



ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

The Newsletter of St Joseph's College

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

The period of advent is often described as a time of patience. The liturgical readings from the season are mostly taken from the Old Testament. St Augustine once said of the relationship between Old and New Testaments, "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old becomes manifest in the New". We can think of the Old Testament as a story in which God gradually brings his people to understand what he has prepared for them, so that many of the events recorded, whether historical or not, prefigure supernatural realities that become clear with the coming of Christ.

Whatever development we observe in life is due to challenges in life. If there is no challenge, one will stop making efforts and cease to grow. To bring positive change we need to set challenges for our students. Teachers have been engaged in staff training this week, with a focus on challenging students' learning in the classroom – thought stimulation through progressive questioning. Challenging our students to test themselves and come out of their 'comfort zone' will support development beyond what is expected, eventually building confidence to aim higher. This is an ongoing piece of work we are developing throughout the academic year.

This week saw our senior students engaging in a question-and-answer workshop with Deutsche Bank, a multinational investment bank and financial services company headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany. An inspirational opportunity for our students to gain an insight into the corporate world of finance.

Parents of Year 11 students will have received notification of the parents' evening taking place next Tuesday the 12th of December – our first in-person parents' evening since the Covid Pandemic. Appointments are booked on the school-cloud platform. If you have any questions regarding appointments, please contact Mr Cabrera on scabrera@sjc.ac.

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

God bless,

Mr G Mantillas

A Message of Hope in the First Week of Advent

As we usher in the season of Advent, I extend warm greetings to each and every one of you. This sacred time marks the beginning of our journey toward the joyous celebration of Christ's birth, a period filled with reflection, anticipation, and hope.

The First Week of Advent: A Beacon of Hope

In this first week of Advent, we light the first candle, the candle of hope, symbolizing the eager anticipation of the coming of our Lord. It serves as a reminder that even in the midst of darkness, hope shines bright, illuminating our hearts with the promise of a new beginning.

Let us take a moment to pause, reflect, and open our hearts to the hope that Advent brings. May this season be a time of spiritual growth, renewal, and a deepening connection with our faith.



Let Us Be a Source of Light and Comfort

As we embrace the hope of Advent and extend our hands to those in need, let us be the bearers of light and comfort in our community. Together, we can make a difference and share the spirit of love and compassion that defines this season.

May this Advent be a time of profound reflection, joyful giving, and a renewed sense of hope for each and every one of us.

Save the date:

Get ready to immerse yourself in the joy of the season! Join us for our Advent Carol Service on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, starting at 5:00 PM in the Chapel.

It's an evening of beautiful carols, reflection, and community spirit you won't want to miss. Save the date, and let the festive countdown begin!

Wishing you a blessed Advent season,

Lay Chaplain

Marie

This year we are supporting Great Ormond Street Hospital: Sharing the Gift of Joy

This Advent season, our community is joining hands in a special initiative to spread joy beyond our immediate circle. We are delighted to announce our support for Great Ormond Street Hospital, a beacon of hope for countless children and their families.

The best gift you can give Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) is a donation. This extraordinary hospital has always depended on charitable support to give seriously ill children the best chance to fulfil their potential.

In the spirit of giving, we are organizing a toy drive to bring smiles to the faces of the young patients at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Your generosity can make a significant difference in brightening their days and bringing comfort during a challenging time. Just give your donation to your tutor or any RE teacher.

A special thank you to Furqan Dewji in year 13 Grange for your generous donation of £20 towards our initiative to bring joy to the children of Great Ormond Street Hospital. Your kindness is making a real difference in brightening their days during this holiday season.

Thank you for embodying the spirit of giving and for being a beacon of hope for those who need it most. Your contribution is a testament to the power of compassion within our community.

How You Can Contribute:

- **Donate a Toy:** Bring joy to a child's heart by donating new, unwrapped toys at the designated collection points within our community.
- **Monetary Contributions:** If you prefer, you can also make a monetary donation to support this initiative. Every contribution, big or small, goes a long way in making a positive impact.



A very generous donation



A fantastic cause

The Big Interview

On the 30th November, St Joseph's College welcomed 25 leading industry professionals to our Year 11 students with 'The Big Interview'. This event provided our Year 11's with a valuable opportunity to hone their interview skills and gain practical insights into the professional world.

The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of the dedicated volunteers from various industries. Students had the chance to showcase their strengths, receive constructive feedback, and build confidence for future interviews.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who generously contributed their time and expertise to make this learning experience possible.



Suited and booted

Deutsche Bank Brunch

On Monday 4th December, we were honoured to welcome former student of St Joseph's college and Business Manager from Deutsche Bank. Ryan had the opportunity to share invaluable insights with students from Years 11, 12, and 13 who have expressed an interest in the corporate banking sector.

The session provided a unique opportunity for our students to gain firsthand knowledge about the financial industry, career pathways, and the skills required for success in a dynamic professional environment.

Ryan's expertise and engaging presentation not only inspired our students but also broadened their perspectives on the possibilities that lie ahead. Thanks Deutsche Bank for this inspiring visit!

