



As you may be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) has over the past year announced a number of changes to the education system. These changes will start to impact on our students in September 2012. All students starting on GCSE courses in 2012 will be examined at the end of a two year linear programme. There will no longer be any modular exams at Key Stage 4.

Schools are being encouraged to introduce the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). This is a collection of subjects: Mathematics, English Language, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanity. Unfortunately, the government have not been responsive to the huge swell of opinion on including RE as a Humanity subject. However, students at St. Joseph's have always been able to access these subjects if they so wish. All students continuing with a modern foreign language will be expected to study History or Geography from 2012.

The BTEC and associated courses run at the College will continue to be offered to our students. The BTECs at St. Joseph's are recognised as having the equivalent status and equivalency to the GCSE.

The DfE is determined to push through their reforms, which in some cases are to the detriment of the wonderful work being done in many schools across the country. However, the changes should not deflect us from what we believe is the moral purpose of education or indeed our vision statement which encapsulates our view of 'infinite potential'. Our students should, and will, be given every opportunity to succeed.

I strongly believe that as a College we have to do what is right for all our students whatever their ability. Our duty is to provide a well balanced, rounded academic and vocational curriculum with excellent pastoral care, which allows our students to flourish and prepares them for whatever path they follow once they leave St. Joseph's Catholic College.

I would like to reassure you that this will continue to be our goal.

**Maureen Harries**  
Principal

## Academic Review Day

Thanks to all for their support, 94% attendance. Feedback from the parental questionnaires will be in the next newsletter.

## Literacy for Success

On Wednesday 11th January the College's staff undertook an evening of training focused on launching a cross-curricular literacy strategy. Confidence in literacy is crucial for young people, who will have to be good communicators in whatever role they choose for their future. To achieve the best grades students have to be able to express themselves in a way that fully demonstrates their talents and knowledge. The new exam syllabuses are placing a greater emphasis on both written and verbal literacy skills. Success in the classroom and Exam Hall is increasingly intertwined with a student's ability to communicate fluently and accurately.

To ensure a consistent approach is adopted by all subjects in delivering literacy in the College the English Department organised six workshops, focusing on the key skills that students will need to master. The most current strategies for ensuring the development of student confidence in literacy were shared through a range of interesting activities and presentations.

With the entire teaching staff focused on literacy as a key priority, the students of St. Joseph's will be encouraged to embrace this vital learning tool and experience the benefits of being effective communicators.



## University Application

Presently 68% of Year 13 students have completed university application for 2012 entry. Congratulations to those students who have already received early offers. In addition to this, three students have accepted conditional offers from Oxford University. Students are advised to keep track of offers via UCAS TRACK at [www.ucas.com/students/track](http://www.ucas.com/students/track) or sign up for the UCAS APP which is available for smartphones.

## Dates for your diary

10th February	College closes for students
21st February	College reopens for students
23rd February	Year 9 Parents' Evening (Pop X)
29th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening (Pop Y)
6th March	Year 9 Transition Evening
7th March	Fairtrade Fashion Show
15th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening (Pop X)
20th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening (Pop Y)
21st March	Staff Training Day
22nd March	College Production 7.30pm
23rd March	College Production 7.30pm

## Student Reviews

Student Reviews are available to view online using your Parental ePortal log on, and selecting the 'Reports' menu (this includes previous reviews as well as the most current one). For multiple page reviews, use the scroll function or directional arrows to display the second page. Please also note that due to the nature of the Curriculum in Year 9 there will be two reviews per period, one to reflect subjects taught at Key Stage 3 and one for subjects taught at Key Stage 4.

## Primary Liaison

March 30th	Year 6 parental information sent
June 14th	Student contact sheet returned
July 5th	Year 6 Induction day at St. Joseph's

Look out for the St. Joseph's Primary Roadshow event at Holy Rood Juniors, Holy Family, St. Catherine's and St. Mary's in Terms 5 or 6. Dates to follow shortly.

## Shoe Box Appeal

The RE department would like to say a big thank you for all your generous donations for the Swindon Shoe Box Appeal. We were overwhelmed with the quantity and quality of gifts and the generosity of our College community. Thank you again.

