

21ST DECEMBER 2023



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



STJOSEPHSCOLLEGE.ORG.UK



[@ST_JOSEPHS](https://twitter.com/ST_JOSEPHS)



[ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE SEI9](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of 2023, I am delighted by everything that we have achieved in the autumn term. The maturity and kindness shown by our students on a daily basis reaffirms what is so very special about St Joseph's College. Our students are a credit to the college and wider community.

Embracing the Christian spirit during the holiday season reminds us of the warmth we gather from our faith, hope, and in the giving of gifts. 'We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully'. – Romans 12:6-8

The spring term begins at the normal time on Tuesday the 9th of January 2024. Students are expected to arrive on site by 8:00am, in good time for Form Tutor period at 8.15am. The school gates will be open from 07:45.

When the college reopens, staff will be closely monitoring uniform standards. Shirts should be tucked in, ties properly tied, trousers worn around the waste, and a school blazer worn to and from school. Shoes should be black and polishable - any sport branded shoes and trainers will not be allowed. Hoodies, sports jackets of any kind, jewellery and trainers are banned and will be confiscated if seen. Similarly, students should be equipped for learning by having the essentials each day – exercise books, pens, pencils, a ruler, and a calculator.

If you require further guidance or support with uniform standards or learning equipment, please contact the relevant Form Tutor or Pastoral Leader.

A huge thank you to our students, staff, parents, and governors, who supported our Carol Service yesterday evening – a wonderful way to end the term.

May the message of Christmas fill your life with love, joy, and peace, and may God's grace be with you during this special season. Amen.

St. John Baptist De La Salle, pray for us

Best wishes for the New Year,

Mr G Mantillas

Celebrating the Joy of Christmas and Spreading Hope for the New Year!

As the Christmas season is upon us, I extend my heartfelt wishes to each member of our beloved community. May the love and grace of the Holy Family fill your hearts with joy, peace, and hope. In this season of giving, let us come together to reflect on the blessings we've received and share that warmth with others.

Christmas Greetings:

May the miracle of Christmas touch your lives with the love of Christ. Let us remember the profound message of this season—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who brought light into the world. May the spirit of Christmas inspire us to embrace love, kindness, and compassion in our daily lives.

As we bid farewell to the old year and welcome the new, let us do so with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation. May the coming year be filled with God's blessings, guiding us on a path of righteousness, understanding, and unity within our community.

Toy Drive for Great Ormond Street Hospital:

In the spirit of giving, we are continuing our tradition of collecting toys for the children at Great Ormond Street Hospital. These young souls, facing various challenges, deserve the joy and comfort that a simple gift can bring. Your generosity can make a significant difference in brightening their Christmas season. Please bring your toy donations to the reception by January 15th.

Prayer for Our Community:

Let us remember we are in the presence of God:

Let us adore him.

Let us pray for one another, especially for those who may be experiencing difficulties during this season. May God's grace surround them with comfort and peace. Together, as a community, we can offer support and solace to those in need.

Thank you for your unwavering faith and commitment to this community. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us also look forward to a new year filled with God's blessings and the promise of hope.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

In Christ's love,

Marie-France (Lay Chaplain)

FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

December is the month we in the Christian Church take as a time of preparation for the birth of our Lord and Saviour. We call it Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word for 'coming' and during this season we take time to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, and we look forward to the coming of Jesus, the Son of Man, in the end time. The daily readings during Mass lead us on this journey. The secular trappings of Christmas, tinsel, presents, decorations, trees, can sometimes blind us to the needs of many in the world around us. Take time, look around you and see, see how those in need can be helped and supported in their lives. Take time, too, to visit the stable, and wonder at such a great gift, God sent his Son into the world, that we may have life through him.

The Governors would like to thank all the parents and carers of the children and young people who attend St Joseph's for the love and care you give them daily. A huge thanks especially to all the staff who work at St Joseph's and give so much, going the extra miles, to ensure the best possible educational experience in the spirit of St John Baptist de La Salle. Know that you are all blessed.

