

19TH JANUARY 2024



ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

The Newsletter of St Joseph's College

RESPECT FOR SELF | RESPECT FOR OTHERS | RESPECT FOR FAITH | RESPECT FOR LEARNING | RESPECT FOR COMMUNITY



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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back to the college after the festive break - they have made an excellent start to the new term. I have been particularly heartened by students' renewed approach to learning at the beginning of the year. Thank you to our Form Tutors and Pastoral Team who work tirelessly to ensure our students are ready for learning each day.

This week saw the launch of Year 10 and 12 careers. It was a pleasure to see the main hall full of parents who attended our work experience information evening - an opportunity to ask questions and hear how the college can support with securing industry placements. Thank you to all who contributed.

As Year 11 begin preparations for the final sitting of mock exams next month, over the past fortnight, students have been fortunate to receive two inspirational workshops - 'Maximize your potential' a high-impact study skills intervention, and 'Elevate', focusing on revision techniques.

Yesterday saw an afternoon of intellectual prowess with our House 'University Challenge' event. Teams from all Houses engaged in a battle of knowledge. Congratulations to Brooklands who currently hold the top-spot on House points.

Looking ahead, Year 7 parents' evening on Tuesday 23rd January will be virtual - please ensure appointments are booked on the cloud system. On Tuesday the 6th February, Year 9 parents will have the opportunity to speak to teachers in person about current progress and course options for Year 10.

It seems appropriate to end with a prayer by the patron saint of knowledge, St Thomas Aquinas, an ambassador for education and serves as a wonderful role model for children.

Grant us, O Lord my God, minds to know you, hearts to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you.

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

With best wishes,

Mr G Mantillas

Embracing Hope and Renewal in the New Year

Dear Beloved of St Joseph College Community,

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I am filled with gratitude and hope for the journey that lies ahead. The past year has undoubtedly been filled with challenges and uncertainties, but it has also been a testament to our resilience and the strength of our faith.

In the spirit of the Lasallian tradition, let us approach this new year with hearts wide open, ready to embrace the opportunities for growth, compassion, and community building. As we reflect on the past and look towards the future, may we find inspiration in the teachings of Saint John Baptist De La Salle, who dedicated his life to the education and well-being of young people.

Let the principles of faith, service, and community guide us in our daily lives. In the face of adversity, may we draw strength from our shared commitment to creating a more just and compassionate world. As we navigate the challenges that may come our way, let us remember the power of prayer, the comfort of community, and the unwavering support of our shared faith.

In the coming months, let the Chaplaincy Corner serve as a sacred space where we can come together to share our joys, sorrows, and reflections. Through open hearts and open minds, may we deepen our connection to each other and to the divine presence that guides us.

As we embark on this new chapter, let us hold onto hope, for it is hope that lights our path and fuels our journey. May the new year bring an abundance of blessings, opportunities for growth, and moments of grace that strengthen our bonds as a Lasallian community.

Special Thank You to those who donated toys, vouchers to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

We would like to extend a special thank you to each person who has contributed to this cause. Your kindness and selflessness are shining examples of the true spirit of giving. Together, as a community, we are making a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Wishing you a year filled with joy, purpose, and the profound peace that comes from living in accordance with our shared values.

Let us remember we are in the presence of God:

Let us adore him.

In Gratitude and Faith,
Ms Marie (Lay Chaplain)

Prayer of the week

We Pray...

For healing...prepare us for surprises.

For strength...prepare us for surprises.

For vision...prepare us for surprises.

For transformation...prepare us for surprises.

For messengers and messages...prepare us for surprises.

For community...prepare us for surprises.

For acceptance - of ourselves and others...prepare us for surprises.

For making room at our tables...prepare us for surprises.

For Truth-seeking...prepare us for surprises.

For support...prepare us for surprises.

For Common Ground...prepare us for surprises.

Walk beside us, O Holy One,
as we question and welcome,
as we challenge and invite,
as we discover and understand,
as we see, touch, taste, smell, and listen for
the Newness awaiting us in 2024.
May we, Your Holy People, walk forward
together side by side.

Amen

St Joseph, pray for us.

St John Baptiste De La Salle, Pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.



Mullen High School Visit

On Thursday, 10th January, the College was delighted to welcome students and staff from Mullen High School in Denver, CO. They are another Lasallian school from the USA and are here for the whole week on a UK trip.

The US students had a tour of the College and observed various lessons, including Design & Technology, Food Technology, Mandarin, Art, and English. Interestingly, the first four of these subjects are not even taught in their own College. They were truly impressed with our Chapel and Swimming Pool as well!

Afterward, Miss Marie led us in a service on fraternity and a safe journey back home. Both Mullen and St. Joseph's were delighted to have met, and we are currently working on various pathways for collaboration, and even planning a visit to Denver!

After Mullen students had left, I sat with the Student Leaders and reflected on the experience. Whilst we may be far from Denver, CO. we share many things in common, from Netflix programmes, YouTube channels and even our collective hopes for the future. One a lighter note, I think our College Students Leaders won't be saying 'bottle of water' for a long time!