## Exam Re-sits

The deadline for all units and modules taken in 2011 is:

7th February	GCSE and other level 1/2 qualifications
7th March	GCE, AS, A2 and other level 3 qualifications

The deadline for units and modules taken in January 2012 is:

14th March	Any unit or module taken in January 2012
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## Change of details?

If you move house, or update your telephone number or e-mail address, please ensure that you notify the College in writing as soon as possible. Many thanks for your co-operation.

## Rock School Concert

The event was well prepared and we were told we had to do a 10-15 minute set, which was 3-4 songs. All of our hard work paid off, as we came in three times a week on lunch times and practised all of our songs. On the day (Tuesday 17th Jan) we had our sound check and practised. We were nervous going up on stage but when we were up there it was by far one of the most enjoyable experiences we have ever had. The least experienced bands were first and the most experienced bands were last. This worked because the newer bands had a chance to see the older bands and get some ideas. I thought that all the bands were very good and it looked as if they had all practised a lot.

### Fraser Gordon and Lewis Cummins, Breaking Strings

For the rock school concert me and my band stayed after school and practised our songs over. Before the show we had to get our amps and drum kit ready. The turnout was really good and when the first band started tensions were high and when it was finally our turn we went up on stage and apart from a couple of hiccups I think it went pretty well. After the performance we helped pack up the equipment and went home.

### William Ash



## School Production: Oliver!

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd March 2012, College Hall  
Hall doors will open at 7.15pm, show starting at 7.30pm (refreshments available in the café before the show starts).

Tickets will be available from 19th March, for sale in The Street at lunchtime.

**Adults: £3.50 Children/Concessions: £2.50**



## Like Fashion? Love Fairtrade?

Fairtrade puts a little humanity back into our purchasing choices. Buying things with the FAIRTRADE mark means that producers in developing countries are paid fairly – enough for today plus a little extra for them to invest for tomorrow.

St. Joseph's Catholic College, MidCounties Cooperative and the Swindon Fairtrade Coalition have joined together to bring you an evening of entertainment with a message, and an opportunity to hear from Jennifer, a Ugandan Coffee Grower. The Fairtrade Fashion Show is on:

Wednesday 7th March 2012

Doors open 7.00pm

Refreshments will be available

Tickets: £7 (£5 concessions)



Contact Julia for further information and to order your tickets (chaplain@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk or 01793 714208). Tickets will also be available from Reception soon.

## Monsignor Richard Twomey Training and Conference Centre

Located close to the College on Queen's Drive, the Monsignor Richard Twomey Training and Conference Centre is now open and available to hire for training, meetings or conferences. Accommodating up to 14 people, it offers a fully equipped meeting and conference room, ICT suite and break-out area, and is available for hourly, half day or full day hire. It also offers fully accredited training courses and is running a Fire Safety course on 29th February and Health and Safety in the Workplace on 21st March. For further enquiries visit [www.mrtwomeycentre.co.uk](http://www.mrtwomeycentre.co.uk), email [info@mrtwomeycentre.co.uk](mailto:info@mrtwomeycentre.co.uk) or call 01793 716975 to speak to our on-site training and conference organiser.

## Art Department Exam Season

All Y11, Y12 and Y13 Art and Photography students are now in their exam season. The Exams details are below. Please add these dates to your diaries. We hope to see you at our annual Exhibition in the Summer where we showcase our A-level Art and Photographic work.

Year	Exam	Exam Date	Exam Unit Hand in Dates
11	GCSE Art Exam	27th April (5 Hours) 28th April (5 Hours)	Course finishes Friday 28th April
12	AS Art Exam	16th March (5 Hours)	Project hand in by Tuesday 8th May
12	AS Photography Exam	14th March (5 Hours) - Start at 12pm - Finish 5pm	Project hand in on Monday 23rd April
13	A2 Art	2nd May (5 Hours) 3rd May (5 Hours) 4th May (5 Hours)	Course finishes Friday 4th May
13	A2 Photography	18th April (5 Hours) 19th April (5 Hours) 20th April (5 Hours)	Course finishes on Friday 20th April

## The Parenting Teenagers Course

**Feb 27th - March 26th 2012**

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

### Who is it for?

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.

