



ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

The Newsletter of St Joseph's College

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Easter celebrates the beginning and foundation of Christianity. Easter is thus a symbolic reminder for Catholics that Jesus has overcome death and sin. It signifies the victory of good over evil.

The Easter story teaches us humility and love. It probes our desire to think of ourselves as compassionate and generous people. The life and teaching, and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ put together, are a lesson on the efficacy of humility, service, self-sacrifice, and true love.

Behind all those Easter eggs and everything else in between that commercialises this sacred time, we reflect on what the Holy period means to us and seek new ways to encounter God.

At school, strong literacy underpins all subjects and is crucial for success across the curriculum. This goes beyond educational attainment and into adulthood, since strong writing, communication and negotiation – all needed for success in adult life – are supported by literacy skills. Additionally, creating opportunities to read and write creatively for pleasure can support students to explore their own identity and place in the world. On Thursday of this week, the College celebrated World Book Day. Staff and students came together (some in costume) to celebrate their love of reading and share experiences of how books impacted their lives. Thank you to all the parents who supported our literacy workshop on Thursday evening.

Over the weekend, our Year 11 students will be participating in a 3-day residential experience at Grosvenor Hall in Ashford, Kent. The programme of activities will support character development, focusing on confidence, resilience, and life skills alongside curriculum-linked programmes in preparation for final examinations beginning in May. Set in the picturesque grounds of a former manor house combining nature and charm, this unique experience will create fond memories. I am most grateful to the staff who have given up their weekend to ensure our students benefit from this magnificent initiative.

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, knowing that with you, all things are possible. When the storms arise, bestow your tranquillity and peace upon us, so that we may not be moved. In Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

With all good wishes,

Mr G Mantillas

FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

Happy Lent from the Governing Board.

In this time of Lent we are preparing to commemorate and celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. Lent is a time of renewal. It comes from an old English word, 'Lenten' meaning 'Spring.' We are on our journey through Lent, the time of forty days and nights when we take time to walk with Jesus in the desert with fasting and penitence, remembering our mortality and reliance upon God. As we walk with him, we take time to read from the Bible, to pray and to be more open to the needs of those around us. The fourth week of Lent begins with Laetare Sunday, from the words: Rejoice, O Jerusalem. It is the mid-point of Lent, a time to take time and reflect upon our journey so far.

Let us pray, Lord God, you have given us the great day of rejoicing: Jesus Christ, the stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone of the Church, our spiritual home. Shed upon your Church the rays of your glory, that she may be open to all nations and let cries of joy and exultation ring from her to celebrate the wonder of Christ's resurrection.

God bless you all

S. C. Horsman

Chair of the Governing Board

OUR PLANS FOR HOLY WEEK

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Your child will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) on Holy Tuesday, 26th March. We thank Fr Celestine in advance for providing this for us. If you would like your son to receive this Sacrament ahead of Easter, please email me (tarthur@sjc.ac) or ask your child to speak to their form tutor to book a 7 minute time, between 12 Noon - 2pm. This link explains the importance of this Sacrament.

Morning Mass (7.40-8.10)

On Holy Wednesday, 27th March, we welcome Fr Deo of St. Bartholomew's Church, Norbury. He will celebrate Mass with us from 7.40-8.10am. Parents/carers are invited to this celebration. We encourage anyone interested to attend. If you drop off your child in the morning, please feel free to attend. This is the first time the College will hold morning Mass, your support on this will be greatly appreciated.

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has requested that all Catholics use today, Friday 8th March, to pray for peace in the Holy Land.

As harrowing reports of the suffering of people in the Holy Land continue to hit the headlines, Cardinal Nichols encourages Catholics to embrace the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in support of those impacted by the conflict.

The Cardinal has echoed Pope Francis' call for a lasting ceasefire, the release of all hostages, for humanitarian aid to be allowed through to help those most in need in Gaza, and for hospitals, schools, and places of worship to be protected.

He now invites all of us to make peace in the Holy Land a special focus of our prayers.

He writes:

"As we are all aware, the situation in the Holy Land has not improved, with failed negotiations, increasing humanitarian distress and a rising death toll.

"As Lent begins, I would like to urge that we continue our efforts, not least in prayer.

"And so I ask that, on Friday 8 March, there is a special focus of prayer for the Holy Land across the diocese. This could take the form of a dedicated time of prayer, perhaps before the Blessed Sacrament, for peace in the Holy Land. It could be as simple as making any regular Lenten devotions you may be having on that day for this intention."

Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of Lord
And let us adore him.

God of love,

We pray for peace in our world, and an end to war.

Instead of hatred, let there be love.

Shelter your children and protect us.

