



When Pope Benedict visited in September 2010 he had a special meeting with young people which was called the 'Big Assembly'. He spoke to us very clearly about the Catholic faith.

He said: "Happiness is something we all want, but one to the great tragedies in the world is that so many people never

find it, because they look for it in the wrong places. The key is very simple-true happiness is to be found in God... only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts."

In order to find happiness in God we pray. So as part of the year of Catholic Education the Diocese of Clifton is giving every child a booklet of prayers that are important to all Catholics. The College will give the prayer books to all St. Josephs' students during the Easter services so that they can take them home and share with you.

Thank you and God Bless

*Fiona Payne*

## Stop Press

The Governing Body voted unanimously on Monday evening to pursue Academy status with an aim to convert from September 2011.

The Chair of Governors, Stephen Lake, will be in touch shortly with all parents to invite them to an Academy Consultation evening on Monday 11 April 2011 at 7.00p.m.

*Maureen Harries*

## Prayer

Almighty God,

We give thanks to the staff and students at St. Joseph's, the gifts they bring, the strengths they share and the friendships they make.

Bring a spirit of openness and integrity to the learning and teaching that goes on here.

And may the wider community benefit from the skills, knowledge and judgement available at this college.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

## Examinations

The May/June Summer Examination session will take place between Thursday 12th May and Monday 27th June.

Students in Year Groups 9, 10 and 11 have been given their examination timetables. Sixth Form examination timetables will be issued week commencing 21st March.

Parents and students are requested to check these documents very carefully and advise the Exams Office of any errors. In particular, please check the spelling of names; the date of birth is correct and all entries that you expecting are listed and that you are entered at the correct Level/Tier.

A second timetable will be issued after Easter which will include venues, seating plan and resolve any exam clashes.



## Ski Trip 2011

On the 11th February 42 excited people left the College bound for Montgenèvre in the southern French Alps for the 2011 Ski Trip.

A very good hotel, fantastic skiing conditions, excellent tuition from the Ski School and an experienced group of leaders meant that all the students had a wonderful time.

By the end of the week everyone had learnt to ski and some of those who had never skied on snow had progressed enough to join a more experienced group.

Memorable comments from the students: "I didn't realise I could ski!" "I had an amazing experience which I will never forget. I learnt new skills and made lots of new friends." "I loved every second of it. It was really good meeting new people from all years." "The ski trip was great this year; the slopes were brilliant and the resort was fantastic. The

ski instructors were excellent."

Most Improved Skiers: Louis Askins, Kiara Wakeley, Jordan Kilderry, Shannon Jennings, Gavin Cowie, Charlotte Baxter

Skiers of the Week: Caitlin Wood, Hannah Lloyd, Alessandro Carbone.

Most Outstanding Skiers: Kyran Savage and Fraser Berry. Kyran Savage, a very experienced skier was given the top award for skiing. The instructors recommended that he becomes a ski instructor himself!

The next Ski Trip is to 'Tonale' in Italy 15th to 23rd December this year; we will be back just in time for Christmas. The Piandineve Hotel is a 4 star hotel providing high class accommodation and is situated right opposite the slopes. Could this be the best Christmas present ever? Letters from Reception.

*Elaine O'Connell*

## Dates for your diary

7th Apr	Year 9 Parents' Evening Population P
12th Apr	Year 9 Parents Evening Population Q
18th Apr	Easter Holidays Begin
3rd May	College Reopens for Students
12th May	Year 11 Awards and Leavers' Mass
13th May	Year 11 Prom
17th May	Year 7 Parents' Evening Population P
25th May	Year 7 Parents' Evening Population Q

## Year of the Royal Wedding

This award is open to all Roman Catholics aged 11-18. You are invited to write something in prose or poetry inspired by one of the following.

Imagine you are a guest at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) or The Human Being needs Unconditional Love. The winner of the best entry will win an engraved shield, to be kept for one year, plus £50 and a selection of books presented by members of the Catholic Writers Guild.

Entries should be no longer than two A4 pages in length and arrive no later than May 9th 2011.

Please speak to Mrs Payne if you are interested.