Careers in STEM Apprenticeships Event

A rare and exclusive opportunity for Year 13 Female and Non-Binary STEM students!

Are you interested in finding out more about a career in STEM?

If you are interested and actively applying to STEM Apprenticeships this is the event for you! It is on 19/01/24 at Salesforce on Liverpool St.

**Scan the QR code
or visit the link
before
the 4th January to
sign up!**

bit.ly/ApprenticeshipsDay2024



Do we have a potential Picasso in the making?

In Spanish class we discussed the merits of the 1932 portrait of Picasso's great muse, Marie-Thérèse Walter. The blue painting by Pablo Picasso of his girlfriend was sold this year at Sotheby's in New York for \$139.4 million. The opinions were divided, some students thought that it was easy to copy, others thought that it was ugly, and others put pen to paper to create their own version of Picasso's painting.

Inspired by the painting and using Ms Wilson as a muse, Idris Bouhedda produced this incredible piece of work! I will most definitely be keeping it in a safe place so that I can cash in on it when he becomes a successful painter.



The original Picasso



Idris' version

Community languages GCSE

We are excited to offer a unique opportunity at St Joseph's College - the chance for students to undertake GCSE/A-level exams in languages they speak at home. This initiative celebrates the rich diversity of our community and emphasizes the value of language proficiency in a multicultural London.

Students interested in this program must demonstrate proficiency reading, writing, listening and speaking. To register: Contact Mr. Barnett (EAL Coordinator) at abarnett@sjc.ac or visit him in RM. 77 by January 26th.

Spanish Omelettes

Students cooked up a treat in Food Tech this week by creating their own version of a Spanish Omelette. If you are Spanish, look away now... Students created their base layer Spanish omelette peppers, onions, and other vegetables of their choice, adding cheese and different meats - we had everything from jerk chicken to halal turkey!



Fantastic omelettes

But the controversial point is that some omitted potatoes from their recipe! What the boys created look fantastic and I am sure tasted superb, but we will let Ms Wilson decide whether they can be called Spanish omelettes or not!

Over the past two weeks the cold snap has hit SJC which has led to more adapted lessons to meet students learning objectives. Lessons in dodgeball, badminton, rugby, swimming, basketball, fitness, and table tennis have seen us move to different teaching areas in the school, especially with 90 students doing rugby, when the ground is frozen! No one wants to be tackled into the dirt in -1!

Mr Delaney's Y11 class completed their filming for their BTEC course; this is an essential part of the course and goes towards their final grades. So well done to those who are finished in that respect, and to those who haven't! You need to get another time organised.

Year 12 and 13 are currently prepping for their Unit 4 CTECH exam which they will sit in January next year; Christmas will provide them ample time to be prepared for it, so in between chocolate and Christmas puddings, I expect them to be learning about first aid and hazards.

Basketball

In extra-curricular we have just started our basketball season, Mr Delaney has so far returned these scores;

Year 7 vs Harris Invictus – Won 27-21

Year 9 vs Harris Invictus – Lost 28-21

Year 9 vs Harris Crystal Palace – Lost 40-22

Year 11 vs Harris Merton – Lost 72-66

Year 11 vs Archbishop Tennisons – Lost 60-52

Football

Our sixth form have not had a game for two weeks, but next week sees them travel to Boreham Wood to avenge the defeat they suffered in their last game. Mr Jones' Year 11s bowed out of the National Cup competition whilst Mr Curwen's Year 7s took on Woodcote at home and came out 2-1 winners.

Monday's 27th games were cancelled due to waterlogged pitches, so we look forward to replaying them.

Our Year 10s take on Woodcote on Friday 8th, if they win, they win the Year 10 Croydon league, going the season undefeated. Good luck boys!

We are excited to introduce this year our Careers Super Curriculum, which will offer students a comprehensive and holistic approach to career development.

The Careers Super Curriculum is a structured programme designed to help our students explore and prepare for their future careers, through in school as well extra curricular opportunities. We understand that the choices students make during their academic journey have a significant impact on their future opportunities, and it is our responsibility to support them in making informed decisions.



Through our delivery partners, we encourage both parents/ carers and students to actively participate in the Careers Super Curriculum. Here are some ways you can get involved:

Years 7-9 STEM in Action

STEM in Action is for young people aged 11–14, although if you are younger or older you will also find something interesting!

Each module contains themed videos and activities that can be done at home or in school. There are researcher and student profiles so you can learn more about the people working in these areas, fun talks to help you learn more about the topic, and short hands-on activities that are linked to the subject areas.

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/schools-outreach/secondary-schools/stem-in-action/>

University of Surrey - Y9 Family Futures

Family Futures is a 3-month extra curricular programme for Year 9 students and their parents/carers.

Through weekly live webinars, exclusive access to our Online Resource Portal and two special oncampus events, families will:

- 1) discover the range of available pathways.
- 2) develop their research and reflective skills.
- 3) gain the confidence to pursue aspirations.