Guide us and keep us from harm, so we can build a world of love and live our lives in peace.

Amen.

St Joseph – **Pray for us**

St John Baptiste de La Salle – **Pray for us**

Live Jesus in our Hearts – **Forever!**

WORLD BOOK DAY



Ms Kingston as Jim Hawkins



The potions teachers



This ain't a girl scout camp...

Thursday 7th March was World Book Day and the whole College was celebrating! Doors were decorated, favourite books were shared and staff all dressed up as classic characters from literature.

Lots of the staff made a fantastic effort in their costumes. Thanks to all the staff and departments who made the day such fun and particular thanks to Ms Owen for organising everything.



Giant peach

All week there have been assemblies and special English classes on the joy of reading. It is vitally important that the students read books at home and have a real love of books. The walls of the school were decorated with fiction and non fiction that had changed the lives of teachers so hopefully this will give students some inspiration if they are struggling to find their next book.

Also, if you are in Year 8 come along to our new reading for pleasure club (pictured below). This is on Wednesdays from 2:50 - 3:30 in N15 with Mr Dench. Currently we are reading the brilliant 'A Monster Calls'.



Squad goals

Excellent Year 8 Work

The Year 8s had the task of creating their own religious eco charity including religious teachings on taking care of our planet and the winning pair were Micah and Jayansh who created the charity 'Vishnu Foundation'. Runner up was The Block foundation with their multi faith (Christian and Muslim) eco charity. David Rodriguez, Mustakim and Yahyah were on this team.

Croydon Mosque Visit

The boys in 9x/re1 had a great time visiting Croydon Mosque on Tuesday. They had a tour of the mosque where they got to see various prayer halls. The students really enjoyed learning about the design of the mosque. They learnt all about the 5 Pillars of Islam and Tawhid. For a lot of our students, it is the mosque they attend so it was fantastic to build this community link. Thank you very much to Croydon Mosque for having us.

Kintbury Visit

On 22nd and 23rd February, Mr Arthur and Miss Marie attended the Chaplains' and Head of RE conference led by the Lasallians in St Cassian's centre, Kintbury. One of the sessions was delivered by our very own Chair of Governors, Mr Horsman.



A spiritual retreat

INFORMATION REGARDING RAMADAN

As we enter the blessed month of Ramadan, we acknowledge the significance of this time in the Islamic calendar. We understand and respect the religious observances of our students during this period. While observing this holy period, students will continue to attend their music lessons as scheduled, as it is a compulsory component of the national curriculum. However, we want to assure you that the Music Department has made adjustments to ensure that these lessons are conducted in the spirit of Ramadan, with sensitivity to the needs of our students.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your son's Head of Year. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in making this a harmonious and inclusive learning environment for all.

Wishing you a blessed Ramadan.

TRIPS AND VISITS

Year 7 History Trip

On Friday 1st March the whole of Year 7 had a wonderful day out visiting the Tower of London. On the trip organised by the History department all pupils took part in workshops covering topics on the Normans, the Tudors and the Suffragettes. Pupils were able to get a real sense of how William the Conqueror used castles to control the English people.

Everyone visited the White Tower where we saw Henry VIII's armour, and we got to see the Crown Jewels too. Pupils asked some fantastic questions and engaged really well in the learning sessions. We also enjoyed an exciting walk along the Southbank, getting to see some key landmarks such as Tower Bridge and the Shard on the way home.



The Tower of London



Watch out Joe Rogan



We love Milton Keynes

MK: U Innovation Hub 'How to set up a side hustle'

Four students from St. Joseph's College embarked on an entrepreneurial adventure at the MK: U Innovation Hub in Milton Keynes, where they participated in a workshop on setting up a side hustle. Amidst immersive sessions covering various aspects of entrepreneurship, they also had the unique opportunity to interview and record a podcast with a seasoned producer, gaining first hand insights and inspiration.

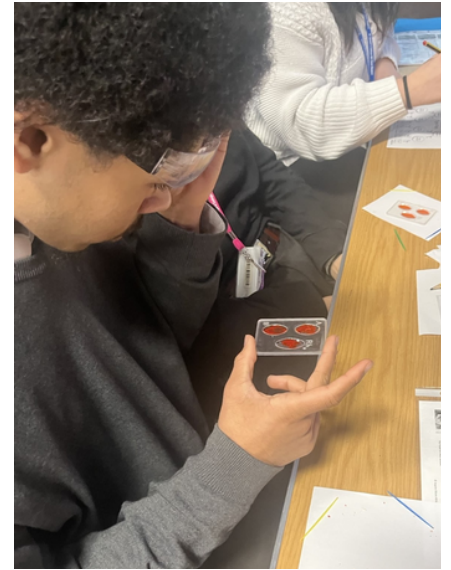
Armed with newfound knowledge and fuelled by their interactions with industry experts, these SJC students returned home with a renewed sense of purpose. Their journey to Milton Keynes has ignited a spark of entrepreneurial ambition within them, driving them to pursue their dreams and transform their ideas into tangible ventures.