### Where will it be, and who is running it?

The course will be held in the Main Hall of the College. It will be offered by a team of Catholic couples from Swindon, many of whom have been running the Deanery Marriage Course, together with key St. Joseph's staff. Child-care 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 dates are:

February 27th, March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

There is no charge for the course – donations will be accepted with pleasure.

### How to Enrol

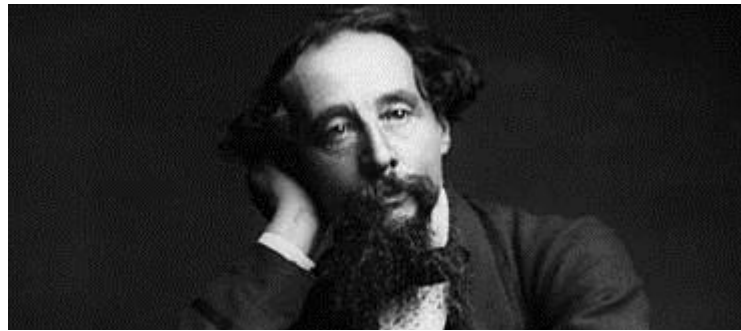
Please enrol in advance by either completing the online form at <http://www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk>, or fill in a paper form and post or hand it to reception at St. Joseph's Catholic College (marked for the attention of Mrs Ruth Chivers, Parental Support Advisor). Paper forms are available in each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



### What the Dickens?

Every year is an exciting one in the world of Literature but 2012 is shaping up to be an extra special. As many of you already know, on the 7th February we will be celebrating the 200th birthday of literary icon, Charles Dickens! Year 9 classes have already helped commemorate his bicentenary on Flexible Friday by making many colourful Dickens resources and decorations, reminding us why his work is still being celebrated after two whole centuries.

There have been lots of new adaptations of his famous novels shown on the BBC as well as informative documentaries exploring life in the Victorian era – so make sure you log on to BBC iplayer and catch up on what you missed. If you would like to help celebrate the life of the English language's greatest novelist then visit [www.dickens2012.org](http://www.dickens2012.org) for lots of information about Dickens' life and exciting upcoming events; why not surprise your teacher by making some birthday decorations for the classroom, illustrating your favourite Dickens character or maybe even dressing up as Oliver Twist for the day?



### Festival of Literature

Following an extremely impressive performance in the 2011 competition, which saw one of the college teams placed second, St. Joseph's are once again eagerly preparing to enter the Swindon Festival of Literature Youth Poetry Slam in 2012.

Groups of keen Year 8 performance poets will be chosen to work with Mr. McKenna over the coming weeks to produce and perform edgy, hard-hitting and often utterly hilarious poetry pieces. With advice and support from well respected and established professional poets Marcus Moore and Sarah-Jane Arbury, as well as last year's experienced participants, hopes are high for this year's talented Year 8 cohort in this fast-paced literary bout.

Auditions will take place in the upcoming weeks for any Year 8 interested in being involved in this worthwhile project. Our fifteen successful candidates will get the opportunity to attend an exciting performance poetry workshop and audition for a place in the Grand Slam final, held each year in The Arts Centre on Devizes Road. This year's final takes place on Saturday 12th May and will see the two most talented groups from each of the Swindon schools involved battle for the coveted SFL Poetry Slam trophy. Students interested in participating should listen for notices in the weekly student briefing or ask their English teacher about auditions.

### English FAQs

Parents and teachers alike are often asked for tips about how to improve spelling. There are many websites which access spelling games and activities. The following are just a few as starters:

[www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise), [www.bbc.co.uk/schools](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools)  
[www.timesspellingbee.co.uk](http://www.timesspellingbee.co.uk)

We have entered "The Times Spelling Bee Competition" and Mrs Smith (in Y10) would love to hear from students who would like to be part of our team. We also run an English Games Club in Y10 at lunchtimes on Wednesdays for fun spelling and language activities.

#### 'How can my son or daughter improve their handwriting?'

It could be that something as simple as a change of pen will improve the student's presentation and handwriting but there are also many techniques which can be practised. The following website offers some useful tips - [www.nha-handwriting.org.uk](http://www.nha-handwriting.org.uk).