## Sixth Form Football

The St. Joseph's Sixth Form football team continued their march to the Swindon Colleges final with their second successive 6-2 victory. Relan bagged a supremely confident hat-trick, Babu a brace and Ougan started the rout with a well-directed low drive early in the first-half. Other performances of note included great versatility from Endicott, tenacity from Wilkinson, imperious heading from Popowicz and an important save from Witts which evoked the Banks vs Pelé confrontation of 1970. A semi-final date now awaits.

Rinata Farah, Nicy James, Chloe Lewis, Chris Bannon, Rebecca French, Katie Paswal, Anna Fanzo, Isobel Sugden, Nikhil Oliveira, Hans Dias, Leanne Kent, Charlotte Oputeri, Charmaine Oputeri, Quinlan Gomes are all now qualified Emergency First Aiders in the Workplace.

## Kintbury

In my opinion Kintbury was a wonderful experience. This trip was memorable, fun and educational. I feel it would have been better if even more students were able to go.

Kintbury is a place of teaching and learning. I was allowed to show and let out emotions that had been kept hidden, as did many others who went on this trip. This trip also showed some people how to respect and be grateful.

Overall this trip was amazing.

### Clara Philippe

On Thursday March 10th to Saturday 12 March students went on a Year 8 Kintbury retreat. I was one of them. The reason why I went to Kintbury was to have fun and relax and that was exactly what everyone on the trip did.

The bus ride to the house was a 45-minute journey. When we got to the house, we had a small tour and a 1½-hour break. We got shown the rooms and waited for the other school as they were running late. When the other school arrived, we got started with some welcoming activities and a power point about how important we are. Splitting into small groups, we recounted the presentation, telling each other what we thought of it. Friday had

loads more activities and breaks. Some of the most memorable activities were the meditation, another presentation, this time on reconciliation, again followed by a group session, a long discussion walk with your group and finally a fun, Thanksgiving Mass before we left.

All things considered, the best part of the retreat for me was the chance to get to know new people, both from our College and the other school attending, Saint Edwards. In addition to this, the breaks were a welcome opportunity to face new challenges: the attempt to ride the unicycle and try out the stilts, which I never quite mastered, but enjoyed trying!

It was a very memorable experience and I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a fun, reflective and relaxing time. For anyone who thinks it is all prayer, prayer, prayer – and that you need to pack your rosary beads - you're so wrong. It is more along the lines of play, play, play supported throughout by some important quiet moments during the stay too.

*William Ash*



## Mathematics Revision Sessions

Please see the details below of maths revision sessions

Wed 23-Mar	AM	Area of triangles, trapeziums and compound shapes, importance of units
Wed 30-Mar	PM	Rules of times and divide powers, finding HCF and LCM
Wed 06-Apr	AM	Mean of grouped data, stem and leaf diagrams, MMMR
Wed 13-Apr	PM	Plotting graphs, finding the gradient of a straight line, using 3D co-ordinates
Wed 04-May	AM	Finding the rule for a sequence, using nth term rules, writing formulae
Wed 11-May	PM	Carrying out and identifying transformations
Wed 18-May	AM	All about probability
Wed 25-May	PM	Using compasses and protractors to construct shapes and loci
Wed 01-Jun	AM	Pythagoras, and any last-minute questions

## Benvenuti a St. Joseph's!

This week the Languages Department has welcomed twelve students and their two teachers as part of the Italian Exchange. After arriving from Sesto Fiorentino, near Florence, the students spent their first day at St. Joseph's taking part in Italian lessons, observing a range of subjects, drawing portraits in a special art lesson and familiarising themselves with our school system. Students, parents and teachers then enjoyed a welcome buffet and a series of mini-presentations organised by our students. The rest of the week will include day trips to Bath and Oxford and a visit to the Steam Museum. We wish all participants an enjoyable stay in Swindon and we look forward to telling you all about our visit to Tuscany next month.

Here are a selection of comments from our Italian guests:

"It has been a very interesting experience to see the English school system."

"An exchange is one of the best cultural experiences you can have at school!"

"We have enjoyed staying with our host families and experiencing English life."

"English people are lovely and welcoming. Thank you!"

Many thanks to all those students and their parents who took part in the first leg of the Italian Exchange. Our Italian guests from Sesto Fiorentino enjoyed a fantastic week in Swindon and are looking forward to hosting you in Tuscany next month.