TRIPS AND VISITS

CSI Workshop - Monday 4th March

On Monday 4th March, our Year 12 scientists had the opportunity to delve into the world of forensic science, through engaging in an immersive CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) workshop. This remarkable opportunity ignited their passion for the intricacies of investigative science, providing students with the practical experiences needed to support their assessments.

This session was delivered under the guidance of forensic expert Matt Hackett from Thinkers in Education. Our young scientists demonstrated impressive skills solving multiple cases through delving into the captivating realm of crime scene analysis.



CSI: St Joseph's

Year 8 Health and Safety Morning

On Thursday 7th March, Year 8 had a Health and Safety morning in which they received talks from the Police, Ambulance and Fire services. These were incredibly useful and practical sessions which gave our students lots of tips on how to stay safe and protect others.

Brilliant Club

Over the last few weeks, fifteen Year 10 students have been exploring feminism as part of the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme. They have attended weekly tutorials with their PhD mentor and during these tutorials they have discussed various articles about feminism and why it is still relevant today.

The students have read short stories such as 'Girl' by Jamaica Kincaid (1978) and compared this with Gloria's monologue from the 'Barbie' movie (2023) to explain what fictional narratives can tell us about the lives of women and girls. The students are now drafting their final 2000-word essay titled 'How do women writers portray the complex and contradictory nature of feminism?'

I've learnt to look at things from different perspectives regarding feminism. I feel that this course has helped me to grow as a person and formulate clear developed arguments. I am currently preparing for my final assignment which I feel has given me some experience of what it is like to be a university student! I recommend this course to any Year 9s who are offered this course next year.

Ryan Weathers - current Brilliant Club member



Brilliant Club

Bedrock Learning: a tool to help improve Key Stage 3 students' literacy



Our English Department use an online vocabulary programme called Bedrock to help improve students' vocabulary and reading skills. All Year 7, 8 and 9 students are set a Bedrock Extended Learning task to complete each week. The programme includes a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and the tasks adapt to suit each student's learning needs.

You can monitor your child's progress by logging on to the system yourself. If you wish to monitor the progress of your child on Bedrock, please contact their English teacher who will be able to provide you with the access code you need and give you further advice.

Parents and Carers Literacy and Numeracy Support Evening: A Success!

It was great to see so many parents and carers turn out on World Book Day for this event. It really felt like the start of a meaningful connection, working together to achieve an improvement in every child's literacy and numeracy. There will be more events like this. Thank you so much for the feedback and watch this space!

Word of the Week Deadlines:

Don't miss the chance to win 50 achievement points for your house!

WOTW Justice: Write no more than 300 words on

Think about a time when you felt that something was unjust. Why did you feel that way?

Speakout Challenge

Well done to Kairav who did the College proud by representing St Joseph's in the Croydon regional final of the Speakout awards.

The Speakout challenge is a nationwide public speaking challenge which aims to improve Student oracy and public speaking skills. Kairav spoke very well on the importance of authenticity. Whilst he did not progress to the next round he should still be immensely proud of his achievements.



Well done Kairav

Bring Your Family to University

Bring Your Family to University Days are a series of free one-day events aimed at providing information, advice and guidance about university to young people and their parents and carers through fun and interactive sessions on UCL's central London campus.



These events will include activities such as subject taster lectures, panels, support sessions for parents/carers, campus tours and the opportunity to talk to current university students. A free packed lunch will be provided.

- Saturday 11 May: Secondary school (Year 7-11)
- Saturday 6 July: Secondary school (Year 7-11)

All events will take place at UCL's main campus (Gower St, London WC1E 6AE) between 10:00am and 3:00pm (registration will open from 9:30am). More information will be provided to those who are shortlisted to attend the event. Whilst these days are a couple of months away, the deadline for applications is the 4th April so apply soon to secure yourself a place!

[Sign up here](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/primary/bring-your-family-university-days) or visit <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/primary/bring-your-family-university-days> for more information.

Design Museum Engineering Project

On the 27th and 28th February, our Year 12 Engineering students had the opportunity to work with industry Engineering and Design specialist, Rob Johnson, on his groundbreaking project Fatconomy, a project designed to challenge waste disposal within society, students were expected to research and design, waste disposal solutions for local businesses and the wider community. All students involved were given a design brief as design engineers of the future to create alternative scenarios for our waste fat and oil feedstocks, students were expected to research, hack, and re-imagine existing machines and devices that are currently in the kitchen - the fat trap.