#### 'How do I encourage my child to read?'

Just by asking this question it shows that parents recognise the value of developing a reading habit and everything it offers. On our website we have tips for encouraging reading and copies of booklists (please ask the English Staff or Librarians for advice and copies of booklists too). We are also very fortunate at the College to have access to the Independent Learning Centre every day. Students and their families can also use public libraries free of charge.

#### 'Which GCSE Exam Board is my child using?'

At GCSE and A Level we use AQA ([www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)).

#### 'Are there any GCSE revision guides my child can use?'

Websites such as [www.englishbiz.co.uk](http://www.englishbiz.co.uk) and [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize) are very useful. The College also sells a number of revision booklets (at a heavily discounted rate) at Reception.

Please remind your child to ask their English Teacher if they have more questions. You can contact Anya Smith on [asmith@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:asmith@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk).

### World Book Night

It's almost that time again: World Book Night (WBN) is fast approaching! On the 23rd April 2012 designated 'book givers' will be distributing thousands of free books at events all across the country. Hopefully you met the 1st February deadline to sign up as a book giver in the hope of getting 25 copies of your favourite book to give away to whomever you like, perhaps a friend who struggles finding books that interest them?

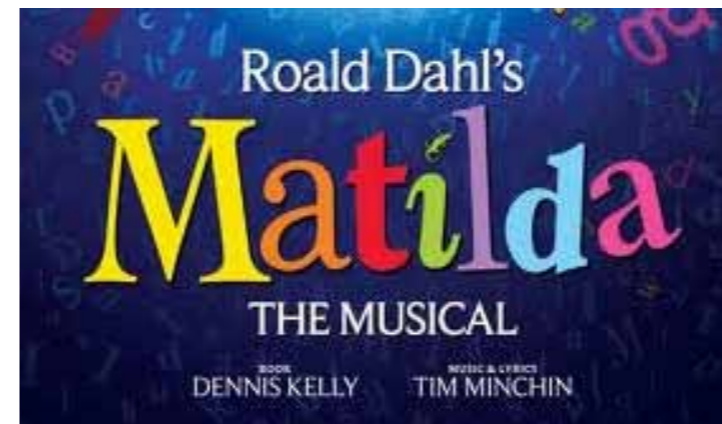
Remember, as a reader, one of the most powerful things you can give is a recommendation and that's what WBN is all about, celebrating the books you love with those around you. Go to [www.worldbooknight.org](http://www.worldbooknight.org) to see the huge list of books that will be given away this year and look out for local book-giving events at Swindon libraries. As many pupils happily discovered last year, there's no limit on how many free books you could come away with!

### All the World is a Stage

We are delighted with the students' and staffs' enthusiasm for our evening theatre trips since September. As well as seeing "Of Mice and Men" locally at the Wyvern Theatre we have organised successful excursions to the RSC productions at Stratford and London and plans are underway for a visit to the Watermill Theatre in Newbury in June and another West End production later in the year. Please keep an eye on the St. Joseph's News and College website for details of future theatre trips.

November's trip was "The Heart of Robin Hood" which proved to be more than just 'men in tights' ...

The RSC 50th birthday season production, The Heart of Robin Hood, which we attended in November, certainly was the swashbuckling family show it promised to be. The heroine Marion turned out to be one of the show's most feisty characters making us all realise how exciting live theatre is! Comedy, slapstick, sword fights and tree swinging antics had us all on the edge of our seats for the duration of the show. The special effects were amazing and brought Sherwood Forest to Stratford in an impressive way - they even managed to incorporate a shark infested duck pond...



And a show definitely worth seeing is the RSC's West End smash hit production of Matilda. Here is a review by one of our Year 11 theatre trippers:

On the 12th January a group of students from all years went on the English Department trip to see "Matilda the Musical" at the Cambridge Theatre in London. The performance was a hit with all the students and the teachers who went along for the trip. The children in the performance were very talented and worked well with the adults to make a brilliant cast. The music (by comedian Tim Minchin) was also very foot tapping and catchy, including new and different songs which related and added to each part of the story whether happy, sad or pure rebellious!

The plot had a number of differences from the Danny de Vito movie and Dahl's original novel, which made it exciting and new to everyone watching and it brought to life the whole performance. There was humour incorporated into the performance, which made watching it easy and fun. So much was added to this new version of the well known and loved story of Matilda.