Let us pray that during this Advent we may remember the true meaning of Christmas, the time of great joy, the birth of the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ.

A very happy and holy Christmas and God bless you all

S. C. Horsman
Chair of the Governing Board

CHRISTMAS DINNER



Thank you Prefects



Having a cracking time

Last Thursday was the annual SJC Christmas dinner! Staff and students sat down together to enjoy a fantastic festive meal. Crackers were pulled, hats were worn and jokes were told as we all celebrated another Christmas.

A big thank you goes out to all the prefects that helped on the day and ensured it was such a successful event.

CAROL SERVICE

Yesterday we held our annual Carol service in the school Chapel. Our choristers had been practicing for weeks and were very excited to show parents, teachers and friends all their brilliant singing. There was a huge turnout and we had a packed Chapel which was beautifully candlelit. This was a really lovely way to end the school year and we are grateful that so many people supported the event. A big well done to our choristers and our band!



Beautiful singing



Our candlelit Chapel

SIXTH FORM BAKE OFF

Our Sixth Formers celebrated the end of term with a Bake Off with the proceeds going to charity. Mr Monk was our Paul Hollywood and judged the efforts of the budding bakers.

We were really impressed by all the efforts but the eventual winners were Khalil and Faith with their gluten free cake. Well done!



Our winners



Brilliant effort

HAPPY NEW YEAR

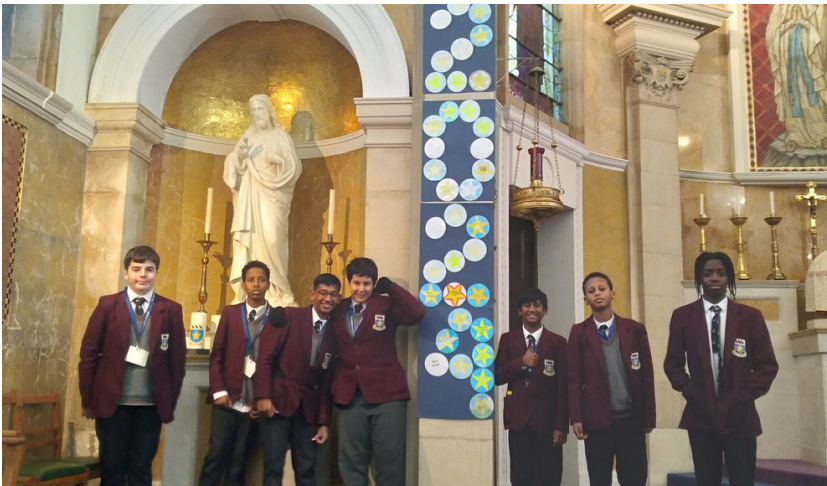
Happy New Year from around the world

As we bid farewell to the current year and eagerly await the dawn of a new one, it's the perfect time to reflect on the incredible diversity that makes our school community so unique and vibrant.

In a gesture that transcends language barriers, this holiday season, all our students from Y7 to Y13, our teachers and support staff came together to celebrate the start of 2024 by writing "Happy New Year" in their respective languages in the SJC star.

The result was an amazing mosaic of cultures and traditions, a testament to the diversity that thrives within our school walls. It's a visual reminder of the beauty that emerges when we come together, respecting and celebrating our differences. More than 30 languages from all continents were represented.

However, the message was more than the sum of its parts. It spoke volumes about the inclusivity and unity that define our community. From the flowing strokes of Arabic script to the intricate characters of Mandarin, and the familiar curves of the Roman alphabet, each script represented a piece of our collective identity. It was incredible to see how proud the students were of their own identity and how eager they were to celebrate their differences and similarities.



The beautiful display

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year filled with unity, understanding, and continued celebration of our school's incredible diversity.

The MFL department.

This celebration is not just a one-time event; it's another example of our ongoing commitment to ensuring an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

It's a reminder that our differences are not obstacles but rather opportunities to learn, grow, and appreciate the beauty that diversity brings to our community.