[If you would like to learn more about this project, click this link.](#)

ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE

Here is the updated enrichment timetable for the spring and summer terms. 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.

One new club starting this term is the 'Press gang' media club. If you want to practice your journalism by writing for the newsletter or for our social media, come along on Mondays from 3:00 - 3:30 in N24.



Club/activity	Who is it for?	When is it?	Where is it?	Staff
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
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	Years 7, 8 and 9	Wednesday 13:15 - 13:45	LS04	Mr Austin
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
Dungeons and Dragons club	Years 7, 8, 9 and 10	Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00	N02	Mr Mason
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
Pokemon club	Years 7, 8 and 9	Wednesday 2:45 – 3:30	S14	Mr Theophilou
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

Due to the joys of the March weather, none of our fixtures were able to be played in the past week. The fields are currently resembling a bog and we hope that the warmer weather will return them back to their best.

However, we did manage to see an 'A' Vs 'B' trial fixture in Year 10 where 27 boys tried out for next years 16-man squad. Whilst the mud made it hard to play any really fluent football, it did see two well balanced teams play against each other and the boys worked well and showed some real glimpses of becoming a strong team that will build on winning the Croydon U15 A league this year.

We look forward to welcoming Cedars school in football fixtures throughout the year groups. Our CTECH Y13 students will also be able to referee these games for their sports course which is great. We have built a great working relationship with the school and also look forward to some summer cricket fixtures.

Mr Curwens Year 7 and Year 8's will compete in the Croydon Cup in the next week, as we hope to progress through into the Quarter Finals; our football provision is constantly developing and this is being shown on the field through our most recent successes. I'm hopeful that the next school year will see us build on our local success and develop into regional and national success.

Finally, Mr Delaney has some basketball fixtures coming up against local teams, we look forward to seeing more students attend the extra curricular provision that we are offering, especially in our racket sports of table tennis and badminton.

UPCOMING HOUSE EVENTS

SJC's Got Talent - Bars Edition

Miss Osei is spearheading this half term's Big House event: SJC's got bars! Scheduled for the 13th of March during periods 3 and 4. Each form will select two students to showcase their singing, rapping, or other performances as per the assigned roles for each year group.

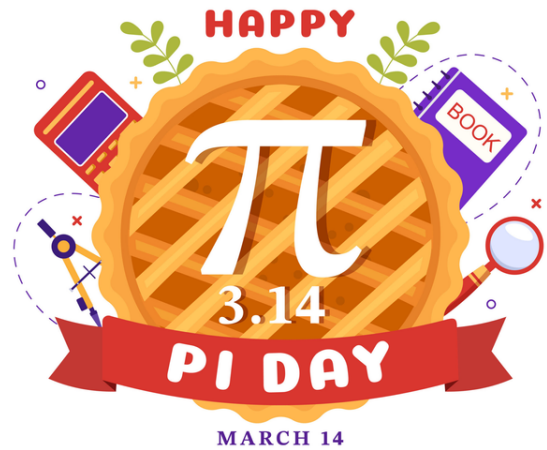
Curtain Call

Calling all thespians! On the 21st of March during period 5, we'll be hosting a drama house event. Please put your name forward to your tutor if you would like to participate. In your house teams you will have an hour to craft a 5-10 minute performance, which you will then present to a panel of staff judges.

PI DAY

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (Pi). Pi day is observed on March 14th (the 3rd month) since 3, 1 and 4 are the first three significant figures of π (3.14159265358979323...) This year the maths department want you to find out a little more about Pi and some other numbers.

Around the school there will be clues that, when solved, will give you some of digits of π . You will need to look around the school for the maths questions. The answers to the questions can be found on your answer sheets, and once you've figured out the right digits you will need to write the letters into the box to spell out a secret maths phrase.



There will be prizes available for those who manage to complete the treasure hunt and hand in to their maths teacher before the end of Friday 15th March.

Happy Pi day everyone!

GCSE PODs

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

- Year 10*
1. *Daniel Odongo*
 2. *Samuel Shepherd*
 3. *Joshua Swaby*

- Year 11*
1. *Denis Furculita*
 2. *Kieran Tagoe*
 3. *Dan Soji*

UPCOMING DATES

Thursday 14/03

Pi day

Friday 15/03

Stanley arts group workshop

Tuesday 19/03

St Joseph's Day Mass with Year 7
Museum of Croydon trip