We particularly enjoyed the performance of Bertie Carvel

playing 'Miss Trunchbull' whose antics and challenging views of child rearing and schooling made everyone laugh throughout the performance!

The finale was also brilliant, as all the cast came out on stage on scooters to the audience's standing ovation.

Overall, the night was lovely and one to remember forever! If YOU get the chance to see it DO!

If you want to find out more about the production visit [www.matildathemusical.com](http://www.matildathemusical.com).

*Naomi Fleet*

### Year 8 student wows with second prize in Swindon Youth Festival of Literature

When I first heard I had come second in the 'Creative Writing' contest I was in Italian class when Mrs Harries came in and announced the news. My first feeling was shock, then complete joy, followed by feeling quite nauseous. After she had left, I sat smiling to myself. Following that, I was given an invitation to attend a Prize Giving ceremony down at the library.

The night came when I went to receive the award and my Mum, Dad and I made our way down to the library. As soon as we arrived through the front door, we were directed upstairs to where the event was being held. We all looked around at all the other things that were going on in the Youth Festival of Literature, some of which included a poetry contest and a drawing competition. After about another 30 minutes the whole ceremony started. They started with a small speech about how proud they were to have so many talented students. Finally they came to the creative writing awards. After they had announced first place they came to mine, read out my name and gave me a small envelope and a certificate. Afterwards I had the chance to meet the Mayor and have some pictures taken. After a long, enjoyable night we finally went home.

*Niamh Smith*

To read Niamh's story visit the College website.

### Become an author

Following the success of our National Poetry Day Haiku Competition we are encouraging students in Years 7 and 8 (and their younger brothers and sisters) to enter the Chris Evans Breakfast Show Short Story Competition. For more information ask your English Teacher and Year 7 and 8 Tutors. Details can also be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/500words/2012](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/500words/2012).



### Writers Block

Are you a budding writer but just don't know where to start? For some idea on how to combat 'Blank Page Syndrome' have a look on the College website.



# Extend

## Language Ambassador

7B had a unique opportunity to meet and work alongside our new Italian Language Ambassador from the University of the West of England, Claudia Corradetti. Claudia is an MA student studying Intercultural Communications at Bristol.

The Year 7 students were able to practise their Italian speaking and listening skills by asking questions with an inflatable microphone and making notes on Claudia's answers. By the end of the lesson groups produced a 'Claudia' poster to celebrate the special visitor. Claudia will now be working with Year 12 and Year 13 Italian students on a weekly basis as they prepare for their speaking examinations in May. It is essential that all A-level students attend their weekly speaking session.

## Bridging the Gap Project

A group of Year 12 students who have English as an additional language have embarked on a new and exciting EAL mentoring project. Supported by the EMASS (Ethnic Minority Achievement Support Service) the Year 12 students will be given the opportunity to mentor a group of Year 10 EAL students, offering advice and sharing top tips for success in their GCSEs. We wish both the mentors and the mentees a productive mentoring experience.

## Kintbury

"Kintbury is a little village in West Berkshire in England. It's a place where wherever you look nature is around, It's a peaceful place where your mind just gets lost, And that's where our Year 7s went last week. The building was old, warm and pretty big.

The day started with fun filled activities where everyone just kind of laid back and enjoyed themselves, The second part of the day was called "Our Journey". Basically it was a road that represents the ups and downs you have had in your life.

The highlight of the day was when we got to meet the tree, that made the trip so exciting. Rumour has it that if you hug the tree it will grow just a bit.

The reason for this trip was to just leave all the stress behind and get close to God, it was also about meeting and knowing people you didn't know before."

Mary Mungai



## A Journey Through Five Cultures

Year 7 students spent half a day finding out about some of the most important cultural traditions in the French and Italian calendar. From the Venetian Carnival to why we celebrate April Fool's Day, Year 7 language students had to rehearse, make props and deliver mini plays in a foreign language to their peers whilst enhancing their cultural understanding of France and Italy. One Year 7 student particularly enjoyed being 'Topo Gigio' for the morning.