Feliz Navidad

HOUSE CHRISTMAS EVENT

What an amazing end to the term at the Christmas House event! Each team was given 30 minutes, a newspaper, scissors, a ruler, and a glue gun to craft a Christmas wreath. The hall buzzed with festive music as the teams set out to create the best wreath. Four houses managed to complete their designs in the allotted time.

Mr. Mantillas conducted a blind judging of the 6 wreaths from each house, and the results were as follows:

1. Beulah secured a whopping 300 points for 1st place.
2. Grange winning 150 points
3. Hill winning 100 points
4. Netherton
5. Dane
6. Brooklands

Following the artistic 30 minutes, a race against the clock ensued to create the longest paper chain. Netherton emerged as the clear winner, earning 300 points, with Dane in second place for 150 points, and Brooklands in 3rd with 100 points. Unfortunately, Beulah took 4th place, followed by Grange and Hill.



Building wreaths



Christmas teamwork



The finished wreaths



Paper chains

Keep an eye out for upcoming house update next week, covering the highlights of this half-term and what's coming up for the Spring term. A special thanks goes out to all the staff awarding achievement points and actively participating in supporting house events. It's heartwarming to see the different year groups working together in a team!



At the BFI

A level Spanish Trip

This week, our Sixth Form Spanish pupils enjoyed a Spanish Study Day at London's British Film Institute. It included a seminar, focusing on the Spanish film Director, Pedro Almodóvar, and a screening of his famous film 'Volver'.

The morning began with an engaging seminar held at the British Film Institute, on London's Southbank. The event involved over 400 pupils from up and down the country during which our students learned about the fascinating life and works of Pedro Almodóvar: an extremely influential director within the world of Spanish cinema. Conducted mainly in Spanish, the morning consisted on a presentation giving an overview of Almodóvar's work including narrative themes, character archetypes, visual style and influences and casting. The presentation focused on All About My Mother (1999) and Volver (2006) and explored how Almodóvar's themes, characterisation and style are apparent in both films.

It was a fantastic opportunity, which explored the production and significance of his films and touched upon many of the themes which we study within our A-level Spanish course. The afternoon was centred around a viewing of one of Almodóvar's most famous films: 'Volver'. We study 'Volver' in great depth as part of the A-level Spanish Course, so were very privileged to watch the film in the beautiful setting of the British Film Institute auditorium.

"Las Doce Uvas de la Suerte" (The Twelve Grapes of Luck)

As the clock ticks down to midnight, people around the world welcome the New Year with various customs and traditions. One which is particularly popular in Spanish-speaking countries, is the eating twelve grapes as the clock strikes twelve.

This tradition, known as "Las Doce Uvas de la Suerte" (The Twelve Grapes of Luck), is especially popular in Spain and Latin American countries. As the last seconds of the old year pass, people eat one grape with each toll of the clock, symbolizing good luck and prosperity for each month of the upcoming year.



Idris, Owen and Joshua have a go

Our Y7 students could not wait to have a go and to practice in preparation for them doing it with their families.

Eating the twelve grapes in class was not just fun and tasty but gave our students the opportunity to learn about a festivity that is still celebrated the start of the New Year in Spain.

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATION



As well as being an important time for Catholics, Christmas is also an important time for celebrating the achievements of our students from another productive year at St Joseph's.

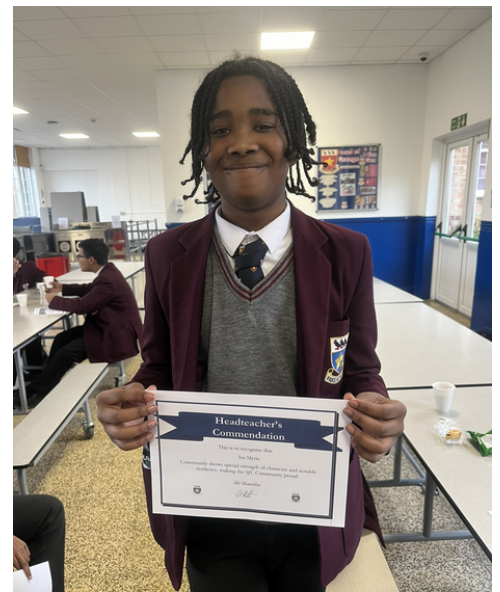
As well as the termly Year group awards, we also had the Headteacher's Commendation. Each Tutor nominated two students for the Headteacher's Commendation and this week they had a special ceremony in which they were congratulated by Mr Mantillas and celebrated for their achievements.