Come back soon!

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

Happy New Year

Last Sunday was designated World Day of Peace and Pope Francis has chosen 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace.' This may seem a little unusual, but we are asked to think carefully about the consequences of advances in AI for peace and justice.

The developments in AI are being taken very seriously by world leaders, many huge benefits for humanity can be seen, but also so can many dangers. Pope Francis had shared the following with us:



The message of Pope Francis

It is my prayer at the start of the New Year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today's world but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family. May Christian believers, followers of various religions and men and women of good will work together in harmony to embrace the opportunities and confront the challenges posed by the digital revolution and thus hand on to future generations a world of greater solidarity, justice and peace.'

Let us pray, God our creator and sustainer,

We thank you for the gifts of creativity you have given us, for the ability to explore science and understand your creation.

We ask your forgiveness for the times we have used science for evil and not for good, for war and not for peace.

Make us vigilant as we develop technology, that violence and discrimination may not take root, that injustice and inequality will not be fuelled, that the poor and vulnerable will not pay the cost. May all that we create contribute to peace and justice.

Amen

God bless you all

S. C. Horsman

Chair of the Governing Board

CAREERS UPDATE

National Apprenticeship Week 2024

To celebrate National Apprenticeships Week 2024, the 4 London Career Hubs have partnered with ASK to provide schools and colleges with a series of webinars running every day of the week from 5th - 9th February, with a different theme each day, exploring the apprenticeship and vocational pathways landscape. Every session is tailored to either students and teachers or parents and carers, so please make sure to register for the relevant slot.

Don't miss out! Speak to Ms Ampah for more information.



National Apprenticeship Week 2024
London Webinar Series
5th - 9th February

Monday 5th - Awareness of Technical & Vocational Pathways
Tuesday 6th - Apprenticeship Ambassador Panel Discussion
Wednesday 7th - Employer Perspective
Thursday 8th - Higher Education Institutes
Friday 9th - How and where to apply



Work Experience Information Evening

On Thursday 18th January, the Careers and Employability department hosted the first in person work experience information evening for parents of Year 10 and Year 12. The event was well attended with parents gaining a valuable insight into the upcoming work experience programme and how they can best support their child's employability journey.



A record attendance!

VISITING SPEAKERS

There have been several exciting guest speakers who have visited the college in the first two weeks of the new year. Here is some of the news from these fantastic events.

The Brilliant Club

This week a group of Year 10 students began The Scholars Programme, an initiative organised by The Brilliant Club, an educational charity whose aims are to raise aspirations and widen access to study at elite universities.

The programme prepares students for the academic rigour of studying at university. It also brings PhD researchers into schools, so that students can experience university-style tutorials and build skills such as research methods, academic writing, and organisational skills.

Over the next few weeks, the student will be planning and writing a 2000-word essay on Feminism through small group tutorials, under the guidance of PhD researcher Marni.



Below is a comment from Elraph, one of the members of The Brilliant Club.

My first impressions of the tutorial and our mentor were exceptionally positive. It is clear that it will be both a professional and enjoyable working environment. The atmosphere in the room was great, I am looking forward to our next lessons and I am already excited about our final project.

Elraph Boateng - Y10

Voicebox Masculinity Workshops

On Thursday our Year 10's participated in a workshop on 'Healthy Masculinity and Mental Health'

In the session they explored the impact of masculinity on their lives in order to improve their relationships, wellbeing, and opportunities. The workshop allowed the students to reflect on masculinity & gender stereotypes. The boys now feel empowered to embody healthy masculinity! Well done Year 10 for participating.

Voicebox.
Promoting healthy masculinity

Maximise your Potential

The team from 'Maximise your potential' visited us on Wednesday and the boys were all so engaged and enthused the whole time. They were taught all about revision strategies and the importance of maximising your potential!



An excellent workshop!

Year 10 Students Kick Off the New Year with Celebration and Spirit!

The Year 10 students are kicking off the new year with boundless energy, enthusiasm, and a spirit of celebration that's contagious! As we bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, our vibrant group of students has set the tone for an exciting and promising 2024. The school is alive with the promise of a fantastic year ahead. In their Chapel Assembly they celebrated by wishing each other a Feliz ano nuevo and held up signs to spell out their happy message.



Feliz año nuevo!

Feliz Ano Nuevo from Year 10

The Amazon River - MFL Project

Our Year 7 students learned about some notable animals and their habitats in the Amazon Rainforest such as the jaguar, the anaconda, the piranha, and the caiman. They also learned that the Amazon Rainforest is home to an incredibly diverse range of plant and animal species, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world. The Amazon Basin spans across several countries in South America, including Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, and parts of other neighbouring countries.