## Italian Exchange

Preparations for our Italian Exchange to our partner school in Tuscany are in full swing. All fourteen students have now received details of their Italian partners and are communicating regularly to get to know each other before they meet next month. We shall depart on Wednesday 28th March and spend a week experiencing life, school and food with our host families and partners. This year three of our Year 13 participants will also have the opportunity to undertake some work experience in order to further boost their linguistic skills. The Italian party will return to us for a week on Wednesday 18th April, during which we will hope to show them the highlights of our College, Swindon and its environs. There will be a meeting for all students and their parents after half term. We look forward to yet another successful exchange.

## Young Carers Award

To recognise and further improve the support that the College gives to Young Carers we are working towards achieving the Young Carers Award.

Young Carers are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They are carrying out tasks and responsibilities which are above and beyond those appropriate to their age. The person they care for may be a parent, sibling or grandparent, and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional. The person they look after may have a physical disability or mental health issues, a long term illness or may be struggling with alcohol or drug misuse.

We recognise that Young Carers can feel tired, worried and isolated, and that their social life is often restricted. At St. Joseph's we aim to provide equality of opportunity for all our students. To achieve this we want to work with the Young Carers in College and their parents/carers to ensure that we are providing the support to help reduce some of the worries that these students have.

We have worked with Swindon Young Carers over the last few years to raise awareness amongst students and staff of the additional responsibilities these young people take on. Last year the students raised £1000 for Swindon Young Carers and this year Evesham House have adopted Swindon Young Carers as their charity.

If you feel that your child is a Young Carer please let your child's tutor or student manager know and we will discuss in confidence how we can ensure your child is supported appropriately at the College. You can also contact Mrs Vincent, Pastoral Coordinator and the designated member of staff working with Young Carers. The Governor with responsibilities for Young Carers is David Bason.

# Sports & Activities

## 5 a side in Football Finals

St. Joseph's Year 8 5 a side Football team qualified for the finals of the competition after winning the preliminary round on 25th January. Unfortunately Dorcan School did not take part on the evening so it was a contest between Churchfields, Warneford and St. Joseph's. St. Joseph's beat Warneford in the first match and then Churchfields. The boys played in a very disciplined manner in both matches and did not concede a goal in either match. The finals evening is on Wednesday 8th February in our Sports Hall. The Year 9 team will also hope to be in the finals - their preliminary competition takes place on 1st February.

## Serre Chevalier Ski Trip

On Thursday 15th December 2011 St. Joseph's Catholic College was a very excited place to be as 21 students arrived to head to Serre Chevalier for the College Ski Trip. After a very tiring and extended journey, due to heavy snow fall, we arrived in Serre Chevalier.

During our week skiing we had a great time with all members of the party learning to ski very well and progressing very quickly. The snow conditions in Serre Chevalier were fantastic, with fresh snow to ski on all the time.

All students participated in many après ski activities (a town trail, mass in a local Church in the village and much more), including the eating challenge which was enjoyed by all!

All students behaved impeccably on the trip and the hotel staff commented on what a lovely group we were. The hotel we stayed in was perfectly situated and all staff were very welcoming towards us.

Once we had completed our weeks' skiing it was time to head home to Swindon. The journey home was very smooth with no delays. All students had a brilliant time with many commenting on how much they had enjoyed the trip - "I really enjoyed the ski trip, it was the first time I have ever skied and definitely want to go again next year". Another student said "I never thought I would enjoy the trip as much as I have done and I think I have made some really close friends."



## Sixth Form Football

After a mid-season break that Capello could only dream of, the St. Joseph's 6th Form team picked up again with a typically battling performance against a Swindon College team that had previously won all its matches. Initially the fixture went to form as Swindon College FC legitimately got their name on the score sheet first following a goal rightly ruled-out for offside. The score took on a ping-pong nature as St. Joseph's FC pulled level only to find themselves behind again not once but twice. Following goals from Kearney and Souza, a 3-2 defeat looked the most likely outcome only for converted fox-in-the-box striker Endicott to pop-up and restore parity once again. In the closing stages St. Joseph's peppered the goal but the deserved winner did not come until the final whistle was blown. Other performances of note came from the composed Jones and the combative Wilkinson.