*Mrs Mistretta*

## Exhibition at Clifton Cathedral to celebrate RE in the Diocese

A week long Art Exhibition celebrating the theme of "I have Come that You May have Life" took place at Bristol Cathedral from the 14th to 20th of March. The event was arranged by the Diocese and invited all schools in the Bristol and Swindon area to take part. Our contribution was made during a cross-curricular Flexible Friday when the Art and RE departments worked with Year 9 students to create a wide range of work for the exhibition.

The art work consisted of a 3D paradise island measuring over a metre in length created by Year 9 students. Messages of wishes and dreams from all students in Year 8 were displayed as messages in bottles washed onto the shore. The messages consisted of their hopes and dreams of a perfect world.

## Subject News

A 3D tree made from wire and a bicycle wheel which holds crosses and friendship bands was made by Year 9 students. On closer inspection you can see one participant has woven a cross into the structure using coloured wire. It is hoped that this tree will be shown in Reception and the Chapel and can be added to by future students of the College.

A sixth form student, Nevil Fernandes, as part of his AS Art course created a minimal modern representation of the last supper and then used this to create a contemporary version of the last supper using his friends at the College. Y12 Art students also helped to complete a Year 9 canvas that shows the giving of talents. Finally a small group of Year 9 students designed a cross made of bread using PVA glue. Based on a piece of work by Anthony Gormley; the bread shows a cross and the words "Bread is Life"; a unique perception of salvation and life in all its fullness.

On the 16th of March student's and members of staff from St. Joseph's and Holy Rood travelled to Bristol Cathedral for a special event that celebrated talents and work of students from schools throughout the Diocese. Two Year 11 students gave a presentation which consisted of a DVD which they created for CAFOD called 'If everybody cared'. This is a very powerful DVD that highlights the suffering of people throughout the world and our duty as Christians to use our talents to help them.

The two tables and bread cross will be displayed in the central library in Swindon during Holy Week and Easter as part of the Swindon Churches Together 'Easter 2011 Creative Project'. If you are in town over the holidays you are very welcome to visit and have a look.

Finally the RE department would like to thank all Year 8 and 9 students, KS3 Art club students, KS3 Gifted and Talented Art Club, Crystal Struve, Liam Traynor, Conlon Mann and Neville Fernandes for your contribution to this exhibition and a special thank you to Mrs Wiltshire, Mr Rutter and Miss Shaw-Giles.

*Fiona Payne*

## Year 3 and 4 St. Joseph's and Kingsdown Joint Cluster Hockey Festival.

Last month the above event was held here at St. Joseph's on our fantastic astro-turf. Students from across both clusters participated in hockey coaching clinics which then culminated in a tournament which was delivered, organised and officiated by our own Year 10 sports leaders. To promote and encourage teamwork, communication and leadership skills, and the sport for all ethos, the leaders decided to mix up the teams. They organised the youngsters into smaller groups and then set them off on a carousel of coaching tasks, which they had planned, and did a sound job of leading, encouraging and improving the performance and skill levels of students.

The students who took part, and the staff and parents who were present, all enjoyed and saw the benefit of the event and many gave very positive feedback regarding the performance of our students. Well done to the Year 10 BTEC Sports Leaders.

## Year 3 and 4 St. Joseph's and Kingsdown Joint Cluster Tag-rugby Festival.

Well done to the Holy Rood Juniors A and B Tag-rugby teams who came 2nd and 3rd, respectively, at the above event on 8th March. In between matches all students were privy to coaching clinics that were run by Mr Cross and the Sports Leaders. Congratulations to all students who participated – we hope their interest in rugby continues to develop.

## Fencing Club

The 'Saints and Sabres' fencing club is now up and running – and our resident fencing coach, Mr Kerr, has been putting the students through their paces. We have the very best equipment, thanks to a lottery funding bid, and we look forward to the development of the students and the club – with a view to them taking ownership of it. We will publish photographs of students in their full kit and practising their lunges next issue!

## Online Sports Survey

The SSCO has been in to all partner schools across the cluster to administer the above survey regarding students' participation in PE and Sport. The results will be analysed and feedback given to schools in order to target provisions where they are most needed or will have the most impact.

