



ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

The Newsletter of St Joseph's College

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be back at work following my maternity leave and have enjoyed reconnecting with all our wonderful students, staff, and parents of the college community. The warmth and understanding that has been extended to me during this transitional phase has made the process of returning smooth and enjoyable. As I step back into the College, I am reminded of what a special and remarkable place St Joseph's College is.

This week, the much-anticipated examination season has officially commenced for Year 11 and 13. Our students have been diligently preparing for their exams, and I am confident that their hard work will pay off. It is during these moments of challenge and determination that we witness the strength and resilience of our students. On Wednesday, Year 11 students had their final Chapel Assembly of the academic year. This was a very special time devoted to reflection and prayer ahead of their examinations.

In other exciting news, I am pleased to inform you that our Year 11 Football team, under the guidance of Mr Jones, secured the title of Croydon Cup Champions after a 6-2 victory against The Quest Academy. Throughout the championship our students demonstrated their exceptional team spirit, talent, and determination. We are very proud of their achievement.

On Wednesday, the College welcomed two special guests: Shelley Davies, Director of Education for Croydon and Jason Perry the Mayor of Croydon. Our visitors enjoyed a tour of the College, visited lessons and personally congratulated Ryan Quarshie on his exceptional Christmas card entry.

Wednesday May 15th marks a special day for the College as we celebrate Founders Day. Lasallian schools throughout the world will be celebrating the date that St John Baptist de La Salle was proclaimed Patron Saint of all teachers in 1950.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, our dearest founder, hear your loving community pray. Grant that we, by your protection, grow in virtue day by day.

God Bless

Mrs C Kane

The Month of Mary

Welcome to the Month of May, the Month of Mary! As Catholics, we enter this special time with hearts full of devotion and reverence for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

May holds a special place in our hearts as we honour Mary, the epitome of faith, purity, and maternal love. During this month, we reflect on Mary's role in salvation history and her unwavering "yes" to God's plan, which brought forth the greatest gift to humanity, Jesus Christ.

Throughout May, **every Thursday at 7:50AM**, we will pray a decade of the rosary as a community and everyone: staff, students and parents/carers are all invited. Let us deepen our relationship with Mary through prayer, especially the Rosary, and by meditating on her virtues. Let us seek her intercession for our needs and intentions, knowing that she is always ready to lead us closer to her son.

Founder's Day

Additionally, on May 15th, we commemorate the feast day of St. John Baptist de La Salle, the founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, also known as the De La Salle Brothers. St. John Baptist de La Salle dedicated his life to the education of children, especially the poor. His commitment to providing quality education rooted in Christian values continues to inspire educators around the world.

The Ascension - 9th May 2024

As we contemplate the Ascension, let us be reminded of our mission as followers of Christ. Just as the disciples were commissioned to be witnesses to the ends of the earth, so too are we called to bear witness to the love and truth of Jesus in our lives.

Let us pray for the grace to live out this mission with courage and zeal, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May the feast of the Ascension inspire us to lift our hearts and minds to heaven, where Christ reigns in glory, and to strive for the things that are above.

Amen

Croydon Mayor Visit

We were honoured to have the Croydon Mayor, Jason Perry, and Director of Education for Croydon, Shelley Davies, join us on Wednesday 8th of May for a brief visit to the college.

During the visit, Mayor Perry enjoyed a tour, led by Ryan Quarshie. Ryan was congratulated by the Mayor on his remarkable Christmas card entry. Whilst Ryan's design didn't achieve first place in the Mayor's Christmas card competition, it did earn Netherton House 300 bonus points and caught the attention of Mayor Perry, who wanted to personally commend Ryan for his inspiring artwork.

Ryan's card not only celebrated his own culture, but also conveyed a powerful message of unity amongst diverse cultural backgrounds.

The visit also provided a wonderful photo moment for our new Co-Headteachers, Mrs. Kane and Mr. Mantillas, marking their first official school visit photo together, as St. Joseph's College embarks on a wonderful venture under their leadership.



Well done Ryan!



