

2ND FEBRUARY 2024



ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

The Newsletter of St Joseph's College

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

The world for young people is a very different place than it was for their parents, including in their vulnerability to risk from external influences, with levels of exposure and access greater than ever before, partly to social media.

Safer Internet Day takes place in February each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all. This year, Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6th of February, with learning at the college based around the theme of managing influence and navigating change online.

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help your child stay safe online. Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit, what they enjoy doing online and how they would respond to an adverse experience whilst using the internet.

This week saw our Year 9 students receive GCSE options assemblies from our subject leaders. It was wonderful to see them all listening attentively as they prepare to make important choices on the next 2 years of study. A reminder that Year 9 parents' evening for GCSE options is taking place next Tuesday the 6th of February – an opportunity to speak to individual teachers and hear from the Senior Team on the process of options selection for September 2024.

Thank you to the 450 parents who have already created an account on our new homework resource, Seneca. This incredible resource covers a vast array of curriculum content delivered in lessons, at all levels. St Joseph's College is currently placed second in the borough of Croydon for student usage on the Seneca platform. If you have any questions about access to our new homework resource, please contact Ms S Davey, Assistant Headteacher (Learning) – sdavey@sjc.ac

Almighty God, we thank you that you lead us on all our paths. Together we praise your name. We plead with you, stay with us, especially when the world grows darker. Stay with us and send down your power. Send your power in answer to our prayers, so that the whole world can be joyful and all people on earth may know the blessing of your grace. Amen

St. John Baptist De La Salle, pray for us.

With best wishes,

Mr G Mantillas

Let us remember we are in the Holy presence of God.

Let us adore Him

As we stand on the threshold of February, the month of love, devotion, and reflection, I extend warm greetings to each member of our cherished community. In this edition, we delve into the radiant significance of the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord.

Embracing Divine Light: The Presentation of Our Lord

In the sacred narrative of the Presentation, we witness a profound encounter at the Temple—an encounter filled with symbolism, devotion, and the unwavering light of God's love. Mary and Joseph, in humble obedience, present the infant Jesus to the Lord, and the aged Simeon, led by the Holy Spirit, embraces the promised Messiah.

Illumination of the Soul:

In the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, we are reminded that He is the Light of the World. As we reflect on this event, may we open our hearts to the divine light, allowing it to illuminate the recesses of our souls, dispelling darkness and guiding our paths.

Prophetic Hope and Fulfilment:

Simeon's prophetic words echo through time, proclaiming the fulfilment of divine promises. Let us reflect on the promises in our own lives—those fulfilled, those awaited—and find solace in the assurance that God's plan unfolds with purpose and grace.

Chaplaincy Reflection: Walking in the Light

As your Lay Catholic Chaplain, I encourage each one of you to embark on a journey of reflection during this sacred month. Consider the symbolism of light in your life—where do you find it, and how can you share it with others? In what ways can you consecrate your daily endeavours to a higher purpose, and how might the prophetic hope in your heart guide your steps?

May this season of reflection and the upcoming celebration of the Presentation of Our Lord fill our hearts with the radiant love of Christ. Let us walk confidently in His light, consecrating our lives to His service and finding fulfilment in His promises.

St Joseph – Pray for us.

St John Baptiste de La Salle – Pray for us.

SCHOOL TRIPS



Inside the factory



Learning health and safety

Year 13 Applied Science

Our Year 13 double applied scientists have been visiting scientific places of work to interview employees about health and safety & data storage for their coursework. We were lucky to be able to visit ALO physiotherapy in Harley street before Christmas and this week, we had a very interesting tour at Brixton Brewery near Herne Hill!

At A.L.O. Physiotherapy, students learnt all about health and safety, gaining a first hand understanding of how these principles are applied in a professional healthcare setting. Our young scientists explored the importance of maintaining a safe environment for both practitioners and patients. The visit not only broadened their knowledge but also provided valuable context for their coursework.

The second leg of the trip led the students to Brixton Brewery, where they delved into the realm of data storage – a crucial aspect of modern scientific research. The insightful tour exposed them to the intricate processes involved in preserving and managing data.