Well done to each and every one of you! Here are some pictures of the proud winners! Keep up the good work in 2024!

Well done Horace



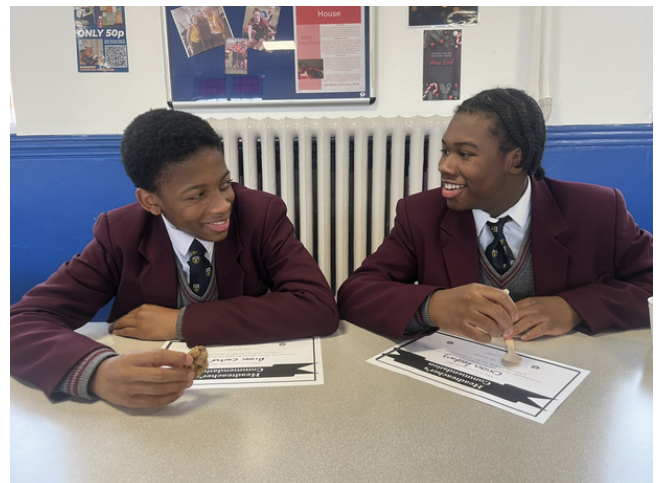
Nobody deserves it more than these two



Congratulations Isa



Congratulations Safwaan



Well done boys

As we see the end of the school term arrive, we see the Biblical weather that often accompanies it. On Tuesday this week, the meadow where most practical outdoor PE lessons are held, resembled more of a Thames Water filling station, as opposed to the grass that we call our teaching area.

Because of this and the weather drawing in, we haven't had many fixtures that have been able to be fulfilled. Schools in the district have either closed early for Christmas, or simply can't get a game on, due to the flooded and water logged pitches!



Our wet meadow

Football

We did however manage to get a school fixture in, in the form of a sixth form game that saw us travel over to take on Borehamwood. Borehamwood have two sides in the league we are competing in; our previous game saw us lose 6-1. Therefore, having to play the team who are supposedly better than them, left us worried. We set off from SJC at 7.30am. We arrived at 9.45am for a 10am kick off. We had a squad of 12 available to play; but these boys did really well, running out an eventual loss of 3-2, but we did miss a penalty and hit the post!

We now look forward to the next term, which will see the boys head into different cups and league competitions in numerous sports.

Our Year 10s were knocked out of the cup after losing on penalties after a 2-2 draw. This does see them go undefeated in the league, therefore (unless my maths isn't very good), the boys have won the Year 10 league, which the department are immensely proud of.

Options

Year 10s and 11s, make sure you get your options chosen on the list; see any member of PE staff in your lessons or at break and lunch to make sure you get what you are after! You can choose from;

- *indoor cricket
- *table tennis & gym
- *swimming & water polo

Finally, may I wish you all a great festive period. Make sure you keep up some form of activity in the break as to not come back as plump as the turkey's you ate!

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>

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

To all current Year 9 and 10 students, we are currently in the process of enrolling our new cohort of Duke of Edinburgh participants and there are still some places available.

The Duke of Edinburgh is an amazing opportunity to try something new, make long-lasting memories and receive an award that showcases your hard-work, dedication and responsibility when applying for sixth forms, university and employment in the future!



Happy campers from last year

While completing the programme, students will undertake a Skill, Physical activity and volunteering, while also completing an overnight expedition in the summer term.

If you are interested in taking part, please speak to Mr. Daly, Mr. Theophilou or your form tutor.

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

Students will return to school for the first Day of Spring Term on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at St Joseph's College!