In the Headmaster's office

Old Boys Reunion

Last week, former students Adrian McCulloch and Mark Justin visited the school along with our archivist Gerry Murphy. Their mission was to start organising a reunion to celebrate the 170th anniversary of St Joseph's College in 2025.

Our 170th year promises to be a big one as there are lots of exciting plans to celebrate this important anniversary!

Founder's Day Service

Next Wednesday is Founder's Day, a day where we recognise the life and influence of St John Baptiste de La Salle. To celebrate, our Year 7 students joined in with an online prayer service and Lasallian Award Ceremony which included several surprise guests from across the Lasallian Family. It was a wonderful service which celebrated the unity in our District and showcased the global Lasallian Family to our students. Have a happy Founder's day!

STUDENT WORK

The exam season is a fantastic time of the year in some of our subjects as we are able to finally see the work that students have been preparing for! This week we saw the excellent work that was done in English and Functional skills and in the GCSE Art exam.

Functional Skills Speaking

Over the past few weeks, some of our year 10 boys planned and delivered full length presentations to their classes on a chosen topic. A part of the level 1 qualification, the speaking element is a third of their Functional Skills English certificate. The boys chose topics they knew they were experts on and the class was treated to informative and engaging talks on football, Muay Thai, the work of an estate agent and the singer Jason Derulo to name but a few. The presentation includes planning and delivery but also a question and answer section that the boys cannot prepare for in advance- potentially nerve wracking but not for our boys!



A brilliant speech!

They answered all questions with confidence and knowledge. The boys were also a wonderful audience therefore, supporting their peers with interesting questions that allowed their friends to really open up on their topic and enhance their presentation all round. The English Department is so proud of this achievement and pleased to see this contribute to their final grade and certificate that they should receive in the summer, having already completed the reading and writing paper.

Art GCSE

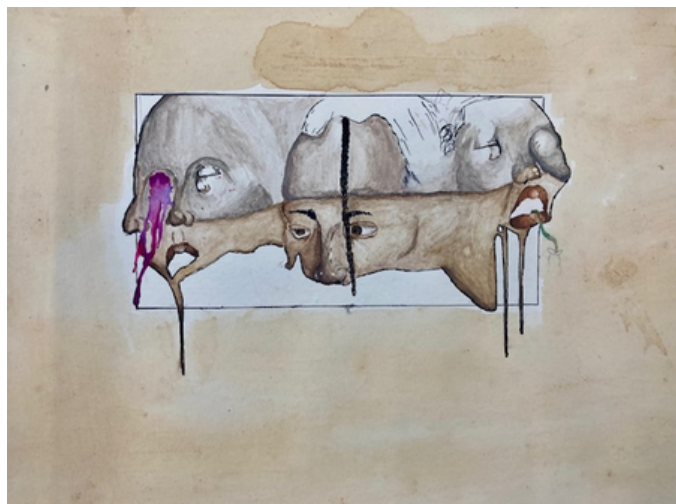
Here are a selection of some of the students' artwork from the GCSE exam. We are really proud of their effort. Well done boys on your fantastic work.



Kaleon



Keanu



Mohamed



Ilyas



Jason



Joshua



David

TRIPS AND EVENTS



Great seats!

Hamilton Drama Trip

This week, a group of our Year 10 Drama Students visited the Victoria Palace Theatre for a special performance of the hit musical 'Hamilton'. They were also able to have a Q & A session with the cast, pre-production, production staff, and theatre staff.

The experience was fantastic, and gave the students valuable insights about the production and the creative industry to support their theatre and Drama GCSE.

Digital Academy:

With the Summer Term now back in full swing, it is great to see our boys enthusiastically heading down to Allyn's School on Tuesdays to continue with their Digital Academy.

The boys are getting stuck into developing their own arcade games, or experiencing life in Virtual Reality using Oculus headsets.



The Digital Academy boys

Mandarin Excellence Programme:

Arrangements for the Year 9 MEP trip to Beijing are now in full-swing. The visa application process will commence in the next week or two.