Altogether it was a thrilling couple of visits!

Year 13 visit “The House of Bernarda Alba”

Our students have been learning about this classic Spanish novel and were lucky enough to see it being performed at the National Theatre. This was an incredible production and was a great experience for our students.

Umar Gaffar had this to say: “Last month, we went to the National Theatre for the play La Casa de Bernarda Alba (The House of Bernarda Alba) in order to help with our Spanish Paper 2 where we have to write essays on Spanish films and literature. The play was amazing and we were really engaged throughout by the actors and the story.”



Outside the National

VISITING SPEAKERS

The Speakout Challenge

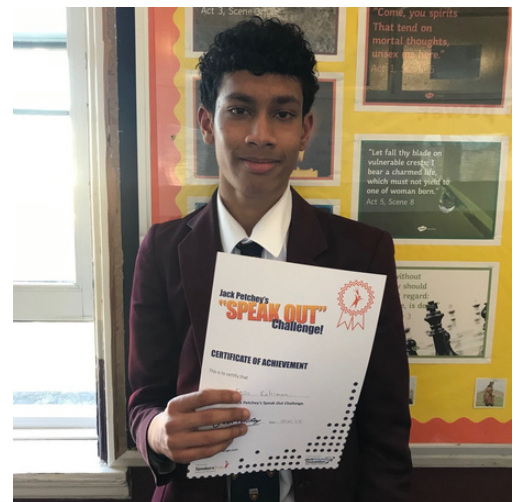
On Friday 30 Year 10 students were given the chance to enter the Speakout challenge, which is the oldest public speaking competition in the world! This was a full day workshop in which the boys practiced their delivery, developed their writing and ultimately stood up in front of their peers to deliver a speech on a topic of their choice.

This was the first step of the competition. Six were chosen for the next round which will consist of developing their speeches and delivering them in front of a Year group. From there, a student will be picked to represent the college and will compete at a regional final in March. The grand final will be held in a West End Theatre with a big cash prize so good luck to our eventual college representative!

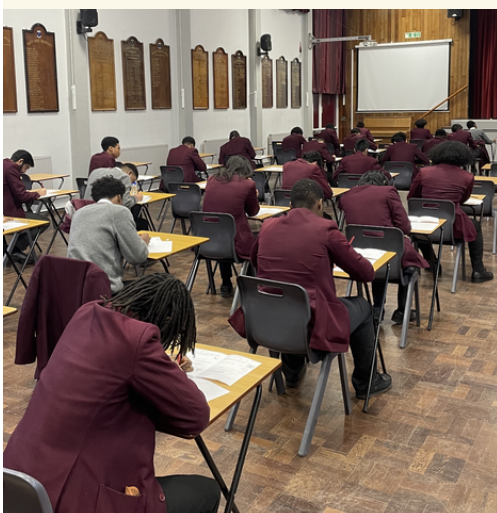
All the staff involved were hugely impressed by the quality of the speeches but also by the passion in which the students delivered them. There was a real focus on the day on storytelling and communicating a powerful life message. Some of the highlights focused on how AI should be seen as a tool for good, how football isn't just a game and the importance in patience and never giving up. Well done to everyone who participated.



Powerful delivery



One of our six winners



A tough challenge

The UK Maths Challenge

On Wednesday, a selection of Year 9, 10 and 11 students sat the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

The Maths Challenge is a 60 minute, 25 multiple choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. The problems on the Intermediate Maths Challenge are designed to make students think, most are accessible yet still challenge those with more experience. The results will be out soon, good luck to everyone who participated!

CAREERS INSIGHT

Here are some links from the career department about exciting career news.

SEND apprenticeship pilot proving a hit

Relaxing of functional skills rules removes barriers for people with learning difficulties

<https://feweeek.co.uk/send-apprenticeship-pilot-proving-a-hit/>

These are the highest-paid tech jobs across London, Paris and Berlin in 2023

Data from Figures shows engineering managers are the highest paid, followed by finance managers

<https://sifted.eu/articles/highest-paid-tech-jobs>

One in five London jobs now in the creative economy, report reveals

Jobs in London's creative economy have grown by more than 200,000 in five years, according to City Hall research

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/creative-industry-jobs-london-economy-city-hall-report-b1118830.html>



Exciting news for creatives

GLOBAL GASTRONOMY

"Global Gastronomy: Exploring Culinary Delights from Around the World

In our interconnected school community, the exchange of ideas, cultures, and traditions extends far beyond the classrooms. One of the most delightful ways to experience this global interconnectivity is through the diverse and rich tapestry of food that spans the continents.