## Cricket News



St. Joseph's came runners up in the Swindon finals for Girls Cricket U13. The final score was St. Joseph's 44/4, Bradon Forest 66/6. St. Joseph's girls played really well. The Thursday lunch time club will continue until the February half term for all interested.



# House News

## Buckfast

Buckfast student Remely Rodriguez has spent the last eight weeks organising a talent show for St. Joseph's students in a joint effort to complete a challenge on her Flexible Pathway course and to raise money for charity. Remely was assigned a £10 challenge, for which she had to try and make a profit for charity out of a single £10 note. As a talented singer and efficient organiser, Remely decided that she could use the money to set up a fundraising concert.

By the evening of the 25th January a great deal of hard work had gone into preparing the talent concert but it was the show itself that made all the effort worthwhile. Remely's friends manned the ticket office, hall doors and the Fairtrade shop to provide refreshments to a large audience. The show ran on time, with each act producing a professional and enjoyable performance. Remely and her team performed and introduced the other acts. It was truly a 'student show.' The audience cheered loudly at the end of the show to show their appreciation for all the hard work and talent that had been on display.

Remely has managed to raise over £500 for charity from that single £10, through initiative, hard work and support from her friends. Well done to everyone involved in a remarkable event!



## Walsingham

This term the House Reps have been working hard, helping to organise the last day of term before Christmas. We held a talent show that required a lot of time and coordination from our House Reps, with special mention to Oliver Milea and Patrick Parker who helped set up for every rehearsal and worked backstage on the day itself.

All the participants in our talent show were fantastic. Emily Fry and Teresa Iannetelli sang 'All I want for Christmas'; Mary Mungai and Grace Oskira-Vooght sang a remix of Rihanna's 'Umbrella' and 'Singing in the Rain'; while Orla Blake, Katrina Dilag, Joe Riley and Theo Altieri all contributed with solo sessions, sharing their passion and talent for singing with the rest of the house. Emma Hancock did a gymnastics routine while Milan Bishwakarma performed a dance routine, and was our eventual winner.

For charity week we raised money for our chosen house charity, The Harbour Project, a local charity that provides welcome and practical support to refugees and asylum seekers in Swindon. We gave £350 to three representatives from the charity, who joined us at St. Joseph's to talk about how the money will be used to set up new meeting groups for refugees to meet and share their experiences and problems. Next term we hope to organise a trip to help out at The Harbour Project's drop-in centre.

## Glastonbury

A big well done to all those who took part in Glastonbury's House Celebration day and helped bring 2011 to a joyful and triumphant close!

The day began with an opportunity for pupils to work closely together, asserting their House values in a range of creative tasks that asked them to consider what strengths they could use in service of their House. Some wonderful class mosaics were created, each panel representing an individual and their links to their classmates.

It was soon celebration time and it was here that the values of Glastonbury House members and the fantastic leadership of the 6th Form came to the fore.

House leaders led the gathered House through a dazzling display of Glastonbury talent, with pupils of all ages taking to the stage. Before that they had the honour of presenting Sheryl Crouch, our representative from Prospect Hospice, with a fantastic cheque for £350. Sheryl voiced her gratitude for the pupils' efforts and described how the money will help give quality end of life care in our local community.

Bringing our day and our year to a close, our sixth formers led a rapturous sing along of 'Do they know it's Christmas?'. All in all it was a perfect way to end the day.

So ended our Glastonbury celebration – a day that summed up all the values our House prizes but one above all "working together, we achieve more". Well done Glastonbury!



## Evesham

We ended last term with a 'House Day', which included team building games, a Christmas Quiz, Christmas Mass and a House Celebration Assembly in which we showcased our House's talent. Evesham sure does have a lot of talent!

After a tough audition process we finalised the acts to include a mixture of singing, dancing, martial arts, musicians and a talented pantomime performance from the teachers of Evesham! Tina Hassan and Mafalda Junqueira did a fantastic job of hosting the show.

The time came for Mrs Harries to announce which house had accumulated the most house points through commendations and Praise Postcards during the past two terms. And the winner was...Evesham!

Miss Shaw-Giles collected the Christmas Cup on behalf of Evesham and the students were rewarded with a non-uniform day at the start of the January term.

Well done to Evesham for all your hard work over the past two terms ... the race is on for the Easter Cup!