The boys (and staff) are extremely excited about the 11 day trip, and are brushing up on the language skills they will need to enjoy being both students and tourists in the capital of China.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Preparations for the Duke of Edinburgh Award are in full swing. This week our students did a session on the importance of meal planning and bag packing and now seem very prepared for their upcoming hikes. The boys will be doing a trial expedition on June 7th with the real one on the 28/29th of June. Next week they're doing a map reading workshop!

Year 11 Walking Talking Mock

At the time of reading this, the Year 11s will have already sat their first Paper for the GCSE Religious Education exam, on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the RE department took all the students off-timetable and gave them a 'Walking Talking Mock' (WTM). This is a process where an RE teacher completes exam questions live and explains to the students about the thinking that is going on behind each question and each answer. It is an opportunity to actively teach students how to answer exam questions and improve their exam technique. These included; showing students how to take time over reading the information in a question, explicitly discussing the thought process for each question and modelling calculations or structures for longer answers.

Mr Arthur and Miss Bevan were talking through the whole process and the skills required to complete an answer, whilst Mr Theophilou was using his iPad to write notes which was displayed on the large screen.

We wish the Year 11s well in their GCSE RE exams and in all their examinations. They have been working hard and deserve very good GCSE grades.

Year 11 Prayer Service for Exams

On Wednesday, 8th May, all Year 11s took part in a Prayer Service in the Chapel. This was led by Mr Arthur, our Director of Spirituality.

In the Service we read from the book of Jeremiah, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew. God assures His plans are for prosperity, hope, and a future. His presence brings comfort, guidance, and abundance, ensuring that goodness and kindness follow all the days of our lives.

Jesus reminds us not to worry about our needs, for God cares for us even more than the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. Instead, we are encouraged to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, and all our needs will be provided.

In his teaching, Mr Arthur spoke about importance of giving everything to God. He said:

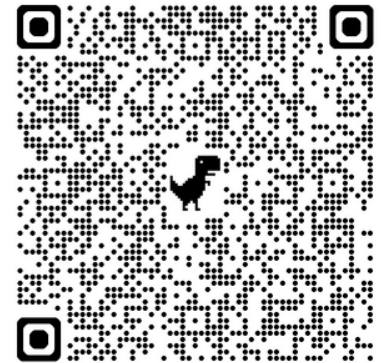
"... as you approach your exams, remember these words: God has a plan for you, and He will take care of you.

Trust in Him, seek Him with all your heart, and do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Focus on today, focus on doing your best, and leave the rest to God."

Make the Future Yours Magazine

Here is a link to a free digital careers magazine for parents and students, the 'make the future yours' magazine is published six times a year and is delivered straight to your inbox. What's more, it's completely free of charge! Click on the link to scan the QR code to sign up.

<https://www.makethefutureyours.uk/issue-9>



Scan to sign up

Apprenticeship Advisors

There is a new free service available from the Department of Education for Year 13 students and their parents/guardians which offers them the opportunity to access an apprenticeship adviser who can help find apprenticeships to start when students have left school.

<https://earlyconnect.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/E37000051>

Work Experience Forms

Year 10 Work experience is fast approaching. We urge all students to make sure they have organised their work experience and returned their forms before the May half term.

Cambridge University Opportunities

Cambridge University are offering some fantastic courses for Year 11 and Year 12 students. We urge you to get involved if you are interested.

Subject Focus Sessions: Information sessions running from May-July 2024 to learn more about a particular subject! For Y11/12. Link here: <https://www.homerton.cam.ac.uk/events/subject-focus-sessions>

Cambridge University Open Days: Come and visit the Colleges and departments on Thursday 4th July, Friday 5th July and Friday 13th September 2024. Booking opens: end of April 2024. Link here: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/cambridge-open-days>

Subject Masterclasses: Subject-specific events that offer students the chance to experience typical undergraduate teaching at Cambridge. For students in Y12. Funded places available. Link here: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/masterclasses?>

Project Access Mentoring: Receive 1-to-1 mentorship with a mentor studying at your dream university! Link here: <https://projectaccess.org/join-our-program>

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENES WEEK



**MENTAL
HEALTH
AWARENESS
WEEK**
13-19 MAY 2024

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week. Within the college we will be running PSHCE and Character sessions on the importance of mental health and how to stay happy and healthy.

