the second half Olivia tripped over but because she was so strong she got back up and carried on playing.

At the end of the match sportsmanship really showed in the girls. We cheered for Swindon Academy. We choose the Goal Defence from their team to be the player of the match because she was really good. Swindon Academy chose Jessica De Mello-GA as the player of the match.

St Joseph's Rugby

Running from September to the half term holiday the Rugby Club attracted good numbers of Year 7, 8 and 9 boys.

The boys turned up week in week out sometimes in the wettest of weathers to improve their rugby skills. In a historically football dominated school, it was pleasing to see so many students taking

to the oval ball and making such progress as well as having a great time in to the bargain.

To further encourage the Year 7 students, rugby for them is continuing through to Christmas as they have enough players for a team and we are looking at setting up some coached friendly games for them.

Day	Time	Gender	Year Group	Activity and Staff
Mon	Lunchtime (1:30-1:55)	Mixed	10	BASKETBALL Mr Iles
Tues	Lunchtime (1:00-1:25)	Mixed	8&9	BASKETBALL Mr Iles
Tues	Afterschool (3:00-4:00)	Mixed	All	HOCKEY Miss Brett, Miss Jones, Mrs Brennan
Tues	Afterschool (3:00-4:00)	Mixed	10 and 11 BTEC	REVISION Miss Brett, Mr Iles
Tues	Afterschool (3:00-4:00)	Boys	Sixth Form	FOOTBALL Miss Brett
Wed	Lunchtime (1:30-1:55)	Mixed	11	BASKETBALL Mr Iles
Wed	Afterschool (3:00-4:00)	Girls'	All	BASKETBALL Mrs Brennan, Miss Brett
Wed	Afterschool (3:00-4:00)	Boys'	8 and 9	FOOTBALL Mr Iles, Mr Cross
Thurs	Afterschool (3:00-4:00)	Girls'	All	FOOTBALL Miss Brett, Mrs Brennan
Thurs	Afterschool (3:00-4:00)	Girls'	All	FITNESS Miss Jones

SOCCERCISE



St. Joseph's Year 10 students have been helping to launch Swindon Town Football in the Community Soccercise classes.

The sessions were fun but hard work, helping to introduce more girls to the sport of football as well as improving fitness and coordination.

We would like to thank the trust for asking us to be part of the launch – a great time was had by all.

Following the Christmas break the PE Department will be offering a range of different clubs and activities. Please speak to a member of the PE team for more details.

Year 7 Indoor Football Lunchtime League



The competition ran for 7 weeks over two lunchtimes per week and consisted of 28 games. Approximately 60 year 7 students took part in the competition and the game play was of a fairly high standard considering our cramped playing conditions in the gym.

The league finished:

1st on 18 points 7G

2nd on 13 points 7B

3rd on 11 points 7A

Girls' Football

From the beginning of September we have had a Swindon Town Football coach called Kim coming in to put our KS3 girls through their paces.

Many of the girls have been engaged in the football club and have shown real progress both in their game play and close ball skills. Aimee Prinzi, a regular footballer who has been attending the session said "The sessions are really fun and they really help to improve my close ball skills, this will help me in a game situation.

The PE department would like to thank Swindon Town Football Club and the KS3 girls for participating and improving their football skills. **Well Done!**

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BRING A NOTEBOOK AND PEN OR PENCIL

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 and Shopping

Filling in forms

Asking for and giving directions

Help to find a job

Answer interview questions & write a CV

**Please ring or text on 07595693229
or email for mt786@hotmail.co.uk**

English4Work

This is a morning workshop lasting 3.5 hours

*14th December at the MRT Centre,
Queens Drive from 9am-12.30pm*

PLEASE BRING YOUR CV AND A NOTEPAD

Topics include:

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