After watching a few very enlightening videos, the topic of discussion moved towards which of these animals would win in a hypothetical fight between them. Our MFL chief reporter Idris Bouhedda informs us of the following:



"My favourite animal is the anaconda because it does not have any bones making its jaw/mouth having no limitation on how big it can open it and it can swallow anything whole like the anaconda eating a cow in the video. The snake's skin expands which makes any predator or prey vulnerable, including cows, sheep's, etc. And also, if you try to run from an anaconda under water, it can chase after you because their capability of swimming, not any swimming, fast swimming! It can grow up to 20 ft long which it is good for having a big prey and their skin can camouflage with the sand in the Amazon River and also blend in with the grass and mud on land."

Excellent work Idris!

HOUSE COMPETITIONS



Ryan's card

The Christmas card event proved to be successful. While we may not have secured a victory, our submission left a lasting impression on the Mayor of Croydon.

Impressed by Ryan Quarshie's card entry, the Mayor is organising a visit to see him. I have attached his card for all of you to view.

The next exciting community event is the 'Love not Hate' fundraising talent show. 'Love not Hate' our looking for young stars in Croydon.

Submissions are due by Friday, 26th January. We know this is a short turnaround but if you have an exciting talent please send a video of you to ckingston@sjc.ac. Good luck!

University Challenge House Quiz

The first House event of the year was the University Challenge quiz which was held yesterday in the main hall. It proved to be a great test of knowledge and very LOUD experience.

The competition was intense to say the least, but it fostered such a great sense of camaraderie. In the end, Grange emerged victorious, earning a total of 300 house points. Brooklands secured the 2nd spot nabbing 200 house points, thanks to standout contestants Kobe Frazer and Khalil Robertson-Thomas, who demonstrated their impressive PE knowledge. Dane claimed 3rd place, earning 100 house points, while Netherton and Hill secured 4th and 5th places, respectively.



Future University Challenge contestants

House Point Update

Here is the current House points table. Brooklands are in the lead but still a long way to go!

Points	
Brooklands	6109
Beulah	5733
Hill	5665
Grange	5533
Dane	5232
Netherton	5154

RE - Humanist Visit

On Tuesday all of Year 8 had a speaker from Humanism UK talking to them about his beliefs as part of Year 8's current unit on humanism.

David Rodriguez 8 Grange:

"The speaker was very interesting. When he answered my questions, it really made me think about humanists' beliefs and my own beliefs. I have not met a humanist before, and it was nice to be able to ask all my questions I had".

Jeffrey Uvbie 8 Netherton:

"The humanist speaker was fun and interesting. He was speaking to us about what he believed and what humanist believed. He told us that he thought people only have one life and they should live it to the fullest."



An enlightening session

International School Award

The MFL department have achieved an International School award Foundation Certificate!

They achieved this honour as they demonstrated an excellent start in promoting the international dimension across the school and highlighting the benefits of learning in a global context. Well done!

Art - Hundertwasser

Here are just some of the fantastic pieces of artwork that our Year 8s are currently producing as part of their scheme of work on Hundertwasser. Excellent work!



Beautiful drawings



Well done Year 8!

BRITISH COUNCIL

International School Award

Certificate

This is to certify that

Saint Joseph College

has achieved

Foundation level
Introducing internationalism

Scott McCreesh

Scott McCreesh
Chief Executive, British Council



We welcome back students to SJC PE department in Term 2. A new year starting, and we have been welcomed by a cold snap with temperatures dropping below the minus. Thankfully, where possible, we have organised the curriculum to have as many lessons indoors as possible to make sure we are able to partake in lessons comfortably, and most of all, allowing us to enjoy it.

Students this term will be partaking in swimming, dodgeball, handball, table tennis, football, multi sports, basketball, health and fitness and indoor cricket. Our Y10 and 11 core lessons have been slightly interrupted by the ongoing examination but have taken the changes in good stead and have been supportive of teaching areas limitations.

Our extra-curricular offering continues with Basketball on Mondays and Wednesdays, Futsal for Y10 on a Tuesday, Badminton and Table Tennis on a Thursday and Football for each year group; 7s Wednesday, 8s Monday, 9s Wednesday.

Football

Fixtures wise we have been successful in both the Surrey and Croydon Cup, with Mr Jones' teams being victorious. We have been extremely lucky to be given by the Old Josephenians a set of new football kits, for each individual year group. They look fantastic and will make us look even smarter on the field! Our results from this week are below.

Competition	School	Year	Score
Croydon Cup	Vs Whitgift	9	7-5 Win
Surrey Cup	Vs Ashcombe	11	5-3 Win



Looking sharp in the new kits



Squad goals

SPRING ENRICHMENT



One fun new club that is on offer this term is the Press gang - Newsletter club. We would love to see more student voices in the newsletter. Do you have any pieces of writing that you would love to share with everyone in the school? If you are interested in writing and sharing articles, sports reports, reviews, or even editing a section of the newsletter come to the Press gang club on Mondays from 15:00 - 15:30 in N24.

The new Spring Enrichment activity timetable has arrived! This term there are loads of fun activities to participate in. We have attached the timetable with the newsletter. There will also be one in every classroom.



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 23.01

Year 7 virtual parents evening

Thursday 25.01

Ski Trip Information evening - 18:00 - 19:00

Friday 02.02

Year 10 Speakout challenge