This year's theme is Movement. Movement is sometimes neglected as a cause of good mental health however it is hugely important and can make a big difference. This is especially true now the weather is getting better! Make sure to encourage your son or daughter to move more and exercise in order to help their mental health!

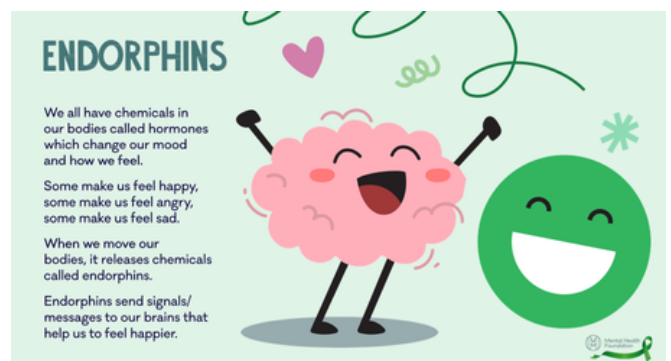
One of the most important things you can do to help protect your mental health is regular movement. Moving more can increase your energy, reduce stress and anxiety, and boost your self-esteem. If you'd like to improve your mental health by moving more, [read some tips to help you get started.](#)

Here are some tips to get you started. You can find out more online.

- Find moments for movement every day
- Set small, achievable goals
- Take a break from sitting
- Find the fun
- Movement looks different for everyone, don't compare yourself to others
- Listen to music that gets you moving
- Be kind to yourself, moving more is self-care



Some everyday movement tips



Exercise gives you endorphins

If you are concerned about your child's mental health, please contact the school safeguarding team at safeguarding@sjc.ac

You may also wish to visit -

[Mental Health Foundation - https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/)

[Childline - https://www.childline.org.uk/](https://www.childline.org.uk/)

[NHS - https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/mental-health-support/](https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/mental-health-support/)

ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE

Here is the updated enrichment timetable for the summer term!

There are loads of really fun activities to do so please come along!

Extra curricular clubs are a great way to try new things, make new friends and share your passions with others.



Club/activity	Who is it for?	When is it?	Where is it?	Staff
Maths drop-in sessions	Year 11	Monday – Friday 7:30-8:15 & 12:45-1:15 (No lunch sessions on Thursdays)	N04	Various Maths teachers
Press Gang – newsletter and media club	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Monday 3:00 – 3:30	N24	Mr Russell
Football	Year 8	Monday 3:00 – 4:15	Meadow	Mr Curwen
Football	Year 11 Team	Monday 3:00 – 4:00	Meadow/field	Mr Jones
Basketball	Years 7 and 8	Monday 2:45 – 4:00	Sports Hall	Mr Delaney
Cosplay & Costume design	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Monday 3:00 – 4:15	DT – Tech 01	Mr Marshall
Debate Mate	Years 7, 8 and 9	Monday 2:45 – 4:00	S14	Mr Theophilou
Model United Nations	Years 11, 12 and 13	Tuesday lunch 1 and 2	The Parlour	Mr Austin
Digital Academy	Years 9 and 10	Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00	Off site	Mr Austin
Futsal	Year 10	Tuesday 3:00 – 4:00	Sports Hall	Mr Monk
Chinese club	Year 11	Wednesday 13:15 – 13:45	LS04	Mr Austin
Spanish club	Year 11	Wednesday Week 1 13:13 – 13:45	LS01	Ms Otero
Making Music (Who's Got Bars?)	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Wednesday 2:45 – 3:45	H02	Ms M Osei
Reading for pleasure/discussion	Year 8	Wednesday 2:50 – 3:30	N15	Mr Dench
Football	Year 7	Wednesday 3:00 – 4:15	Meadow	Mr Curwen
Basketball	Years 9, 10 and 11	Wednesday 2:45 – 3:00	Sports Hall	Mr Delaney
Spanish club	Year 11	Thursday Week 2 13:13 – 13:45	LS01	Ms Otero
Coding Club	Years 8 and 9	Thursday lunch 2	S21	Sixth Form
Rugby	Years 7, 8, 9 and 10	Thursday 3:00 – 4:00	Meadow	Mr Lipscombe/ Mr Bradley
Table Tennis	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Thursday 3:00 – 4:15	Gym	Mr Curwen
Badminton	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Thursday 2:45 – 4:00	Sports Hall	Mr Delaney
Puzzle club	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Friday lunch 1 and 2	SC01	Ms Wilkins
Anime club	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Friday 2:45 – 3:45	LSR	Mr Keys
Chess Club	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	Friday 3:00 – 4:00	N13	Mr Barrett-Marshall