<https://outreach.surrey.ac.uk/activity/family-futures/>



Year 10 -11**Big thinking with real-world impact**

The University of Oxford have put together a range of resources to get students thinking in new and exciting ways about the subjects they like the best.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/ug-digital-resources/students12-16>

University of Surrey - Year 11 GCSE Masterclass

The Masterclasses are both an Autumn and Spring series of virtual GCSE revision and preparation sessions in English, Maths and Science. Led by educational consultants with a wealth of experience within teaching and assessment, the masterclasses will cover common topics and themes which are applicable to all exam boards. This will include revision tips and techniques as well as further direction towards applying your learning and understanding within exams. All masterclasses are 60 minutes and content is designed to complement revision support as provided within school.

<https://outreach.surrey.ac.uk/activity/gcse-revision-masterclass/>

Year 12-13**University of Oxford - History Skills Workshop: Thinking Big: concepts and historiography**

This workshop is designed to encourage students to engage critically with historiography and different concepts. Students will explore why engaging with how we write history is an essential and exciting part of being a historian and discuss what we mean by conceptual clarity.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/visiting-and-outreach/outreach-events/historyskills-workshop-thinking-4>

University of Oxford - History Skills Workshop: Primary Sources

In this workshop we explore the different kinds of sources that Historians use in their research. Students will then have the chance to put their analysis skills into practice with a variety of sources currently being used by our Graduate Outreach Tutors in their research.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/visiting-and-outreach/outreach-events/historyskills-workshop-primary-4>

COLLEGE CATERING

It is all change in the canteen and cafeteria this term as we have a new food supplier. Scan the QR code on the right to get all of the information or check out the menus for the next couple of weeks below. We have a 3 week rolling menu. Week 3 will begin 11/12 and Week 1 begins on 18/12.



| | STREET | VEGGIE | SIDES | Extras additional to Meal Deal | |
|--------|---|---|--|---|--|
| WEEK 3 | NY Deli Open Chicken Bagel American Mustard Slaw | Turkey Laab Moo (Spicy Thai Turkey) Lime Wholegrain Rice | Creamy Chicken & Leek Pie Roasties & Gravy | Chicken Ruby Murray Yellow Rice | Choose from: Battered Fish Chicken Sausage (battered or plain) Margherita Pizza Chicken Nuggets Chips & Gravy or Curry Sauce |
| | Tex Mex Chipotle Sweet Potato & Lime Taco | Veggie Thai Style Noodles | Lentil & Onion Pie Roasties & Gravy | Chana Masala Yellow Rice | Choose from: Margherita Pizza Veggie Sausage (plain or battered) Chips & Gravy or Curry Sauce |
| | Hand Cut Wedges & Mustard Slaw | Wok Fried Oriental Veggies | Seasonal Mixed Vegetables | Kachumber Salad | Minty Peas or Baked Beans |
| | Cajun Onion Rings | Prawn Crackers | Cauliflower Cheese | Naan Bread | Garlic Mayo Dip Pot |
| WEEK 1 | Curried Coconut Chilli Chicken Wholegrain Rice n Peas | Homemade Spicy Falafel Flatbread | Roast Lemon & Thyme Chicken, Roast Spuds & Gravy | Low Salt & Chilli Chicken Firecracker Rice | Choose from: Battered Fish Chicken Sausage (battered or plain) Margherita Pizza Chicken Nuggets Chips & Gravy or Curry Sauce |
| | Jamaican Black Eyed Peas Stew Wholegrain Rice n Peas | Plant Based Creamy Green Pea & Spinach Pasta | Root Vegetable & Bean Stew Roast Spuds | Japanese Yakisoba (Japanese Stir Fried Noodles) | Choose from: Margherita Pizza Veggie Sausage (battered or plain) Chips, Gravy or Curry Sauce |
| | Lime Dressed Slaw | Mixed Salad | Roast Carrots & Parsnip | Sweet Chilli Sticky Greens | Minty Peas or Baked Beans |
| | Flatbread Wedge | Hummus Pot | Cauliflower Cheese | Prawn Crackers | Onion Rings |

CASH FOR TRASH CAMPAIGN

Our Sixth Formers have done amazing work with the Cash for Trash scheme. By sorting, classifying, valuing, and selling books they have already raised up to £350 for charity.

Charity is hugely important for Christians, particularly at this difficult time of year. You still have time to help! You could buy a fantastic Christmas present or just donate money yourself. You would be doing a lot of good.

These acts of kindness have already help charities such as The British Heart Foundation, Saint Christopher's Hospice and Shelter.



GCSE PODs

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

Year 10

1. Daniel Odongo
2. Shayden Gareave
3. Keynan Ahiman

Year 11

1. Samuel Quintero
2. Tihomir Apostolov
3. Hasan Aftab

UPCOMING DATES

- **Thursday 14th December** – celebration of the festive period with a special Christmas Lunch for all year groups.
- **Wednesday 20th December** - Christmas Carol Service in the College Chapel, from 5pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.
- **Thursday 21st December** - Last day of term (early finish). Details to follow.