## Book Amnesty

Calling all school textbooks or equipment that have 'mysteriously' made their way into your homes.

Please return any College equipment that has not been officially signed out to you anonymously in the ILC fast-return box. Many Thanks.

## Art Trips and Visits

We still have places left for Y12 and Y10 Art and Photography Student to go to Yorkshire for a weekend in July. Please see a member of the Art department if you are interested. You will get to visit the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, The National Museum of Media in Bradford, Shopping in Leeds City Centre, The Leeds City Art Gallery and Henry Moore Gallery. We also visit Saltaire Mills to look at the work of David Hockney.

*Mrs Wiltshire*

## Swindon Young Carers

In September students voted to make Swindon Young Carers their charity of the year and following a very successful funding raising week before Christmas we have been able to present Swindon Young Carers with a cheque for £1000. For more information on the important work that Young Carers do or for advice if you know someone who is a carer go to <http://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/youngcarers/index.htm>

## 'Quit Because'

On Thursday 10th March all Year 7 students watched a presentation by 'Quit Because', the UK charity that helps smokers to stop. The presentation aims to show students that tobacco contains poisonous gases, tar and thousands of toxic chemicals that cause a wide range of diseases including lung cancer, heart disease and breathing diseases. For more information go to their web site <http://www.quit.org.uk/>

## Change of details or telephone number?

It is important that we always hold up to date address and telephone number information for you and your child/children. This means we can contact you immediately in an emergency.

If you move house or update your telephone number, please ensure that you notify the College in writing as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

# Business and Enterprise

As part of Young Enterprise, our group, Essence, who are; Celia Berry, Jennifer Collins, Jessica Neat, Emma Prunty and Sarah Clark, decided to produce personalized Bath Bombs.

Before Christmas, we competed against other schools and Colleges at The Nationwide trade fair and after impressing the judges and standing out from everyone else, Essence became county winners!

Since then we have worked even harder as a group and have been selling our products at various events to gain opportunities to maximise our profit. We sold our products, including roses at the Year 7 and 8 Valentines Disco and days leading up to Valentines Day.

On the 26th March, we will be competing against other schools and Colleges once again, at the Outlet Village by selling our Bath Bombs for Mother's Day, which is soon approaching.

We have enjoyed working together as a group, and are looking forward to working together for the foreseeable future!

*Sarah Clark*

## Linking Education to Employment

The Year 11 Interview Day took place on Friday 11th March 2011. 25 local employers and businesses generously gave their time to interview our students.

This was an invaluable exercise for our students personal and professional development as it gave them the opportunity to experience first hand an interview scenario.

Students prepared for this event during their Citizenship lessons by filling out their application forms and watching various interview sketches. They also had a session on preparing a C.V.

Although this was a mock interview set up, both the interviewers and interviewees took their roles very seriously.

Year 11 were invited to wear business dress which really added to the spirit of the day.

All of the interviewers without exception commented on how polite and confident our students were. They also said that many of our young people would have been invited back for a second interview.

Students also took part in a "Question Time" style debate with some of our local HR professional, business partners and entrepreneurs. They were given the opportunity to ask questions relevant to the "World of Work". This session was extremely powerful as it gave our students a very real overview of the current economic climate and the challenges that they may encounter in their quest to find a university place, apprenticeship or job.

I would personally like to thank Year 11 for making the day a great success and for the professional way they conducted themselves.

*Miss Green*

## Fairtrade Cake Bake

St. Joseph's was delighted to host two cake baking sessions with our Partner Primary Schools to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight.

During both evenings Year 6 students made a delicious assortment of cakes and cookies using Fairtrade ingredients, which they were able to sell the next day at school to raise money for their favourite charities.

This was a fantastic introduction to the Fairtrade Franchise which has been a major part of College life for several years. Many of the youngsters taking part expressed an interest in becoming part of the franchise team when they join the College in September.

This event would not have been so successful without the help of Mrs Buckenham, Mrs Tkoz, Julia Starczewski, Mr Plummer, Mr Iles, the Fairtrade helpers and the Year 6 students.

Thank you very much for making both evening so enjoyable.

*Miss Green*