Our school offers a healthy menu which aims to offer food from around the world, giving our students the chance to learn about different types of food and where it comes from. Year 7 student Idris Bouhedda had the opportunity to try falafel and this is what he has to say:

"A variety of middle cuisine has become quite famous globally. One such food is falafel. Not everyone has had the chance to taste this street food as it is not available everywhere. Have you tasted this fritter yet? If not, this post can help you!. So, what does a falafel taste like? Crunchy, grainy, and savoury, are some of the words that describe its taste the best".

Today we welcomed Alim Kamara from Stories Stories back to the College. What an inspirational speaker!

Year 7 received a fantastic assembly on storytelling and diversity, There was a real focus on understanding the importance of respecting each other's difference. In PSHCE lessons next half term, Year 7 will be further exploring the topic of Diversity, so today was a taster of what is to come.

This half term Year 8 have studied Discrimination in all its forms. Alim delivered a bespoke assembly with this in mind using a movie called Pride featuring Terence Howard to capture the importance of respect for all.

We look forward to welcoming him back in the summer term!



Alim Kamara from Stories Stories

CASH FOR TRASH

MS C WILSON



Big cheque!

Fantastic news! Our A-Level students have raised £500 for charity through book recycling which is a truly commendable achievement. Not only does it contribute to the well-being of the environment by promoting recycling, but it also supports a good cause.

If you were involved in this effort, congratulations on your success, and thank you for making a difference!



It's been another busy fortnight in the PE department as our pupil's progress in the Croydon Football competitions.

Football

Last week we finished with the following football results:

Monday - Royal Russell (Away) Y7 Surrey Cup Lost 5-3

Wednesday - Shirley High (Away) Y7 Croydon Cup Win 6-2

Thursday - Shirley High (Away) Y8 Croydon Cup Win 6-2

This week

Monday - Coombe Wood (Away) Y9 League Win 9-2

Wednesday - Cray Wanderers FC (Away) Y12/13 League Lost 3-2



Team talk



A great win

In the Year 8 game there was an unsavoury incident. I'm happy to report that our students did the right thing and I fully expect all students representing the college to act in a manner that not only shows respect for the college, but also respect for themselves. We should be gracious in winning, as well as in defeat.

Futsal

We will be starting our Futsal house competition this and next week with current BTEC PE students running the competitions. As part of their course they need to organise, referee, and manage a sporting competition - and what better than Futsal at SJC.

The competitions are as follows and we look forward to seeing the players there!

Year 7 - Thursday 1st Feb

Year 8 - Monday 5th Feb

Year 9 - Tuesday 6th Feb

Year 10 - Wednesday 7th Feb

Year 11 - Thursday 8th Feb

As we head towards the end of the term, it doesn't stop for the PE department - we have basketball and football games booked in for next week already!

SPRING ENRICHMENT



The new Spring Enrichment activity timetable has arrived! This term there are loads of fun activities to participate in. There is one in every classroom. This week the focus is on our new rap club: 'Who's got bars?'

Who's Got Bars is an exciting new rap club led by Ms Osei. Students will develop their writing skills and practice performing, all with the aim of eventually producing their own music. There was a great turn out for the first session and we imagine that this will be a very popular club. Come along every Wednesday in N04 at 2:45!



GCSE PODs

Well done to the top achievers on GCSE POD this week!

Year 10

1. Daniel Odongo
2. Mikhail Hana
3. Shayden Gareave

Year 11

1. Benicio Paredes Rojas
2. Hasan Aftab
3. Mohammed Miah

UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 06.02 - Year 9 Parents evening

Friday 09.02 - Last day of half term. Students will return to school on Monday 19th February.