Mr Jones' Year 11s travelled to Whyteleafe FC to take on Quest Academy in the Croydon Cup Finals and after going in at half-time 2-2, ran out comfortable winners with the score at 6-2. Really the boys should have scored a few more, but sometimes that's the way football goes. It's a testament to the hard work put in by the boys to be successful in the cup, but also the effort and dedication of Mr Jones as their coach. The fact the boys have also won the Croydon League that they are in, says a lot about the managerial prowess of Mr Jones and his charges!



We are the champions!

Final score - St Joseph's College U16 6-2 The Quest Academy U16.

Goalscorers - Macaulay Adams Zepa x2, Marlys Tshiswaka, Darren Frimpong-Kwakye, Othneil Charme-Kwakye, Kobe Frazer.

Man of the match - Rushaun Daniels.

After the win on Tuesday evening, our Year 9s took on Harris Merton in the Semi-Finals of the Croydon Cup, which I can proudly say saw the team run out 8-2 winners. They will take on Archbishop Tennison in the cup final, which we are hopeful will be played at Crystal Palace's training ground. The same group have also won their league, we believe! If the title decider is chosen on head to heads rather than goal difference.

Other fixtures have seen us take on Riddlesdown in the Year 8 Semi-Finals. Now, at the start of the year, the boys lost 11-0 to them. But Mr Curwen has worked wonders, and the boys have been nothing short of excellent in their dedication to improving. The boys ended up losing 3-1, but they have a lot to be proud of, not just how far they have come, but also that they were in the game the whole time. We wish Riddlesdown every success in the final.

Our 6th Form team finish their football season, having played a college from Crawley on Wednesday. The boys came out on the losing side 3-2, but showed fight and resilience to come back from 3-0 down. As our Y13s move on our Y12 take on the mantle of the sixth form team. I'm hopeful for Year 11s that will stay on will join the side to make a strong team. I intend to enter them into a local Croydon league next year, as well as the usual Surrey and National Cups.

We now firmly move into the athletics season – and thankfully the weather is getting better. As the sports hall is being used for examinations it means we are now using the other fantastic facilities that are on offer at the college – so please remember to bring your correct kit!

OTHER NEWS

SJC Second-Hand Uniform & PE Kit

Has your child grown out of his school uniform or PE kit? We are looking to build up our second-hand uniform and PE kit supply. If you have any items of school uniform or PE kit that is in good condition, please drop off to Mrs Barrow in the school reception.



Looking smart in the full uniform

School Uniform Sale

We have organised for a uniform sale day on Saturday 29th June 2024. Previously this sale was for the new Year 7 students, but this year we would like to invite the parents and students for all years. It will be from 10:30am - 2:00pm and will be a fantastic opportunity to buy everything in preparation for the upcoming school year. A price list will be sent out nearer the time.

Sparks Drama

Congratulations to Mohamed Olagunju in Year 9 who has been rewarded for his excellent effort in Drama. Mohamed has won a term of free Drama lessons with Sparks and this was due to his outstanding attitude to learning and achieving excelling + on his last two term assessments.

Here is a link to Sparks drama classes for anyone who is interested in booking a trial class:
<https://sparksarts.co.uk/>

UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 14th July

- Dragon's Den House Event
- Year 8 Parents Evening (This will be online)

Wednesday 22nd July

- Morning Mass - 07:40am - 08:10am

Thursday 23rd July

- Year 10 Brilliant Club Graduation

